Black people have been a central issue in this country from the very beginning. Black people have every determinant of how this country should be run, and dare to run it themselves. The election of Chicago mayor Harold Washington sent a message to Black voters, potential office holder, and political party. Reverend Jesse Jackson is taking this message from Chicago to the rest of the country. However, the main reason that people are involved in the discussion of the Black experience is to remind the present administration, that is dominated by the interests of the ruling class. [see page 6] In fact, from the beginning of this country a conservative business elite has been in charge. The Black experience in the USA has developed in three stages, the slave experience, the rural experience, and the urban experience. After the civil war, three constitutional amendments were passed (1865), 14th (1869), and 15th (1870) established the civil rights of Black people. Since then, although some progress has been made, a new system, the USA can once again be at the center of the world historical process as we move into the 21st century. Black people have a great role to play. We must study the political and social situation of our country if we are to change the way the basic deal goes down. Please use this study guide for this purpose.

Why Black Liberation Month

Black Liberation Month is our attempt to unite with the founders and supporters of Negro History Week, and join their emphasis on study with our emphasis on struggle. Moreover, the concept of Black Liberation Month more accurately reflects the needs of our movement, particularly the need to build on the contributions of people in the upsurge of struggle during the 1960's. Carter G. Woodson, noted Afro-American historian, founded Negro History Week in 1926. In addition to the newspaper column of J.A. Rogers, this was the major source of information found in the Negro. Every year in schools, churches, civic and political organizations, Negro History Week has been a time for historical reading and discussion. We believe that Negro History Week has made a great contribution to mass awareness of Black History. Moreover, the recognition of Negro History Week has caught on, and has become an intellectual tradition in the 20th century Afro-American experience. However, times have changed considerably since 1926. In political and cultural terms, the time has come for a new orientation: from Negro to Black, from History to LIBERATION, from Week to MONTH. The revolutionary upsurge of the 1960's, and most recent historical experience of massive militant parties, has created a new situation. People are not content with lessons for current and future struggles. BLACK LIBERATION MONTH unites with Woodson's effort, but does so by raising it to a higher level based on the lessons of the 1960's. In sum, our study of history must be linked with the revolutionary history of the Black liberation movement. Our goal is not simply to symbolically institutionalize a change in our yearly calendar of events, but to use this month as one more way to raise the consciousness of the masses of people about the historical nature of exploitation, oppression, and the connection of people around the world, to fight against political line, and to mobilize people to actively take up the struggle for Black liberation.

What's the Inside

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What's the Inside

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Most of us studied "citizens" or "government" in high school, but the details are probably fuzzy now.

When the President of the U.S. takes his oath of office, he quotes the U.S. Constitution: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." Article II, Section 1, U.S. Constitution and the Presidency

In Table I, we have presented the major points in the Constitution with regard to the President. A person who can hold the office, how they are elected and for how long, and what their duties are. Most of these basic provisions were laid down in the original Constitution which was ratified in 1787.

Origins of U.S. Constitution and Government

The first of the four branches of the Constitution is the Legislative Branch. The document was written in the late 1770s by a group of men in Philadelphia, including Thomas Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Adams and others – as they debated during the Constitutional Convention.

The Constitution of the United States is divided into two main parts: the Preamble and the body of the Constitution. The Preamble states the purpose of the Constitution, which is to establish a republic, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. The body of the Constitution outlines the various branches of government and their powers.

Checks and Balances

Table I provides a summary of the three branches of government: the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial branches. Each branch has its own unique powers and responsibilities, and they are designed to check and balance each other, ensuring that no one branch becomes too powerful.

Presidential Administrations and the Permanent Government

A significant issue in the American political system is the concept of the "permanent government." This refers to the relatively stable, non-electoral actors in government who continue to hold positions over multiple administrations. The permanent government includes career civil servants, members of the intelligence community, and other non-electoral actors. The concept of the permanent government is important because it can influence policy decisions and shape the course of government over time.

The Three Branches System of Checks and Balances

The three branches of government – the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches – work together to ensure a separation of powers and to check the power of each branch. The Legislative branch is responsible for making laws, the Executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws, and the Judicial branch is responsible for interpreting laws. However, each branch has the power to check the other two branches, ensuring that no one branch becomes too powerful.

