

THE NEW SOUTH

SS8H7

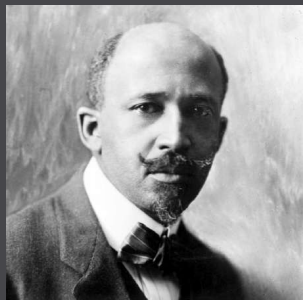
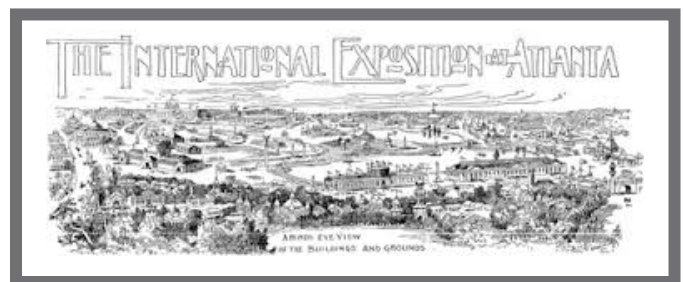
Evaluate key political, social & economic changes that occurred in Georgia between 1877 & 1918

The years between 1877 & 1918 were a time of great social & economic successes & failures in Georgia history. After the Civil War & Reconstruction period, Atlanta began to “rise from the ashes” to slowly become one of the more important cities in the South, especially when hosting the International Cotton Exposition. Henry Grady began to champion the cause of the “New South”, one that would be industrious and self-sufficient. Entrepreneurs like Alonzo Herndon, developed new products. He rose from slavery to eventually own one of the most profitable African-American businesses in the country.

Unfortunately, the New South Era was also a time of racism & injustice. Segregation & “Jim Crow” were the law of the land. The KKK reorganized after the murder of Mary Phagan. They not only targeted blacks, but Jews, Catholics and immigrants. Tom Watson, once a champion of the “common man”, both black & white, gained recognition after changing his position to become

an obvious segregationist and anti-Semite. Atlanta became the “city too busy to hate” and experienced the worst race riot in its history.

Despite this period of racial turmoil, several successful African-American men became well known throughout the country for their work in civil rights: W. E. B. Dubois, Booker T. Washington and John Hope. Also, women such as Rebecca Felton & Lugenia Burns Hope, made important contributions to the state.



SS8H7a: Evaluate the impact the Bourbon Triumvirate, Henry Grady, the International Cotton Exposition, Tom Watson & the Populists, Rebecca Latimer Felton, the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, the Leo Frank Case & the county unit system had on Georgia during this time period

The Bourbon Triumvirate

The *Bourbon Triumvirate* was a group of 3 politicians (Joseph E. Brown, Alfred H. Colquitt & John B Gordon) who dominated Georgia politics for over 20 years. They were key figures during the Civil War, rotating positions as governor & US Senator from the 1870s to 1890s. They all wanted to develop the railroad and mining industries in Georgia, helping men who were part of the antebellum planter class and lowering taxes. They were also all white supremacists who supported & took advantage of the **convict lease system**. Their power began to decrease when the *Populist Party* and **New Democrats** began to take over the Democratic Party in 1890, as well as their retirements and deaths.

Joseph E. Brown was born in South Carolina in 1821. Most of his early years were spent in the mountains of North Georgia. He graduated from Yale Law School & practiced law in Georgia. He was elected to the GA General Assembly in 1849 and became a judge in 1855. In 1857, he was elected GA governor and remained their throughout the Civil War. During the Civil War, he did not get along with CSA president Jefferson Davis. He was a secessionist while serving in politics as both a Republican & Democrat.

Alfred H. Colquitt was born in Walton County, GA in 1824. He graduated from Princeton and practiced law in Georgia. In 1846, he served in the Army during the Mexican-American War. In 1853, he was elected to the US House of Representatives, only to serve 1 term before becoming a member of the GA General Assembly. Also a secessionist who was elected to the GA Secessionist Convention in 1861 before joining the Confederate Army when Georgia ceded from the Union. He had a distinguished military career during the Civil War, fighting in many major battles from 1861-1863 & eventually becoming a general. He served as Georgia's governor from 1876 – 1882 and a US Senator from 1883 – 1894.

