



# JUNETEENTH

**Honoring the Process of Emancipation in The United States** 

A Document for the Southern People's Initiative of the Southern Movement Assembly

Building New Social Economy and Peoples Democracy to Protect and Defend Our Communities

1619-1865: Almost all Africans brought to the Americas and their direct descendants were enslaved and forced to work in unfathomable, inhuman conditions to build imperial power for European and later USA colonialist, capitalist rulers. The exploitation of their labor in sugar, tobacco, rice, and cotton fields created surplus capital for those claiming to own them. Investments of this new wealth became the basis for the massive fortunes of many white planters, merchants, bankers, and industrial capitalists. Unknown numbers of individual and groups of enslaved workers escaped (self-emancipated), either temporarily or permanently. Many openly revolted, including by killing those who had enslaved them. Even if escapees were living in states in which slavery was no longer legal, they had to avoid being captured and re-enslaved. Many still in the South either joined indigenous communities or formed their own "maroon societies," usually hidden deep in woods or swamps. One man interviewed in Canada, probably in the 1850s, said that he knew of families who had grown up in the Dismal Swamp in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina who had never seen a white person, adding that some runaways took their wives there and raised children together.

First half of the 1700s: Muskogee-speaking indigenous people from Alabama and Georgia (called Creek Indians by English speakers) began escaping wars and European-American settlers by moving into North Florida, where they became known as Seminoles. As escaped African slaves in that area allied with the Seminoles, some began calling them Black Seminoles.

1738: Formerly enslaved Africans in Spanish Florida established the town of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, north of St. Augustine. Their leader, a Mandinga captain named Francisco Menendez who had escaped slavery in South Carolina, commanded the militia at Fort Mose for over forty years.

**1760s:** Enslaved Filipinos escaped from Spanish ships to Mexico; some hid in St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and Jefferson Parishes in coastal Louisiana for over a century.

**1765:** A group of enslaved men, women, and children in Georgia took advantage of the confusion created by the Stamp Act to flee into the swamps and avoid capture for four years until the Georgia Assembly sent a militia detachment after them.

March 6, 1770: British soldiers shot into a crowd of angry Americans, killing four of them, including Crispus Attucks, the son of an enslaved African and a Wampanoag woman. Attucks had escaped slavery in 1750 and had then become a sailor and a rope-maker. John Adams, later the second President of the United States, was the lead defense attorney in the trial. He gave the British soldiers an excuse still used by law enforcement officers who kill Black people today when he described Attucks as "a stout mulatto fellow, whose very looks was enough to terrify any person." The soldiers were acquitted, but opponents of the British celebrated the martyrs of the "Boston Massacre" each year of the Revolution. In about 1840, abolitionists spread the story that Attucks had been the first man to die for American independence; in 1858, a Crispus Attucks Day was inaugurated by some opposing slavery; and in 1888 a Crispus Attucks Memorial was erected on the Boston Commons, even though the Massachusetts Historical Society opposed it.

1775-1783: The American Revolutionary War led to some enslaved African Americans escaping with the help of British troops who promised emancipation for those who supported their side of the war. Although the British seldom kept their promise, forcing many into enslavement in the British Caribbean colonies, some managed to become refugees in Canada. At the same time, some enslaved people living in northern states were able to gain their freedom by fighting for the Revolution.

**1776-1860:** In the northern states, official emancipation occurred gradually (except in 1777 in Vermont) and at different times. Even when legally "free," Black people in most states were still denied most of the rights of U.S. citizens.

1780: The African Union Society was created by free Black men in Newport, Rhode Island as protection from oppression; a way to record births, deaths, and marriages; a way to help free enslaved individuals; and a forum for Black cultural discussion. Women created the African Female Benevolent Society in 1809, focusing on educating and clothing poor children. In 1824, the AUS became the Colored Union Church and Society, the first separate Black church in Newport.

1783-1787: A large group of previously enslaved men and women who had fought for the British during the American Revolutionary War erected twenty-one houses, planted rice in a clearing near the Savannah River, and continued attacking Georgians. When the Georgia legislature sent state troopers to destroy the village, most of these maroons fled into the South Carolina swamps. The two governors launched a joint mission, captured one of the leaders, and put his head on a pole, but the guerilla attacks continued.

