

talented tenth apush

talented tenth apush is a term rooted in African American history and intellectual development, particularly associated with W.E.B. Du Bois and the broader struggle for racial uplift in the United States. This phrase encapsulates the idea that a small, educated, and talented elite within the African American community could serve as leaders and catalysts for social change, uplift, and progress. In the context of AP U.S. History (APUSH), understanding the concept of the talented tenth is crucial for grasping the dynamics of race, education, and leadership during the post-Reconstruction era and beyond. It reflects broader themes of racial identity, activism, and the quest for equality that have shaped American history.

The Origins of the Talented Tenth Concept

W.E.B. Du Bois and the Formation of the Idea

The term "talented tenth" was popularized by W.E.B. Du Bois, a prominent African American scholar, activist, and founder of the NAACP. In 1903, Du Bois articulated his vision in an essay titled *The Talented Tenth*, emphasizing that a vanguard of educated and skilled African Americans could uplift the entire race.

Du Bois argued that:

- A small, educated elite could serve as leaders and role models.
- Education was essential for African Americans to achieve social, political, and economic equality.
- The talented tenth could challenge racism and stereotypes through exemplification of achievement and dignity.

This idea contrasted with other approaches within the African American community, such as Booker T. Washington's emphasis on vocational education and gradual progress.

Historical Context of the Early 20th Century

The early 1900s was a period of intense racial discrimination, segregation, and disenfranchisement for African Americans. The rise of Jim Crow laws in the South and widespread racial violence created an urgent need for strategic leadership and advocacy. Du Bois believed that cultivating a class of educated leaders could combat these injustices and advance civil rights.

The Significance of the Talented Tenth in APUSH

The Role in Civil Rights and Social Reform

The concept of the talented tenth played a critical role in shaping African American activism:

- Promoting higher education: Institutions like Howard University and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) became centers for cultivating leadership.
- Political engagement: Educated African Americans began to challenge segregation laws and advocate for voting rights.
- Cultural influence: Leaders within the talented tenth helped elevate African American culture and articulate a sense of racial pride.

Impact on Education and Leadership

The emphasis on education as a pathway to empowerment led to:

- The establishment of schools and colleges dedicated to African Americans.
- The rise of prominent African American intellectuals, writers, and politicians.
- A focus on producing leaders who could influence both Black and white communities.

Key Figures Associated with the Talented Tenth

W.E.B. Du Bois

- Advocated for higher education and leadership among African Americans.
- Co-founded the NAACP, aiming to fight racial discrimination through legal and political means.
- Emphasized the importance of a "Talented Tenth" to lead the race toward equality.

Booker T. Washington

- Emphasized vocational education and economic self-reliance.
- Believed in gradual progress and accommodation to segregation.
- His philosophy contrasted with Du Bois's emphasis on immediate civil rights and higher education.

Other Influential Leaders

- Marcus Garvey: Promoted Black nationalism and economic independence.
- Ida B. Wells: Led anti-lynching campaigns and advocated for civil rights.
- W.E.B. Du Bois's contemporaries and successors expanded the discussion on Black leadership and social uplift.

The Debate: Talented Tenth vs. Other Strategies

Du Bois's Approach

- Focused on intellectual development, political activism, and higher education.
- Believed in the importance of producing leaders capable of challenging systemic racism.

Washington's Approach

- Advocated for vocational training, economic self-sufficiency, and patience.
- Emphasized accommodating segregation temporarily while building Black economic strength.

The Broader Impact

The debate between Du Bois and Washington reflected broader ideological differences within the African American community and influenced the strategies of civil rights movements later in U.S. history.

The Evolution of the Talented Tenth Concept in U.S. History

Early 20th Century

- The rise of Black colleges and the proliferation of African American professionals.
- The founding of organizations like the NAACP to promote civil rights.

Mid-20th Century

- Civil Rights Movement: Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and others embodied some aspects of the talented tenth's leadership ideals.
- The importance of education and legal activism in dismantling segregation.

Contemporary Reflections

- The idea of a talented elite continues to influence discussions on representation and leadership.
- Critics argue that focusing solely on elites can overlook broader community needs, leading to ongoing debates about strategies for racial uplift.

The Legacy of the Talented Tenth in American History

Contributions to Civil Rights and Education

- The talented tenth helped establish a foundation for civil rights activism and higher education for African Americans.
- Many early Black leaders and professionals served as trailblazers in their respective fields.

