

The Double V: How Wars, Protest, and Harry Truman Desegregated America's Military

1. How far back did the conflict within the US military between the need for soldiers and resistance among whites to recruiting blacks go? Why were there concerns about training African Americans for service in the Continental Army to fight the British?
2. Describe the relationship between the degree to which service on naval vessels was dangerous and difficult and the degree to which blacks were welcome as naval personnel. Was this relationship proportional? Inversely proportional? Why?
3. When Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, where was its greatest effect felt? Among slaves of the southern states? Among slaves held in Union territory? Where? Why?
4. Evaluate Joel Spingarn's (founder of the NAACP – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) belief that the mobilization of a US Army to fight in World War I in Europe could be a great and wonderful opportunity for the advancement of Black Americans.
5. What was the unit of African American soldiers known as "The Lost Children?" Why did they end up fighting with French forces and not American units? What was the nature and character of their service?
6. Describe, Explain, and Evaluate the **underlying** and **immediate causes** of the "Houston Mutiny."
7. Describe, Explain, and Evaluate the over-arching thesis of Rawn James's book.
8. Analyze and explain the irony of President Wilson's rhetoric about the need to fight in World War I as a duty to "Make the World Safe for Democracy."
9. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (President from the Great Depression era through *almost* the end of World War II) used his power as president to issue an executive order that was relevant to US defense AND had a profound impact on people of color in the US. What was this executive order, and what was its impact?
10. Who was Sergeant Isaac Woodard? Why is his story relevant to the thesis of James's book? Was it that Woodard's story was a *common one* or an *unusual one* that prompted President Harry Truman to be moved to take action against segregation in the military?