June 19, 1784: The Spanish mayor of New Orleans executed Jean Saint Malo, the leader of a maroon community of escaped slaves who had lived independently for at least four years in the marshes of St. Bernard Parish, stealing animals and weapons from plantations and welcoming other escapees. A sign on the edge of their autonomous zone reportedly said, "Woe to the white who would pass this boundary." A nearby Filipino community was named St. Malo in honor of him.

**October 1786:** Soldiers who oversaw the destruction of a maroon village near Savannah found an even larger settlement had been constructed six months later a few miles further into the swamps.

1791-1804: Once it became clear that the revolution led by enslaved and free Africans in Saint-Domingue had created the nation of Haiti, many French colonists brought people they were enslaving to New Orleans. For over a century, some Black and Creole Haitians developed ties to revolutionaries from Haiti, Cuba, New Orleans, and Mexico, often through their common Masonic memberships.

**1795:** Maroons near Wilmington, North Carolina, led by a chieftain known as the General of the Swamps, lived in the swamps and woods while attacking and stealing from plantations during the night. A special hunting party eventually conquered them and killed the General.

1789: Article 1, Section 9 of the US Constitution said the international slave trade could not be made illegal until January 1, 1808. When a law ended it on that date, there began to be an increase in selling enslaved people in the eastern states to people in the Southern states west of the original thirteen colonies, as well as a secret trade in tens of thousands of people from Africa and the Caribbean.

**1793:** The invention of the cotton gin led to many white would-be slaveholders moving into the cotton-growing areas west of the original Southern states, especially to Alabama and Mississippi. Some brought enslaved workers with them and then bought more when they could afford to. Hundreds of thousands of African Americans, therefore, became captive refugees, often being separated forever from their relatives.

**1818-1829:** Julian Froumontaine, a Black Haitian, operated openly a school for Black people in Savannah, Georgia. When new laws made the school illegal, he taught secretly until 1844.

**1820s:** Charleston's Free Dark Men of Color was shut down by white officials afraid of slave insurrections.

**1821:** An expedition mapping South Florida labeled one area south of Tampa Bay as "Sarrazota, or runaway Negro Plantations." This referred to what the maroons living there called Angola, an autonomous community built up along the Manatee River after Americans destroyed the Negro Fort. It was the last stronghold at the time for free Black people in Florida, with a population varying between 760 and 900.

**1831-1834:** After the Nat Turner Rebellion in Virginia in 1831, states that allowed slaveholding outlawed teaching slaves how to read and write and some religious practices. Enslaved and free Blacks continued to set up Midnight Schools when and where they could, and many churches continued to meet secretly until they were free to worship openly in 1865.

**1830s-1865:** Mrs. Deveaux, a free African American woman in Savannah, held a secret school. The students, while walking to school, hid their books in clothing to make it appear they were carrying laundry.

**1846:** Moses Dickson, a Prince Hall Mason, led twelve men from eight Southern states and Ohio in planning a massive armed assault against slavery. They vowed, "I can die but I cannot reveal the name of any member until the slaves are free." Over the next decade, they drilled and stockpiled arms and ammunition in secret and grew to tens of thousands of members called the Knights of Liberty. In public, they were a Masonic order named the Knights of Tabor. In 1857, Dickson called off a planned attack on Atlanta, almost at the last minute.

**1861-1865:** Throughout the Civil War, wherever Union troops occupied Confederate areas, thousands of people who had been enslaved emancipated themselves and headed to the military camps. They were usually put into over-crowded, unhealthy "contraband camps." At least 200 such camps existed by the end of the war. Black refugees, especially when still behind Confederate lines, also established settlements on their own. Many became indefinite refugees, moving from place to place, trying to find (and sometimes succeeding) spouses, children, and parents who had been separated by slave sales. This included the tens of thousands of enslaved people who had been sent to Texas by their "owners" to avoid the areas being taken over by Union troops.

**1862-1868:** A series of smallpox epidemics killed thousands of freedpeople, especially those in crowded camps with poor sanitation, where they also died because of measles, cholera, and other diseases.

