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*The contribution of the Afro-
Americans in the United States*

A thesis submitted as a partial requirement for the fulfillment of the Master Degree

In English

Option: Literature and Civilization

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June 2012

Acknowledgment

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Temagoult Slimane for his support and patience that have made it possible for me to finish my work. I would like to thank him for his instructions and the useful comments.

I wish I could thank individually all other people with whom I discussed the research and gave me interesting and guidance to improve it.

Dedication

I dedicate that work to all persons who helped me and were standing by my side and encouraging me to finish that work especially my great parents, my helpful dear brothers. I would thank also my closest friends every one by his name: Arbia sebah, Slimani saida, Saouli Hlima, Mokrani Hanan, Bassma Hofri, Zbila Mbarka, Abdeli Asma and Hadjira Boutchiche for their advices and encouragement. I will never forget your nice words dear friends when I needed them.

Abstract

African Americans have a lot of contributions in the United States in different fields and domains. The word contribution means to participate positively within the country in many fields and this is exactly what does this minority do in music ,sport ,dancing, singing ,literature ,writing, but in this research am going to speak about their participation in politics ,mass media and science and how they give successful persons and achievements in these domains .by this contribution afro-Americans did their best to change their previous situation and they succeeded not only to change people's minds about them but also to make those people benefit from their contributions in politics by giving the American society strength and intelligence, also by giving important and famous TV shows and Journalists , great inventors , scientists and mathematicians.

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(Catherine Squires)

&&Chapter One: General introduction

1.1. Background:

The history of African-Americans began in 1619, when a Dutch ship captured Spanish ship in the Caribbean Sea carrying black men and women to Spanish colonies, in South America. In the same time Jamestown colonies needed workers to build houses and help them. The colonists welcomed the blacks as a source of free labor. In fact slavery played a great role in the development of the American economy. The Africans became indentured servants. So the popular conception of racial-based on slave system did not develop until the 1680s. Statutes defining the status of blacks began to appear casually in 1660s. Blacks at first called servant, so they must have the same status as white indentured servant. White southerners invariably used servant until 1865 and beyond slave entered the southern vocabulary as a technical word in trade, law and politics .the question that we should ask is why Africans themselves considered as slaves. Slavery in fact use to exist in Africa so it was not strange to the Africans but not like slavery in America because in Africa it was normal to adopt slave children or marry slave women and by the time the slave became a member of the family however white men considered blacks inferior than them and of course it was wrong justification; they said this only to still benefit from them without giving them their rights. This was the beginning of suffering for this minority but a long period started what we call civil rights movements, it was nonviolent struggle to bring full civil rights and equality under the law to all Americans .The term “civil rights movement “refers to the political struggle between 1945 and1970 to end discrimination against African-Americans and to end also legal racial segregation in the United States .The movement was characterized by major

complains of civil resistance. Acts of non violent protest and civil disobedience produce crisis situations between activists and government authorities' .it was not acceptable from white people to be equal to blacks "slaves". By law public facilities and governments services such as education were divided into separate "white" and "colored" domains .Those for colored were underfunded and of inferior quality .Also when white democrats gained power, they passed laws that made voter registration more inaccessible to blacks. Increased oppression of blacks, denial of economic opportunities, widespread employment discrimination. Individual, police, organization and mass racial violence against African-Americans.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Despite the fact that black Americans were suffering from slavery and racism but they shifted from this situation to be shareholders in the American society in many fields and domains such as literature, art , agricultural skills , foods , clothing styles, music , languages social and technological innovation to American culture . The cultivation and use of many agricultural products in the U.S such as yam, peanuts, and cotton can be traced to the Afro-Americans influences, for example George Washington Carver, who created 300 products from peanuts. Concerning music also African American music is one of the most influential and dominant music not in the United States but in the entire world for example Hip Hob, R&B, Funk. African Americans had also an important role in American dance Bill T Jones, prominent modern choreographer and dancer has included African American themes to his works. Not only in music and dance but also in writing African- American authors have written stories, poems, essays influenced by their experiences as African

Americans, and the African American literature considered as a pioneer genre for example the Nobel Prize winners Toni Morrison, and Maya Angelou. In another side African Americans have contributed to international innovation, we have too many examples such as Norbert Rillieux created the technique for converting sugar cane juice into sugar crystals. That brief information about African Americans show a part of their contribution to the United States while they were considered as slaves. Did Afro-Americans contribute enough to the success of the American society? And what are the causes behind the success?

1.3. The significance of the study

Due to many black people the United States of America honored by the entire world in many occasions in different fields and blacks contribute positively within the United States itself. On the early 1980s Michael Jackson became a dominant figure in the popular music, Jackson's 1982 album *Thriller* is the best selling one in the world. In sport Michael Jordan led the bulls to six national championships and earned the NBA most valued player award five times. Muhammad Ali was the golden gloves champion and a gold medal Olympic boxer during the 1960s. In science Lonnie G Johnson is an engineer and who invented the super soaker. In law also we find many African-Americans like Clarence Thomas is the second African-American justice to serve in the supreme court of the United States. These were few examples about African –American and their contribution to American society and culture. with this work I want to bring light on the contribution of the Afro-Americans within the construction of the American nation. In other words if we want to see the united states

of America from the African-American side we find that those people have positive role within this nation.

1.4. Hypothesis

- 1) Black Americans succeed today, because they suffered as slave descents.
- 2) Achievement and deeds are always the source of effort and struggle .The Negro Americans are the best illustration.

1.5The purpose of the study

The purpose of my study is to show the big role of blacks within the American society and American culture, by this work I also want to show people who were for a long time considered as slaves while they were human beings like the others and there was no difference between them and the white people. My study also wants to show the secret behind the success in shifting from slavery to be contributors within the American society.

