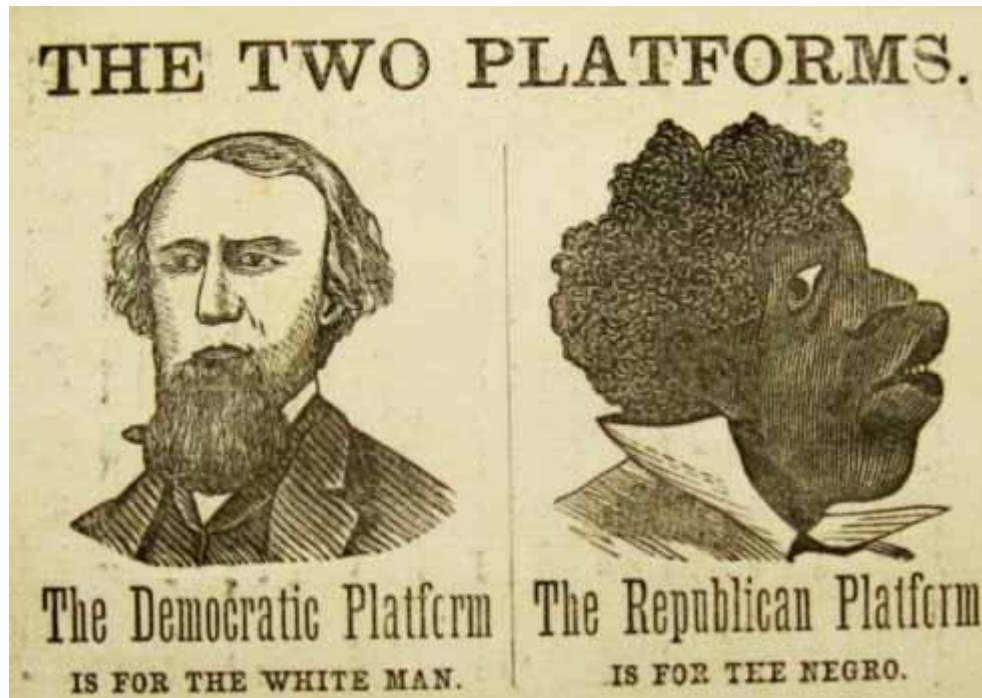


Jim Crow Era DBQ

Segregation

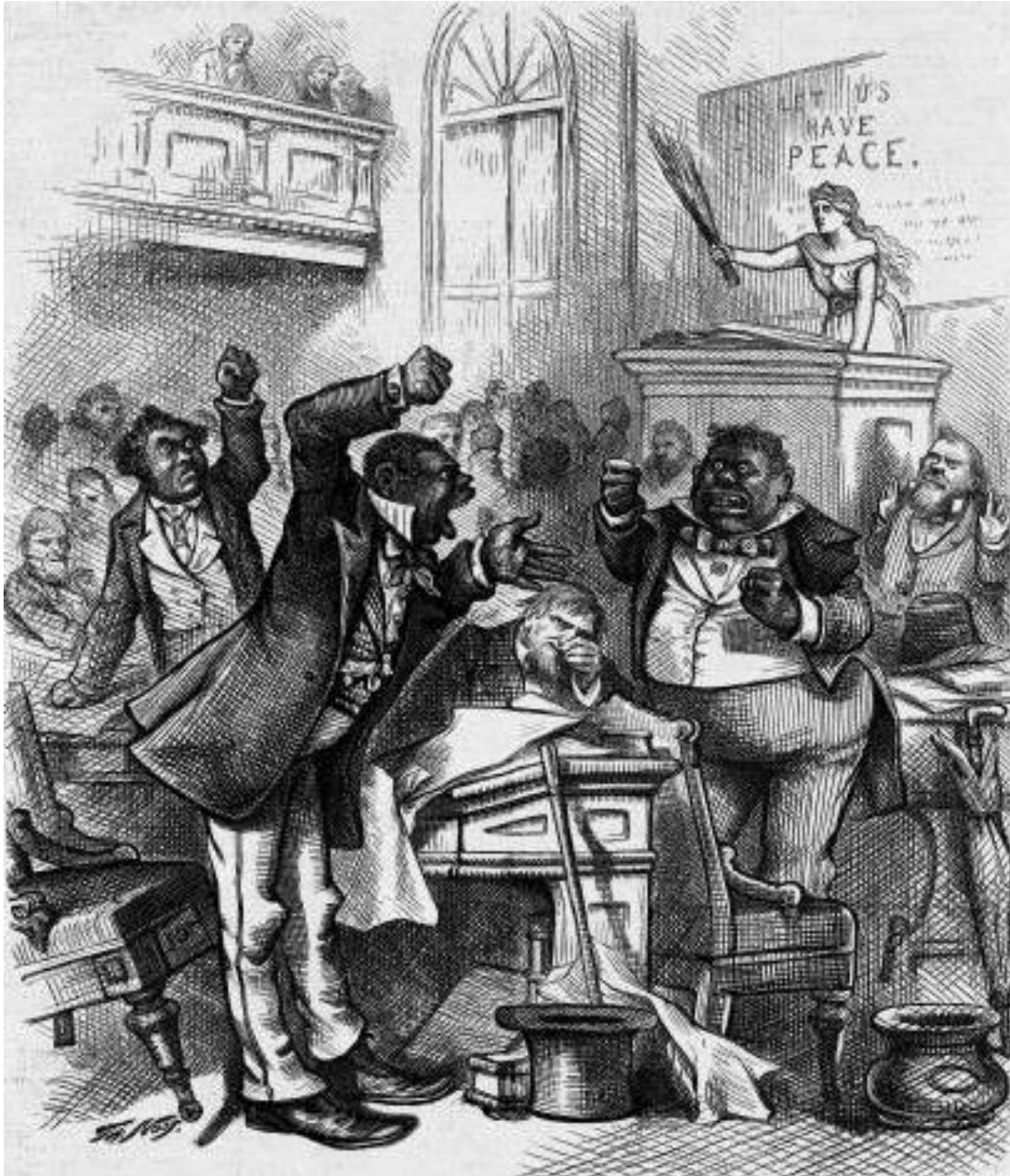


Examine the documents and answer the questions associated with each document.