**April 16, 1862:** Congress outlawed slavery in the District of Columbia and the Western Territories, paying money to the people who considered themselves slaveowners for the loss of their "property." President Lincoln recommended that the newly freed people emigrate to Haiti or Liberia.

January 1, 1863: President Lincoln's Emancipation
Proclamation made the freeing of the slaves a goal of the Civil
War by declaring them emancipated in areas not controlled
by the U. S. government (meaning ONLY in areas controlled
by Confederate troops). Slavery was still allowed in areas
controlled by Union troops or in the four states that allowed
slavery but did not secede (Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland,
Delaware). Most enslaved people liberated themselves at
some point during the rest of the war, especially whenever the
presence of Union troops made it relatively safe for them to do
so. Many began celebrating each January 1 as the day of the
Emancipation Jubilee.

**1863:** Seventeen-year-old Mary Armstrong, living in St. Louis after having been freed, heard that her mother might be in Texas. With very little money, she traveled around Texas, where she was almost sold back into slavery. Eventually, she found her mother in a refugee camp in southeast Texas. Armstrong later became a nurse in Houston, where she saved many people in a yellow fever epidemic in 1875.

January 16, 1865: When General Sherman reached South Carolina and Georgia, he discovered that slaves who had freed themselves had already taken over rice and Sea Island cotton plantations along the Coast. Twenty Black leaders warned him that if he did not accept this reality, the freedpeople would fight back. In addition to land, the demanded the right to vote, education, the establishment of mutual aid societies and economic cooperatives. In response, he issued Field Order 15, which gave up to forty acres of land (and eventually, for some, a worn-out Army mule) to each freed family from north of Charleston to the Savannah River.

March 3, 1865: Congress established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (the Freedmen's Bureau) to assist former slaves and some poor white people. Because they supported Sherman's Field Order 15, at least 10,000 freedpeople were farming 400,000 acres of land by June 1865.

March 21, 1865: Thousands of newly freed African Americans paraded through Charleston to celebrate "the death of slavery."

May 1, 1865: Toward the end of the Civil War, the Confederate Army had turned what had been an elite horse-racing site in Charleston into a prison for Union troops, over 260 of whom had been buried in a mass grave. After the Confederates in Charleston surrendered in mid-February, most white people left the city. About twenty-eight Black men reburied the dead bodies in a new cemetery entered under an arch with an inscription saying, "Martyrs of the Race Course." On May 1, about 10,000 people, most of them African Americans who had been emancipating themselves, paraded around the track a horse-racing track in Charleston honoring especially Black soldiers. 3,000 Black schoolchildren carried flowers and sang, "John Brown's Body." They all then ate, heard speeches, and watched soldiers drill in a pattern that would be common on later Memorial Days.

Summer 1865: President Andrew Johnson overruled the Freedmen's Bureau and began taking the land that had been granted to ex-slaves and returning it to the previous white, ex-Confederate owners. Some Black people fought with guns to hold their land, but many were forced to give it up and, eventually, to become sharecroppers, which was a step back towards slavery working on a white person's land through exploitation and forced dependence.

June 19, 1865 (Juneteenth): Even though most of the approximately 250,000 enslaved people in Texas may have known about the Emancipation Proclamation and that the Confederate Army of the Trans-Mississippi had surrendered on June 2, they also would have realized that white authorities in Texas were not prepared to let them go. That changed when US Major General Gordon Granger and about 1,800 Union soldiers (white and Black) arrived at Galveston Island on June 19, three weeks after the last regular Texas Confederate soldiers had surrendered. Granger announced to "the people of Texas" that, according to General Order Number 3, "all slaves" were free and that there would be an "absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves," who would now interact as "employer and hired labor." Many Black people walked away from slavery, unwilling to become wage workers for the same people who had enslaved them. For a number of months, US soldiers spread across the state to enforce the order, including by arresting judges and sheriffs who tried to keep slavery alive. People who had been enslaved kept doing whatever seemed necessary to protect and define their freedom. Many were killed by white people. Ever since then, most Black Texans and, later, many in other states have celebrated June 19 as their Emancipation Day, eventually (at least by the 1890s) calling the day Juneteenth.

