

BLACKGWINNETT

M A G A Z I N E

Focused on the Black diaspora of Gwinnett County, GA | January • February • March 2023 | Free

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Collective Blackness 2023:

Economic Power, Reeducation, Political Prowess

NEW YEAR, SAME POLICE
BRUTALITY. QUALIFIED
IMMUNITY MUST GO!

GET YOUR 2023 LIFE
STRATEGY TOGETHER!

WHY DO AMERICAN
HISTORY BOOKS
EXCLUDE BLACKS?

BLACK POWERNOMICS:[®]
THE NATIONAL PLAN
TO EMPOWER BLACKS

WHAT WOULD DR. KING
SAY ABOUT THE STATE
OF BLACK PEOPLE?

SOUL FOOD: COOKED
THE HEALTHY AND
NUTRITIOUS WAY

UMFF URBAN MEDIAMAKERS FILM FESTIVAL

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22ND EDITION | UMFF | OCTOBER 9-22, 2023 | GWINNETT COUNTY AND ATLANTA, GA

CALL FOR ENTRIES!



Submission Dates

January 15, 2023
Early bird Deadline

April 7, 2023
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July 28, 2023
Late Deadline

September 1, 2023
Extended Deadline

Selection Announcement
September 8, 2023

Festival Dates:
October 9-22, 2023
22nd Urban Mediamakers
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Submission Categories

- Advertising/Marketing Campaign
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- Animation
- Blog
- Commercial
- Documentary
- Feature Film
- GA-produced Project
- Journalism
- Key Art Design
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- Photography
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- PSA
- Scripts - Short, Feature
- Short Film
- Short Film - Women Directors
- Student Film
- Theatrical Play
- Trailer
- TV/Web Pilot/Series
- Videopalooza - Youth Filmmakers - Middle and High Schoolers
- Virtual Reality

Festival Highlights

AfroFuturism Fest 2023

College Student
Filmmaker Competition

Content Creators
in the Park 2023

Diverse Content Creators
Competition

Urban Directors and
Producers Summit

Urban PitchFest

Youth Filmmaker
Competition

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Black GWINNETT Magazine
informs and speaks out for Black
communities of Gwinnett County.

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Black History Is American History.

Did you know that modern day homosapiens -- upright walking humans -- are descendants of an African woman -- Lucy? This is based on archeology, and science, and affirmed by experts of all ethnicities. Yet this fact is not in today's history books being taught throughout America. Why? Because of white supremacy/racism and the attempt to whitewash American history.

But Black history is an essential aspect of American history that has been widely overlooked and underrepresented for far too long. The Black community has always recognized the importance of preserving and honoring its heritage. People of all races must come together to demand racial justice and equality in all things including history.

Today, the message is clear: knowing Black history is the foundation for the future of America and the Black community.

Black history is not just a collection of facts and dates, but a rich and complex weaving of stories and experiences that have shaped the course of American history. From the transatlantic slave trade to the civil rights movement, Black history tells the story of a resilient people who have overcome great adversity and discrimination in America. By learning Black history and American truth, a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Black community's value by all people will happen. With a true understanding of Black history, America will have to face truth to work towards a more just and equitable future.

Happy new year to you and yours, and may 2023 be your best year yet!

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HAPPY *New Year*

Get Your 2023 Life Strategy Together!

by C. Renee Moses

Whether you are in your 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, or even 60s, it is never too late to get your life together. The start of a new year presents a perfect opportunity to evaluate your current situation and make positive changes. It's time to devise a powerful life strategy that will set you on the path to success and fulfillment. Let's explore some key areas that can help you transform your life in 2023.

What is your current situation?

To create an effective life strategy, it's crucial to have a clear understanding of your current

situation. Take a moment to assess various aspects of your life, such as your career, relationships, health, and personal goals. Identify areas that require improvement and make note of your strengths and weaknesses. This self-awareness will serve as a foundation for your future growth.

Make your mental health a priority.

One of the fundamental pillars of a well-rounded life is good mental health. Take the time to evaluate your emotional well-being and address any lingering issues. Seek support from professionals, such

as therapists or counselors, who can guide you through challenges and provide valuable insights. Incorporate stress-relief activities into your daily routine, such as meditation, exercise, or hobbies. Prioritizing your mental health will help you navigate life's difficulties with resilience and clarity.