Challenges and Criticisms

- Critics have argued that the focus on an educated elite can marginalize the broader Black community.
- Some view the idea as elitist or exclusionary, emphasizing individual achievement over collective progress.

Modern Relevance

- Contemporary leaders often draw inspiration from Du Bois's vision, advocating for education and leadership development.
- The ongoing struggle for racial justice continues to be informed by the historical debates surrounding the talented tenth.

Conclusion

The concept of the talented tenth remains a significant part of American history, especially within the narrative of African American progress and civil rights. It underscores the importance of education, leadership, and strategic activism in challenging systemic inequality. Understanding this idea within the scope of APUSH provides valuable insights into the ongoing struggles and achievements of African Americans, highlighting the importance of both individual excellence and collective action in shaping U.S. history. As the nation continues to grapple with issues of race, equality, and justice, the legacy of the talented tenth offers both inspiration and a reminder of the power of educated leadership in driving social change.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the concept of the 'Talented Tenth' in the context of

African American history?

The 'Talented Tenth' was a term popularized by W.E.B. Du Bois, referring to the small, educated, and talented segment of the African American population believed to be capable of leading the race to social and political equality.

How did the 'Talented Tenth' influence African American education during the Progressive Era?

The idea encouraged the development of higher education and leadership among African Americans, emphasizing the importance of educated elites to uplift the entire race and advocating for increased access to colleges and professional training.

What role did the 'Talented Tenth' play in the civil rights movement during the early 20th century?

Members of the 'Talented Tenth' often became leaders and advocates for civil rights, using their education and influence to challenge segregation, fight for equal rights, and promote social reform.

How did W.E.B. Du Bois' concept of the 'Talented Tenth' differ from Booker T. Washington's approach?

While Du Bois emphasized higher education and the development of a talented leadership class to advocate for civil rights, Washington promoted vocational training and gradual progress, often prioritizing economic self-sufficiency over immediate civil rights.

In what ways did the 'Talented Tenth' impact African American political activism in the early 1900s?

The 'Talented Tenth' often led political movements, founded organizations, and used their education and status to influence policy, advocate for civil rights, and inspire broader participation in politics.

What criticisms have been made about the 'Talented Tenth' concept in African American history?

Critics argue that it overly emphasized a small elite at the expense of broader community empowerment, and that it risked creating divisions within the African American community by focusing on education and leadership among a select few.

How does the 'Talented Tenth' relate to the broader themes of racial uplift and social reform in the early 20th century?

The concept is central to the idea of racial uplift, advocating that educated and talented African Americans could lead the way for social reform, equality, and improved conditions for all African Americans.

Did the 'Talented Tenth' philosophy influence later African American leaders? If so, how?

Yes, many leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and others were influenced by Du Bois's emphasis on education and leadership, shaping strategies for civil rights and social change through intellectual development and organized activism.

How is the 'Talented Tenth' relevant to understanding African American history and leadership today?

It highlights the importance of education, leadership, and social advocacy within the community, serving as a foundation for ongoing efforts to empower African Americans and address inequalities in modern society.

Additional Resources

Talented Tenth APUSH: A Deep Dive into W.E.B. Du Bois's Vision for African American Advancement

The phrase "Talented Tenth" stands as one of the most influential and debated concepts in African American history and the broader context of American social and political development. Coined by W.E.B. Du Bois in the early 20th century, this idea encapsulates a strategic vision for uplifting African Americans through the cultivation of an educated, enlightened elite. To fully understand its significance, it's essential to explore the origins, development, impact, and ongoing debates surrounding the Talented Tenth within the framework of APUSH (AP U.S. History) curriculum.

Origins and Context of the Talented Tenth

Historical Background

- Post-Reconstruction America: Following the end of Reconstruction in 1877, African Americans faced severe systemic discrimination, segregation, and disenfranchisement under Jim Crow laws.
- The Need for Leadership: Amidst widespread oppression, Black leaders sought strategies to improve social standing, economic opportunities, and civil rights.
- W.E.B. Du Bois's Emergence: A Harvard-educated sociologist and historian, Du Bois emerged as a prominent intellectual advocating for immediate civil rights and higher education for African Americans.

Formation of the Concept

- 1890s-1900s: Du Bois articulated the idea that a small, educated elite—the "Talented Tenth"—could

serve as leaders, educators, and role models to uplift the entire race.