July 4, 1865: Especially in Charleston, but increasingly across the South, Black Southerners began openly celebrating July 4, at a time when ex-Confederates were not ready to honor the history of the United States that they had recently seceded from and surrendered to. African American militia companies marched in parades until the end of Reconstruction, when white mobs began attacking Black and Republican rallies on July 4. White Southerners claimed the sole right to celebrate it publicly by the early twentieth century.

**December 6, 1865:** The Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was ratified, making slavery and "involuntary servitude" ("except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted") unconstitutional. In other words, those convicted of criminality could still be enslaved.

January 1, 1866: Black Charlestonians celebrated the third anniversary of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, beginning what would be an annual Emancipation Day celebration on each January 1 since in Charleston and many other locations across the South. Some also transformed the Protestant "Watch Night" celebration on New Year's Eve to a Watch Night for their congregations as they awaited the day of Freedom (or Jubilee).

**1867:** The United States outlawed peonage, which involves claiming the right to force someone to work because of their alleged debt, with the length of service often extended through various tricks and lies. The government did not, however try to enforce the law until 1898, and many African Americans (most of them farmworkers) became victims of peonage well into the twentieth century. This was only one of the ways they were experiencing "slavery by another name."

**June 19, 1867:** The Freedmen's Bureau helped organize a celebration in a park in Austin, Texas for the second anniversary of the announcement of emancipation in Galveston, Texas (Juneteenth). It then became an annual event there.

**July 9, 1868:** The 14th Amendment granted "citizenship" to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States," even if they had been born into slavery. Not all "citizens" were treated equally, however.

**February 3, 1870:** The 15th Amendment granted the right to vote to all men (not to women until 1920). Individual states, nevertheless, have used many ways to limit that right for Black people ever since then.

**1872:** To celebrate the end of slavery, three Black community leaders in Houston purchased four acres for \$800 to create Emancipation Park, now the oldest park in Houston and in Texas. At first, they could afford to use it only for celebrations each Juneteenth. It became a city park in 1916 and, from 1922 to 1940, was the only park in Houston that African Americans could enter (except for Black females wearing a uniform while caring for a white child). In 2019, the park became a UNESCO Slave Route Project site.

**1877:** The supervision of prison inmates in Florida was placed under the authority of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Newly elected Governor George Franklin Drew argued that prisoners should be economic assets to the state and succeeded in convincing the legislature to establish a convict lease system which allowed private citizens to pay the state when prisoners worked for them.

**1880s:** Former Georgia State Senator James M. Smith forced hundreds of debt slaves, some of whom he had considered his legal possessions before official emancipation, to work on a number of farms. Deputy Sheriffs and their dogs helped retrieve fleeing workers.

July 1881: Twenty Black laundresses in the Summerhill neighborhood of Atlanta (near what became Turner Stadium) organized the Washing Society and called a strike which eventually included about 3,000 women, some of them white. They endured arrests, beatings, and fines and inspired a companion strike by hotel workers, but the final results are unclear.

1887: Two of the African Americans living and working near or in Maitland, Florida bought land from a white veteran of the Union Army and founded the town of Eatonville. In 1889, they put out an ad stating, "Colored People in the United States: solve the Great Race Problem by Securing a Home in Eatonville, Florida, a Negro City Governed by Negroes." Writer Zora Neale Hurston became one of the most famous citizens of Eatonville.

**November 1887:** The biracial Knights of Labor led three weeks of striking on sugar plantations in Southern Louisiana (Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, and Assumption Parishes) by about 9,000 Black workers and 1,000 white workers.

**1889-1893:** The Colored Farmers' Alliance, which had a mixed relationship with the stronger white Alliances, opened chapters across the South. By December 1890, the Georgia Colored Farmers' Alliance included 84,000 members, many of them women. Alliance members opened cooperative groceries and joined white Alliance members in opposing monopolies with actions like boycotting the jute bag [for cotton bales] trust. In Mobile, Alabama, a Black Alliance central exchange and warehouse for Black farmers from several states was financed by two-dollar dues.

**1896:** An Alabama law which made it illegal for employees to take an advance from employers and then leave before paying off that debt led to many African American and immigrant workers being caught in debt peonage, meaning they had to keep working for cruel employers long after the US government had outlawed the practice.