John B. Gordon was born in Upson County, Georgia in 1832. He moved to Walker County with his family as a child due to his father's work in the coal industry. He attended UGA but did not graduate and ended up managing his father's coal mine just before the Civil War began. He held no military experience but joined the Confederate Army where he was well known for his fearless fighting style, making his mark as a military strategist. He also fought in several major battles and became a general. After the war ended, he returned to Georgia where he opposed Reconstruction and is thought to have been the leader of the Georgia chapter of the KKK. He was elected to the US Senate in 1872, serving until 1880. He resigned due to scandal with Western & Atlantic Railroad. Yet, he remained popular among Georgians & was elected governor in 1886, then back to the US Senate from 1891 – 1897. He spent the remainder of his life writing and speaking about the Civil War.



Henry Grady

Henry Grady (1850 – 1889) was born in Athens, Georgia. He is best known for his promotion of the “**New South**”. As managing editor of the *Atlanta Journal*, Grady was able to use the newspaper as a stage to promote his views about industrializing the South, diversifying the agriculture & lobbying to Northern investors to help aid finance both causes. He is given credit for helping to bring the *International Cotton Exposition* to Atlanta & for the creation of the Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech). He was also active in local politics and helping get John B. Gordon & Joseph E. Brown elected.



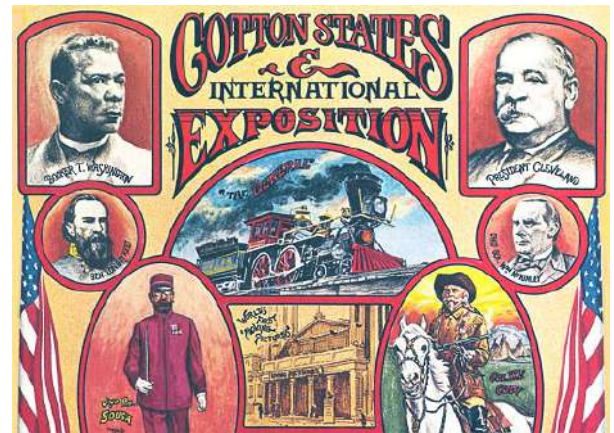
Grady was often attacked by Tom Watson & Georgia farmers for his focus on industry. Elected officials in Athens, Augusta & Macon criticized him for his bias favor of Atlanta. Many civil rights groups in the North & South were doubtful of his inaccurate portrayal of racial relations in Georgia in order to gain northern investment.

He was a talented writer and speaker, having been identified as the most important figure in the New South movement. Though he only lived to be 39, he made several important accomplishments. Due to those achievements, he was honored throughout the state including having a county named for him, Grady Hospital and the UGA Grady School of Journalism.

The International Cotton Exposition

In 1881, 1885 & 1895, Atlanta hosted 3 International Cotton Expositions. They were similar to the World's Fairs held during the same time period. Primarily, the expositions were established to promote Atlanta's rebuilding from the Civil War, its industrial capabilities & accomplishments & to lure northern investments into the city & region. The first two were heavily promoted by Henry Grady, but the third was the most memorable.

During the 1895 exposition, aka the “Cotton States & International Exposition”, civil rights leader & activist Booker T. Washington gave his famous **Atlanta Compromise Speech** where he urged African-Americans to focus on economic improvement instead of social & political rights. This was supported by white New South advocates, but not accepted by African-American leaders like W.E.B. Dubois. This exposition was the least attended, but succeeded with the other 2 in displaying Atlanta's “rise from the ashes” & to establish it as a leading city in the New South.