- Core Belief: The success of African Americans depended on cultivating a class of talented individuals who would challenge stereotypes, lead social change, and promote racial pride.
- Philosophical Roots: The concept drew from ideas of elite leadership, social uplift, and the belief that education and intellectual development could serve as catalysts for racial progress.

Core Principles of the Talented Tenth

Education as a Vehicle for Advancement

- Higher Education Focus: Emphasized liberal arts education, professional training, and leadership development.
- Institutions: Supported historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) like Howard University, Morehouse, and Tuskegee, which aimed to produce educated Black professionals.
- Impact: The educated elite would serve as teachers, ministers, entrepreneurs, civil rights leaders, and community organizers.

Leadership and Responsibility

- Role of the Elite: The Talented Tenth was expected to act as moral exemplars and catalysts for social change.
- Responsibility: These leaders had to uplift the masses, combat racist stereotypes, and advocate for civil rights and equality.
- Self-Help and Self-Respect: Du Bois emphasized the importance of self-respect, discipline, and cultural pride among Black Americans.

Opposition to Booker T. Washington's Philosophy

- Different Visions: Du Bois's Talented Tenth contrasted sharply with Washington's philosophy of accommodation and vocational training.
- Washington's Approach: Advocated for vocational education, patience, and acceptance of segregation as a means to economic self-sufficiency.
- Du Bois's Critique: Believed that vocational training alone was insufficient and that political activism and higher education were essential for true racial equality.

Impact of the Talented Tenth in the 20th Century

Civil Rights Movement and Leadership

- Leadership Development: Many prominent civil rights leaders, including W.E.B. Du Bois himself, Thurgood Marshall, and others, exemplified the Talented Tenth ideal.
- Legal and Political Achievements: The movement's successes, such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, were driven by highly educated attorneys and activists.
- Cultural Influence: Educated Black intellectuals and artists contributed to the Harlem Renaissance, fostering racial pride and cultural expression.

Institutional Contributions

- HBCUs as Pillars: These institutions produced leaders who fought for civil rights, social justice, and economic development.
- Prominent Figures: Examples include Martin Luther King Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington,

and Mary McLeod Bethune.

Critiques and Limitations

- Exclusivity: Critics argued that emphasizing an educated elite risked neglecting the broader Black population, especially the working class and rural communities.
- Elitism: Some viewed the Talented Tenth as potentially disconnected from grassroots struggles.
- Persistence of Poverty: Despite the efforts of the Talented Tenth, systemic inequalities persisted, revealing limitations in the strategy.

Debates and Evolving Perspectives

Support and Praise

- Recognized for inspiring higher aspirations among African Americans.
- Lauded for emphasizing education, morality, and leadership.
- Credited with laying the groundwork for modern civil rights activism.

Criticism and Challenges

- Economic and Social Barriers: Critics argued that focusing solely on the educated elite ignored broader economic disparities.
- Inclusivity Concerns: The approach was seen as potentially elitist and not representative of the majority of Black Americans.

- Alternative Strategies: Some movements favored a more mass-based approach, emphasizing economic empowerment and civil rights activism without necessarily prioritizing higher education.

Legacy and Modern Interpretations

- The concept influenced subsequent civil rights strategies, emphasizing leadership and education.
- Contemporary debates consider whether the Talented Tenth remains a viable model or if a more inclusive approach is necessary.
- Many scholars view Du Bois's vision as foundational but recognize the importance of broader social movements and grassroots efforts.

The Talented Tenth in the Broader Context of APUSH Themes

Race and Identity

- The idea contributed to the development of a Black intellectual identity rooted in education, discipline, and cultural pride.
- It challenged stereotypes by demonstrating that African Americans could achieve academic and professional excellence.

Progress and Resistance

- The Talented Tenth symbolized both progress through education and resistance to racial discrimination.

- It underscored the importance of leadership in challenging systemic barriers.

Urbanization and Social Change

- Many leaders emerged from urban centers, utilizing education to navigate and influence rapidly changing social landscapes.
- The movement supported the growth of Black middle-class communities advocating for civil rights.

Legacy in Modern Civil Rights and Education

- The emphasis on leadership and education persists in contemporary discussions about racial uplift.
- Institutions founded during Du Bois's era continue to educate future generations of leaders.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of the Talented Tenth

The "Talented Tenth" remains a pivotal concept in understanding African American efforts for social uplift, education, and civil rights. While it has faced criticism for potential elitism and exclusivity, its core ideals of leadership, education, and cultural pride continue to influence ongoing struggles for equality. In the context of APUSH, the Talented Tenth exemplifies themes of racial progress, the power of education, and the complexities of social change. Its legacy challenges us to reflect on the importance of cultivating leadership and opportunity for all, especially those most marginalized, as the enduring path toward a more equitable society.