**1898:** Callie Guy House, from Nashville, was the main founder and leader of the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association, which spread the idea of reparations for former slaves. There were about 300,000 members by 1900.

1903: Federal investigators were run out of Lowndes County, Alabama at gunpoint when they tried to investigate the ways in which Sheriff J. W. Dixon was abusing Black prisoners leased to white employers. When Dillard Freeman tried to leave the county to see his sick brother, for example, Dixon beat him brutally and then chained him to his employer's bed. Warren Reese, a federal prosecutor, stated that Lowndes County was the worst perpetrator of convict leasing.

**1916-1940:** In the Great Migration, hundreds of thousands of African American Southerners became refugees in northern cities to avoid sharecropping, Jim Crow laws, denial of their right to vote, lynchings, and other forms of racial terrorism. Black Texas migrants took the celebration of Juneteenth with them

June 19, 1917: On Juneteenth, the Rice Hotel in Houston, Texas held a "rescue party" for wealthy white families who felt helpless on this day every year without the Black women and men who usually cooked and served meals for them. t some point between 1865 and 1917, Black domestic workers in Houston and probably elsewhere had agreed that they would always refuse to work on Juneteenth (except for events like that at the Rice Hotel). That tradition continued at least into the late 1950s when country clubs hosted parties for their wealthy white members (with the help of Black cooks and waiters).

**September 1935:** Members of the Alabama Sharecroppers Union working on the J. R. Bell Plantation in Lowndes County struck for higher wages. They lost the strike; six activists were killed; many were beaten; and twenty-five union leaders had to leave the county to save their lives, but a rallying cry spread when their leader, Willie Witcher, cried out while being pistol-whipped, "You might kill me, but you'll never scare me."

June 19, 1936: On what white authorities in Dallas called "Colored People's Day," 200,000 African Americans attended the opening of the Hall of Negro Life at the Texas Centennial Exposition. The local white elite had opposed the construction of this building, but Black leaders such as the head of the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce had convinced the US Department of Commerce to support it.

1945-1971: Mrs. Beatrice Borders and the Georgia B. Williams Nursing Home deliver over 6,000 babies in the first Birthing Center owned and ran by a Black Midwife in Camilla, Georgia. There were many days Mrs. Bea would get called out to a birth two and three times in one day. Her husband figured that if she had a place for laboring mothers to come to, she would be able to tend to each so he built her very own birthing center directly across the street from her home. It was named the Georgia B. Williams Nursing Home after her mother who was also a Midwife following the footsteps of her mother. The practice and tradition of Black Midwives is fundamental to how we have protected, defended and advanced our communities throughout the Black Radical Traditions of the US South.

**October 1945:** 1,200 Charleston cigar plant workers, many of them Black women, went on strike because of discrimination and low wages. In March 1946, they achieved a positive settlement.

**December 1965-1967:** Tent City (also called Freedom City) was established by Highway 80 in Lowndes County, Alabama for sharecroppers and others who had lost their jobs and homes because they had registered to vote. In Detroit, the Lowndes County Christian Movement for Human Rights, organized by refugees from there, raised enough money to buy the 200 acres.

February 12-April 16, 1968: About 1300 Black sanitation workers in Memphis went on strike after two of them were crushed to death by escaping rain in the back of a compressor truck (the only place they were allowed to seek shelter). They made an international impression by marching with signs that each said, "I AM A MAN." After Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. supported them actively, he was shot and killed in Memphis on April 4. The workers gained union recognition and wage increases, although it took additional strikes to force the City of Memphis to carry out this agreement.

June 19, 1968: On the last full day of the six weeks when people connected to the Poor People's Campaign were living in Resurrection City, tens of thousands came out to celebrate "Solidarity Day." Ralph David Abernathy spoke about the importance of Juneteenth. and Coretta Scott King read a speech her husband had planned to make. Celebrations of Juneteenth picked up after that.

March 20-July 18, 1969: Workers, most of them Black women, in two Charleston hospitals were on strike. Some picketers were arrested, but they eventually gained better pay and conditions.

