

Sahana Sarangi

History

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Homework #15 Responses

- 1) Gary Nash's thesis is "Five African American topics—some historians might add more—ought to be essential parts of the history curriculum that young Americans learn as they study the years between 1760 and 1830."¹ His thesis states that students in America learning American history should be taught these five topics regarding African American history.
- 2) Nash's audience seems to be educators of high school students studying American history, as he wrote, "Accompanied by a teacher-friendly companion volume ..." and "For teachers with advanced students ..." ² Several times throughout the article, Nash uses these types of phrases to provide possible teaching materials to educators to teach the topics he addresses.
- 3) Nash argues that the participation of African Americans was critical to the American Revolution, as they either sided with British or American patriot forces depending on which would benefit them.
- 4) According to Nash, Free Black Communities established churches and schools in the early United States. He argues this was significant because of how people in these

¹ Gary Nash, "African Americans in the Early Republic," *OAH Magazine of History* 14, no. 2 (Winter 2000): 12.

² Gary Nash, "African Americans in the Early Republic," 13.

communities had just been freed from a place “which taught slaves not to think for themselves and not to think of themselves as capable,”³ yet they were still able to accomplish so much.

- 5) According to Nash, Black communities resisted enslavement and inequality by starting racial wars (Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804), fighting for freedom using open resistance (Gabriel’s Rebellion of 1800), growing Afro-Christianity in the early 1800s, and resisting emigrationist schemes.⁴
- 6) The conclusion of this essay returns to and expands upon the thesis as it states that the five topics addressed in the article should be considered as American history instead of only African American history, and that the article is an ask to educators to include these topics as part of American history.⁵ This conclusion is similar to the thesis of the article regarding the inclusion of African American topics in American history, and also furthers the thesis by making an explicit request to ensure these topics are covered as part of American history curriculum.

³ Gary Nash, “African Americans in the Early Republic,” 13.

⁴ Gary Nash, “African Americans in the Early Republic,” 15.

⁵ Gary Nash, “African Americans in the Early Republic,” 16.