1.6 Scope of the Research

African-Americans succeeded in finding a place within the American society, and become an important minority among the different minorities, by their big contribution within the American society, and this refers to many causes one of them is to shift from the situation of slaves to become citizens with their complete rights like white people.

1.7Methodology

Since we are dealing with facts, historical events and we also have to carry out a research about the past, present and future of the black-American culture, we opt for the narrative method which records events, as they happened in the past about the contribution of blacks to the U.S.A society because we consider it as the most appropriate one that fits our research problem; then we have to evaluate and interpret this contribution.

Chapter two: African Americans and politics

2.1. Introduction

African Americans are more involved in the American political process than other minority groups in the United States, indicated by the highest level of voter registration and participation in elections among these groups in 2004. African Americans also have the highest level of Congressional representation of any minority group in the U.S. majority of African Americans support the Democratic Party. In the 2004 Presidential Election, Democrat John Kerry received 88% of the African American vote compared to 11% for Republican George W. Bush. Although there is an African-American lobby in foreign policy, it has not had the impact that African American organizations have had in domestic policy.

African Americans were supporters of the Republican Party because it was Republican President Abraham Lincoln who helped in granting freedom to American slaves; at the time, the Republicans and Democrats represented the sectional interests of the North and South, respectively, rather than any specific ideology, and both right and left were represented equally in both parties.

2.2. Famous African-American politicians

A large number of African-Americans have made their mark on shaping American history and public policy, they made a lot of achievements in the

political side, but under this title we are going to speak about three important names:

Martin Luther King was born on January 15, 1929 he was the leader of African American civil rights movements and activist. He is known for his role in the advancement of civil rights in the United States and in the world using nonviolent methods, and he has become a national icon in the history of modern American liberalism. He became a civil rights activist early in his career. In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation. He was also interested by ending poverty and stopping the Vietnam War. During his career, King wrote and spoke frequently, drawing on his experience as a preacher. His "Letter from Birmingham Jail", written in 1963, is a "passionate" statement of his crusade for justice. King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, which was given to him for leading non-violent resistance to racial prejudice in the United States. King believed that organized, nonviolent protest against the system of southern segregation known as *Jim Crow laws* would lead to extensive media coverage of the struggle for black equality and voting rights. In the close of the last speech of his career, in reference to the bomb threat, King said the following:

“And then I got to Memphis. And some began to say the threats, or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick white brothers? Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed

me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”
On April 4th, 1968 King was assassinated.

Condoleezza Rice

Is an American political scientist and diplomat. She worked as the 66th United States Secretary of State, and was the second person to hold that office in the administration of President George W. Bush. She also was the first female African-American secretary of state and second African American after Colin Powell. Rice was President Bush's National Security Advisor during his first term, making her the first woman to serve in that position. Before joining the Bush administration, she was a professor of political science at Stanford University where she worked as Provost from 1993 to 1999. Rice also worked on the National Security Council as the Soviet and East European Affairs Advisor to President George H.W. Bush during the dissolution of the Soviet Union and German reunification. Despite the fact that she supporting democracy especially in the, in the Greater Middle East. But when Hamas win the election her policy face a real challenge. Her policy as Secretary of State seen counter-terrorism as a matter of being preventative and not merely punitive so for her it is not enough to punish the criminals but we should not let them do their crimes from the beginning and for the same reason they invade IRAQ. In an interview on December 18, 2005, Rice stated: "We have to remember that in this war on terrorism, we're not talking about criminal activity where you can allow somebody to commit the crime and then you

go back and you arrest them and you question them. If they succeed in committing their crime, then hundreds or indeed thousands of people die. That's why you have to prevent, and intelligence is the long pole in the tent in preventing attacks."

Rice drew a largely positive response from many special after, In a 2002 survey, then National Security Advisor Rice was viewed favorably by 41% of black respondents, but another 40% did not know Rice well enough to rate her and her profile remained comparatively obscure.

Colin Luther Powell

Is an American statesman and a former four-star general in the United States Arm. He was born April 5, 1937. He was the sixty-fifth United States Secretary of State (2001-2005), working during President George W. Bush. He was the first African American reached that position. Powell also worked as National Security Adviser (1987–1989), as Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Army Forces Command (1989), and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989–1993), holding the latter position during the Gulf War. He was the first, and so far the only, African American to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Despite his mistake in telling the world that the invasion of Iraq was justified and legal on the grounds that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, retains a reputation for integrity. Having backed the war in Iraq against his own better judgment, he has since described the data as "dead wrong." As a soldier, he knows that war must always be the measure of last resort. As a diplomat he rarely advocated military intervention as the first solution to an international crisis, instead prescribing negotiation and containment. Not all leaders have the grace and humility to admit that they have made a mistake.

Powell's openness and honesty places him in a rare category of public servants who hold themselves accountable for their stewardship of the public trust. In an interview in July 2007, Powell revealed that he had spent two and a half hours trying to persuade George W. Bush not to invade Iraq but that he did not prevail. At the Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado Powell stated, "I tried to avoid this war. I took him [Bush] through the consequences of going into an Arab country and becoming the occupiers.

2.3 Barack Obama

He is a tall thin man with big ears , he was running for U.S senator from Illinois but the Democratic Party asked him to speak at their 2004 national convention ,and it was a big honor for him ."I stand here knowing that my story is part of larger Americans story " he said .He talked about America's problems too. He said also «I say tonight there's not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America .There is the United State of America.»

Obama was born on august 4, 1961.in Honolulu; Hawaii, his mother was white woman from the Midwest and his father was a black man from Africa, they named their baby Barack which means »blessing from god .»Obama said «My name comes from Kenya, and my accent comes from Kansans ".