Tom Watson & the Populists

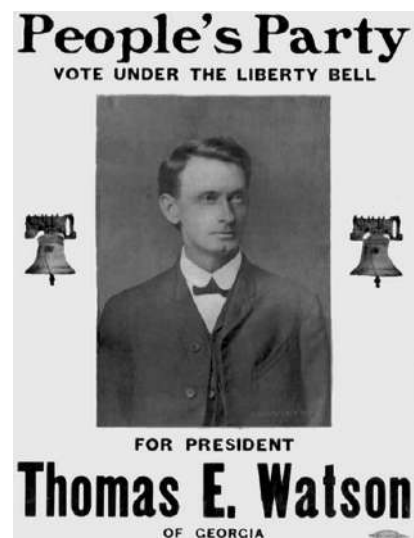
Tom Watson was one of the most popular & controversial figures in Georgia history. He was born in Columbia County in 1856, studying law and politics early on with the intention of supporting the poor tenant farmer & share cropper of both races. When elected to the GA General Assembly in 1882, he wanted to end the **convict lease system** and promote the public education of ALL Georgians. Due to his discontent with politics of the New South advocates in the General Assembly, he resigned at the end of his term.

Though he was a Democrat, in 1890, he adopted policies of the Farmers Alliance, a group that came before the *Populist Party*. Supporting a platform of lower taxes for the poor farmer, Watson was elected to the US Congress. In Congress, he gained national attention for his leadership role in the passage of the **Rural Free Delivery Act**. Most of his other ideas did not become reality. In 1892, he lost his reelection bid to Congress, despite having support of both white & black farmers. He gained the black farmer support due to his condemnation of lynching and his defense of a black supporter that was almost lynched by a white mob.

Because of his support for the Farmers' Alliance Ideals, the Populist Party, or People's Party, selected him as their vice-presidential candidate in 1896 and presidential candidate in 1904 & 1908. Though not a political force in the nation, he was in Georgia in state and local politics.

Around 1904, Watson's views towards race began to change and by the end of his life, he was an adamant white supremacist. He targeted African-Americans, Catholics and Jews. He used his newspaper & magazine, *The Jeffersonian*, to express his political, social & economic views to Georgians. It is believed that his articles against Leo Frank led to his lynching and his anti-capitalist articles & opposition to America entering WWI that led to the US postal service refusing to deliver his publications.

Watson remained popular among rural Georgians. In 1918, he ran for Congress, but lost to Carl Vinson, who remained in Congress for over 50 years. In 1920, he eventually won a seat in the US Senate. He died in 1922. His seat was held for one day by America's first female senator, *Rebecca Latimer Felton*.



Rebecca Latimer Felton

Rebecca Latimer Felton was a writer, political activist, reformer & the 1st female US Senator. She was born in DeKalb County in 1835 and graduated first in her class from Madison Female College where she was the valedictorian. It was during her graduation ceremony that she met her husband, state legislator, Tom Felton.

After the Civil War, her primary focus was the political career of her husband who served 3 terms in the US Congress and 3 terms in the GA General Assembly. As members of the **Independent Democrats**, the Feltons spent years fighting against the Bourbon Triumvirate, especially John B Gordon, over their self-serving politics. She supported many causes including abolishing the convict lease system, prohibition and **women's suffrage**. In 1889, she began writing a column for the *Atlanta Journal* which made her well liked among rural Georgians for over 20 years. When Tom Watson died, Georgia governor Thomas Hardwick appointed her temporary US Senator in honor of her work & achievements in the state.



1906 Race Riot

Atlanta was always viewed as a progressive southern city, whose relatively tolerant racial policies allowed for the rise of many successful African-American social leaders, institutions of higher education and businesses. One tragic event in Atlanta history tarnishes that reputation. The 1906 *Atlanta Race Riot* resulted in the death of 25 African Americans.

The riot was initiated when a series of local newspaper articles alleged African-American men were attacking white women. These articles were not true. There were many deep seeded reasons for the riots. One included a large number of unemployed & frustrated whites who view African-Americans as threats to jobs & the established social order. Whites were also jealous of successful African-American business leaders like *Alonzo Herndon*. His barbershop, sometimes called the “Crystal Palace” was one of the first businesses targeted by the white mob. Also, Georgia governor candidates Hoke Smith & Clarke Howell fueled the fire as they based their campaigns on the platform of white supremacy.