**June 19, 1971:** A woman from Milwaukee who had visited a Southern relative during the time of Juneteenth, convinced people in Milwaukee to have their own annual celebration, which eventually became one of the largest in the nation.

1980: A bill proposed by Texas freshman State Representative Al Edwards became a law, making June 19 a state holiday known as "Emancipation Day in Texas." Some Black people opposed it because they considered January 1 to be the true Emancipation Day, but others accepted it as "Juneteenth." As a "partial staffing" holiday, government offices stay open, but agencies and other employers may choose to allow some or all their employees to stay home from work. Other states followed over time. A year later, Edwards had to stop a bill that would have overturned the declaration of a holiday.

**1981:** Black women workers opposing race and gender discrimination at a K-Mart store in Rocky Mount, North Carolina formed Black Workers for Justice. In 1982, they became a state-wide organization.

June 19, 1985: Some Black neighborhoods in North Minneapolis held the city's first Juneteenth celebration. By 2019, the Twin Cities Juneteenth Celebration was one of the two largest in the nation. One man explained in 2019 that he had never heard of it when he lived in Chicago but had come to consider it very special "because it's a day of peace, love, and happiness."

**June 19, 1990-Ever Since:** The Hunger Coalition of Atlanta and Project South have celebrated Juneteenth in Atlanta, usually with lots of food, music, education and cultural activities designed to remember and uplift our long road to liberation.

**1997-2010:** Because of the pressure and research of the Coalition of Immokalee Worker's Anti-Slavery Campaign, the United States prosecuted nine farm owners for their mistreatment of farm workers in Florida. Seven received sentences ranging from thirty-three months to thirty years. For more specifics on the cases, go to the Anti-Slavery Museum booklet created by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers *(www. ciw-online.org/museum/booklet0811.pdf)*.

**February 3, 2019:** The first annual Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival was held in Mobile, Alabama, where 110 Africans from Dahomey/Benin had, in 1860, escaped from the Clotilda, the last known slave ship to arrive in the United States. They then formed a settlement they called Africatown, which still exists as a neighborhood in Mobile.

**June 19, 2019:** By this time, 46 states, plus the District of Columbia, had declared Juneteenth to be a holiday.

June 19, 2020: Although the COVID-19 pandemic prevented most regular Juneteenth events and programming, Southern Movement Assembly and communities rising up to dismantle the police and structural racism are finding new ways to mark and build power in of the 155th year of fighting to complete the process of emancipation for African Americans.

#### IMPERIALIST TERROR, POLICING FOR SOCIAL REPRESSION AND PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE

## Timeline of Impunity for Violence against Black People and Native People in the USA

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**1492-Present:** European and then US Imperialism, Colonialism, and Slavery set the basis for White Supremacy, Capitalism, and Gender Oppression and fueled the power of the ruling elite class in the USA and the Globe.

**1735:** Georgia was planned as a debtors' prison colony, then became a slave colony under the British Royal Crown.

**1830s:** By this time, most Southern states had laws that orbade teaching enslaved people to read.

**1857:** The US Supreme Court, in the Dred Scott Decision, declared that Black people had no rights under US law.

**1882-1968:** Almost 4,000 died from lynchings (murders intended to terrorize Black people) across the US South; the Senate refused to pass a federal anti-lynching law.

**1904-Present:** Parchman Prison Farm in Mississippi showed a shift in the South from convict leasing to prison labor, usually in cotton fields.

**1960-Present**: The FBI developed a domestic Counterntelligence Program (COINTELPRO) to surveille and destroy Black, Latino, Native, and working-class individuals and organizations that the FBI considered politically objectionable.

**1971:** George Jackson, imprisoned in California in 1959 for stealing \$70 from a gas station, was killed in an alleged escape attempt. A member and leader of the Black Panther Party, Jackson had achieved worldwide fame for writing Soledad Brother while in prison.

**1989:** In an act of corporate welfare, Congress granted \$157 billion to bail out dozens of failing Savings and Loans companies., with a final estimated amount of between \$500 billion and \$1.4 trillion.

**1999:** "Zero Tolerance" policies adopted by public schools in the wake of claims of in-schools violence led to the uspension of three to five times as many Black students as white students.

