

## **Blacks and Our Pursuit of the American Dream: An Analysis of The Great Migration of Blacks and Wealth**

### **Overview**

People of African descent history in this *new world* that is better known as the United States of America has not been optimal nor easy. After being brought against their will to the US by Spanish explorers in the 16th Century, their fate was to be enslaved for roughly 400 years. Despite all that was happening: separation of families, ridiculous labor and treatment and more, Blacks in the United States still keep their faith through church and negro spirituals. They hoped and prayed for better circumstances and ways of living, though unfortunately most of the people that prayed for better times weren't alive to see the better times because it wasn't until 1865 that the 13th Amendment was passed that ended the institution of chattel slavery, but this amendment would not be the end of a difficult journey. The descendents of such faithful Blacks are very appreciative of not only their prayers, but also their strength and faith, and it shows because the following generations still demonstrated such resilience as did the ones before them. This courage would showed to be necessary for Blacks in America a few years later when The Great Migration began to happen.

The first wave of The Great Migration started in 1910 and lasted until 1940. Blacks fled the South during these years due to lack of work and opportunities and many of them settled in the North due to the booming factory and railroad markets in the region. Trying to provide a better life for themselves and the ones after them, Blacks began to work in fields that previous generations dreamed of. Due to paid labor actually becoming a possibility for Blacks, an increase in wealth for Blacks also began to appear during this Migration. The second wave of The Great Migration, 1940-1970, occurred after the Great Depression during World War II due to the lack of many potential white laborers and the booming of the industry of production. This migration led many Blacks to coastal cities like California and also provided another period of economic growth. Today's movement of Blacks can also be considered a new Great Migration with many heading back South for economic betterment, the shifting job market and family reasons. In this project, we will observe how The Great Migrations of Blacks affected the wealth of the population through the use of historical datasets found on *census.gov*, universities research and geographical research.

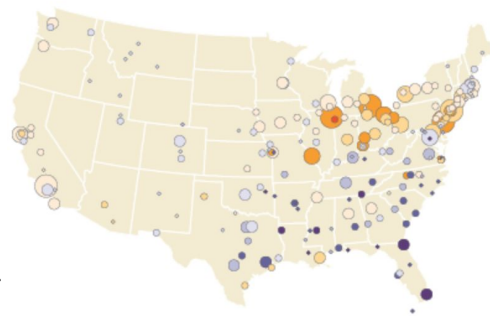
### **Methodology**

The goal is to observe the correlation of these time periods and economic growth or decay of Black Americans during the period. This required gathering information pertaining to geography and wealth for each of the 3 proposed Great Migrations: the 1910 Migration, World War II Migration, and today's Migration. The initial hypothesis was that each migration helped

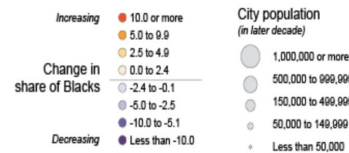
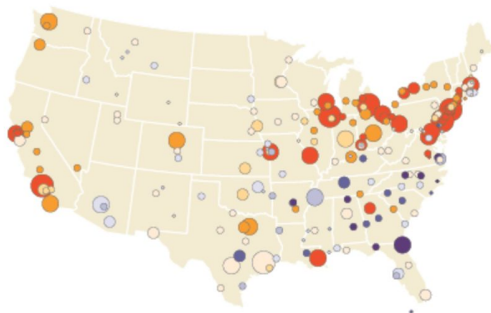
bridge the economic gap between Blacks and other racial counterparts, but there still remains a significant gap due to other reasons, like the resources gap. Multiple datasets spanning from the 20th Century and where used to obtain this information, most of which being from organizations and government sites. After searching through multiple maps of each migration period, conclusions had to be drawn for the most popular regions/cities Blacks migrated to. This geographical data was used to further investigate the economic standings of Blacks in the new region they moved to and also the prior region they resided in order to observe the growth or decay.

Through this research, data was collected that showed that during the 1910 Migration, Blacks living in the southern region of the country moved to the northern region of the country, as shown in the figure to the right. This figure shows the population decrease in the south and the population increase in mainly the northern states but also the coastal states as well. For this project, we will observe the economic status of Blacks in prior to 1910 in the South and compare to the economic status of 1910-1940 for the First Great Migration.

The First Great Migration:  
1910-1940

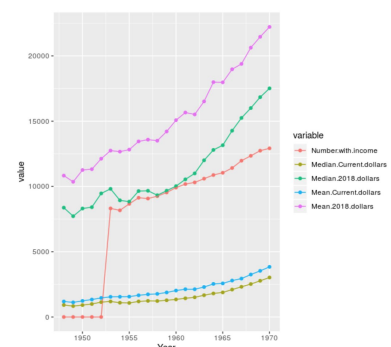


The Second Great Migration:  
1940-1970



For The Second Great Migration, data shows that Blacks continued to move North but more and more they migrated to coastal and metropolitan areas just as much. The figure to the left shows the growth of Blacks in these metropolitan areas and coastal regions. Blacks during today's migration are still steadily moving to each region

with a majority making their way back South. Blacks migrating during each of the various time periods, aided to the economic growth of the race. This evident because through each migration period, the economic status of Blacks would soar until the end of the period, which is presented in this plot of the Second Migration Economic Status of Blacks.



## **Development Plan**

With this project being due January 15th which is roughly 4 and a half weeks and one person to complete all the work, I needed to create a tight schedule that would allow me to work, explore passions and also complete this project during break. I ended up splitting each major milestone(proposal, research, data munging, visualization, and presentation) into a weekly schedule, though some milestones took either longer or shorter than a week to complete. This plan allowed me to complete the project in a timely manner while also not feeling stressed or overwhelmed. I started off with research due to me not being extremely knowledgeable about the topic. After I felt more confident on the topic, I began my first draft of the proposal. Throughout the project, the proposal was changed due to new discoveries and the development of the project. After having a solid basis for the proposal, I began to collect sites, which are listed in the references that could be used for this topic because *Kaggle* didn't have any datasets that could be used for this. Then, I began the data munging process and data visualization of the findings. The final days before completion were spent creating the powerpoint and uploading files to GitHub.

## **Feasibility Rationale**

The goal of this project is to observe the correlation of the Great Migrations of Blacks and how it aided the economic growth for the race. The primary obstacle to the project was finding datasets that were scrapable. My initial search for datasets was solely on Kaggle but I wasn't able to find hardly any data that could be used which led to me having to find credible outside sources. Another obstacle was figuring out the "problem" in this topic or the question that was being questioned. This required a great amount of research in order to grasp the topic at hand and propose a study on it and correlation of it. After becoming knowledgeable on the Great Migrations of Blacks and finding credible resources, the analysis became feasible.