

## Comprehension Questions: World War I | African Americans and the Great War

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1. African Americans embraced President Woodrow Wilson's portrayal of the Great War as a "War to \_\_\_\_\_" in hopes that their loyal service would provide \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Drawn by war-time jobs and other opportunities, approximately \_\_\_\_\_ African Americans left the rural South as part of the \_\_\_\_\_, looking for new homes in Northern cities.
3. There was a political dimension to the Great Migration; African Americans moving North hoped to escape the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Reverend \_\_\_\_\_ of Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City's Harlem neighborhood, expressed the black mood at the beginning of the war, when he said: "While we love our flag and our country, we do not believe in fighting for the protection of commerce on the high seas until the powers that be give us at least some verbal assurance that property and lives of the members of our race are going to be protected on land from Maine to Mississippi."
5. Thousands of African Americans shared Powell's bold new perspective, and many joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to pressure for change. The organization, which had only \_\_\_\_\_, grew tremendously during the war, reaching \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The NAACP challenged derogatory racial stereotypes put forward in D.W. Griffith's film \_\_\_\_\_.
7. NAACP chairman Joel Spingarn worked to secure the construction of a \_\_\_\_\_. The camp was built in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ men were ultimately trained at the camp.
8. In addition, well over \_\_\_\_\_ black men registered with local draft boards for the war, of whom \_\_\_\_\_ were conscripted into the army.
9. W.E.B. Du Bois called on African Americans to give their unconditional support to the war effort. In July 1918, he published an essay asking blacks to "forget our special grievances" and \_\_\_\_\_ behind the war effort.
10. The worst racial violence during the war period occurred in \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois. There white mobs rampaged, set fire to black homes, and beat and killed dozens of black men, women, and children before the National Guard was called in.
11. In response to the rioting, the NAACP published an investigative report on the riot and sponsored a \_\_\_\_\_ march with thousands of African Americans marching down Fifth Avenue in New York City in opposition to the violence.
12. Another organization -- \_\_\_\_\_ -- also took action after the riot. On July 8, 1917, the UNIA's President, \_\_\_\_\_ said "This is a crime against the laws of humanity; it is a crime against the laws of the nation, it is a crime against Nature, and a crime against the God of all mankind."
13. In August 1917, 156 black soldiers in the Twenty-fourth U.S. Infantry stationed at Camp Logan, Texas, attacked the white community in \_\_\_\_\_ for subjecting them to Jim Crow segregation and humiliating treatment.
14. In response to the rioting in Texas, the federal government carried out the \_\_\_\_\_ in American history and executed nineteen soldiers for mutiny and murder.
15. In France, the U.S. military placed \_\_\_\_\_ of the black conscripts into labor battalions, accounting for a full third of all the army's pick and shovel workers.
16. In a leaflet entitled, \_\_\_\_\_, the army explained that white Americans believed segregation was necessary to avert the "menace of degeneracy."
17. Enraged by the discrimination blacks encountered during the war, W.E.B. Du Bois took to the pages of the *Crisis* in May 1919, declaring: "We return. We return from fighting. \_\_\_\_\_"
18. Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ returned to America after the war determined to fight for equal rights at home. He became a prominent African American attorney, dean of Howard Law School, and Director of the NAACP legal defense fund.
19. As the number of African Americans in northern cities increased, and as African-American soldiers returned from the war, racial tension grew. The black author and activist \_\_\_\_\_ called the summer of 1919 the \_\_\_\_\_ for the blood that flowed in the streets as a series of race riots broke out in 25 American cities, including Washington, Knoxville, and Omaha.
20. Although the race riots in the summer of 1919 were terrible, the Great Migration to the North was not abated. Between 1920 and 1930, \_\_\_\_\_ African-Americans moved out of the south to northern cities.