Jim Crow Era DBQ

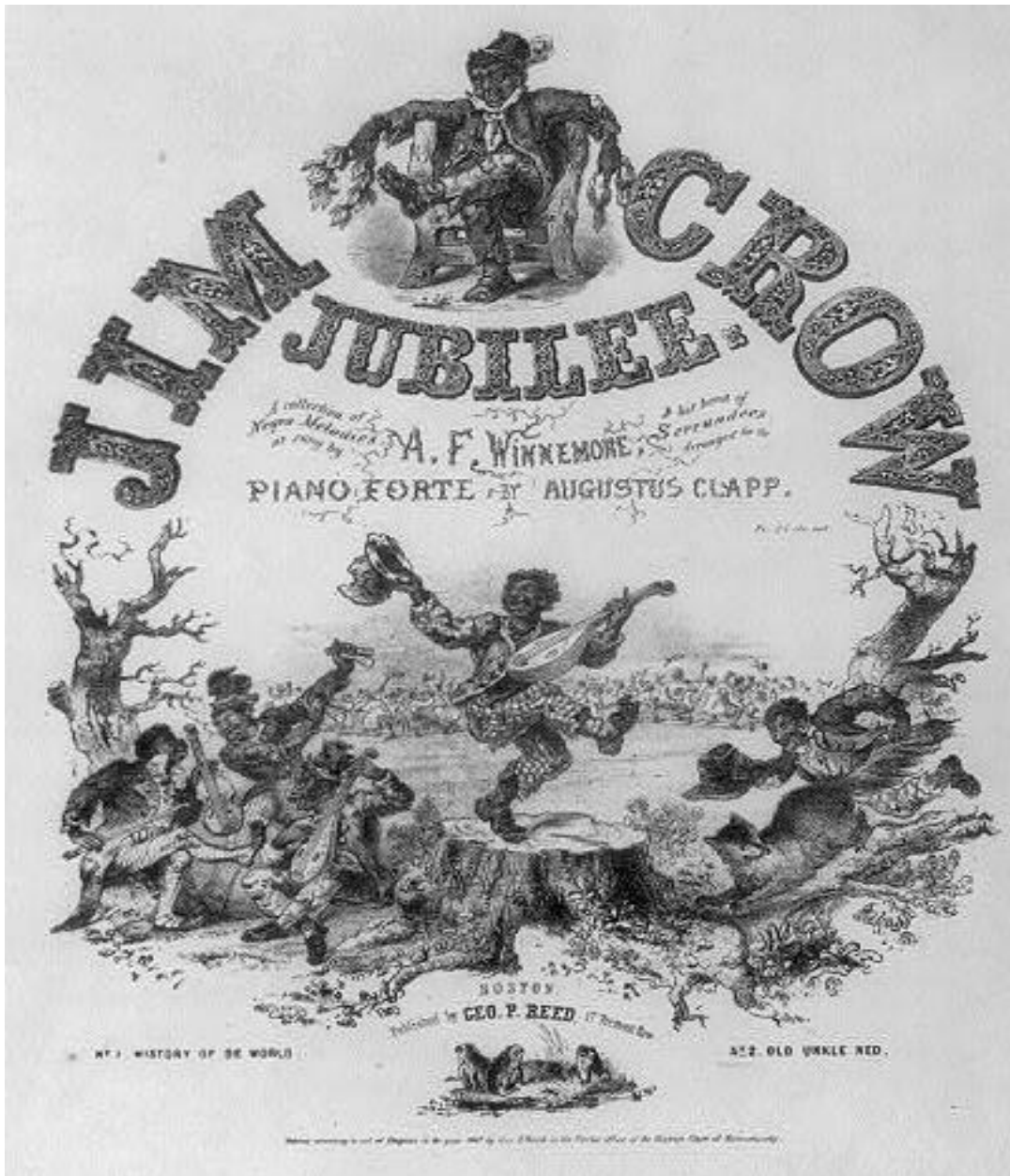
Source 1: "Colored Rule in a Reconstructed (?) State," political cartoon from Harper's Weekly by Thomas Nast, March 14, 1874.

This political cartoon depicts a scene from the South Carolina State Legislature in which black men argue before Lady Columbia. In this image, Thomas Nast criticizes the corrupt South Carolina Legislature by laying blame on "Colored Rule," or black men in the legislature. During this time, South Carolina was the only state legislature in which blacks held a majority of the seats. To use this image in the classroom ask students to:



Source 2: Jim Crow Jubilee Lithograph

This image was included as the 1847 sheet music cover illustration for "A Collection of Negro Melodies as Sung by A. F. Winnemore & His Band of Serenaders. Arranged for the Piano Forte by Augustus Clapp." The sheet music was written for minstrel shows. According to Dictionary.com a minstrel show is "a popular stage entertainment featuring comic dialogue, song, and dance in highly conventionalized patterns, performed by a troupe of actors, traditionally comprising two end men and a chorus in blackface and an interlocutor: developed in the U.S. in the early and mid-19th century." In other words, minstrel shows were musical and theatrical productions performed by whites who painted their faces black so that they looked like African American slaves. These shows were meant to entertain white audiences by making fun of black slaves, and the songs and dances that black slaves performed as part of their entertainment and religious traditions. This image depicts African Americans as worry-free and slap-happy people. However, the lives of freedmen and slaves were far from such a reality. The image also depicts the racist stereotypes of blacks by whites in the nineteenth century. This image is important as it contextualizes the early interpretation of "Jim Crow" in the mid-1800s. That is, "Jim Crow" was first used to describe the happy-go-lucky caricature of African Americans and the minstrels show genre that made fun of African Americans. The term "Jim Crow" gained popularity and was used after Reconstruction in the 1880s, 1890s, and early 1900s to refer to the segregation laws which mandated that whites and blacks be separated in public spaces.



