The Impact of Capitalism on Black Americans in Economic and Social Shifts of the 1920s

11 ATAR Modern History Unit 1 | Semester 2 2021

**Source 1:**

A person riding a snowboard down a hill

Description automatically generated with low confidence

John T McCutcheon, Chicago Daily Tribune (1923), “The South Will Soon be Demanding Restriction of Migration of Its Labour” Available at: <http://americainclass.org/sources/becomingmodern/divisions/text2/politicalcartoonsblackwhite.pdf> (Access Date: 17/09/2021)

*Message*

The message of the source is that Black Americans were moving in mass to the northern cities where better wages and job opportunities were, foreshadowing a push in the south for migration restrictions, further impeding on the rights of Black Americans. The source is a political cartoon, appearing in the Chicago Daily Tribune in 1923, during the Great Migration. McCutcheon, the cartoonist who lives in the city of the north, Chicago, is bias in that he would perceive the city as being better than the rural life, for it is his home and what he knows.

*Historical Context*

At the start of the 1920s, there was a dramatic migration of Black Americans for the Northern states. This people left the rural southern states in the search of increased wages, opportunity and escape the racial tensions, including the rise of the KKK (which eventually followed into the cities) and the Jim Crow Laws of segregation. Black Americans were subject to the Black Codes in the southern states. Black Codes were laws designed to restrict the freedoms of Black Americans, creating an extremely cheap labour force even once slavery was abolished. Though Black Codes had been largely modified by the 1920s, the idea of the free labour ideology was still restricted by contracts and sharecropping. Prior to and inclusive of the 1920s, many Black Americans were sharecroppers. A sharecropper is granted land by the landowner to farm it, paying in crop in return for crop and a place to stay. The fall in crop prices however, resulted in many landowners, often white, to force sharecroppers off their lands or reduce their pay whilst increasing the rent.

In the 1920s the Northern states experienced continued economic prosperity after the war. The wage in a factory was typically three times greater than that of a sharecropper. As the industrial cities grew through the reinvestment of profit as capital, the industries faced labour shortages. To make up the labour shortages, recruiters enticed Black Americans to the North, with strong opposition of white southerners. Working conditions for Black Americans, however, continued to be dangerous. Women particularly had difficulty in finding quality work, with high competition for the domestic labour positions that societal perceptions had largely limited them to. There was high competition for jobs but also for housing. Housing became segregated by way of covenants between white property owners, building racial tensions. This resulted in Black Americans amassing in limited neighbourhoods, such as Harlem in New York, which would become the founding grounds of the New Negro Movement. The Great Migration was perhaps the most significant event for the change in Black cultural in the United States of America during the 1920s.

*Usefulness*

The source is useful in its revelation of the economic perception to the reasons for migration, and somewhat useful at revealing arising political tension.

The source indicates the reason for the migration of Black Americans into the northern industrial cities such as Chicago, Detroit and New York. The source depicts a mass of a crowd moving towards the city, showcasing the huge volume of Black Americans that migrated. Captions within the cartoon give reason why, “Gone North for Better Wages”, where it is notable that the house depicted is of rural style, and one of a poor man. Black Americans were typically sharecroppers on lands owned by White Americans. It reveals the driving factor of capitalism as a reason for migration to the cities. These industrial hubs needed a bigger workforce as production increase, “labor wanted”. The Great Migration North is revealed to have continued for much of the early twenties from the end of the World War, with its publication in 1923.

The source is limited by its lack of exploration into the societal factors that led to the Great Migration. It does not describe the values developing in America of nativism, white supremacy, patriotism, and religious fundamentalism. The source does not suggest why wages are low for Black Americans, such as the Agricultural Financial Crisis and fails to describe the Jim Crow Laws of the South that greatly restricted the lives of Black Americans. Though racial intolerance was climbing in the cities, it had always been difficult to create cohesion between Black Americans and White Americans in the South, particularly with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan from 1915, which peaked in 1920, resulting in lynching, murder and economic blockades. It fails to communicate that the Agricultural Financial Crisis developed from the sudden jump and credit investment in agricultural technology, which reduced the workload, and hence the wages, of Black Americans. The source was published in the Chicago Daily Tribune. Chicago saw a huge spike in race related attacks during the period, and hence the relevancy of the idea of Black Americans “escaping” the Jim Crow Laws would be relatively low.