Black Political Power

AND THE 1984 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The presence and size of the permanent government serves as another powerful barrier against any swift changes taking place in the operation of government. In many cases, the political machine of the permanent government helps to stabilize the system, countering the potential for rapid change or instability.

"Democracy for the Few"

In summary, this brief review of history reveals that the key to understanding the current structure of the U.S. government, and the role of the president, is to understand that control of the levers of power is in the hands of a ruling elite. This is done not at the gavel, although some sections of the populace are repressed with Hitler style tactics. The active political participation (casting a ballot) of voters is used to make it seem that the electorate are in control of the government. It is a facade.

It is always worth keeping in mind that the United States was created by a revolution in 1776, the "founders" stated that "governments were instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." It is against this backdrop that one should understand the subtle and appropriate course of action can be charted.
JACKSON'S CAMPAIGN: HISTORICAL ROLES
Jackson's campaign focuses on several recent developments that concern Black people and also has deep historical roots.

(1) The Emancipation Amendmeuts. The tremendous struggle of Blacks for democracy during the Civil War and Civil War laid the basis for Black political participation. Slavery was abolished (the 13th Amendment), equal protection of the law was extended to Blacks (the 14th Amendment), and Black people were given the right to vote (the 15th Amendment). While the war has been constantly fought, there has been no qualitative improvement in the rights of Blacks since those Amendments. The campaign for a Black president is another challenge in the struggle for Black participation and equality.

(2) The New Deal Coalition. During the 1930s, the economic system crashed in on itself, trapping the lives of millions of people with unemployment, poverty, segregation, and lack of opportunity. A mass revolutionary response was developing so the ruling class joined a "New Deal" coalition that developed under Franklin D. Roosevelt—Labor, Blacks, liberals, women, and a portion of the radical left movement. This coalition pushed through various social welfare reforms—social security, unemployment compensation, temporary employment like the WPA, and bank account insurance—in a successful effort to solve the problems before the system was overthrown. This 1984 campaign raises some of the same issues and seeks to reactivate this historic coalition.

(3) The Civil Rights Movement and the Rainbow Coalition. Tired of almost a century of racism and obstacles to voting, especially in the South, Black people in the SNCC and other organizations in a massive campaign for civil rights and voting rights. These efforts led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This coalition is fighting for a Black candidate, with the WBP, and bank account insurance in a successful effort to solve the problems before the system was overthrown. This 1984 campaign raises some of the same issues and seeks to reactivate this historic coalition.

SUPPORT A BLACK CANDIDATE IN 1984

PRO/CON

1. It will increase voting by Blacks and others.
2. It will weaken the strongest Democratic candidate.
3. It can be an effective tool in educating officials at the state and local level.
4. It will split the Democratic Party.
5. It will help to legitimize the Rainbow Coalition.
6. It can symbolize hope and moral leadership.
7. It will split the Democratic Party.
8. It will help to legitimize the Rainbow Coalition.
9. A Black candidate will become a broker at the Democratic Party.
10. Failure to split the Democratic Party.
11. Failure to split the Democratic Party.
12. A Black candidate will become a broker at the Democratic Party
13. Failure to split the Democratic Party.
14. A Black candidate will become a broker at the Democratic Party.
15. Failure to split the Democratic Party.
16. This is not an easy task.
17. This is an easy task.
18. This is too costly.
19. This is too costly.
20. This is not too costly.
21. This is too costly.
22. The support is not too unorganized and underfunded.
23. A Black leader will increase the number of dollars received.
24. The support is not too unorganized and underfunded.
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REBUILDING THE MOVEMENT

One of the major things that has been proved by the Jackson candidacy is that existing Black leadership is no longer a possibility in leading the Black community. The campaign will demonstrate that a large section of the Black community want a leader who they have voted for a Black candidate to express it so they can be heard.