Obama's origins on his mother side alone are wide and complicated, family history blended antislavery Kansans and Cherokee Indians with Scottish and Irish blood.

Obama was born into a tribe known for its smart people who entered politics. His father tribal elder and medicine man. But since Kenya was colonized by the British his father worked as a cook for the British officers.

On February 2, 1961 Obama's parents married. Obama said about his parents " that my father looked nothing like the people around me –that he was black as pitch ,my mother white as milk –barely registered in my mind ".by this saying he tried to describe his multiracial heritage .

In 1979 Obama moved to Los Angeles to attend Occidental College .He made his first public speech in 1981, calling for Occidental's disinvestment from South Africa due to its policy of apartheid. Later in 1981 he transferred to Columbia university in New York city, where he majored in political science with a specialty in international relations. He worked for a year at the business international Corporation.

Obama was elected to the Illinois senate in 1996 .Once elected, Obama bipartisan support for legislation reforming ethics and health care laws. In 2001Obama supported Governor Ryan's payday loan regulations and predatory mortgage lending regulations aimed at averting home foreclosures. Obama was reelected to the Illinois Senate in 1998, defeating Republican Yesse Yehudah in the general election, and was reelected again in 2002.

In January 2003, Obama became chairman of the Illinois Senate's Health and Human Services Committee when Democrats, after a decade in the minority, regained a majority. During his 2004 general election campaign for U.S. Senate, police representatives credited Obama for his active engagement with police organizations in enacting death penalty reforms. Obama resigned from the Illinois Senate in November 2004 following his election to the U.S. Senate

On November 4th 2008 The Americans elected their first Black President Barack Obama. Many people said that he succeeded because of the huge increase in the African American vote. However, it took a shift of voting patterns in all demographics being that the Black population is only 13% of the nation. Actually the Black vote (which voted 95% for Obama) increased to 13% of the total vote, up from 11% four years earlier. 43% of whites voted for Obama up 2% from 2004. Hispanics 67% up 14% from 2004 and all others were up more than 10%. These changes combined to thrust Obama into the presidency. More Black women voted than Black men and they voted more for Obama by 1%.

After he became a president his first speech to the American people was strong. “If there is anyone out there who doubts that America is a place where anything is possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer,” Obama declared.

“Young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled, Americans have sent a message to the world that we have never been just a collection of red states and blue states,” he said. “We have been and always will be the United States of America. “It’s been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America,” he said to a long roar.

As President, Barack Obama worked hard and seriously to putting Americans back to work and restoring economic security to middle-class families. He’s been driven by the basic values that make the United States great. America prospers when we're all in it together, when hard work pays off and responsibility is rewarded, and when

everyone—from Main Street to Wall Street—does their fair share and plays by the same rules.

And here we try to mention the major progressive achievements of the Obama administration in brief points. Obama has overhauled the food safety system, Advanced women's rights in the work place, Ended Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) in our military, Stopped defending DOMA in court, Passed the Hate Crimes bill, Appointed two pro-choice women to the Supreme Court, Expanded access to medical care and provided subsidies for people who can't afford it, Expanded the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), While Dodd-Frank bill was weak in many respects, it was still an extremely worthwhile start at re-regulating the financial sector, He created a Elizabeth Warren's dream agency: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, He's done a lot for veterans, He got help for people whose health was injured during the clean-up after the 9/11 attacks.

But despite all that a lot of the American people were not satisfied with the work of Obama's administration speciously concerning the foreign policy .many of the American people are not with the participation of their army in Iraq or Afghanistan .In fact Obama does not succeed as president in the foreign policy of the country ,or he was not strong enough to make real changes . In my simple opinion it was clear sometimes that he was the easiest president to be guided by the Israelis . So on the external level it was clear not only to the Americans but to the hole world that he could not make a big change. But the question now is Obama going to run for another term and if so , is the American people going to give him another chance to be their president for second term?

2.4 Conclusion

Despite the fact that still there racism, in the United States, against blacks but this minority succeeded in serving in important political positions; so after Mr. Obama becomes the first African American president we can say that blacks become equal to the others specially to the white people in politics since white people accept a black man to be their president without any complex .Today in politics ,the Americans need a person who is able to solve their problems regardless of his origins and what is important that African Americans prove that they have real capacities in this side .

Chapter three: African Americans in mass media

3.1. Introduction

Since the days of slave trade, people of African descent have used the printed page to convey the injustice of racial oppression. In fact it was their early press. With time the mass media developed, African-Americans were present in all kinds of media with important issues and programs. The kind of issues and programs was not acceptable only in the United States but in the entire world, such as Oprah Winfrey. As minority African-Americans succeeded in participating positively in mass media.

3.2 Early black press

During the years of slavery African –Americans fought to gain better representation in the press .They were sure that they should make efforts to put an end to slavery and racism. The independent black press started before the Civil War. Also they participate in alternative newspapers created by white abolitionist .Blacks succeeded in creating a separate press to be able to speak about race and citizenship .In black press; writers could support abolitionism and construct arguments supporting their humanity and equality as citizens of the United States.

The first newspaper to be published was *freedom 's journal*, founded by editors Samuel E.Cornish and John B.Russwurm in 1827 in New York city. But the majority of free blacks not literate and did not have enough money .so most newspapers did not make enough money to last more than few months or a year. *Freedom 's journal* lasted two years.

The main audience of the black press was members of free black communities. The editors and their readership were Christian and exhorted blacks to live in concert with Christian identity .European -Americans refused to allow membership to African – Americans in any white organization, including churches. Blacks had to establish their own clubs, churches, schools, and publication .it was difficult for black writers to convince white Americans of their common humanity.