In summary, the Talented Tenth represents a strategic and philosophical approach championed by W.E.B. Du Bois, emphasizing the development of an educated Black elite to uplift the entire community. Its influence shaped civil rights strategies, educational institutions, and cultural movements throughout the 20th century. Although it is not without critique, understanding this concept is vital to grasping the broader narrative of African American history within the American story of progress, resistance, and resilience.

Talented Tenth Apush

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talented tenth apush: CliffsNotes AP U.S. History Cram Plan Melissa Young, 2018-10-09
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talented tenth apush: Clio conectada Roy Rosenzweig, 2022-12-02 Roy Rosenzweig, historiador que sempre fugiu do convencional, foi um pioneiro da internet. Faleceu, ainda jovem, em 2007; no entanto, continua a nos ensinar por meio de sua obra, que transmite sua paixão pela reconstrução das experiências de homens e mulheres comuns, por uma prática mais democrática da história. Nestes ensaios visionários, que abrangem o período de 1994 a 2006, o autor mapeia o impacto das novas mídias no ensino, na pesquisa, na preservação, na apresentação e na compreensão da história. Movimentando-se entre os ciberentusiastas, que defendem os avanços tecnológicos, e os céticos digitais, que temem o fim da erudição humanística tradicional, ele revê as práticas dos historiadores acadêmicos e os ritos profissionais, ao mesmo tempo que analisa e defende as conquistas dos historiadores amadores. Rosenzweig não só aborda os perigos de fazer história on-line, mas também identifica as promessas do trabalho digital, detalhando estratégias para buscas em fontes primárias e secundárias, o aumento das oportunidades de diálogo e debate e, acima de tudo, o acesso sem precedentes proporcionado pela internet. Embora celebre as influências democratizantes da história digital, Rosenzweig também argumenta que só podemos garantir o futuro do passado na era digital se resistirmos ativamente aos esforços das corporações de controlar a web e lucrar com ela.

talented tenth apush: The Talented Tenth Ladée Hubbard, 2014

talented tenth apush: *The Talented Tenth Historical & Present: Athletes* Ashley Feazell, 2017-02-16 Children's book covering Pan African history. Books will look into select figures that have made major accomplishments in the past and present. Each book covers 10 specific figures.

talented tenth apush: Atlanta Compromise Booker T. Washington, 2014-03 The Atlanta Compromise was an address by African-American leader Booker T. Washington on September 18, 1895. Given to a predominantly White audience at the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, the speech has been recognized as one of the most important and influential speeches in American history. The compromise was announced at the Atlanta Exposition Speech. The primary architect of the compromise, on behalf of the African-Americans, was Booker T. Washington, president of the Tuskegee Institute. Supporters of Washington and the Atlanta compromise were termed the Tuskegee Machine. The agreement was never written down. Essential elements of the agreement were that blacks would not ask for the right to vote, they would not retaliate against racist behavior, they would tolerate segregation and discrimination, that they would receive free basic education, education would be limited to vocational or industrial training (for instance as teachers or nurses), liberal arts education would be prohibited (for instance, college education in the classics, humanities, art, or literature). After the turn of the 20th century, other black leaders, most notably W. E. B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter - (a group Du Bois would call The Talented Tenth), took issue with the compromise, instead believing that African-Americans should engage in a struggle for civil rights. W. E. B. Du Bois coined the term Atlanta Compromise to denote the agreement. The term accommodationism is also used to denote the essence of the Atlanta compromise. After Washington's death in 1915, supporters of the Atlanta compromise gradually shifted their support to civil rights activism, until the modern Civil rights movement commenced in the 1950s. Booker Taliaferro Washington (April 5, 1856 - November 14, 1915) was an African-American educator, author, orator, and advisor to presidents of the United States. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was the dominant leader in the African-American community. Washington was of the last generation of black American leaders born into slavery and became the leading voice of the former slaves and their descendants, who were newly oppressed by disfranchisement and the Jim Crow discriminatory laws enacted in the post-Reconstruction Southern states in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1895 his Atlanta compromise called for avoiding confrontation over segregation and instead putting more reliance on long-term educational and economic advancement in the black community.

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