On the morning of the riot, 4 articles about assaults on white women were published. A group of mostly unemployed white men gathered downtown, seeking

revenge for the false attacks. City officials tried to calm the mob, but the group of men attacked any black they saw. They killed 2 barbers and beat several men to death on street cars. The Georgia militia was called in. African-Americans began to arm themselves and fought against their attackers. Sporadic fighting continued into the next day.

The riot caused unwanted negative national & international attention for the “jewel of the New South”. Atlanta business leaders, both black & white, came together to end the riot and restore order. This bi-racial committee was historic within itself because such a thing had rarely happened before in the South. The end result led to deeper segregation in the city & more economic divide between the African-American social elite & lower class. It also proved Booker T. Washington's views concerning using hard work & economic accomplishments of African-Americans equally wouldn't work in the South & there needed to be more direct approaches for gaining civil rights.



The Leo Frank Case

Another racially charged event in the New South was the murder of Mary Phagan and the *Leo Frank Case*. A Jewish man from New York and manager of the National Pencil Company, Leo M. Frank, was accused of murdering 13 year old Mary Phagan, an employee of the factory. His appeals went to the Supreme Court. His case and lynching made national headlines.

On April 26, 1913, Mary Phagan went to the factory to collect her \$1.20 pay check for a 12 hour work week. She was the child of migrant farmers who moved to Atlanta to improve financial prospects. She received her pay from her supervisor, Leo Frank and left. She never returned home. Her beaten body was found later that evening in the basement of the factory. When newspapers suggested she had also been physically violated, the public demanded justice.

There were 3 suspects in this case: the night watchman who found the body, the factory janitor, Jim Conley, who was arrested after being seen washing red stains from his shirt & Leo Frank. Frank was extremely nervous when police came to question him. He claimed to have stayed in his office for at least 20 minutes after Phagan left, but another employee who also came for her pay said he was not there during that time period. The night watchman claimed that Frank called him that evening asking if everything was ok. There was only one time he could have done this.

Jim Conley was a strong suspect also. Along with the bloodstained shirt, he gave police 4 different affidavits about how he helped Frank get rid of the body. Due to racial prejudices at this time, the police could not believe that the African-American Conley had the ability to develop the stories on his own. He was promised immunity for testifying against Frank.

Conley proved to be invaluable to the prosecution. Frank's attorneys could not break Conley's testimony & his stories about Frank's affairs & harassment of the young, white, southern females angered an already hostile public & jury who believed Frank was guilty of murder. He was convicted of killing Phagan and sentenced to death.

Upon his conviction, Jewish groups from the North & South began funding his court appeals. Tom Watson began an anti-Semite campaign against Frank & Northern Jewish interests in his newspaper & magazine. After several appeals, Frank was not pardoned. One of the prosecuting attorneys, William Smith, began to believe in his innocence and conducted his own investigations. He was able to convince Governor John M. Slaton to reduce his sentence to life in prison in hopes that enough evidence could be found to prove his innocence. This caused public protest and Slaton, who was a popular governor, had to call martial law. At the end of his term, he left Georgia and did not return for almost a decade.

Due to the fear that Frank would be released, elite members of Marietta, Phagan's hometown, drove to Milledgeville where Frank was being held. They were able to get into the prison, get Frank and drive him back to Marietta. This group who called themselves the "Knights of Mary Phagan", lynched Frank. Residents posed for photographs next to his body and sold as souvenirs. In 1986, the Georgia State Board of Pardons finally pardoned Frank due to the testimony of Alonzo Mann who was a boy when the murder happened. He claimed that he saw John Conley carrying Phagan's body and threatened to kill him if he said anything.