By the mid of 1830s, some Blacks were ready for new strategies. The publication of David Walker and Samuel E.Cornish articulated a new, more radical spirit in the Black press. David walker called for blacks to use more radical means when

necessary. Walker a preacher, orator, and writer published his *Appeal* in four articles in 1830 after theater of censorship by the governor s of Virginia and North Carolina.

The *Appeal* which was considered incendiary by whites was widely read and emulated. It addressed contemporary political issues and well-known figures .For example, Walker focused an entire section of the *Appeal* to refute Thomas Jefferson's assertion that slavery in the United States was less brutal than slavery in ancient societies. Walker compared America slavery with the biblical account of the Egyptians seemed not only more humane than white American slaveholders, but also that whites destined for divine retribution. Walker also encouraged blacks to directly challenge whites, both through literary and other means.

Walker's pamphlet panicked slaveholders, who feared his words, would incite slave rebellion. The *Appeal* also irked some abolitionists who felt his confrontational style would scare away allies.

In 1837, Samuel Cornish re-entered the publishing business he bought an existing Black newspaper and renamed it the *colored American* .Samuel in his opening editorial , gave his opinion why blacks should have their own paper and not depend on white abolitionists presses. Cornish insisted that blacks were the best champions of slavery and free African Americans, and that the press was a vital way to link blacks together in common cause.

Many writers support the argument that African Americans should take the lead in fights against slavery and racism .In The Black Press editors exhorted northern whites to confront their role in racism and slavery, since slavery and racism were a part of the same system.

Because many states and Congress made it harder for escaped slaves to maintain their freedom, more editors used their printing presses to promote the work of “vigilance committees” organization that protected fugitive slaves from recapture by slave captured or police forces.

The Mirror of Liberty a magazine founded by a printer and librarian David Ruggles to promote the work and ideas of the New York City Vigilance committee, this magazine published poetry, letters, a women’s section, and other news but it was specifically for fugitive slave to have the right to a trial by jury before being sent back into slavery. In 1836 reply to a piece in the white –owned new York *SUN*, Ruggles explained the need for the committee :

We have no protection in law because the legislators with hold justice. We must no longer depend on the interposition of the Manumission or Anti-slavery societies, in the hope of peaceable and just protection. We must look to our own safety and protection from kidnappers! Remembering that “self–defense is the first law of nature”

The blacks formed their own vigilance committees, they were successful in saving some people from re-enslavement but the legal system was stacked against African Americans so they decided to leave the country as the best solution .because the violence increased in the US, some black-owned publications emigrate to Canada, England and other countries to avoid racism .one of the most important newspaper devoted to emigration was Mary Ann Shad Cary’s *Provincial Freedom*.

The *Freeman*’s pages urged Blacks to in US to make their home in a land with so slavery. Shadd Cary regularly criticized local leaders who had mishandled donations

meant for newly arrived escaped slaves. Editors of the rival and previously dominant paper, *Voice of the Fugitive*, passed resolutions in their antislavery organizations that "there is no necessity for another paper devoted to the interests of the colored people of Canada ... (*the provincial freeman*) is a worthy of the support of the well-wishers of our race" (in Rhodes 1998:60,76).

The early press of the African Americans focused on their main problem at that time which was slavery and racism and the newspapers were founded for fighting against slavery and slave-owners and to give the help to the fugitive slaves from the south and by the time this problems disappeared and today we have black newspapers deals with different topics concerning black people and the United States in general.

3.3;Black newspapers

Black newspapers existed since 1827 they had been founded to defend the blacks rights of being free

Today there are many black newspapers that deal with general topics concerning blacks like *Chicago Defender*, it is a weekly newspaper founded in 1905 by an African American for African American readers, only in three years this newspaper attracted the writing talents. Robert Sengstacke Abbott, the editor and founder of the newspaper played a major role in influencing the Great Migration.

The *Washington Afro American* was another black newspaper founded on 1892 by John Murphy. When he merged his church publication the *Sunday school helper* with two similar publications in Baltimore. Over the years the Newspaper has joined with groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

(NAACP) to help promote social change including desegregation of public schools in the 1950s.

In April 1979 and based in Oklahoma City an African American weekly newspaper was founded which is the *Black Chronicle*. Today, the *Black Chronicle* has the largest paid circulation among Oklahoma's weekly newspapers. The *Black Chronicle* is descended from its predecessor, the *Black Dispatch*, which published since 1915, founded by Roscoe Dungee and later published by John Dungee. After the death of John Dungee, it was sold to a long time employee, Russel Perry.

Woman's Era, the first monthly newspaper published by African-American women, was a key factor in the creation of national networks of middle-class black activist women at the turn of the twentieth century. The paper was established in 1894 by Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and her daughter, Florida Ruffin Ridley. The two had founded the Boston Woman's Era Club that same year, and Ruffin served both as the club's president and as editor of the paper until 1903. The paper dealt with issues of politics, family, health, fashion, and community. It had correspondents from around the country, many of whom were renowned activists.

The *Dallas Express* was a weekly newspaper published in Dallas, Texas (USA) from 1892 to 1970. It covered news of blacks in Dallas and a large portion of Texas. It called itself "The South's Oldest and Largest Negro Newspaper." . It became more vocal after its 1938 acquisition by black leaders and campaigned for federally funded public housing, improved quality of black education in public schools, elimination of pay discrimination between black and white teachers, and the hiring of black police officers in Dallas. It published photographs of black slum conditions with its

campaign promoting public housing, a somewhat shocking use of graphics for the times.