The only way forward is to begin to think the impossible. Black people have been led to believe the impossible. The campaign will demonstrate that a Black candidate is a possibility. The only way to prove this is to make a radical departure with the past and dare to seek out a new kind of leadership, one that is not constrained by the constraints of the capitalist system. Only by developing a new vision of the world, building a future based on the principles of the liberation of the masses,

BUILDING A NEW PARTY

Black people in the USA have always been in the political chess game, often with other Black groups. We have been held on, put forward as candidates of various parties as a contribution to advancing the cause of Black liberation. This has resulted in the development of a basically elitist, non-egalitarian organization that can be used to continue the fight for Black liberation. This is needed by the creation of a new political party. This must be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Two main goals of the party are: 1) an organization that is an electoral base for running candidates, not a political machine; and 2) the party must be a party for people, not for profit. The party must be opposed to all forms of exploitation, discrimination, and oppression, and be committed to the liberation of all people. The party must be committed to the liberation of all people, and be committed to the liberation of all people.
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOJOURNER TRUTH</strong>&lt;br&gt;(1797-1883)</td>
<td><strong>HARRIET TUBMAN</strong>&lt;br&gt;(1820-1913)</td>
<td><strong>IDA B. WELLS</strong>&lt;br&gt;(1869-1931)</td>
<td><strong>1960:</strong> The sit-in movement by four students in N.C. This sparked militant Black protest.</td>
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<td><strong>1964:</strong> Malcolm X joins Davis for a speech for African Americans.</td>
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<td>1968: There was a demonstration in Orangeburg, South Carolina, to end segregation in bowling alleys in the city, resulting in a police assault on February 8, brutally murdering 4 students and wounding 50.</td>
<td>1973: Native Americans unleashed armed resistance at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, protesting government repression. Wounded Knee is a historic site of the 1890 massacre where federal troops killed over 300 Indians.</td>
<td>1974: Grenada Independence Day.</td>
<td><strong>1965:</strong> Malcolm X was assassinated at age 39 in the Audubon Ballroom in New York City.</td>
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<td><strong>1985:</strong> Black Abolitionists courtroom in New York.</td>
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<td>1909: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded at Niagara Falls, N.Y.</td>
<td>1817: Frederick Douglass, ex-slave, abolitionist, and organizer for Black freedom, was born.</td>
<td>1790: Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was born in Philadelphia. The development of the independent Black church made a major contribution to the formation and development of the Afro-American nation.</td>
<td><strong>1983:</strong> Harold Washington becomes the first black mayor of Chicago.</td>
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<td>1783: The Fugitive Slave Law was passed which made it illegal to protect an escaped slave.</td>
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<td>1851: Black Abolitionists courtroom in New York.</td>
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<td><strong>1872:</strong> The National Farmers' Alliance and the Farmers' Alliance of the United States, formed a strong link between black farmers.</td>
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<td>1909: W.E.B. DuBois organized the first Pan African Congress which was held in Paris, France.</td>
<td>1895: Frederick Douglass died.</td>
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<td><strong>1884:</strong> At the Berlin Conference the Europeans ended the &quot;Scramble for Africa.&quot;</td>
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1964: Eduardo Mondlane, first president of Frelimo, was assassinated by a mail bomb. Frelimo led the victorious national liberation struggle of the people of Mozambique against the Portuguese.

1965: The Selma-to-Montgomery March dramatized the fight for Black voting rights. It ended with a rally of 25,000 people in front of the state capital.

1913: Rosa Parks, the Black worker who sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, was born.

1943: 4,000 Black and white youth led by the American Youth Congress marched in Washington D.C. to protest government discrimination against Black servicemen and the U.S. war policy.

1933: The first Black library was founded in Philadelphia. This was one of the many examples of Black people's struggle to build institutions and to develop culturally.

1937: The National Negro Congress was founded in Chicago. It organized workers in the C.I.O.

1855: The Klu Klux Klan, a fascist organization that promotes white supremacy, organized in Pulaski, Tennessee.

1868: W.E.B. DuBois was born. He was a writer, an educator, and Fisk graduate, as well as architect of Pan Africanism. Secretary of the first Pan African Conference in 1900, organizer of the second in 1919 and key leader in attempting to bring the case against colonialism before the Versailles Peace Conference.

"Modern imperialism and modern industrialism are one in the same system; root and branch of the same tree. The race problem is the other side of the labor problem; and the Black man's burden is the white man's burden."