Clean up your life.

Decluttering and organizing your physical space can have a profound impact on your overall well-being. Begin by tidying up your living environment and getting rid of unnecessary belongings.

A clean and organized space promotes a sense of calm and clarity. Extend this approach to other areas of your life as well. Evaluate your relationships and remove toxic influences that may be holding you back. Streamline your commitments and focus on activities that bring you joy and personal growth.

Show gratitude for what you have.

Gratitude is a powerful practice that can transform your perspective on life. Take time each day to reflect on the things you are grateful for. Express appreciation to the people who support and love you. Cultivating gratitude fosters a positive mindset and helps you recognize the abundance in your life. When you appreciate what you have, you attract more positivity and fulfillment.

Take care of your health.

Your physical health is an integral part of a well-rounded life. Make a commitment to prioritize your well-being in 2023. Adopt a balanced diet and incorporate regular exercise into your routine. Get enough sleep and manage your stress levels effectively. Consider scheduling regular check-ups with healthcare professionals to address any potential health concerns proactively. By investing in your health, you ensure that you have the energy and vitality to pursue your goals and dreams.

Get those finances in order.

Financial stability is crucial for a secure and fulfilling life. Take stock of your current financial situation and identify areas where you can make improvements. Create a budget that aligns with your goals

and helps you save for the future. Reduce unnecessary expenses and find ways to increase your income if necessary. Consider seeking professional financial advice to help you make sound decisions and establish a solid financial foundation.

As you embark on your journey to get your life together in 2023, remember that it is a gradual process. Be patient and kind to yourself, celebrating each small step forward. With a well-thought-out life strategy and a commitment to personal growth, you can transform your life and create the future you desire.

Let 2023 be the year you take charge, and make positive changes that will shape your life for many years to come.



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New Year, Same Police Brutality. Qualified Immunity Must Go!

by Larry J. Howard

The start of a new year brings with it a sense of hope and optimism, a fresh start to a new beginning. However, for Black people in America, the start of the new year has brought with it a continuation of a long-standing issue: police brutality.

America's law enforcement killed at least 1,176 people in 2022, making it the deadliest year on record for police violence since 2013 when experts first started tracking the killings

nationwide. These tragic events are not anomalies, but rather part of a systemic problem of police brutality against Black people in America that has been perpetuated for far too long. One of the legal mechanisms that has allowed for this problem to persist is qualified immunity, and it is time for this doctrine to be abolished.

Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine that shields government officials, including police officers,

from being held personally liable for actions performed within the scope of their duties. In order to be protected by qualified immunity, an officer must show that their conduct did not violate "clearly established" constitutional rights that a reasonable person would know about. This standard has been interpreted in such a way that it is incredibly difficult for victims of police brutality to hold officers accountable for their actions.

Even when there is clear evidence that an officer has used excessive force or violated someone's civil rights, they can still be protected by qualified immunity if a court determines that the officer's actions were not "clearly established" as unconstitutional.

This legal doctrine has been criticized by civil rights advocates, legal scholars, and even some Supreme Court justices as being overly protective of government officials and allowing for a culture of impunity when it comes to police misconduct. In recent years, the issue of qualified immunity has gained national attention and has become a focal point of the conversation around police reform.

The problem with qualified immunity is that it effectively allows police officers to operate with impunity, knowing that they will not be held personally responsible for their actions. This creates a culture of abuse and violence, where officers feel empowered to use excessive force, engage in racial profiling, and violate people's civil rights without fear of consequences. This culture of impunity is particularly harmful to Black people, who are disproportionately targeted by police violence.

The killing of George Floyd in 2020 was a stark example of the harm caused by qualified

immunity. Despite clear evidence that former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin had used excessive force and violated Floyd's civil rights, Chauvin was protected by qualified immunity and was not held personally liable for his actions until he was convicted of murder. This case, along with many others like it, has shown that qualified immunity serves as a barrier to justice and accountability for victims of police brutality.

The issue of qualified immunity has become a central focus of the national conversation around police reform. In the wake of the killing of George Floyd, there has been a renewed push for reforming police practices, including the abolition of qualified immunity. Many civil rights organizations, legal scholars, and activists have called for an end to qualified immunity, arguing that it is a major impediment to police accountability.

