Recent Trotter Institute Publications

Black Expressive Art, Resistant Cultural Politics, and the (Re)Performance of Patriotism
Deborah Elizabeth Whaley, Ph.D.

This paper uses comics, music, film, and poetry to explore the response to 9/11 within Black Arts and everyday urban communities. The paper argues that critical thinking and oppositional politics as represented through the expressive arts constitute a new, more self-reflexive, American patriotism. The paper also suggests a cross-coalition between youth, community organizers, established politicians, and artists in order to realize significant improvement in how historically marginalized people are situated within and have access to the cultural politics of the nation state of America.

Pages: 42
Illustrations: 1 black and white
Trotter Institute Occasional Paper, No. 49, ISSN 1540-644X (Fall 2003)
Price: $10.00

From Unity to Plurality: Books on Northeastern Black History Since 1960
Rhett S. Jones, Ph.D.

In the southern black schools and in historically black colleges and universities, African-American history was always researched and taught. Those who studied the Black American past labored under tremendous burdens as they could not gain access to public libraries in major southern cities, much less to archival repositories and other special collections. Despite these difficulties schoolteachers and professors alike managed to keep alive and pass on Black American history. But for much of the 20th century, it was a rare college or university in the North that offered courses in African American history. In the latter 1960s as a result of the Civil Rights, Black Power, and Black Studies movements, demands for research and teaching on black history at colleges, large and
small, grew. The history that resulted from these demands initially had two themes. It focused on the immediate past and it focused on the South. The study of Black American history in the wake of the three movements developed in reverse chronological order. It began with the 20th century, particularly with overviews of the Civil Rights movement, and then moved back to studies of 19th century plantation slavery. Both these themes were centered on the South for, as scholars then saw it, the Civil Rights Movement had its beginnings in the South, and the form of slavery of which most Americans had knowledge was that of the plantation. The long history of Blacks in the 17th and 18th centuries received little attention, and that of Blacks who lived outside the South, virtually none at all. This paper is an exploration of the struggle of Black Historians and the evolution of Black History since the 1960s.

Taking the ism Out of “Race” in the 21st Century: A Study of the Print Media’s Coverage of President Clinton’s National “Dialogue on Race”
William E. Alberts, Ph.D.

This report provides analyses of President Clinton’s national “conversation about race” by three mainstream newspapers: The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Boston Globe. The analyses is of the news stories, op-ed page columns, editorials and features appearing in the three newspapers, including about 110 stories in The Washington Post, 100 articles in The New York Times and 130 pieces in The Boston Globe. The time period is June of 1997, when Clinton announced his Initiative on Race, to September of 1998 when he officially received the report of The Advisory Board to the President’s Initiative on Race. One purpose for this study is to test what advances have been made since the 1967 Kerner Commission’s evaluation of news media as major factors in racial disorders in American cities. It seeks to review contemporary newspaper coverage in light of the Kerner Commission’s findings in order to determine how the 30-odd intervening years have
altered reporting on persons of color, issues of race and racism. While newsrooms may be more multi-colored today, analysis is required to determine whether change has been more than primarily cosmetic over the years.

Pages: 116
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