W.E.B. DuBois

1877: The Hayes-Tilden Betrayal was announced.

WHAT IS PEOPLES COLLEGE?

Peoples College is an organization with 15 years experience fighting for Black liberation. The main approach has been to develop educational activities that expose people to the history and current suffering of Black people, and to build a commitment to fight for basic social change. The key slogans have been "Education for Liberation" and "Further the Analysis, Heighten the Contradiction."

People's College is known through its bookstore, TIMBUKFI, and its textbook in Black Studies, INTRODUCTION TO AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES. Further, Peoples College is an organization dedicated to using the tools of research and analysis to assist local community groups who are struggling to maintain some independence and continue militant struggle against the system of exploitation that holds the USA down.

Since the people of the USA are facing a crisis, and are likely to suffer much more in the near future, UNITY is more critical now that it has been in the last decade. Peoples College would like to join with all organizations willing to fight for Black liberation, and in the process build a lasting unity.
THE USA: WHO OWNS IT? WHO RUNS IT?

THE RULING CLASS 1% of the population makes up a ruling class in the USA. There are approximately 600,000 millionaires in the USA (1980) and 13 millionaires (1982). Forty percent of corporate directors are members of the ruling class, and 60% of the top 300 corporations are controlled by ruling class families. 1.572 board members of a total of 8.623 sat on more than one board, linking together 30% of the largest 800 corporations into a single network (1970). The ruling class is organized into family groups, usually marry each other, go to their own exclusive schools and social clubs while avoiding the public media. 55% of the corporate board members were educated at 12 prestigious universities. They own 62% of all corporate stock in the USA, while the top 20% of the population owns 97% of all stock. The ruling class inherits its wealth from previous generations, protected by the expense of the American Army. Some of these families have held their wealth for over 8 generations — back to the colonial period. You can get in only through birth! They have their own national phone book called the Social Register that lists over 50,000 families and individuals. This ruling class owns the USA.

THE CORPORATIONS Economic power is concentrated in the largest corporations. Only 10% of all businesses are corporations, but they account for over 80% of all business activity. Since 1951 the average rate of corporate taxation has fallen from 45% to 30%. Since the 1960s, the corporate share of total tax load has declined from 35% to 25%. The top 200 corporations own 50% of all manufacturing assets and 74% of all corporate assets. They hold 44% of the industrial wealth (1976). Financial companies (banks and insurance) control over 65% of all wealth in the USA (1979). One third of all corporate stock is held by financial institutions, mainly in trust for others. The top ten banks controlled 32% of all assets in the USA. 16% of USA companies owned 60% of total foreign investments, and the top 100 firms accounted for 75% of all foreign earnings by U.S. companies.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS There are over 500,000 elected officials in the USA and less than 1% are Black (thrice percent are women). In the 1970s the number of Black elected officials increased 50 times the comparable rate of increase in the 1960s to date. In the U.S. Senate 95 senators had incomes from ownership of corporate stock and real estate, and 460 members of the House of Representatives did also. Nine of the 16 presidents in the 20th century have been known millionaires, and at least 53 members of the Senate are millionaires. Sixty percent of all U.S. presidents have been related to each family by each other, as have 23% of Congress members related to each other! Seventy-eight percent of cabinet officials (1987-1979) have at least one board position in a major U.S. corporation. Most elected officials have been trained as lawyers, technical experts in the law and its loopholes (70% of the Senate and 51% of the House). While 51% of college educated Black men and 72.1% of college educated Black women work in government, whites are twice as likely to be in high ranking civil service jobs.

PARTIES AND FUNDS USA politics is dominated by two political parties. The current make-up has the Republicans being the 'party of the rich', and the Democrats being the party of the 'common people'. It is the practice that more people are Democrats (40%) than Republicans (25%), there are more Republicans in Congress, Republican officials tend to be Wall Street lawyers, and Democratic officials tend to be Washington lawyers. The wealthy in the South are with the Democrats because the militant abolitionists before the civil war were in the Republican party and they are rooted deeply in the slave wealth tradition. Further, any aspect of the ruling corporate money backs the Democrats nationally. "Jewish investment bankers of Wall Street, along with their business clients in major states such as California, Texas, Illinois are the members of the corporate community who raise a major portion of the millions needed by Democratic presidential, senatorial, and gubernatorial candidates."