There are a number of proposed solutions to the problem of qualified immunity. One approach is to reform the doctrine, rather than abolish it entirely. This could involve setting clearer standards for what constitutes "clearly established" constitutional rights, or limiting the scope of the doctrine so that it only applies in cases where the officer was acting in good faith. While this approach could

provide some improvements to the current system, it is unlikely to fully address the problem of police impunity.

Another approach is to abolish qualified immunity entirely. This would involve overturning the Supreme Court's qualified immunity jurisprudence and establishing a new legal standard for holding government officials accountable for their actions. Some have suggested that this could be achieved through legislation or executive action, rather than overturning the standard.

The issue of police brutality against Black people in America is a systemic problem that requires systemic solutions. The recent instances of police violence against Black people that brought forth the Black Lives Matter Movement 2020, demonstrate that this problem is far from resolved, and that urgent action is needed. Whether through reform or abolition, addressing the issue of qualified immunity is a necessary step towards achieving police accountability and ending the culture of impunity that has perpetuated police violence against Black people. It is time for America to recognize that Black lives really do matter, and to take meaningful action to ensure that the Black community is valued and justly protected under the law.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

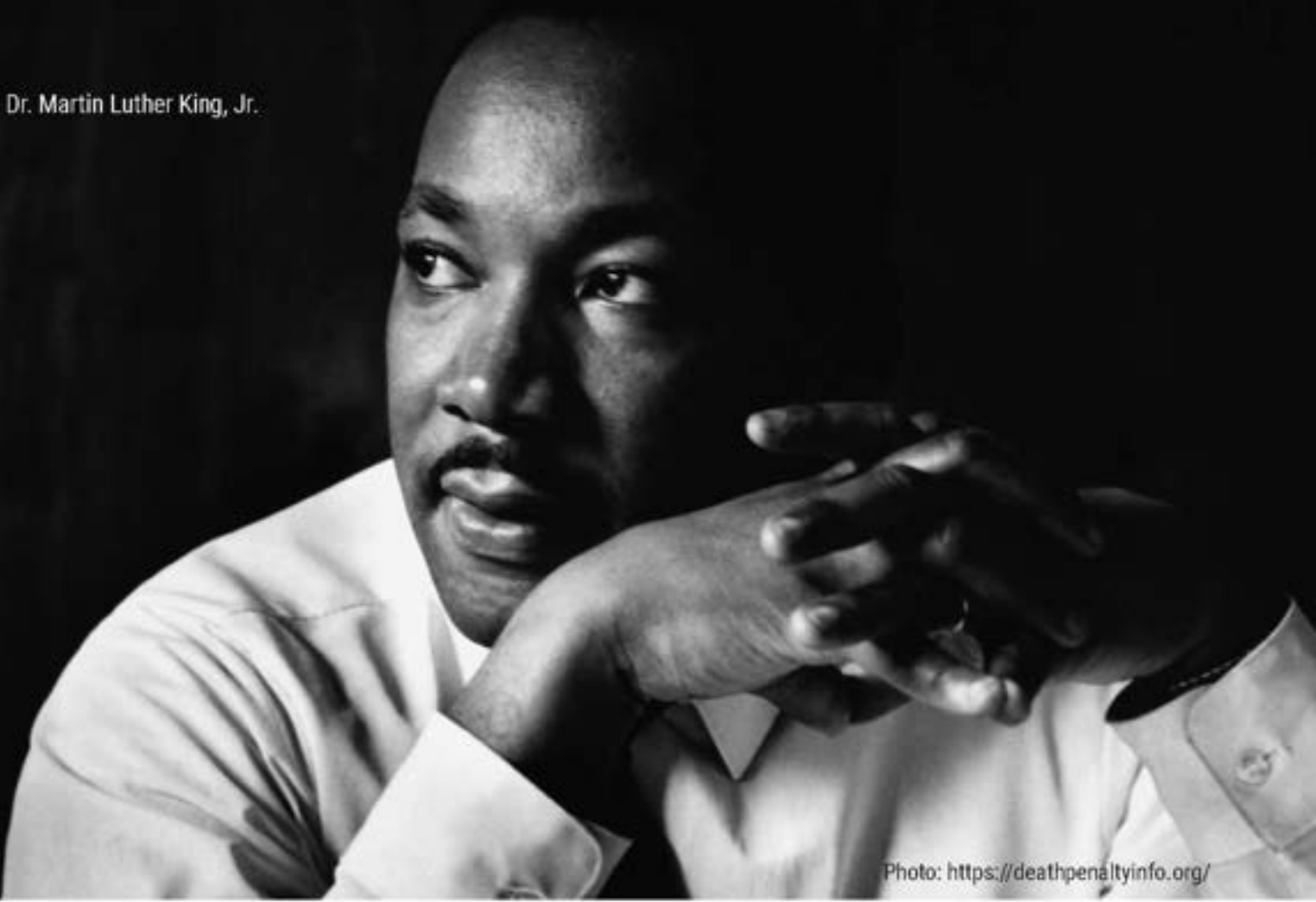


Photo: <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/>

What Would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Say About the State of Black People?

by Rita G. Ragsdale

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a visionary Black leader who fought tirelessly for racial equality and justice in America. His words and actions continue to inspire generations, serving as a guiding light in the ongoing struggle for civil rights. As we reflect on the current state of Black people, it is natural to wonder what Dr. King would say if he were alive today. Although we can only speculate,

we can draw insights from Dr. King's philosophy and principles to imagine his perspective on the progress, the aggressive racism playing out in America and the huge challenges still faced by Black communities. Let us delve into the possible viewpoints Dr. King might have expressed regarding the state of Black people in the present era of the country.

Continued Injustice and Systemic Racism

Dr. King would likely acknowledge the progress made since the civil rights movement, but he would also highlight the persistent presence of injustice and systemic racism. Legal advances in the past have been turned back over the past few years. Many Black individuals still face discrimination in all aspects of life, including employment,

health, income, education, criminal justice, housing and banking. Dr. King would be on the front line demanding society address these issues head-on and strive for equal opportunities and social justice for all.

