Document A: Newark Anniversary Guide (Excerpt)

In 1916, Newark celebrated the 250th anniversary of its founding. For the occasion, the Newark Sales and Advertising Company published 250,000 copies of the Official Guide and Manual of the Anniversary Celebration. The guide included various articles, pictures, and statistics about the city. Below are excerpts from it.

[Newark] has now most of the adornment of a great city. Its streets are well paved and well sewered. Its schools greatly enlarged and improved, are among the best. Its beautiful churches are sufficient to give attractive seats to all who would attend. Its superb water supply is not surpassed in quality. It has a public service in light and transportation that is unexcelled. Its public buildings are important and beautiful and if to some its debt may seem small for so great a city, it may be said with confidence that the projects now in sight may be relied upon to remove that cause for criticism. In the variety and extent of its industries it is among the first, and its enterprising salesmen make its wares known in every hamlet throughout the land.

Newark, thank fortune, is still more or less an old-fashioned city with old-fashioned ways. It has no idle rich. It looks askance at extravagant living. It sneers at ostentation. It goes to church – not as much as it should, but it remembers that it was founded by religious men for religious reasons. And it stands for the moralities in its private and public life. . . .

Newark has 252 distinct lines of industry; fifty lines each turning out values from one to thirty million dollars annually. Newark as a manufacturing center ranks ahead of thirty states in the aggregate value of its manufactured products. Newark per capita to its population leads in the variety of its manufactures. . . . Wages paid employees average $747 yearly.


**Vocabulary**

- **adornment**: decoration or enhancement
- **enterprising**: ambitious
- **hamlet**: village
- **askance**: with suspicion or disapproval
- **ostentation**: a display of wealth that is intended to attract attention or envy
Document B: New York Times (Excerpt)

Great Ship Plant Needs Steel Men. Newark Yards Ready to Employ 12,000 Workers to Turn out Vessels for War Use. Will Build 200 Boats. War Committee Makes Appeal for Craftsmen – First Keel Plate Will Be Laid Dec. 1.

Steel workers are wanted badly by the United States Emergency Fleet Corporation in Newark, N.J., one of the great war plants that is rising magic-like out of the meadows along Newark Bay to supply the Government’s need for cargo vessels as one means of successful prosecution of the war.

The United States Shipping Board and the Submarine Boat Corporation are co-operating to spread among the workers news of the great need for them to flock to the metropolitan district to take part in the task of turning out the standardized steel ships in such quantities that Germany’s submarine war shall be balked.

A special War Committee, which is to aid the great ship plants to get the men needed, has issued posters picturing a steel vessel in process of construction on the ways, and proclaiming:

“If you can use tools you are wanted: your country needs ships and men to build them. Armies, ammunition and supplies are useless in this country without ships to transport them. Go to the nearest shipyard and offer your services. You can thus help to win the war and make the world safe for democracy.”

The Newark yards are to employ 12,000 men.


Vocabulary

keel: the structure that runs along the centerline at the bottom of a ship

prosecution: continuation and completion

balked: stopped
Helen Pendleton was a white woman who worked for a charity in Georgia before becoming a supervisor for the Bureau of Charities in Newark. The passage below is from her article “Cotton Pickers in Northern Counties,” in which she described the challenges faced by African-American migrants in Newark. Survey magazine, a leading social work journal, published the article.

Early last spring, when a marked shortage of labor was felt, northern industries turned to the South and began to import Negroes by the thousand. Railroads and industrial plants furnished transportation and offered undreamed-of wages to the simple farm hands from the cotton fields of Georgia and Alabama.

At first the railroad and other companies furnished the transportation, sending agents all through the South, who painted in glowing terms . . . the high wages and advantages of the North. But apparently that was not long necessary. The news spread like wildfire. . . . The Negroes sold their simple belongings, and, in some instances, valuable land and property, and flocked to the northern cities, even though they had no objective work in sight. And they are still coming. Enough money has been saved from their unprecedented wages to send for wives and children. Almost every day one may see in the Pennsylvania station groups of Negro women sitting patiently, surrounded by bundles and babies and shivering in cotton garments, waiting for night to come, which will bring the men to meet them.