The *Los Angeles Sentinel* is a weekly African American-owned newspaper published in Los Angeles, California. It reaches 125,000 readers in 2004, and become the oldest, largest and most influential African-American newspaper in the Western United States. On March 17, 2004 the *Sentinel* was purchased and came under the direction of real estate developer and community activist Danny Bakewell. Recently Bakewell has updated equipment at the paper's publishing facility and has worked to improve marketing and increase subscriptions.

the first African American owned and operated newspaper published in the United States was *Freedom's Journal*. Published weekly in New York City from 16 March 1827 to 28 March 1829, the journal was edited by John Russwurm and co-editor, Samuel Cornish who contributed only through the 14 September 1827 issue.

African American Muslims also have their journal *Muhammad Speaks* now known as *Muslim Journal*. It was one of the most famous newspapers ever produced by an African American organization. Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad started the publication on May 1960. Its first issue bore the title *Some of this Earth to Call Our Own or Else*. A weekly publication, it was distributed nationwide by the N.O.I. and covered current events around the world as well as relevant news in African American communities, especially items concerning the Nation of Islam itself.

Newspapers have a strong and enduring connection with readers across the country, including African Americans. The Readership Institute found that local daily newspapers reach 80 percent of African Americans. As African-American readership

will become increasingly important for the future of newspapers, it's encouraging to see there is a strong foundation on which newspapers can build.

3.4. African Americans on Television

In this domain African Americans occupy a dangerous position. Historically depicted as comedic fools, lackluster servants, cold blooded criminals, and morally bankrupt. Black people have been constructed as a monolithic entity without culture or historical relevance.

Today African Americans have BET (Black Entertainment Television) as well as different kinds of comedies on WB and UPN. But they still have many problems. The African Americans have a few dramatic series that have been made like *Roc*, *South Central*, and the very short-lived *Under the Roof* but those works were killed if we can say because of money no one want to risk money or time allowing these shows to develop.

Despite all that African Americans have famous TV shows *The Wire*, considered as the most realistic ever put on American television. Created by David Simon, an author and former police reporter, gives us a stunning portrayal of the innards of big city business. *The Wire* is set in Baltimore, Maryland. The show is so thorough and detailed in its depiction of the lives of every part of the drug "food chain," from junkies to dealers, and from cops to politicians, that we as viewers feel as though we intimately know "Snoop" or "Omar" or "Det. McNulty." It is an explosive mash up of Shakespeare and Greek Drama. There is something to be said about a show that can show us flaws and pathologies without being pathological and exploitive. It is nothing short of a crime that this brilliant piece of life in a big city has never won any of the major television awards.

In Living Color (1990) – *In Living Color*, a sketch comedy series, was created by Keenen and Damon Wayans and debuted on Fox April 15, 1990, running until May 19, 1994. This comedy show was so powerful and impactful in its short time on television that it was able to come up with some of the most memorable characters in TV history, like *Homie The Clown*, *Fire Marshall Bill* and Blaine Edwards and Antoine Merriweather, the flamboyantly gay film critics in the “*Men On Film*” series. These characters stand the test of comedic time. *In Living Color* was phenomenal in the way it launched the careers of Jim Carrey, Jamie Foxx (Academy Award winner for *Ray*), and David Alan Grier. And don’t forget about the Fly Girls. They also helped launch the career of J. Lo and kept Rosie Perez (Academy Award nominee) hot. I would put this show head to head with the best of S.N.L, yet the suits at Fox didn’t feel that way, and Keenen Ivory Wayans left the show in 1992 after the end of the third season. *In Living Color* was nominated for 17 Emmys and won an Emmy in 1990 for Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy Series: Keenen Ivory Wayans.

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1990) – Created by Andy and Susan Borowitz, this hit show originally aired on NBC from September 10, 1990 to May 20, 1996, starring Will Smith as a smart-ass, street-smart teenager from West Philadelphia whose Mom sent him to live with his wealthy relatives in Bel Air, California, for a better life. Will Smith, on the verge of bankruptcy in real life, captures the hearts and minds of young America with his undeniable charm, breezy wit, and good looks and goes on to become one of the highest-paid actors of any color in Hollywood. The show rocketed up the ratings and became one of the most popular sitcoms for young adults during its time on television. One of my favorite scenes is: [after Vivian asks Will to be her partner on *Soul Train*] Will: “I’d like to, Aunt Viv, really. But it’s hard to get my

groove on with an old woman.” Will Smith’s comic timing was impeccable, reminiscent of Tom Hanks’ character in *Bosom Buddies*. Alfonso Ribeiro, James Avery, Tatyana Ali and Karyn Parsons make up the strong support that every great show needs. Will Smith was nominated for two Golden Globes: Best Performance by an Actor in a TV-Series – Comedy/Musical.

Soul Food: The Series (2000) – debuted on Showtime June 28, 2000 and ran until May 26, 2004. Created by filmmaker George Tillman, Jr. and developed for television by Felicia D. Henderson, *Soul Food* is based upon Tillman’s childhood experiences growing up in Wisconsin. *Soul Food* aired for an unprecedented 74 episodes, making it the longest running drama with a predominantly black cast in the history of North American prime-time television. *Soul Food*, starring Irma P. Hall (Mamma Joe), Nicole Ari Parker (Terri Joseph), and Vanessa Williams (Maxine Chadway), follows the ups and downs of the Josephs, a tight-knit African-American family living in Chicago. *Soul Food* was an overnight success. Its popularity and huge fan base immediately earned the show a record-breaking renewal of 40 episodes in 2001. The show earned many awards during its five-season run on Showtime. It received five NAACP Image Awards nominations for Outstanding Drama Series and won three consecutive times in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

The Cosby Show (1984) – Debuting on NBC on September 20, 1984, *The Cosby Show* is the best black show of all time and one of the best and most influential sitcoms in American TV history. *The Cosby Show* was groundbreaking. It was monumental. It actually showed “normal” black family life on television. (Can you imagine?) And because NBC bought the show, and ABC rejected it, NBC was highly rewarded. The Huxtables single-handedly saved NBC from the dark basement of

ratings hell. *TV Guide* ranked the show as “TV’s biggest hit in the 1980s.” One of my favorite episodes was when Rudy comes down the stairs screaming “Baby...Baby” from the Ray Charles hit *Night and Day*.