Economic Disparities

The economic disparities that disproportionately affect Black communities would undoubtedly concern Dr. King. He would emphasize the need for tangible economic justice and the eradication of poverty. Dr. King's focus on economic empowerment as a means to achieve racial equality would be a priority. He would urge policymakers and community leaders to create inclusive economic policies and initiatives that uplift and support disadvantaged communities.

Education and Empowerment

Education played a crucial role in Dr. King's vision of progress. He understood the power of

knowledge and its ability to transform individuals and communities. Dr. King would advocate for quality and affordable education as fundamental rights for all children, regardless of their racial or socioeconomic background. He would emphasize the importance of providing equitable resources, improving school systems, and promoting educational opportunities that foster intellectual growth and critical thinking.

Criminal Justice Reform

The issue of racial bias within the criminal justice system would undoubtedly concern Dr. King deeply. He would express his disappointment at the disproportionate incarceration rates and instances of police brutality against Black individuals. Dr. King would likely call for comprehensive criminal justice reform, emphasizing the need for unbiased policing, fair sentencing, and rehabilitation programs that address the root causes of crime

rather than perpetuating cycles of incarceration.

Unity and Nonviolent Activism

Dr. King firmly believed in the power of nonviolent resistance and unity among diverse communities. He would encourage Black people to maintain unity and solidarity while seeking alliances with other marginalized groups. Dr. King's teachings would inspire the pursuit of social justice through peaceful means, promoting dialogue, understanding, and empathy as the path towards meaningful change.

While we can only speculate on what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would say about the current state of Black people, we can be certain that he would emphasize the need for continued progress towards racial equality and justice. It is now our responsibility to carry Dr. King's legacy forward, working tirelessly to create a society where every individual is judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.



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Credit: Gwinnett County Government

The Hooper-Renwick School in Lawrenceville, Georgia

by Rosa B. Cotton

The Hooper-Renwick School in Lawrenceville, Georgia was the only Black public high school in Gwinnett County during the 1950s and 60s until the end of segregation in the county. The Hull Elementary School served as the only Black elementary school during the same time period. The Hooper-Renwick School merged with the Gwinnett County School System in the 1960s and has since been utilized for different purposes within the system. Today, plans are in motion to transform the building into a library and Black history museum.