The industries of New Jersey went after these laborers because they needed them in their business. But, although the Negro is warmly welcomed as a laborer, it is increasingly apparent that as a Negro he is unwelcome.

Soon after the migration began to be noticeable, suddenly, mysteriously, almost in a night, the signs To Let and For Rent in the part of the city where small houses and flats were available were changed to For Sale. . . . These humble newcomers, therefore, have been forced into finding lodgings in basements and in the worst parts of our city.


Vocabulary

unprecedented: new and unmatched
Document D: *Atlanta Constitution* (Excerpt)

*In the article below, an unidentified columnist describes the migration of African Americans. The article appeared in The Atlanta Constitution, which was one of the largest newspapers in Georgia at the time.*

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**Notwithstanding** there is some excuse, perhaps, for negro migration growing out of the fears which have been *engendered* by the actions of mobs, and the false stories of threats which emigration agents have fed them, the southern negro who is *lured* by their persuasion usually fares worse in the end, if he does not lose his life into the bargain.

It is a pitiful story that comes from Newark, N.J. . . . In a recent church meeting on the subject, reported in the *Newark Evening News*, Rev. O.M. Bonfield, pastor of a negro congregation is quoted as saying that –

> Many of the newcomers are driven north by persecution in southern states as well as by the *lure* of high wages in the *munitions* factories. . . . These people in many instances need proper clothing to enable them to withstand the rigors of this climate; they need decent housing facilities. . . .

The northern idea of persecution in the south is, of course, a very exaggerated one; but we have to admit that in the work of the mob, at least, it has some foundation. It is a matter of common knowledge, however, that the honest and industrious negro gets along better and gets more out of life here in the south than he can anywhere else in the country. . . .

The emigrants, and it is stated there are some 12,000 of them in and around Newark alone, working chiefly in the *munitions* factories, are in actual need of housing and clothing, which, with all the promise of big wages, they have not been able to procure. Nor is that the whole story. Many of them are dying . . . due to the unhealthy surroundings in which they are compelled to live. . . .

*Source:* Atlanta Constitution, “*Penalties of Migration,*” *December 14, 1916.*

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<tr>
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<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>notwithstanding</td>
<td>although</td>
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<tr>
<td>engendered</td>
<td>caused</td>
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<tr>
<td>lure</td>
<td>to tempt someone to go somewhere, often by offering a reward</td>
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<td>munitions</td>
<td>military weapons</td>
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Document E: Annie Rose Johnston Interview (Excerpt)

In the 1990s, the Krueger-Scott Cultural Center of Newark conducted over 100 interviews with African Americans who migrated to Newark between 1910 and 1970. These oral histories focus on why people migrated to Newark and on their experiences once they arrived in the city. Below is an excerpt from an interview with Annie Rose Johnston.

Johnston: I was born in Bert County, Georgia. . . . It was a farm. We were 13 in all. . . . We came north in 1922. Daddy said he wanted his children to get more than he was able to get. He gave up farming and came up to Newark, my mother and dad. And she did domestic work and some seamstress work.

Interviewer: Why did they come to Newark? Better opportunities or what?

Johnston: Daddy thought he could get work easier in Newark. He didn’t want to farm anymore.

Interviewer: Did your family know anybody in Newark? Or did you just take a chance? Did you have any relatives here?

Johnston: . . . No relatives. We were on our own. . . . It was a tough year. My mother was sick in one room with pneumonia. My brother was sick in the other room with pneumonia. And Daddy was a real brick, he stayed up night and day. He made sure they got their medicine. The lady down the hall had a phone, and he call my sister and tell her give them different medications.

## Final Question

Why did African Americans migrate to Newark at the beginning of the 20th century? Use evidence from at least three of the documents in your response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence 1</th>
<th>Evidence 2</th>
<th>Evidence 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>[Document A]</td>
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Document A: Textbook

In the summer of 1919, over 20 race riots broke out across the nation. The worst violence occurred in Chicago. On a hot July day, African Americans went to a whites-only beach. Both sides began throwing stones at each other. Whites also threw stones at an African American teenager swimming near the beach to prevent him from coming ashore, and he drowned. A full-scale riot then erupted in the city. Angry African Americans attacked white neighborhoods while whites attacked African American neighborhoods. The riots lasted for several days. In the end, 38 people died—15 white and 23 black—and over 500 were injured.