The Cosby Show was so powerful and influential that it paved the way for shows like *In Living Color* and *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* and also opened up opportunities for the TV studios to produce “edgier” shows like *Rosanne*, *Seinfeld*, and *Everybody Loves Raymond*. *The Cosby Show* is one of only three American programs that have been #1 in the Nielsen Ratings for five consecutive seasons, along with *All in the Family* and *American Idol*. The show spun off another classic show, *A Different World*. *The Cosby Show* won two Emmy Awards : Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series (1984) and Outstanding Comedy Series (1985).

3.5 Famous Black actors

Today there are many black actors in Hollywood that we cannot ignore. African Americans have done a nice contribution in the American cinema. We have many famous black actors who make nice movies such as:

Denzel Hayes Washington who was born on December 28, 1954 inside his work as an actor he is also screenwriter, director, and film producer. In 1991, Washington starred as Bleek Gilliam in the Spike Lee film *Mo' Better Blues*. In 1992, he starred as Demetrius Williams in the romantic drama *Mississippi Masala*. Washington was reunited with Lee to play one of his most critically acclaimed roles as the title character of 1992's *Malcolm X*. His performance as the Black Nationalist leader earned him another nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actor. The next year he played the lawyer of a gay man with AIDS in the 1993 film *Philadelphia*. During

the early and mid 1990s, Washington starred in several successful thrillers, including *The Pelican Brief* and *Crimson Tide*, as well as in comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* and alongside Whitney Houston in the romantic drama *The Preacher's Wife* . In 2000, Washington appeared in the Disney film *Remember the Titans* which grossed over \$100 million at the United States box office. Washington was last seen onstage in the summer of 1990 in the title role of the Public Theater's production of Shakespeare's *Richard III* and in 2005, after a 15-year hiatus, he appeared onstage again in another Shakespeare play as Marcus Brutus in *Julius Caesar* on Broadway. The production's limited run was a consistent sell-out averaging over 100% attendance capacity nightly despite receiving mixed reviews. In February 2009, Washington began filming *The Book of Eli*, a post-Apocalyptic drama set in the near future which was released in January 2010. Also the same year, he starred as a veteran railroad engineer in the action film *Unstoppable*, about an unmanned, half-mile-long runaway freight train carrying a dangerous cargo.

On June 13, 2010, Washington won the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play for his role in the play *Fences*. Washington co-starred with Ryan Reynolds in the 2012 film *Safe House*, and will star in *The Matarese Circle*.

Willard Christopher "Will" Smith was born on September 25, 1968. He is known also by his stage name *The Fresh Prince* , he is an actor , producer, and rapper He has enjoyed success in television, film and music. In April 2007, *Newsweek* called him the most powerful actor in Hollywood . Smith has been nominated for four Golden Globe Awards, two Academy Awards, and has won multiple Grammy Awards. In the late 1980s, Smith achieved modest fame as a rapper under the name The Fresh Prince. In 1990, his popularity increased dramatically when he starred in the popular television

series *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. The show ran for nearly six years (1990–1996) on NBC and has been syndicated consistently on various networks since then. In the mid-1990s, Smith moved from television to film, and ultimately starred in numerous blockbuster films. He is the only actor to have eight consecutive films gross over \$100 million in the domestic box office and the only one to have eight consecutive films in which he starred open at #1 spot in the domestic box office tally. In 2005, Smith was entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for attending a record breaking three premieres in a 24-hour time span.

He has planned to star in a feature film remake of the television series *It Takes a Thief*.

Dana Elaine Owens (born March 18, 1970),^[1] better known by her stage name **Queen Latifah**, is an American singer, rapper, and actress. Her work in music, film and television has earned her a Golden Globe award, two Screen Actors Guild Awards, two Image Awards, a Grammy Award, six additional Grammy nominations, an Emmy Award nomination and an Academy Award nomination. From 1993–1998, Latifah had a starring role on *Living Single*, a Fox sitcom, which gained high ratings among black audiences;^[5] she also wrote and performed its theme music. Her mother Rita played her mother on-screen.^[18] She began her film career in supporting roles in the 1991 and 1992 films *House Party 2*, *Juice* and *Jungle Fever*. She had her own talk show, *The Queen Latifah Show*, from 1999 to 2001. She also had recurring roles during the second season (1991–1992) of the NBC hit *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. She made a guest role as herself on *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper* in 1993. Latifah appeared in the 1996 box-office hit, *Set It Off* and subsequently had a supporting role in the Holly Hunter film *Living Out Loud* (1998).^[5] She played the role of Thelma in

the 1999 movie *The Bone Collector*, alongside Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie. Latifah is a celebrity spokesperson for CoverGirl cosmetics, Curvation ladies underwear, Pizza Hut and Jenny Craig.^[24] She represents her own line of cosmetics for women of color called the CoverGirl Queen Collection.^[25] Latifah has also launched a perfume line called "Queen.»

3.6 Conclusion

African Americans have many good works and nice participation in mass media. They become stars and rich because of their good and strong presence in media like actors, journalists, singers or other works. But I think that they still have a big challenge comparing with other minorities their work is great but not enough since the other mass media show African American as successful people only in music and sport but in fact they have other nice participation in many fields like science so why we think that those people succeeded only in music and sport? Because of the mass media of white people. African American media should cover this point and shows the world that this minority can succeed in all fields.