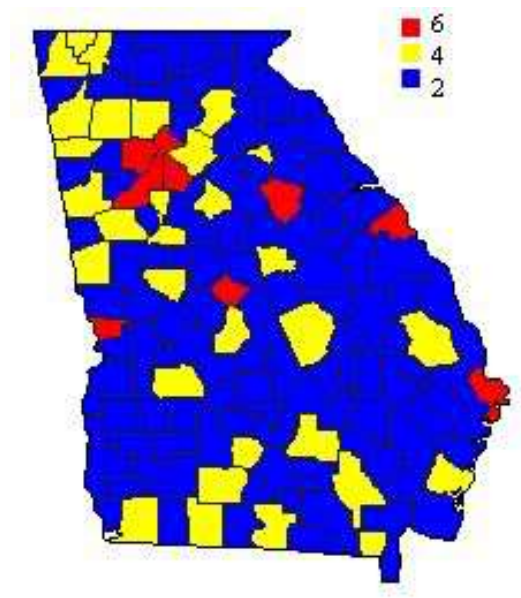
This case shows deeper issues of white Georgians during the New South era:

resentment of big businesses ran by Northerners like Frank, hatred of immigrants, Jews and Catholics. These feelings erupted in the Frank case and Watson's propaganda. Soon after, the members of the Knights of Mary Phagan formed the second incarnation of the Ku Klux Klan.



The County Unit System

This system was instituted in 1917 and gave more power to rural, less populated counties rather than urban ones. Georgia, at the time, was a solely Democratic state. Candidates who ran in the primary were guaranteed to win the election. Under this system, counties were divided into 3 categories and given a specific number of “unit votes”. Urban counties were given 6 votes. “Town” counties were given 4 votes and rural counties were given 2 votes. However, there were 8 urban counties with 48 votes, 30 town counties with 120 votes and 121 rural counties with 242 votes. When rural counties vote as a block, they held more power than the more populous urban counties. This system lasted for over 50 years and went against the “one man, one vote” concept. Along with the white primary, this was another way to limit African Americans from voting.



SS8H7b: Analyze how rights were denied to African-Americans through Jim Crow laws, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, disenfranchisement & racial violence

Jim Crow Laws

The social & political gains African Americans made in the 1870s & 80s began to be taken away by white politicians in the 1890s. The *Jim Crow Laws*, named after a fictional black minister, took away most citizenship rights of African Americans. Most blacks could not vote or serve on juries & denied many other rights of US citizens. After the Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, almost every aspect of life was segregated including schools, sections of public transportation, water fountains, bathrooms, grave yards and Bibles used to swear on in court. Intermarriage between races was forbidden in southern states and lynching was used, largely in rural areas, as a means to enforce social order of segregation. From 1882 – 1930, 482 African-Americans were lynched in Georgia, second only to Mississippi.

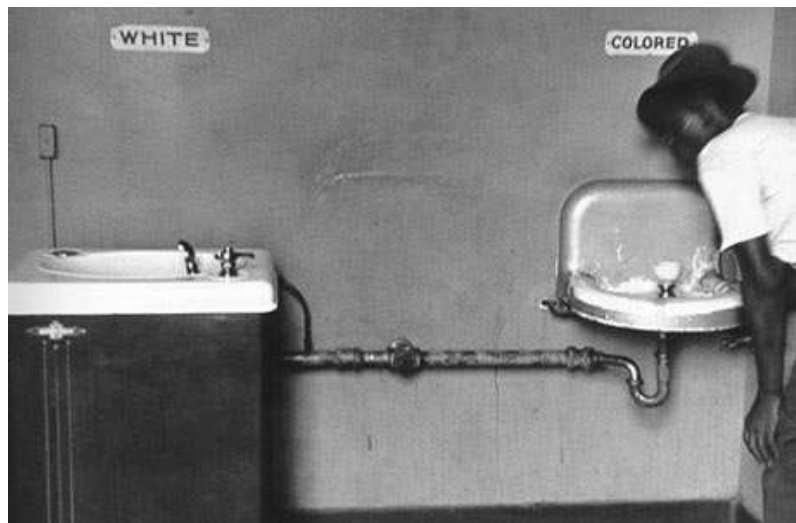
These laws also inhibited economic progress, like that of Alonzo Herndon who had been able to rise above discrimination and become a successful businessman. He created the Atlanta Mutual Insurance Company. In response, white owned insurance companies refused to sell policies to black customers. W.E.B. Dubois and Lugenia Burns Hope, who were educators, also rose to prominence during this era. Despite those who rose above the discrimination, Jim Crow Laws inhibited the educational, economic and social growth and opportunities for most Southerners, both black and white.



