Educating a New Generation of Americans: Reconstruction & the Gilded Age

Land-Grant Colleges

Historically Black Colleges & Universities

Public Libraries and Museums
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The Expansion of Education

- **Growth of Public Education**
  - 1856: 50% of all White Children attend Free Public Schools
  - 1870: 2% of all White 17 year olds graduated High School
  - 1900: 32 States had Compensatory Education Laws for children between the ages of 8 - 14 years old
  - 1910: 60% of all American Children attended school with more than a Million in High School
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The Expansion of Education

• Growth of Higher Education

✓ 1800’s: 85% of the U.S. population lived on farms or in small towns

✓ Higher education was dominated by Private Universities with emphasis on Law, Medicine, Literature, and Philosophy

✓ Higher education was often reserved for only the “Elite Landed Gentry”

✓ In the South, Higher Education was a “State’s Rights” issue
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The Expansion of Education

• The Idea of Land Grant Colleges:
  ✓ 1830's: Professor Jonathan Baldwin Turner of the new Illinois College promoted the ideas of education for the “Industrial Classes”

  ❖ “Where are the Universities, the apparatus, the professors, and the literature specifically adapted to any one of the industrial classes?”

  ❖ “Society has become wise enough to know that its teachers need to be educated; but it has not yet become wise enough to know that its workers need education just as much.”
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The Expansion of Education

• The Idea of Land Grant Colleges:
  
  ❖ “The industrial classes want, and they ought to have, the same facilities for understanding . . . Which the professional classes have long enjoyed in their pursuits”

  ❖ “This want cannot be supplied by any of the existing institutions for the professional classes, nor by any appendage attached to them as a mere secondary department.”

  ❖ “There should be . . . an institution, in this State, with a sufficient quantity of land . . . for all its needful annual experiments and processes in the great interest of agriculture and horticulture.”
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The Expansion of Education

• The Morrill Act:
  ✓ U.S. Representative John Smith Morrill made his first attempt to pass a bill to establish “Land Grant” colleges in 1859
  ➢ The bill was passed by Congress, but it was vetoed by President James Buchanan
  ✓ The “Land Grant” Bill was reintroduced in 1861 and signed into law in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln
  ➢ The Morrill Act was the first “Social Contract” between the nation and its citizens, creating the “People’s Colleges”
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The Expansion of Education

The Morrill Act of 1862:

- Established a public, federally assisted system of higher education
  - Congress chose not to issue funds, but land under the recently passed “Homestead Act”
  - Colleges were for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanical arts
  - Without exclusion of other scientific and classical studies, and including liberal arts and military training programs

- Created with the belief that American social and economic development would be best served with a broader education system available to all
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The Expansion of Education

• First Designated Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Designated
Feb 1863

Designated
Mar 1863

Designated
Apr 1863
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The Expansion of Education

- First Designated Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Designated
Mar 1864

Designated
Apr 1864

Designated
Feb 1865
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The Expansion of Education

• The Hatch Act of 1887:
  ✓ Congressman William H. Hatch proposed a bill in 1887 to provide $15,000 in funding to State Land Grant Colleges for additional programs
  ➢ Established research and experimental stations that shared discoveries with other institutions

• The Morrill Act of 1890:
  ✓ Representative John Smith Morrill introduced a second “Land Grant” Bill targeting the South
  ➢ It created funding for the establishment of 17 Historical Black “Land Grant” Institutions
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Reconstruction & the Gilded Age

The Expansion of Minority Education

- African Americans had to deal with Prejudice in both the North & South
- Colleges like Oberlin in Ohio and Bowdoin in Maine were the first to accept African-American students
- Wilberforce University in Ohio is the Nation’s oldest African American University
- It was the first college in the nation to be owned and operated by African Americans
- It was affiliated with the African American Methodist Episcopal Church
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The Expansion of Minority Education

• The Freedman’s Bureau:
  ✓ 1865 - 1876: General Oliver Otis Howard was the Commissioner of the Freedman’s Bureau in the South
    ➢ He actively promoted and campaigned for the creation of educational institutions for Blacks
  ✓ 1865 - 1894: Abolitionist Frederick Douglass also campaigned for the improvement of Education for freed African-Americans

“Education means emancipation. It means light and liberty. It means the uplifting of the soul of man into the glorious light of truth, the light by which men can only be made free.”
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The Expansion of Minority Education

Creation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Atlanta University in Ga. (Est: 1865)

Clark College in Ga. (Est: 1869)

Fisk University in Tn. (Est: 1866)

Morehouse College in Ga. and Howard University in D.C. (Est: 1867)

Hampton Institute in Va. (Est: 1868)
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The Expansion of Minority Education

Other African American Activists promoted education

The question of the highest citizenship and the complete education of all concerns nearly ten million of my own people and over sixty million of yours. We rise as you rise; when we fall you fall. When you are strong we are strong; when we are weak you are weak.
- Booker T. Washington

“We want our children educated. The school system in the country districts of the South is a disgrace and in few towns and cities are Negro schools what they ought to be. We want the national government to step in and wipe out illiteracy in the South. Either the U.S. will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States.”
- W.E.B. DuBois
The Negro race, like all races, is going to be saved by its exceptional men. The problem of education, then, among Negroes must first of all deal with the Talented Tenth; it is the problem of developing the Best of this race that they may guide the Mass away from the contamination and death of the Worst, in their own and other races.

- W. E. B. DuBois

"We need not only the industrial school, but the college and professional school as well, for a people so largely segregated, as we are.... Our teachers, ministers, lawyers and doctors will prosper just in proportion as they have about them an intelligent and skillful producing class."

- Booker T. Washington

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The Expansion of Minority Education

Other African American Activists promoted education
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The Expansion of Minority Education

Tuskegee Institute

✓ 1881: Founded as a Normal School to train African American Teachers

✓ 1881-1915: Booker T. Washington served as President of the School

✓ Purchased old Plantation to build institute

✓ Received grants from well known Philanthropists
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The Expansion of Minority Education

- Spelman College was established in Georgia in 1881 by two female educators from Massachusetts
  - It was the first College created for African American females
  - 1882: The College received financial support from John D. Rockefeller
  - 1903: John D. Rockefeller created the Rockefeller General Education Board to promote education in the U.S. regardless of race, sex, or creed
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Philanthropic Support for Education

- Great Industrialists provided special grants and endowments to further the development of education in the United States

John D. Rockefeller
Andrew Carnegie

"I should say in general the advantage of education is to better fit a man for life's work. I would advise young men to take a college course, as a rule, but think some are just as well off with a thorough business training."

“A man who acquires the ability to take full possession of his own mind may take possession of anything else to which he is justly entitled.”
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Philanthropic Support for Education

University of Chicago
Founded in 1891
By J. D. Rockefeller

1901 - Established Rockefeller Institute of Medicine

Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh founded in 1895

1905 - Established Carnegie Institute of Technology
"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."

“There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."

“Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light nor dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed.”
Braddock, Pennsylvania (1888)
First Carnegie Library in the U.S.

Houston, Texas (1904)

Gresham, Oregon (1901)

Atlanta, Georgia (1898)
Detroit, Michigan (1901)

Jacksonville, Florida (1902)

Boise Idaho, Iowa (1903)

Council Bluffs, Iowa (1903)