Chapter four: African American and science

4.1.Introduction

There are many African Americans who have made notable inventions in different fields. The United States, after the civil war and Reconstruction Period, entered an era of rapid industrial and technological development; the African Americans played an important role in this development. The history of these inventors and scientists is one of the untold heroic stories of achievements against the odds. Unlike black slaves, free blacks prior to the Civil War were entitled to receive patents for their inventions. There were a number of successful black inventors whose inventions proved useful and important. In this chapter I try to speak a few remarkable and famous African American scientists who helped in making the world a better place to live. They played an important role in helping in advancement of technology, industry, and also products of day-to-day life. There were several others whose contributions were not recorded. However, the common thread between all of them was that they worked tirelessly for the betterment of entire humanity.

4.2. The important inventions of African Americans

Since African Americans need to day to be present in all the scientific and technological sides more than any other time we find that there are numerous examples of their achievements in sciences and technology. African Americans today holding top-level management positions in cutting –edge disciplines. They make decisions that affect the quality of our daily lives.

If we look for the information about the African American inventors you will find that American innovation is rich with the contributions of famous black inventors. In fact many modern conveniences and necessities are directly related to the inventions of black inventors such as blood banks; the electric trolley; clothes dryer ...ex. From colonial times through today, Americans of African descent have contributed to the advancement of medicine, physics, industrialization and plain old fun.

Famous Black Inventors is pleased to present an introduction to just a few of the many modern-day African-American inventors, as well as biographies of their predecessors throughout American history. There are numerous examples about this like:

Dr. James E. West, Ninety percent of microphones used today are based on the ingenuity of James Edward West. Dr. James E. West and a colleague, Gerhard Sessler, developed the mic (officially known as the Electroacoustic Transducer Electret Microphone) while with Bell Laboratories, and they received a patent for it in 1962. West started at Bell labs as an intern and joined them full-time in 1957 after graduating from Temple University. As the inventor of the microphone, James West

has received numerous awards and honors including a Fellow of IEEE, Industrial Research Institute's 1998 Achievement Award, 1995 Inventor of the Year from the State of New Jersey and induction in the Inventors Hall of Fame in 1999.

During his career, West also involved himself with programs designed to encourage minorities to take more of a role in the sciences. In the 1970's, he was a member of the Association of Black Laboratories Employees (ABLE) at Bell Labs that influenced management to fund the Summer Research Program (SRP) and Cooperative Research Fellowship Program (CRFP) – programs that helped more than 500 non-white students graduate with degrees in science, engineering and mathematics.

James E. West holds 47 US patents and more than 200 foreign patents from his 40-year career with Bell Laboratories. James Edward West now works with Johns Hopkins University as a research professor.

Moving to another inventor, thanks to *Marie Van Brittan Brown*, home security systems today are more advanced than ever. Famous African-American inventor Marie Van Brittan Brown, and her partner Albert Brown, applied for an invention patent for a closed-circuit television security system – the forerunner to the modern home security system.

Brown's system had a set of four peep holes and a camera that could slide up and down to look out each one. Anything the camera picked up would appear on a monitor. An additional feature of Brown's invention was that a person also could unlock a door with a remote control. The invention of Brown still very important today since it continues to flood the market today.

Another inventor called Kenneth J. Dunkley He is best known for inventing Three Dimensional Viewing Glasses (3-DVG) – his patented invention that displays 3-D effects from regular 2-D photos without any type of lenses, mirrors or optical elements. By studying human vision, Dunkley discovered that blocking two points in a person's peripheral vision will cause an ordinary picture to appear 3-Dimensional, so he developed his 3-DVG to block out these points.

Dr. Shirley Jackson, a theoretical physicist and famous black inventor, has been credited with making many advances in science. She first developed an interest in science and mathematics during her childhood and conducted experiments and studies, such as those on the eating habits of honeybees. In doing so she became the first African-American woman to acquire a Ph.D. from MIT.

Jackson started to conduct successful experiments in theoretical physics and then started to use her knowledge in physics to start making advances in telecommunications while working at Bell Laboratories. These inventions include developments in the portable fax, touch tone telephone, solar cell, and the fiber optic cables used to provide clarity in overseas telephone calls. She has also helped make possible Caller ID and Call Waiting.

Currently, Jackson is the president of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, recently ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the nation's top 50 universities. Dr. Jackson's goal for Rensselaer is "to achieve prominence in the 21st century as a top-tier world-class technological research university, with global reach and global impact."

In side *Dr. Shirley Jackson* as an inventor women there is also *Valerie Thomas* in her domain ,Valerie was the inventor of the Illusion Transmitter .Between 1964 to 1995, Thomas worked in a variety of capacities for NASA where she developed real-time computer data systems, conducted large-scale experiments and managed various operations, projects and facilities. While managing a project for NASA's image processing systems, Thomas' team spearheaded the development of "Landsat," the first satellite to send images from space.

Other main inventions

The inventor	The invention
Sammons, Walter	Patent for hot comb
McCoy, Elijah	Invented the automatic lubricator for steam engines.
Matzelliger, Jan	Shoe assembly Machine
Bailey, L.C.	Military folding bed invention.
Bauer, James A.	Coin changer mechanism
Benjamin, Miriam	Invented "Gong and Signal Chair for Hotels". Second African-American woman to receive a patent.
Ammons, Virgie	Fireplace burner

4.3. African Americans and medicine

It is easy to find information about African American scientists but African American contribution to medicine, organ endeavors are often overlooked. But we find some of those African Americans who had contribute on that side.