Plessy v. Ferguson

On June 7, 1892, Homer Plessy was arrested in Louisiana for sitting in the “Whites Only” section of a railcar. In this planned protest, Plessy, who was 1/8th black and “could pass for white” identified himself as a black man. This orchestrated event was planned by the “Committee of Citizens”, a group of well-educated African-Americans who wanted to test Louisiana’s segregation laws. The case went to the Supreme Court where the ruling favored Louisiana, based on the “**separate but equal**” principle. The court determined that under the Constitution (14th & 15th Amendments) blacks had political right, but social rights were not required. According to the court, all facilities were equal for both races, therefore they could be separate.

Upon this ruling, southern states, including Georgia, separated all aspects of life including theaters, rail and street cars and bathrooms. Though separate, they were certainly not equal. The average white school in the state spent \$43 per student in 1930, but only \$10 per student in black schools.



Disenfranchisement

The 14th & 15th Amendments to the US Constitution guaranteed citizenship rights to all African-Americans and voting rights to all African-American men. They were ratified by the US Congress & included the votes of the Southern states. However, during the Jim Crow era, most blacks in the South lost these voting rights. Due to the lack of enforcement by the federal government, the southern states, including Georgia, established many laws that prevented blacks and poor whites from voting.

Poll Taxes (1877): Taxes on voting. Most poor blacks and many poor whites could not pay this tax and were unable to vote. In some cases, the poll was waived for poor whites.

The White Primary (1900): Since Georgia was predominantly Democratic and most major decisions took place during the primary elections, this prevented African-Americans from voting in the primary.

Literacy Tests (1908): Due to the substandard education in the South given to poor blacks and whites, many Georgians could not read and write and could not pass these tests in order to vote. Some whites were “passed” by polling officials to allow them to vote, though others were not. Many educated blacks were told they failed and were unable to vote.

The Grandfather Clause (1890 – 1910) These laws said that if a person's father was able to vote before the Civil War, then they could vote too, without paying a poll tax or taking the literacy test. In some states, the law said if a person's grandfather could vote, they could as well.

Racial Violence

Racial violence was rampant during the New South era. The 1906 Atlanta Race Riot was one of the largest demonstrations of violence along with over 400 lynchings that happened in the state from 1890 – 1930. Lynchings were often orchestrated by members of the KKK who consisted of teachers, policemen, ministers and other community leaders. Men in the upper class Marietta society were responsible for the lynching of Leo Frank. Those men included a judge and former governor. Some of the most famous Georgians who supported racial violence was Tom Watson and Rebecca Latimer Felton.

SS8H7c: Explain the roles of Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Dubois, John & Lugenia Burns Hope & Alonzo Herndon

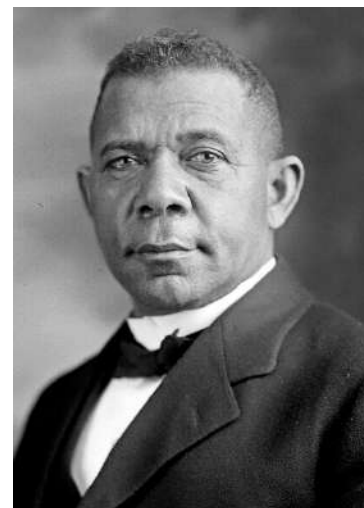
Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington was born a slave in Virginia in 1856. He was an educator, author, orator & political activist. After emancipation, he moved to West Virginia where he was able to attend colleges that became Hampton University and Virginia Union University. After graduating from Virginia Union, he went back to Hampton as a teacher and was offered the job to head the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

He was able to fundraise, receiving financial support from northern business leaders & politicians to build technical schools for African Americans. He became a leader in the African American community due to a large support system of black ministers, teachers, civil rights and business leaders. Publically, he promoted the idea that the best approach for African Americans to gain anything in the white community was through hard work, education & economic accomplishment, before gaining full civil rights. Despite criticism by individuals and groups such as W.E.B. Dubois and the NAACP, he secretly provided financial support for many civil rights cases that actively pursued voting and other rights for blacks.