Source 3: W.E.B. Du Bois Exhibition

In 1900, W.E.B. Du Bois traveled with several boxes of photographs, captions, maps, and educational materials to display in the "Negro Section" of the American exhibit. So impressive were the images, that the Exhibition judges awarded Du Bois a gold medal as the Exhibit's principal compiler.



All African American baseball team.



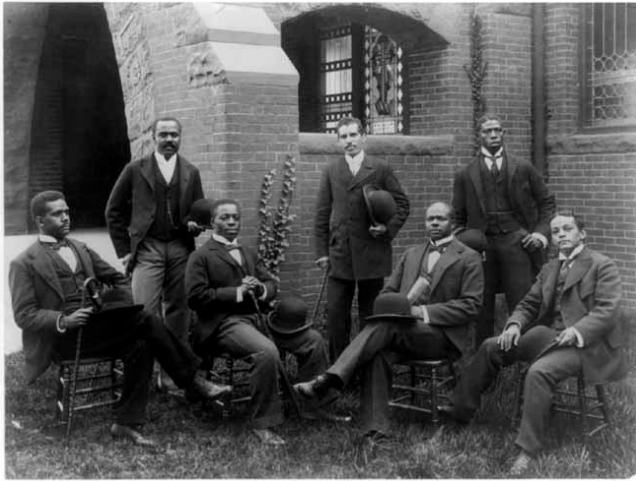
African American row housing on a mud street in Georgia.



African American working on a farm in Georgia.

Source 4: African Americans created their own institutions

Denied their rights in white-run society, African Americans created their own institutions -- churches, schools, businesses and clubs--to create for themselves the things that white society tried to deny them: education, work and hope for the future.



Howard University, Washington, D.C, 1900: Class picture.



Interior of African-American store.



Elementary school students exercise in school yard of Howard University, Washington, D.C., circa 1900.

Source 5: Lynching during Jim Crow

RECORD KEPT BY TUSKEGEE OF LYNCHINGS IN THE
FIRST QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

1900 – 115	1913 – 52
1901 – 130	1914 – 55
1902 – 92	1915 – 69
1903 – 99	1916 – 54
1904 – 83	1917 – 38
1905 – 62	1918 – 64
1906 – 65	1919 – 83
1907 – 60	1920 – 61
1908 – 97	1921 – 64
1909 – 82	1922 – 57
1910 – 76	1923 – 33
1911 – 67	1924 – 16
1912 – 63	1925 – 17

As these statistics show, lynchings were all too common in the early twentieth century, and they had a history much deeper and darker than any numbers can convey. Historian Edward Ayers points out that most lynchings occurred in areas of high black population turnover, areas where whites felt more threatened by higher numbers of blacks, especially blacks whom they did not know.

In most instances, white mobs lynched black men, often in retribution for alleged crimes. Often the white perpetrators justified their actions as avenging the alleged rape of white women by black men. However, as African-American crusader Ida B. Wells pointed out as early as 1892, most lynchings had economic roots instead, with the victims often being upwardly mobile African Americans who threatened the status quo in their region.

Lynchings occurred mostly in the South, but not exclusively. For example, [a lynching occurred in Urbana, Ohio](#) in 1897.