The Gwinnett County Public School System was established in 1870, followed by the creation of the Lawrenceville Public School System in 1893, before both systems were consolidated in 1948. Though there were several Black public and parochial schools in the county's history, there was a movement to consolidate schools and resources starting in the 1910s, maintaining a segregated education system. By 1951, there were 13 public schools in Gwinnett County for Black students, all considered "substandard." After consolidation,

only two buildings remained to serve all Black students in the county - Hooper-Renwick High School and Hull Elementary. In 1955, Gwinnett County approved a bond that allocated \$130,158 for the construction of the current 18-room Hooper-Renwick School Building.

The Hooper-Renwick School has a rich history dating back to 1871 on Honeysuckle Street in Lawrenceville. It originally served as Lawrenceville Elementary for elementary students and was relocated and expanded to three

rooms in 1943. In 1945, the school was renamed and began serving all grade levels, from first through twelfth, in a twelve room building on 15 acres. The school was named after prominent members of the local Black community, Mack Renwick, an educational advocate who helped fund the school, and Marshall Hooper, the school's principal.

In 1945, the Hooper-Renwick School had 29 students, which grew to 187 students by the 1958-59 school year. In 1936, the school employed four teachers, and by 1956 it had 15 teachers with varying levels of education, ranging from two years of college to a bachelor's degree. School buses were used to transport students, and the school offered a variety of subjects including English, Literature, Math, Science, History,

Government/Civics, Foreign Language, Home Economics, and Agriculture. Despite being underfunded compared to white schools in the Gwinnett County system, the school library holdings increased from 200 books in 1951 to as many as 8,131 books by 1956.

In 1965, Gwinnett County School Superintendent B.B. Harris submitted a desegregation plan, with the intention of implementing it in the fall of that year. The plan was reviewed and evaluated under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Integration in the county began during the 1966-67 school year, and Hooper-Renwick was closed in 1968, with most students transferred to Central Gwinnett High School, the white high school in Lawrenceville.

After its closure, the Hooper-Renwick building was used for various purposes within the Gwinnett County Public School System, including storage, administration offices, and after a renovation in 1996, as the GIVE Center for special education.

To preserve the history of the Hooper-Renwick School, the Hooper-Renwick Legacy Preservation Committee was formed in 2016. The Committee is responsible for preserving the physical building and oral histories, and promoting recognition of its historical significance. In 2022, the Committee and Gwinnett County Government held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the construction of the new library and museum. The project has plans to open in 2024, and we cannot wait to experience it.



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"White supremacy and racism are synonyms! White people created this, and only white people can solve it. They just need the desire to." – CMABP



Collective Blackness 2023:

Economic Power, Reeducation, Political Prowess

by C.Renee Moses

Lasting roughly from the 1910s through the mid-1930s, the Harlem Renaissance is a period of great cultural, social, and intellectual awakening for African-Americans in New York City. We are now experiencing another renaissance for African-Americans in light of recent events, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. This current renaissance must serve as a call to action for the Black community to harness their collective power and create lasting change. This article will explore the three pillars of Collective Blackness 2023 defined by the Gwinnett County Black Chamber of Commerce: economic power, reeducation, and political prowess.

Economic Power

Economic power is essential for any community to thrive, and the Black community is no exception. Despite being one of the largest consumer groups in the United States, the Black community has been historically disadvantaged in terms of economic opportunity. This has led to a widening wealth gap between Black and white Americans, with the average Black household having only 10% of the wealth of the average white household.

To address this disparity, Collective Blackness 2023 must prioritize economic empowerment initiatives. This includes supporting Black-owned businesses, demand respect and community support

from non-Black business owners in our community with our dollars, investing in job training and education programs, and advocating for policies that promote economic equity, including higher wages and implementing a reparations program for African-Americans.

Reeducation

Education has always been a cornerstone of Black progress, as it provides the tools necessary for individuals to succeed and break the cycle of poverty. However, traditional education systems have often failed Black students, with disparities in funding, resources, and curriculum leading to unequal outcomes. To combat these issues, Collective Blackness 2023 must prioritize

reeducation initiatives that focus on decolonizing education and centering Black history and culture. This can be accomplished through Black-led educational organizations and initiatives, advocating for more diverse and inclusive curriculum in public schools, and resources for lifelong learning and skill-building.