Washington wrote 14 books including *Up From Slavery*, his autobiography in 1901. Along with contributions to

education & civil rights, he was the first African American to be invited to a formal dinner at the White House. In Georgia history, he is most well-known for his *Atlanta Compromise Speech* which he presented at the International Cotton Exposition in 1895. The speech brought his ideas of cooperation and the “going slow” approach early in the civil rights movement. Though this approach was tarnished by numerous lynchings and events such as the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, many blacks and whites continued to support him and his ideals until his death in 1915 at the age of 59.



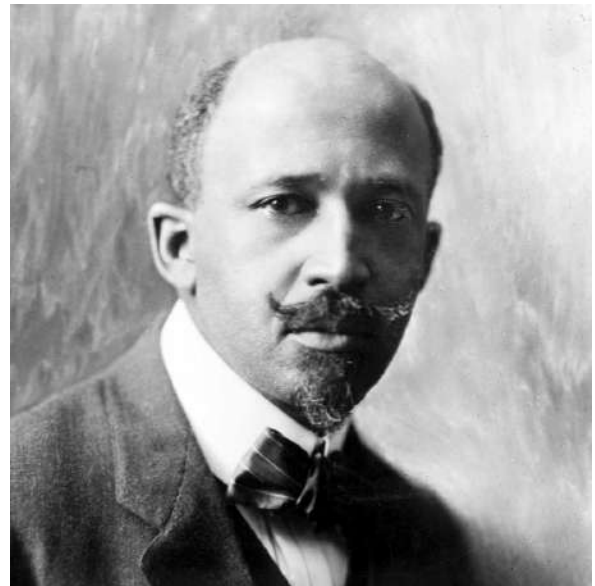
W.E.B. DuBois

Often seen as Booker T. Washington's intellectual opposition, W.E.B. DuBois supported many of Washington's beliefs early in his career. However, after the southern states prevented African American civil rights in the Atlanta Race Riot, DuBois was determined to fight for immediate social and political rights for African Americans.

William Edward Burghardt DuBois was born in Massachusetts in 1868. His childhood was mostly happy and uneventful. With the support of his mother and other community members who recognized his brilliance, DuBois was successful in school and attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. There he was exposed to the harsh realities of racial segregation and Jim Crow laws for the first time. He began to form thoughts about combating these laws. At Fisk, DuBois developed the concept of “**the talented tenth**” or an elite group of college educated African Americans who would use their talents and position to help eradicate segregation in American society. He graduated from Fisk in 1888, going on to receive a Master's degree from Harvard University in 1891 and a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1896.

After working at Wilberforce University and the University of Pennsylvania, DuBois accepted a position at Atlanta University (later Clark Atlanta). According to UGA professor, Derrick P. Alridge, DuBois' time in Atlanta was some of the most productive of his 70 year career. Serving at Clark from 1897 – 1910 and 1934 – 1944, DuBois wrote some of his most famous books, including *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), began 2 literacy magazines and helped create the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1906.

His time in Atlanta during the New South era and in the 1930s & 40s shaped his views about civil rights. Seeing the impact of Jim Crow laws on the south through the eyes of a professor, while living those laws as a black man, DuBois became an important figure in the early civil rights movement. His organization, the NAACP, and his ideals for social & political rights for all African Americans led to the successes of the modern civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s.



John & Lugenia Burns Hope

John Hope was an important educator, civil rights leader and social reformer in Atlanta. Hope, who was the first black president of both Morehouse and Atlanta University, was also actively involved in the NAACP and the southern based Commission on Interracial Cooperation

Hope was born in Augusta in 1868 to a Scottish father and black mother. Though interracial marriage was illegal in Georgia, his parent's lived openly as a married couple until his father's death in 1876. After quitting school in 8th grade to support his family, he later moved north to finish his studies. Eventually, he completed a B.A degree from Brown University in Rhode Island. After teaching in Tennessee for a few years, he returned to Atlanta where he accepted a position at Morehouse College.