*Perspective*

The perspective of this source, at least at an immediate reading, is Black Americans are migrating in mass to the cities solely for the economic opportunities yield by the northern cities. It is a political cartoon by John McCutcheon. McCutcheon was white male with an upper-class background. He was a resident of Chicago, one of the northern cities greatly impacted by the Great Migration. This suggests some bias in his perception that the city was a place of guaranteed wealth, whereas the countryside had a guarantee of poor. The cartoon was written at the height of the Great Migration as caused by the fall of the agricultural sector, published in 1923. It is a political cartoon, and hence communicates a political agenda, suggesting that the south was dependent on Black Americans for their labour force, and would have to restrict their migration to guarantee the presence of a labour force, with the goal of commenting on this view and spreading the perception to viewers. It originally published in the Chicago Daily Tribune, which appealed to the typical Chicago resident at the time.

**Source 2:**

Table

Description automatically generated

Oswald W. Knauth, National Bureau of Economic Research (1922) *Income in the United States, Its Amount and the Distribution 1909-1919 Volume II: Detailed Report,* pg298-313. Available at <https://www.nber.org/system/files/chapters/c9420/c9420.pdf> (Access Date: 17/09/2021)

*Message*

The source communicates the increase of profit from agricultural profit, and brings to attention the sharp, sudden decline of profit in post war America, alongside the climbing price of rent for tenant farmers, as Black Americans so commonly were. The message is evidenced… The source was originally created by a worker of the National Bureau of Economic Research with the intent of recording the economic position of the American agricultural sector. There are no indicators of its bias, though the information was collated in 1922, two years after the latest record. This delay would allow for a limited modification or loss of data, though there was no prominent ideological push for it in the government sector during the time.

*Historical Context*

Through 1910-1919, the American agricultural economy enjoyed a relative boom. The boom formed because of technological progression, pushed for by a need to increase crop yield. With ravaged Europe unable to produce sufficient crop to sustain itself, it became dependent on American supplies, supplies which also had to support the domestic needs. Heavy investment was hence seen into technology and land, significant portions bought on credit. The market boom by European war saw crop prices increase, and hence production and confidence. American farmers expanded their operations. Federal subsidies and the introduction of the Model T at the accessible price point increased the mobility of workers, and with the introduction of combines decreased the need for labourers, predominantly Black Americans. The Federal Government pushed for increased land utilisation in 1917, ensuring the Allies did not face the same issues as the Central Powers. The war had left Europe fragile and dependent on American food supplies. As the war ended however, and Europe began to rebuild, the foreign demand for American crops plummeted. The falling prices of crops resulted in more crops being planted to make up the lost, which resulted in overproduction. The overproduction further reduced the values of crop, and hence the wages of Black Americans fell significantly. Black Americans became excess labourers hence sacked and forced to enter a now highly competitised labour market of relatively low skill. Further, some farms ran out of money, seeing them default on their loans, resulting in the displacement of tenant farmers, to which supplied the Great Migration north. The falling value of crops was the major economic push factor for migration from rural America to industrial cities.

*Usefulness*

The source is considerably useful, revealing the economic circumstance, in its drastic condition, of the agricultural sector during an otherwise booming period for America. The source illustrates the rise in expense for the agricultural sector. In the 1920s, and the lead up to it, the agricultural sector saw a rapid take up of farming technologies, which while aiming to increase yield and hence profit in the long run, would at least temporarily see a spike in expense. The source also reveals that the rent charged by landowners to tenant farmers climbed constantly throughout the first world war and into the 1920s. Black Americans were predominantly tenant farmers, so with the rising cost of rent, the increasing cost of production and the decline of profit, many Black Americans faced the choice between continued low wages and suffering under the Jim Crow Laws or take a chance and move to the northern cities in the Great Migration.

The source is limited in that it fails to reveal the factors exactly why the economic situation on farms was constantly changing. Major events, such as the start and end of the World War where production was altered for foreign markets can be attributed as causes for the push for increase yield on American farms. To increase yield, farmers took advantage of the technological advancements produced by companies, but of course with privately owned technologies, it would have to paid for, hence the increase in expenditure. In the 1920s as Europe continued to build after the war that had devasted its own agricultural sector, the demand for American crops fell dramatically. In response to the falling crop prices, farmers would plant more crop. The excess crop then inflated the market, reducing the price again. The sudden loss of productive revenue for landowners resulted in the increase rent, rent that was predominantly paid by Black Americans. The source also fails to reveal the social and political reasons, and the shifts in the values of American society, that was a key push factor for Black Americans. Rural regions were dominated by the Ku Klux Klan, grossly racially intolerant, and this limited the ability for Black Americans to operate their own businesses, and hence seeing a greater economic loss for a population already disadvantaged.