In 1972: after Nixon spent $60 mil- lion in McGovern's $30 million, a law was passed (1974) limiting campaign donations and giving candidates publicly raised funds. (The IRS raised $5 million in 1975, however the rich were protected by a Supreme Court Ruling that a candidate could spend in unlimited amount of personal funds. 1981-82 campaign expenditures were $231 million for the Republicans and $46 million for the Democrats. In 1982, there were 1,264 Political Action Committees (44% were business, 4% special interest groups and 12% labor). They contributed more than $70.4 million to Congressional campaigns.

GOVERNMENT POLICY Policy development usually takes place outside of the political parties in the USA. There is a two step process connecting the financial interests and funding pattern of the ruling class to the rule making in the executive branch of government. The first step is policy innovation through a small business, the Pentagon. Seventy-eight percent of the U.S. federal budget (1981) was spent on military items, with considerably more going for war related expenditures. The top 100 companies hold 70% of U.S. military contracts. They employ over 2,000 of the retired top military officers, with the top 10 companies employing over 1,000 military elite. In 1958, 43 companies employed 588 former high ranking officers. These same companies in 1983 employed 1,642 retired, high-ranking officers. Therefore these military officers turned corporate executives hold together the "military-industrial" complex. It is a closed monopoly of war merchants and war lords. Only 10% of military contracts are awarded by public competitive bidding.

MILITARY There are over 5 million people in the USA military establishment. They are on active duty, 22% of all enlisted personnel are Black. While only 5.5% of the officers are Black. Over 23,000 civilian and enlisted personnel work in the Pentagon. Seventy-eight percent of the U.S. federal budget (1981) was spent on military items, with considerably more going for war related expenditures. The top 100 companies hold 70% of U.S. military contracts. They employ over 2,000 of the retired top military officers, with the top 10 companies employing over 1,000 military elite. In 1958, 43 companies employed 588 former high ranking officers. These same companies in 1983 employed 1,642 retired, high-ranking officers. Therefore these military officers turned corporate executives hold together the "military-industrial" complex. It is a closed monopoly of war merchants and war lords. Only 10% of military contracts are awarded by public competitive bidding.

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES There are over 30 million people in the USA, and 14% are below the poverty line (34% among blacks). Twelve million people are unemployed, and one-half million are in U.S. prisons. While corporate profits have increased 400% over the last 10 years the wages of the working class have been forced down by about 5% annually. Trade unions have been busted, and now only 23% of the workers are even in trade unions. Corporate profits are more severe than they were during the great depression, although the ruling class masks this with TV shows like "Dallas" or "Good Times". The factories are closing. And, after asking the workers to take a cut in pay, now the companies want management "to do more things". Only 23% of eligible voters cast ballots for Ronald Reagan, and the participation of industrial workers in rich people's politics have been declining for the last 40 years. Almost 40% of the U.S. population says their politics are "independent," or not aligned with any party.

For information on data source contact PEOPLE'S COLLEGE Post Office Box 719 Chicago, IL 60690

PAGE 6 / BLACKLIBERATION MONTH NEWS / FEBRUARY 1984
Voting Any U.S. citizen 18 years old and over can register to vote. There are more than 170
million people eligible to vote. But in 1980, only 52.6% of the eligible electorate voted, a 2.3-
percentage-point fall from the 1976 election. Voter turnout among younger age groups was
especially low, with only 50.5% of the voting-age population turning out in 1980. Black voters
were one of the smallest groups of eligible voters registered to vote. Only 58% of eligible
Blacks were registered to vote, compared to 73% of whites. In 1980, Blacks accounted for 11.1%
of all registered voters. Since 1980, approximately 2.4 million Black and Hispanic registered
voters joined the rolls. But it has been estimated that of all eligible voters registered in the
U.S., 15% of eligible Black voters and 14% of Black women receive some form of government
assistance. Approximately 20% of Black families were on welfare, averaging $288,000 per
family in 1980. (For a detailed discussion of eligibility and participation in the voting
process, see pp. 202-203.)