In Atlanta, Hope befriended civil rights leaders such as W.E.B DuBois and Booker T. Washington. He was very active in the community and involved with the Urban League and YMCA. He was offered jobs with the Urban League and NAACP, but stayed at his position as president of Morehouse and later Atlanta University. In those positions, he was a leading figure in the early civil rights movements, well known among black and white civil rights leaders until his death.

Lugenia Burns Hope was John Hope's wife, a community organizer, reformer and social activist. She was born in St. Louis in 1871, moving to Chicago with her family in the 1880s. In Chicago, she began her career in social work and activism. In 1893, she met John Hope and were married in 1897. They moved to Atlanta in 1898.

While in Atlanta, she established the Neighborhood Union, which fought for better conditions in African American schools and developed health education campaigns. In addition to her leadership role in this organization, she worked with the YMCA. In 1927, she was appointed to the Colored Advisory Commission to work with flood victims in the South. In 1932, she became the first vice president of the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP. After her husband's death, she moved to

New York and worked with Mary McLeod Bethune in the New Deal program called the National Youth Administration. After her death in 1947, her ashes were released from a tower on the campus of Morehouse College.



Alonzo Herndon

Alonzo Herndon's life is a true "rags to riches" story. He was born in 1858 to a slave mother and white father in Social Circle, Georgia. After the Civil War and emancipation, his father sent him and his family off his farm where they found work as share croppers to survive. An entrepreneur from an early age, Herndon helped support his family by selling peanuts and molasses, saving as much of his earnings as possible.

In 1878, he left Social Circle with \$11. Ending up in Senoia, he learned how to barber. He later moved to Jonesboro where he set up his own shop. Eventually, he made his way to Atlanta where he was hired as a barber, soon becoming a partner in the business. He opened three more shops, including one on 66 Peachtree Street that marketed as "the best barber shop in the South". He added to the ambiance of the shop by hanging crystal chandeliers with gold fixtures. This shop was the first choice of Atlanta's white business and political leaders.

With the success of his barber shop, Herndon began investing in real estate. He owned 100 homes and a large commercial block of real estate on Auburn Avenue by the time of his death. He proved to be more successful with the founding of the Atlanta Mutual Life Insurance Company, which offered insurance coverage to African Americans. He hired college educated African Americans to work at his company and developed a reputation of running his business in a fair and equitable manner. In the 1920s, the company changed its name to Atlanta Mutual Life Insurance. Today, Atlanta Life Financial Group is worth over 100 million dollars and is constantly ranked as one of the top black owned financial companies.

Not only a business leader, Herndon was also active in social & political organizations. Nationally, he was one of the 29 businessmen to help organize the Niagara Movement. Locally, he supported the YMCA, Atlanta University and Diana Pace orphanages. His son, Norris, became CEO for Atlanta Mutual upon his death.



SS8H7d: Explain reasons for World War I and describe Georgia's contributions

Reasons for WWI

There were several reasons why World War I began. Nationalism, colonization, militarism and the alliance system were all contributing factors. All of these factors erupted when Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated by a Yugoslavian nationalist. Believing that the Kingdom of Serbia was involved, Austria-Hungary invaded the country. Due to the alliance system, Russia came to Serbia's aid. This led to Germany and the Ottoman Empire coming to the aid of Austria-Hungary while France and England sided with Russia. The war lasted for 4 years (1914 – 1918) and resulted in the death of millions throughout Europe.

The US did not become involved in the war until 1917 when the passenger ship **Lusitania** was sunk by a German submarine in 1915, resulting in 128 American deaths. The last straw was the **Zimmerman Telegram** which was a German message sent to Mexico offering the country a change to ally with Germany by attacking the US. In return, Germany promised the return of territories that Mexico lost to the US in the Mexican-American War. Upon discovering the telegram, the US declared war on Germany in April 6, 1917.

Georgia made several contributions to the US war effort during WWI. One of these was providing more military training camps than any other state. Those camps included Fort McPherson, Camp Gordon, Camp Benning and Camp Stewart. In addition, over 100,000 Georgians took part in the war effort with over 3,000 soldiers dying while fighting in Europe. Many of Georgia's non-combatants bought war bonds and grew "victory gardens" to help supply the troops.