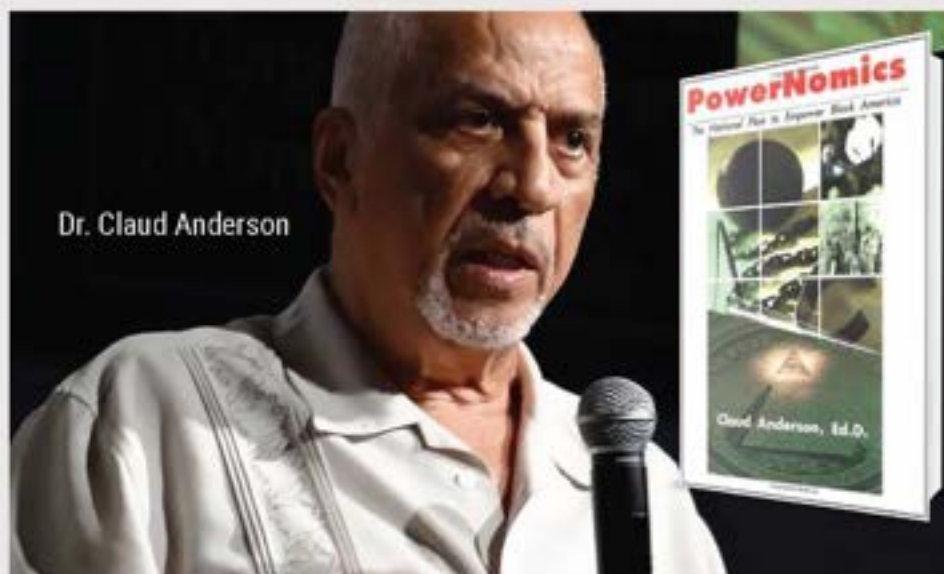
Political Prowess

Political power is essential for any community to effect meaningful change, and the Black community has a long history of using political organizing and activism to fight for their rights. Largely members of the Democratic party, the Black community must use their voting power to secure political representation that will enact policies exclusively benefiting the Black community.

To achieve political prowess, Collective Blackness 2023 must continue to prioritize political engagement and mobilization of, increase voter turnout among young adults, and advocating for policies that promote social justice reform.

Collective Blackness 2023 presents a unique opportunity for the Black community to come together and effectively harness their collective power in America. By prioritizing economic power, reeducation, and political prowess, the Black community can work towards a future where all Blacks individuals have the opportunity to thrive.

As we witness this second Black renaissance, let us also look towards the future with hope, determination and tangible action to build a more equitable and just society for the Black community.



Dr. Claud Anderson

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The concept of PowerNomics® was created by Dr. Claud Anderson and is described in his book **PowerNomics®: The National Plan to Empower Black America.**

The PowerNomics® concept and plan teaches Blacks how to pool resources and aspects of power so that they can produce, distribute and consume in a way that creates goods and wealth.

Black Americans made extraordinary contributions to American society despite the astonishing, unusual and unconscionable treatment they have endured in America. Blacks were the engines that drove the political-economic development of this nation for centuries.

Black Americans should, therefore, value their exceptionality and let that sense of worth, guide their group behavior. They should require that any business, political party

or political candidate who seeks or benefits from Black support, always identify Blacks by name, commit and in reciprocity, deliver tangible, measurable benefits to Black Americans.

Black Americans should never allow themselves to be grouped with or equated to broad and ambiguous classes such as minorities, immigrants, people of color, diversity, poor people or similar defining terms. The nation is indebted to Blacks and equating them to fabricated classes adds insult to injury, hides their special history and promotes the myth that all people have been created and treated equally and that all groups have contributed equally to the building of the nation. Nothing is further from the truth. The purpose of PowerNomics® is to guide native Blacks from their position of powerlessness to one of group competitiveness and self-sufficiency.



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A close-up, high-angle shot of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail. The flag is draped and folded, creating a sense of movement and texture. The colors are vibrant, with the red, white, and blue standing out against a dark background.

Why Do American History Books Exclude Blacks?

by Rock Moses

The exclusion of Black contributions and achievements from American history books is a result of systemic racism and a lack of representation in the historical narrative. For all of American history, Black people have been treated as second-class citizens and their experiences and contributions have been often ignored or marginalized.

The people who wrote and compiled American history books were most often white and had a limited perspective of non-white people by choice. Therefore, they did not include the contributions, experiences and perspectives of Black people. This resulted in a one-sided and incomplete historical record that failed to accurately reflect the contributions and experiences of Black Americans.