*Perspective*

The perspective of the author, Oswald W. Knauth, is that the change in economic circumstances within America is notable to the development of the nation, hence it should be recorded by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The author’s motivation is collate and preserve the data, so that the information may be used to reason social events, and predict the future economic output of the agricultural sector. It was collated in 1922 and published in the government records, exploring the income of Americans and their businesses. The motive is unlikely to be ideologically motivated, and the source is simply an instrument to record the national economic success in agricultural production. The purpose of the source matches this, to serve as an archive and information to predict or reason the economy and society within the 1920s, both as an immediate piece and for future reference. The piece is not created by a corporation, nor is it propaganda, it is an official record by the American government for the American government to indicate the economic success of an area, with all details included.

**Source 3:**

Many causes have been assigned for the three days of race rioting, from July 27 to 30 in Chicago, each touching some particular phase of the general condition that led up to the outbreak. Labor union officials attribute it to the action of the packers, while the packers are equally sure that the unions themselves are directly responsible. The city administration feels that the riots were brought on to discredit the Thompson forces, while leaders of the anti-Thompson forces, prominent among them being State’s Attorney Maclay Hoyne, are sure that the administration is directly responsible. In this manner charges and counter-charges are made, but, as is usually the case, the Negro is made to bear the brunt of it all–to be “the scapegoat.” A background of strained race relations brought to a head more rapidly through political corruption, economic competition and clashes due to the overflow of the greatly increased colored population into sections outside of the so-called “Black Belt,” embracing the Second and Third Wards, all of these contributed, aided by magnifying of Negro crime by newspapers, to the formation of a situation where only a spark was needed to ignite the flames of racial antagonism. That spark was contributed by a white youth when he knocked a colored lad off a raft at the 29th Street bathing beach and the colored boy was drowned.

Four weeks spent in studying the situation in Chicago, immediately following the outbreaks, seem to show at least eight general causes for the riots, and the same conditions, to a greater or less degree, can be found in almost every large city with an appreciable Negro population. These causes, taken after a careful study in order of their prominence, are:

Race Prejudice.

Economic Competition.

Political Corruption and Exploitation of Negro Voters.

Police Inefficiency.

Newspaper Lies about Negro Crime.

Unpunished Crimes Against Negroes.

Housing.

Reaction of Whites and Negroes from War.

Walter White, Yale Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, (1919), “The Causes of the Chicago Race Riots”, The Crisis Volume XVII, pg25 Available at: <https://glc.yale.edu/causes-chicago-race-riot> (Access Date: 17/09/2021)

*Message*

The message is that the Chicago Race Riots were not caused on the factor of race alone, but of the broader effects of the capitalistic society, including economic prejudice, media lies, housing issues, war reactions, corruption, and racial intolerance. It attributes the reason to racial tensions but also the conflict of labour unions and corporations. It positions Black Americans as the being the scapegoat of the event, revealing the fractured society of America throughout the 1920s. The source features in the NAACP’s quarterly journal, though the article is written by a white civil rights leader, Walter White, as opposed to one of Black ancestry. It has the intention of communicating that the race riots occurred as the result of systematic issues from the progression of capitalism in the 1920s.

*Historical Context*

The Chicago Race Riots of 1919 was one of the bloodiest of the race riots. It was the result of building racial tensions between Black Americans, largely living in rundown ghettos, and the white American, imposing the ideals of the KKK. The Chicago Race Riots were part of the “Red Summer”. The “Red Summer” of 1919 was the most violent series of racially fuelled riots in American history. The “Red Summer” was white on black violence, with much of the violence aimed at Black Americans who were veterans of the World War. Many veterans had expected to be treated similarly to their white counterparts on returning, sharing equal rights, however, for most this was not the case. The riots witnessed in the south were formed from the racial intolerance fuelled by the propaganda and market restraints created by the Ku Klux Klan, and the continued segregation laws within the region. The KKK claimed to be truly patriotic, preserving ideas of “Americanism” and patriotism from the World War, and the perception of “nativism” to which suggested a true American was born in America of white descent. The riots in the north were reactions to the Great Migration by the white population, however, it did not reduce the volume of Black Americans migrating to the north. Walter White was an editor for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. The NAACP was the counteraction to the KKK, seeking to improve civil liberties for Black Americans and reduce the racial tensions that sparked the race riots.