ELECTED OFFICIALS In 1969, there were just 1,185 Black elected officials, less than one-half
of one percent of all elected officials in the U.S. By 1980, there were 4,800 out of 521,000 total
elected officials, a growth rate of 1.9% per year (1964-1984). Black elected officials are, about 1.1%
of all popularly elected officials in the U.S. In order to establish electoral equality in this system
and based upon a recognition of proportional representation of minorities, Black share of
the population and their share of influence in the voting process should be equated to their
share of the governing minority of the population. If a given group is 20% of the population,
the lowest rate of representation would be 20%. It is the middle-class Black who tends to vote more frequently than the working class and poor Blacks, particularly in national elections. Since WWII Blacks have tended to vote overwhelm-

CONGRESS Sixty-two Black have been elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and three
Blacks have been elected to Senate terms since 1868. There are 21 Blacks in the 9th Congressional
Session. They include 3 from Chicago and Los Angeles and 2 from Detroit and New York. Adolph
Clayton Powell, elected to 13 terms from New York, was thrown out of Congress while seeking
re-election. Six of the 435 representatives in the Congress, less than 5% are black. There are 33
Congressional districts with at least 30% population.

CONVENTION DELEGATES By June 4, 1984 the Democratic Party will select some 3,870 dele-
gates from 50 states and the District of Columbia. Fifty-one states and the District of Columbia
will have 52 delegates apiece, while the remaining delegates will be divided among the
14 territory delegations (8 southern states account for 12.4% of 77 key northern states for 38.1%). In 1968, 72
and 76 the percentage of Black Democratic Convention delegates were 6, 15, and 11 percent respec-
tively. By 1984, it is expected that the Black delegate participation will be 13% of total delegates.
Black delegates selected in primaries and by automatic selection. The most optimal case would be a
60% of all delegates and 100% of the district boundaries and 20% non-black turnout. Then, there could be as many as 620 (15% of all delegates) selected for the Democratic
convention. This assumes 75% voter registration rate.

WOMEN Black women account for 52% of the black population. Black women tend to register in
equal numbers with men, but study a greater proportion vote (3% to 47% in the 1976 Pres-
idential election). In 1982, there were 1,065 Black female elected officials (21% of 5,160 Black
elected officials). While 17% of the male Black electorate, Black women have been under-
represented politically, tend to be concentrated in office holding public school boards (34%),
elderships and city clerks (46%). Only 4 Black women have served in Congress. There has been one
woman present in Congress only since 1969, the main reason being that there were no Black women
in Congress. There are two Black women presently in Congress, and only 83 Black women hold state
elected office.

MILITARY Although Blacks are 22% of the total military, they are 30% of the Army. Blacks have
always been disproportionately assigned to combat (e.g., one-third of Blacks in the Army are on
infantry gun crews). During the 1965-66 period of the Vietnam War, Blacks were over 20% re-
ported combat deaths. Today, most of the units in the military are proportionately Black, especially
those at the battle ready status (e.g., 2nd Infantry in Korea - 41%, Black Guards in Panama - 35%, Black, and
Black women). Some 12% are women. However, while the number of eligible Black males enter military service as compared to 14% for whites, and Blacks re-enlist at rates at least three times that of whites. This goes up in periods of high black unemployment. Black women are 26% of women in the military. The most segregated branch of service is the Navy.

CRIME There are approximately 1,178,000 law enforcement personnel in the U.S., 650,000 are
police and detectives. Blacks constitute 42% of the crime population, compared to 10% of the
white population, yet they have a greater proportion arrested (21% of 74% in 1980). Federal
crimes which are disproportionately committed by Blacks are: forgery (52%), robbery (50%), burglary (33%), and crimes involving drugs (27%). One of the notable benefits of the increase in the number of Black mayors of large cities has been the increase in the Black police chiefs (39%), and better police treatment of Blacks. The increase in crime comes from poverty, and as a result of racism in the police force and law enforcement agencies.