Recently there has been another push for the need to include more diverse perspectives in the historical narrative, including the contributions and achievements

of Black Americans. However, this process is ongoing and there is still much work to be done to ensure that all Americans have access to a complete and accurate representation of their shared history.

Why is there an exclusion of Black contributions and achievements from American history books? There are several historical factors at play. One of the main factors is the institutionalized racism that has existed in the United States for much of its history. This racism has resulted in the marginalization and oppression of Black people, and their experiences and contributions were often ignored or downplayed in the dominant historical narrative.

The educational system in the United States has long perpetuated the idea that Black people were inferior and not worthy of being included in the historical record. This idea was reflected in the curriculum and the textbooks used in schools, which often excluded or minimized

the role of Black Americans in shaping the country's history.

Furthermore, the lack of representation of Black people in positions of power and influence, including as historians and authors, meant that their experiences and perspectives were not being recorded or included in the historical record. This resulted in a one-sided view of history that was heavily biased towards the experiences and perspectives of white Americans.

Now is the time to correct this imbalance in American history books, and include more diverse perspectives in the historical record. We need new history books and curricula that aim to be more inclusive and reflective of the experiences and contributions of Black Americans. This is an ongoing process and we must speak out louder to school boards, legislators and parents. Historical records must accurately reflect the diverse experiences and contributions of **all** Americans.



Photo Credit:
Fit Men Cook

Soul Food: Cooked the Healthy and Nutritious Way!

by Marie Allen

African-American soul food is a cuisine that embodies cultural legacies, traditions, history and is known for being rich and flavorful. Soul food is nutrient-rich dishes and leafy green vegetables served with a variety of meats. From simple family dinners to elaborate spreads, soul food is amazing.

Some soul food dishes are high in calories and sodium, but there are easy ways to make dishes healthier while still retaining their delicious flavors. Here are some suggestions:

Leaner Meats: Replace fatty cuts of meat with leaner options.

Baking and Grilling: Instead of deep-frying, bake or grill your meats, vegetables, or other ingredients.

Whole Grains: Incorporate whole grains into your dishes to boost

the fiber content and reduce empty calories. Use whole wheat flour, brown rice, whole grain bread or pasta, or Quinoa in recipes.

Reduced-Fat Dairy: Replace full-fat dairy products like butter, cream, and whole milk with reduced-fat or low-fat alternatives.

Cooking Techniques: Use steaming, baking, or sautéing with minimal oil instead of deep-frying or pan-frying.

Sodium Alternatives: Limit the use of salt and replace it with herbs, spices, and other flavor-enhancing ingredients like garlic, onion, lemon juice, and vinegar.

Lighter Sauces and Dressings: Prepare lighter versions of sauces and dressings by using low-fat yogurt or mayonnaise, reducing the amount of oil, or using flavorful

herbs and spices instead of excessive salt.

Vegetable Substitutions: Incorporate more vegetables into your soul food dishes.

Portion Control: Keep portion sizes in mind to manage calorie intake. Be mindful of serving sizes and avoid overeating.

Healthy Cooking Fats: When cooking, use healthier fats like olive oil, avocado oil, or canola oil in moderation instead of traditional cooking fats high in saturated or trans fats.

Remember moderation. By using some of these suggested changes, soul food dishes can be healthier without sacrificing awesome flavor. Send us your soul food recipes to recipes@BlackGwinnett.com.



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U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr.
52 Years of Service
Source: Detroit Free Press

U.S. Rep. Conyers, Jr. was the former Detroit congressman who reintroduced the study of reparation for American Descendants of Slaves in Congress for 30 years.

Rep. John Conyers Jr. began offering the bill in 1989. The legislation is known as H.R. 40, and still has not been passed. Why has this bill not passed in 30+ years? It has not passed because of white supremacy -- which is the only form of racism -- maintained and upheld by the United States of America Federal government and the institutions of this country.

DEAR POLITICIANS:
DO YOU SUPPORT

REPARATIONS?
FOR AMERICAN DESCENDANTS OF SLAVES (ADOS)



We, African-American citizens of the United States, are asking all local, state and federal politicians where do they stand on reparations for **American Descendants of Slaves (ADOS)**. Complete our **ADOS Reparations Questionnaire** by **May 30, 2023**. <https://forms.gle/tYFH7RNLsgyWuPiL8>. Results will be distributed on **June 19, 2023**.