*Usefulness*

The source reveals the immediate impact of capitalist values on American society, particularly the impact on Black Americans demonstrated through a series of reasons given for the Chicago Race Riots. The source is also useful in revealing part of the greater image of racial intolerance throughout the 1918 to 1929 period, including the contributing factors of the growth of capitalism. The source was created to provide the black perspective of the Chicago Race Riots. It contrasts a dominant white perspective that the riots were brought upon by themselves but rather places reason on economic competition, political corruptions, police inefficiency, the overcrowding and the reaction of white Americans and Black Americans from the First World War.

The source illustrates Black Americans as the sole victims of the 1919 Chicago Race Riots. Amongst the 38 dead, 15 were white, killed in the reactionary violence. It was a combination of ethnic gangs and police that was the triggering event, whereas the source seeks to provide reason for the tensions that built to the triggering event. The source fails to summarise the greatest reason for the conflict, the overcrowding of the Black neighbourhood and the increased resistance of Black Americans, particularly veterans, to the racist attitudes held towards them. The source has been written as part of *The Crisis* by a prominent advocate for Black American civil rights, and hence is biased in favour of Black Americans, ensuring that the position of the piece is one that illustrates Black Americans as the sole victims, when in reality white Americans were also impacted, though to a lesser degree and for varying reason.

*Perspective*

The perspective of the author is that the Chicago Race Riots were not caused on the factor of race alone, but of the broader effects of the capitalistic society, including economic prejudice, media lies, housing issues, war reactions, corruption and racial intolerance. The author is a scholar who reflects on the immediate aftermath of the Chicago Race Riots of 1919. Walter White was the chief editor of *The Crisis,* the quarterly newsletter of the National Association of Advancement of Coloured People. White had blue eyes and blonde hair, easily passing as white, but he was a descendant of slaves. White used this as an opportunity to be an insider investigator for the NAACP, attending race riots without risk of harm, and investigating strings of lynching cases across the South. White was a firm believer in the need for civil rights reform. The piece is hence highly politicised and biased to ensure Black Americans are portrayed as victims of the race riots, to which they largely were, and has the intent to express this issue to a broader demographic. Walter White remains however a respectable journalist, providing an array of reason and evidence to support a claim now known as historical fact.

**Source 4:**

Black women’s labor market position is the result of employer practices and government policies that disadvantaged black women relative to white women and men. Negative representations of black womanhood have reinforced these discriminatory practices and policies. Since the era of slavery, the dominant view of black women has been that they should be workers, a view that contributed to their devaluation as mothers with caregiving needs at home. African-American women’s unique labor market history and current occupational status reflects these beliefs and practices*.*

Differences in black and white women’s labor participation were due not only to the societal expectation of black women’s gainful employment but also to labor market discrimination against black men which resulted in lower wages and less stable employment compared to white men. Consequently, married black women have a long history of being financial contributors—even co-breadwinners—to two-parent households because of black men’s precarious labor market position.

Black women’s main jobs historically have been in low-wage agriculture and domestic service.[1](https://www.epi.org/blog/black-womens-labor-market-history-reveals-deep-seated-race-and-gender-discrimination/#_note1) Even after migration to the north during the 20th century, most employers would only hire black women in domestic service work.[2](https://www.epi.org/blog/black-womens-labor-market-history-reveals-deep-seated-race-and-gender-discrimination/#_note2) Revealingly, although whites have devalued black women as mothers to their own children, black women have been the most likely of all women to be employed in the low-wage women’s jobs that involve cooking, cleaning, and caregiving even though this work is associated with mothering more broadly.