Dr. Hinton became the first black professor at Harvard Medical School and gained an international reputation for his medical research. He boldly declined the offer of a Harvard medical scholarship reserved for African American students in order to compete for a scholarship open to students of all races. *Dr. Smith* , was the first African American to earn a medical degree and practice medicine in the United States. He was also the first to own and operate a pharmacy, in New York City.

Dr. Drew, physician, researcher, and surgeon, forged a new understanding of blood plasma that allowed blood to be stored for transfusions. As World War II began, Drew received a staggering telegram request: "Secure 5,000 ampules of dried plasma for transfusion." That was more than the total world supply. Drew met that challenge and found himself at the head of the Red Cross blood bank -- and up against a narrow-minded policy of segregating blood supplies based on a donor's race.

Dr. Williams founded Provident Hospital in Chicago, the first black-owned hospital in America. He is also credited with the world's first successful heart surgery, conducted in Chicago in 1893. On a summer night, a young man arrived at Provident with a stab wound to the heart. When the patient went into shock, Dr. Williams decided to operate.

Women also had a nice contribution on that side such as, Ms. Mahoney was the first black professional nurse in America. Known for her calm and quiet skill, she nonetheless mounted the stage at a 1909 nursing conference in Boston to call for direct action to correct the stark inequalities faced by African American nurses.

Dr. Crumpler was the first African American woman to earn a medical degree. She devoted her life to improving health in the black community through research and clinic work. When the Civil War ended, she realized that whole communities of newly-freed blacks in the South would urgently need medical care. So she left her Boston home and medical practice and moved to Richmond.

In 1721 Onesimus describes to Cotton Mather the African method of inoculation against smallpox. The technique, later used to protect American Revolutionary War soldiers, is perfected in the 1790's by British doctor Edward Jenner's use of a less virulent organism.

In 1788 Dr. James Durham is invited to Philadelphia to meet Dr. Benjamin Rush, who wanted to investigate Durham's reported success in treating patients with diphtheria. Dr. Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of America's foremost physicians, was so impressed that he personally read Durham's paper on diphtheria before the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Durham returned to New Orleans in 1789, where he saved more yellow fever victims than any other physician (During an epidemic that killed thousands, he lost 11 of 64 patients).

In 1990 Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston is the first African American to direct a public health service bureau (the Bureau of Primary Health Care in the United States

Department of Health and Human Services). Her 1986 study of sickle-cell disease led to a nationwide screening program to test newborns for immediate treatment.

Dr. Roselyn Payne Epps in 2002 becomes the first African-American woman to work as President of the American Medical Women's Association.

Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, is the only black medical school founded in the United States during the 20th century. Since its establishment, the school has sent more than 700 doctors, mostly black, to give health care to poor people especially to poorer black communities where access to medical care has traditionally been in short supply. **Dr. Louis Sullivan**, who became the first dean and president of Morehouse School of Medicine, is also noted as the first African-American male to head the Dept. of Health & Human Services.

4.4 African American mathematicians

Mathematics is interesting to many people, since centuries. Several mathematicians and theorists who, through their theorems and corollaries have found solutions to many complex mathematical problems and have shaped the modern-day mathematics.

Benjamin Banneker: He is famous for his puzzles in mathematics and trigonometry. His puzzle, 'Trigonometry' demonstrates his expertise in logarithms. People still wonder which logarithmic table he might have used. He was instrumental in devising a method of finding the lengths of the sides of an equilateral triangle inscribed in a circle, whose diameter is known. His pioneering discoveries that were to bring a positive change to mathematics make evident the genius in him. He died in 1806 but is remembered as one of the famous Black mathematicians.

Elbert Frank Cox: Born on December 5, 1895, Elbert Frank Cox grew up to become the first black person in the world to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics. Since childhood, he exhibited a flair for mathematics and physics. He was also talented in playing violin. He took up a major in mathematics at the Indiana University. He continued his studies, first in the Cornell University and then in the McGill University in Montreal. Being a Black, he had to face difficulties in his pursuit of mathematics, but he rose above them to earn a doctorate in that subject. Cox expanded the work on Euler polynomials and introduced generalized Euler polynomials as also the generalized Boole summation formula and studied several specialized polynomials. From 1925, Cox served the West Virginia State College as a teacher of mathematics and physics. In 1930, he started teaching math at the Howard University. He was an enthusiastic professor and extremely popular among his students. His death in 1969 meant the loss of an excellent teacher and a renowned Black mathematician.

J. Earnest Wilkins, Jr. was born on November 27, 1923, he was a famous Black mathematician who entered the University of Chicago aged 13 and completed B.S. in mathematics in four years. Only two years later, he earned a PhD in mathematics from the University of Chicago. He published several papers on a wide range of subjects that included linear differential equations, integrals, differential geometry as also optics and nuclear engineering. Presently, Wilkins serves at the Clark Atlanta University as a Distinguished Professor of applied mathematics and mathematical physics. He finds a place in the list of famous African-American mathematicians.

4.5. Conclusion

Despite the fact that African Americans have a lot of important contributions in science but the mass media always show us that this minority succeeded more in sport and music .,why ? Because they want all the world to understand that those previous slaves succeeded only when they use their body but not their mind and here we can say that it still exist a kind of racism but for sure not like the past since the mentality today changed when comparing with the past .

General conclusion:

Afro-Americans prove to the world that classifying people for their race is big mistake, because people should benefit from each other not to ignore the others. So afro Americans prove to white people in America that they deserve to be equal to them and their previous life as slaves was injustice and should have an end one day, and this is what was happening exactly. Afro Americans become equal to the whites because they succeed and success is the big aim for American people .In fact the suffering of blacks in the past was a big cause for them to make a revolution against their previous situation, by this work I give many examples about their achievements in the different fields