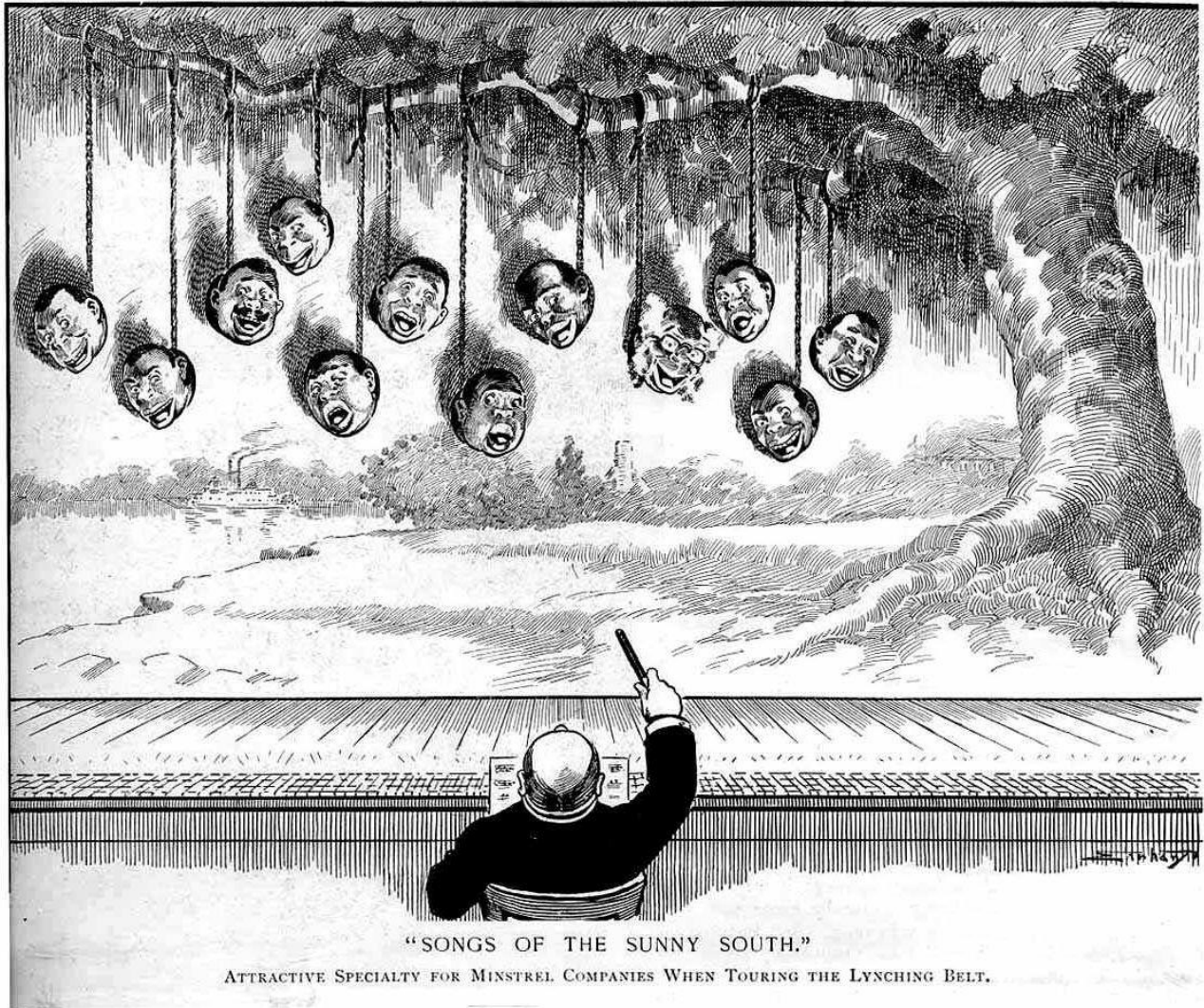
Of all of the major party platforms in 1912, only the Republican platform directly addressed lynching. Even then, it did so in general terms and associated lynching with lesser categories of malfeasance.

The Republican platform section on "Civic Duty" read as follows:

We call upon the people to quicken their interest in public affairs, to condemn and punish lynchings and other forms of lawlessness, and to strengthen in all possible ways a respect for law and the observance of it. Indifferent citizenship is an evil against which the law affords no adequate protection and for which legislation can provide no remedy.