Nina Banks, Economic Policy Institute (2019) *Black women’s labor market history reveals deep-seated race and gender discrimination,* Available at: <https://www.epi.org/blog/black-womens-labor-market-history-reveals-deep-seated-race-and-gender-discrimination/> (Access Date: 17/09/2021 )

*Message*

The message of the source is that Black women did not experience the “New Woman” social movement, and instead continued on as active labour participates largely in domestic service, and they were significant financial contributors to their family, even in their married life. It is evidenced by the descriptions given, such as “low wage agriculture and domestic service”, describing the “low skill” careers offered to Black women, and “practices and … polices that disadvantaged Black women”. It also details a societal perception that “Black women should be workers”, taking over their caregiving roles at home, distinctly different to the opposition faced by the “New Woman” movement. The source is a research piece written by economic historian Nina Banks for the Economic Policy Institute, an institute that is privately owned but not operated for profit. The source was published in 2019 and hence examines the events from a secondary perspective. The source is focused on giving reason to the employment of Black women, illustrating contrasting social values through out the period.

*Historical Context*

Through out the 1920s, women saw a dramatic shift in their social standing and economic opportunities. With the rise of new domestic technologies, such as vacuum cleaners and refrigerators, the domestic workload was reduced, and women saw a cultural “revolution”. This change in the fundamental perception of women has been referred to as the “New Woman” social movement. This movement saw an uptake of careers by younger women, and the retention of careers even after marriage, something was considered social unusual, associating financial stability as the role of men. These jobs included teaching, nursing and retail for white women, whereas Black women were largely restricted in the roles they were offered, continuing the previous roles in factories and domestic service. Middleclass white women in city areas enjoyed most of these newfound freedoms, such as the rise of the “flapper”, a woman who wore shorter clothes, smoked, drank, and danced, far considered socially unacceptable just years later. The popular rise of this culture was achieved through films with celebrities such as Clara Bow, the “It” girl, and the introduction of prohibition, an attempt to remoralise America, resulting in increased consumption. This cultural revolution however was limited to white middleclass women. Women in rural communities largely maintained their traditional “American” lifestyles, as the ideologies of the Ku Klux Klan and Republican policy spread throughout the countryside. Women of colour, particularly Black women, often saw very limited change. Black women had quite often already held careers, though those of the domestic and agricultural sector. Whilst it was often perceived by white society that Black women were worse mothers than themselves, Black women were often employed as nannies, cooks and cleaners, roles then (and somewhat presently) typically associated with motherhood. Activities that had once been reviewed as socially unacceptable, such as dancing, was already a key part of Black culture, as reflected by the Harlem Renaissance, and hence no change was observed here, as was with white women. Throughout the 1920s, there was limited social change for Black women, who remained marginalised and discriminated against, even by their contemporises.

*Usefulness*

The source is useful in its description of the roles Black women filled during the 1920s, unable to achieve the same freedoms experienced by middle class white women, and reveals that the attitudes of Black women did not truly change. It shows the American value of work, and the way that your income dictates your life. It reveals the broad social perception of women, largely restricted to domestic service, and the belief that child raising was for the mother. The source reveals the limited economic benefit that the 1920s brought for all Black Americans, revealing that wages was significantly lower for men, and it was near essential for women to find work in order for the family to be adequately supported.

The source is limited in that it is a narrow examination of Black women, and Black women only. Though briefly touching on men, it does not explore the social or economic values that saw their employment change in the 1920s and does not illustrate shifts in social values of the time, such as the “New Woman” social movement. It fails to examine closely the working and living conditions of Black Americans as they changed and as some companies, such as Ford Motors introduced Welfare Capitalism, providing limited support to employees as part of their employment contract. Henry Ford was a leader of hiring Black Americans, including a limited number of women. It also fails to capture the racial tensions of the period and fails to explore how Black Americans were poor, living in ghetto communities, to which cultivated violence such as the Chicago Race Riots of 1919.

*Perspective*

The perspective is that of an economic historian, and one who is a woman, revealing the perceptions of femineity in the unequal employment of Black Americans. Nina Banks is a Black economist and the president of the National Economic Institution. She received acclaim for her research into the economic situations of women throughout classical and early modern history. In her article, *Black women’s labour market history reveals deep-seated race and gender discrimination,* Banks examines the discrimination faced by Black women through an educational, historical and factual way, demonstrating no clear bias to the situation, despite the fact she is a Black woman talking about the oppression of Black women. It was created with the intent purpose of research and education, and it is historically accurate. The piece was published as part of report into the history of Black women’s employment and the continued discrimination that they face today, by the Economic Policy Institute. The Economic Policy Institute is a peer reviewed institution that is not for profit and has open transparency guidelines. It is nonpartisan and hence high confidence can be held in the validity of the information. The piece is a retrospective that seeks to make connections to the contemporary age in 2019.