THIRD PARTIES Black people were Republican first because it was the party that had fought slav-
ery. Blacks became Democrats because of the reforms of the New Deal and President Roosevelt.
Now Blacks have become increasingly independent of either of these two parties, although a fre-
quent rationale for voting Democratic is the "lesser of two evils" argument. The interests of Blacks
has always been best promoted by progressive third parties, especially socialist ones. Today, there
is no party in the U.S. that represents Black people nor is there a party labor. Labor movement
party based on local political struggles is the most important political task for the 1988 election.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES A "PAC" is a non-party fundraising organization. By 1982
there were some 3,000 PACs. They have spent over $175 million on congressional elections. Within congress Democrats received over $32 million and Republicans received over $32 million from PACs in 1982. Over 20% of the funds contributed to 100 Congress members. The biggest spenders come from PACs of small businesses and private
terest groups (e.g., trade and professional organization, etc.). Together they account for over 60%
for the total spending of PACs. The White House PAC (3 national) do exist. Notable in the Parker/Coltrane PAC (after music great Charlie Parker and John Coltrane), set up in 1981 to support Black candidates.

AGENCIES Some agencies can provide additional information:

Conservative (pro-Reagan) perspective:
- The Lincoln Institute - 1735 Salle Street / Washington, D.C. 20006 / 202/347-0872
- Civil rights agencies: National Center for Black Political Scientists - Political Science Department / Southern University / Baton Rouge, LA

Social science:
- People's College / P.O. Box 769 / Chicago, IL 60603 / 724/824-4324
- National Conference of Black Political Scientists
- Political Science Department / Southern University / Baton Rouge, LA

Journals:
- Afro-American / May 1984

AGENCIES More information can be obtained from the following:
- Black Enterprise / P.O. Box 5500 / Bergenfield, NJ 07621
- Trade Union/ Black and White Labor Unions / P.O. Box 1305 / Washington, D.C. 20009
- Review of Black Political Economy / 360 Westview Drive SW / Atlanta, GA 30310
- Urban League Review / 733 5th Street N.W. / Suite 1002 / Washington, D.C. 20002
- Gail Beets / Atfal / 745 13th St. N.W. / Washington, D.C. 20001
- U.S. Government / Printing Office / Washington, D.C. 20420

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### Table: BLACK POLITICAL HISTORY AND THE USA: Economics – Presidential Politics – War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECONOMY</th>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>BLACK HISTORY</th>
<th>WAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BANKS RISE TO CONTROL</td>
<td>Terms of Service</td>
<td>President political party</td>
<td>1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Ronald Reagan (R)</td>
<td>Assassination of Martin Luther King</td>
<td>Intervention in Lebanon Grenada Invasion</td>
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<td>Gerald R. Ford (R)</td>
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<td>Dwight Eisenhower (R)</td>
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<td>1919-1921</td>
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<td>1789-1797</td>
<td>George Washington (F)</td>
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Key to abbreviations: (D) Democrat, (D-R) Democratic-Republican, (F) Federalist, (N-R) National Republican, (R) Republican, (W) Whig.

### Notes:
- 1808 – Slave trade declared illegal in U.S.
- 1791 – Haitian Revolution
- 1778-1783 – U.S. constitution adopted counting Blacks as 2/5 of a person
- 1789-1797 – Haitian Revolution
- 1816-1819 – First Seminole War
- 1815 – Algerian Intervention
- 1812-1814 – War of 1812
- 1801-1805 – Tripolitan War
- 1798-1800 – War with France
- 1912-1933 – Nicaraguan Intervention
- 1913-1917 – Mexican Intervention
- 1919-1921 – World War I
- 1919-1921 – Soviet Intervention
- 1903 – Panamanian Intervention
- 1900 – Boxer Intervention
- 1899-1902 – Cuba and Philippines Intervention
- 1898 – Spanish-American War
- 1893 – Hawaiian Intervention
- 1890 – Samoan Intervention
- 1865-1866 – Apache/Sioux Wars
- 1861-1865 – Civil War
- 1846-1848 – Mexican-American War
- 1833-1843 – Second Seminole War
- 1832 – Black Hawk War
- 1816-1819 – First Seminole War
- 1815 – Algerian Intervention
- 1812-1814 – War of 1812