**1999:** The top 1% of US households had more wealth than the bottom 95%.

**1999:** Amadou Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant man, was killed by New York City Police Officers. The officers fired 41 shots, hitting Mr. Diallo 19 times.

**2006:** Atlanta police killed Katherine Harris Johnson using a 'no-knock warrant' meant for a different home.

**2012:** Trayvon Martin and many more killed by vigilantes and policemen, See the MXGM report, 'Every 36 Hours.' (www.prisonpolicy.org/scans/Operation-Ghetto-Storm.pdf)

**2013:** SWAT police killed Aiyanna Jones in Detroit.

### Timeline of Militarized Policing in the USA

**1500-1600:** European nations used military, biological, and cultural warfare across the Americas, killing 70-90 million Native People.

**1500-1900:** Between 10-15 million Africans were enslaved and transported across the Atlantic; about 600,000 of them died before arrival in the Americas.

**Early 1700s:** "Slave Patrols" of white men emerged in South Carolina and became one of the roots of US police forces.

**1845-1860s:** Urban Police Forces were created.

**1860s-2020s:** Former members of slave patrols and the Confederate Army and their descendants and allies formed white militarized forces for social control, most famously, as the Ku Klux Klan.

**1896:** New York City was first to standardize and arm its police force under the leadership of future US President Theodore Roosevelt, the city's police commissioner at the time.

**1931-1950s:** The US government and Academia pushed increased "crime control" and "criminology," with corresponding government policies.

**1950s-Present:** Police have been used as the first line of defense for the elite against rising social movements.

**1965:** LAPD established "Special Weapons and Tactics" (SWAT) teams in response to the Watts uprisings that year. Militarized police tactics expanded across the country.

**1967:** The US Kerner Commission admitted that 'police action' had caused the urban rebellions in the 60s.

**1970s:** A small percentage of UK police began to carry guns for the first time.

**2000:** In the US, more than two million people were incarcerated in prisons or jails, the largest number per capita in the world.

**2000-2020:** Public Education pushed poor Black and Brown students from classrooms to juvenile halls and prisons cells, through what became known as the "School to Prison Pipeline."

**2001:** The so-called 9/11 attacks were used as an excuse for massive expansion of police militarization, harassment and surveillance.

**2008-2016:** Stoking white supremacist fear of Barack Obama, the first Black President, media, politicians, and organizations created an increased climate of hostility towards Black people.

## Timeline of People's Resistance and Actions for Liberation of All

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**1500-1865:** Some enslaved Africans planned and carried out rebellions against slavery and the plantation system.

**1526:** As a community of Spanish colonizers near the mouth of the Pee Dee River struggled to survive, a slave rebellion united stolen Africans with nearby American Indians.

**1672-1864:** Africans and Native Americans who had freed themselves from slavery and colonialism established at least 50 Maroon Communities across the South. These liberated zones provided safe havens for other escapees and bases for attacks on plantations to free more enslaved Africans.

**1865-1880:** During Reconstruction, formerly enslaved people built 10,000 schools and other institutions to establish self-determination and practice radical democracy.

**1881:** Washerwomen in Atlanta formed the Washing Society, which organized the largest known strike by Black women domestic workers to date.

**1886-1890:** 1.2 million Black people across the US South joined the Colored Farmers Alliance.

**1965:** SNCC organizers assisted people in Lowndes County, Alabama to form the Lowndes County Freedom Organization. LCFO organized the first Black Panther Party and elected local officials who replaced white supremacist Democrats.

**1968:** The American Indian Movement (AIM) was founded, patterned after the Black Panther Party's community self-defense model.

**1998:** The Black Radical Congress adopted a vision platform in opposition to all forms of oppression, including class exploitation, racism, patriarchy, homophobia, anti-immigrant prejudice, and imperialism.

**2012:** Hundreds of organizers representing dozens of organizations gathered for the first Southern Movement Assembly in a movement governance and parallel powerbuilding process.

**2014:** The streets of Ferguson, MO rise up and confront police after the killing of 18-year old Michael Brown and spark a national uprising and new movements to dismantle police and systemic racism. #Blacklivesmatter