**Source 5:**



Isaac Friedlander (1931) *Rhapsody in Black* Available at: <https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.146346.html> (Access Date: 17/09/2021)

*Message*

The message of the source is that despite the racial intolerance faced by Black Americans, their culture was able to flourish, and was enjoyed by a diverse group. It is evidenced by the author Isac Friedlander, a Latvian artist, who illustrated a grand concert, featuring Black artists, both men and women. It shows a distinctive style, with jazz instruments, dancing, and choirs. The piece was created relatively close to the end of the original Harlem Renaissance.

*Historical Context*

The source is a print of the Harlem Renaissance. It illustrates the rise of music produced and performed by Black Americans, despite the racial intolerance of the period. Harlem is a suburb of New York. The Renaissance of the 1920s saw Black artists, inclusive of poets, musicians, photographers and scholars form the New Negro Movement. With the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the movement lobbied for improved protection of civil liberties for Black Americans. The New Negro Movement promoted racial pride for Black Americans, particularly in cultural history and achievements. The movement gave way to the Civil Rights Movement. Arts produced by the Harlem Renaissance were popular to international audience, such as in Weimar Germany, and continue to greatly influence Western art today. Celebrities crafted from the movement were utilised to communicate the issues faced by Black Americans, such as the work of Josephine Baker. The Harlem Renaissance resulted in the mainstream acceptance and participation in a culturally diverse America, particularly by younger Americans, with an uptake in the consumption of Jazz and Blues music, previously restricted to Black Americans, and labelled as culturally unacceptable by white Americans. The Harlem Renaissance was supported by white patrons, who donated large sums of money to continue the production of Black arts. The prohibition of alcohol was utilised as an economic opportunity by those in Harlem, offering liquor and entertainment in the one location. This allowed the Harlem Renaissance to continue through the early period of the Great Depression, but when prohibition ended in 1933, the money stopped flowing and many of those made famous by the Renaissance were forced to seek regular employment. The Harlem Renaissance spurred popular support for the Civil Rights Movement, a major shift of American ideals from white supremacy to greater cultural diversity and cohesion.

*Usefulness*

This source is somewhat useful, revealing a joy in the arts and the flourishing of culture, however, failing to reveal the struggles from before, and the minor economic reprise it brought for successful artists. It reveals the lively and fruitful impacts that the 1920s economic prosperity brought for Black Americans, describing values of community, connection, and art. The source reveals a rising acceptance of Black arts by an increasingly culturally diverse America, as illustrated by an immigrant. It reveals diversity within the arts, with both men and women performing. The source was produced to further encourage the white population to participate in the Black American culture, reducing racial tensions, encouraged by a globally recognised artist.

The source fails to reveal the struggles faced by Black Americans, as well as the reasons for the Harlem Renaissance throughout the 1920s. It fails to capture the push for increased civil liberties, a mission of the Renaissance, omitting it in its illustration, lacking a pained character for example. The source also fails to hint towards its intentions, though the artistic piece does not appear to show any true bias in favour of any party, rather focusing on the cultural phenomenon that was the Harlem Renaissance.

*Perspective*

The perspective of Source 5 is that of a foreigners view of the Harlem Renaissance, the flourishing of arts and culture for Black Americans. The piece was created after the Harlem Renaissance, serving in its memory during the trying times of the early 1930s and the Great Depression. Isac Friedlander escaped the authoritarian regime of Romanov, fleeing Latvia on grounds of his artistic talent in 1910. After living in Italy for several years, Friedlander returned to Latvia to document the struggles of his people. When the Great Depression struck late in 1929, Friedlander headed for America. Friedlander continued to illustrate people under authoritarian regimes, the oppressed, and hence his subject became Black Americans. In *Rhaspody in Black* Friedlander seeks to portray the cultural evolution of Black people despite the oppression and circumstances they had endured. Friedlander portrays the oppressed in ways that contrasts the claims of the regimes that the live under, and hence is bias in favour of Black Americans to a notable degree. It is an artistic interpretation of the time, and hence the reliability is somewhat impeded on, but it is reflective of factual historical records. The intention of Friedlander is to reveal the humanity that remains in the marginalised group to an international audience, and fuel support for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.