Source 6: Anti-Lynching Political Cartoon in 1912

Ida B. Wells and others campaigned vigorously for decades for a federal anti-lynching bill, but they could never get one through Congress. Instead, lynching remained a vivid reminder of the dramatic power and protection inequalities of the South. These very public executions, usually accompanied by horrendous torturing, could never have been far from the minds of African Americans living in the South. As this 1912 political cartoon illustrates, people all across the nation, and around the world thanks to publicity Wells and others garnered, associated the American South with "lynch law."



Source 7: Conditions in 1912

The Jim Crow laws still dominated race relations in the South in 1912. In the following essay from 1912 a columnist for the African-American paper *The Indianapolis Recorder* describes the practice and principles behind Jim Crow laws.

THE JIMCROW CAR.

How the Democratic Legislators of the South Endeavor to Degrade and Humiliate the Afro-American.

In their efforts to degrade and humiliate the race the Democratic legislators of every southern state have provided a system of jimcrow cars for Afro-Americans.

The laws say that the accommodations "shall be equal, but separate." As a matter of fact, they are seldom equal and usually very inferior, especially on the smaller lines. where wornout cars. which are generally In a filthy condition, are for Afro-Americans.

On the larger roads better cars are used, but the jimcrow car is generally placed next to the locomotive. where the occupants get the full benefit of the dust and smoke and are in a dangerous position In case of accident.

Several states have enacted laws forbidding sleeping car companies to sell berths to Afro-Americans.

These laws were not passed for the reason that southern Democrats are anxious to avoid close proximity to Afro-Americans, for servants are allowed under the law to ride In the same car with the whites. The Idea, which is to humiliate the race, is clearly expressed by H. D. Wilson. a prominent Louisiana Democrat, greatly Interested in jimcrow legislation. who said: "It is not only the desire to separate the whites and blacks on the railroad for the comfort it will provide, but also-for the moral effect. The separation of the races is one of benefit, but the demonstration of the superiority of the white man over the Negro is a greater thing. There is nothing which shows it more conclusively than the compelling of Negroes to ride in cars marked for their especial use."

Source 8: Voting Restrictions in the South

Just as whites in Southern states were passing laws establishing legal segregation barriers, they also began to develop legal justifications for denying blacks their ballots. North Carolina began this trend in 1889 by demanding very precise information about a potential voter's age and birthplace, information many former slaves did not have.

White Mississippians however, quickly took the lead in innovative ways to circumvent the Fifteenth Amendment. They came up with the poll tax, requiring people to have paid it for the previous two years before voting. Since most African Americans were poor and confined to a credit economy, this measure greatly restricted access to the voting booth. In some states, this became a cumulative poll tax; voters had to pay off all their taxes before voting. Once a person got behind, it was virtually impossible for him to catch back up again. This also ended the eligibility of many poor whites as well.

Other devices included the grandfather clause, which said that a person was eligible to vote if his grandfather had been eligible to vote. In the 1890s, that applied almost exclusively to whites. In the South, where the Democratic Party was the only game in town, the party primaries represented the real electoral battles. In another move designed to deny black voices, the Democratic Party made their primaries for whites only.

The literacy tests and understanding clauses were the most imaginative ways to exclude black voters while keeping white voters eligible. Aspiring voters had to read a passage of the state constitution selected by the county registrar and explain its significance to the registrar's satisfaction. The idea, of course, was that whites could "satisfactorily" answer any question while blacks could do nothing to appease their inquisitor. Edward Ayers explains the whites' attitude by offering the contemporaneous quote, "if every Negro in Mississippi was a graduate of Harvard, and had been elected as class orator . . . he would not be as well fitted to exercise the right of suffrage



THE REASON.

NORTHERNER.—I understand that there was a light vote at the recent election.
COLORED ARKANSAN.—Yassah! Dat 's de troof, sah De dark vote done reorganized de fact dat it was safest to stay at home.