Document B: History Book (Modified)

The most serious racial outbreak occurred in Chicago late in July of the so-called Red Summer.... The riot that began on July 27 had its immediate origin in a fight at Lake Michigan beach. A young Negro swimming offshore had drifted into water that was customarily used by whites. White swimmers commanded him to return to his part of the beach, and some threw stones at him. When the young man drowned, the Negroes declared that he had been murdered.... Rumors spread among blacks and whites. Mobs sprang up in various parts of the city. In the next afternoon, white bystanders bothered some blacks who were returning from work. Some were pulled off streetcars and whipped.... On the Negro South Side a group of young Negroes stabbed an old Italian peddler to death, and a white laundry operator was also stabbed to death.... When authorities counted the casualties, 38 people had been killed, including 15 whites and 23 blacks. Of the 537 people injured, 342 were black. More than 1,000 families, mostly Negroes, were homeless due to the burnings and destruction of property.

Source: John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans, 1987 (Sixth Edition; first published in 1947). Franklin was a United States historian and past president of the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Association. More than three million copies of From Freedom to Slavery have been sold. In 1995, Franklin was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.
Document C (Modified)

Since 1915 the colored population of Chicago has more than doubled, increasing in four years from a little over 50,000 to what is now estimated to be between 125,000 and 150,000. Most blacks lived in the area called the “Black Belt.” Already overcrowded, this so-called “Black Belt” could not possibly hold the doubled colored population. One cannot put ten gallons of water in a five-gallon pail.

Whites who are afraid that blacks will move out of the “Black Belt” and into “white” neighborhoods have formed the “Property Owners' Association” to keep blacks out of white neighborhoods. They discuss ways to keep Negroes in “their part of town.”

In a number of cases during the period from January 1918 to August 1919, there were bombings of colored homes and houses occupied by Negroes outside of the “Black Belt.” During this period no less than twenty bombings took place, yet only two persons have been arrested and neither of the two has been convicted.

Source: The document above was published in an African-American newspaper in 1919. Its author was a leader of the NAACP, an organization devoted to protecting African American rights.

Document D (Modified)

The spirit of the Negro who went across the seas -- who was in battle -- is different from the spirit of the Negro before the war. He is altogether a new man, with new ideas, new hopes, new dreams, and new desires. He will not quietly accept discrimination, and we should not ask him to do so. It is a new Negro that we have with us now. . . . The war transformed these men into new creatures -- citizens of another type.

Source: The article above was published on August 16, 1919 in The Independent, a New York magazine. The author is writing about black soldiers who served in World War One in Europe. More than 350,000 African Americans served in World War One, which ended in 1919. W.S. Scarborough (1852-1926), was an African American author, educator, and lecturer. He was born a slave but eventually became a professor of Latin and Greek, and later president, at Wilberforce University. He wrote frequently about civil rights issues.
Many people in Chicago worked at meat-packing factories, where they prepared meat to be shipped around the country. These factories were also called “stockyards.”

Outsiders who are thinking of coming to Chicago to take a “job at the yards” will not find the “welcome” sign out awaiting them.

It became known yesterday that since the end of the Great War the force of workers has dropped by nearly 15,000. This is due both to a big drop in war orders. . . .

Another problem is that the factories promised to return every employee who enlisted in the armed forces to “as good or better” a job than he held when he put on a uniform. [White] men are now returning in increasingly large numbers and none are being turned away.

“No discrimination is being shown in the reducing of our forces,” said an official of one of the packing companies, in discussing reports that southern colored men, who were hired during the war job shortage, were being fired. “It is a case of survival of the fittest, the best man staying on the job. It is a fact that the southern Negro cannot compete with the northerner.”

Source: The article above is from the Chicago Tribune, the main newspaper in Chicago, April 12, 1919.
What Caused the Chicago Race Riots of 1919?

*Read Documents A and B and fill in the chart below.*

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<th>Differences</th>
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Which account do you trust more—the textbook or the history book? Explain your answer below.
What Caused the Chicago Race Riots of 1919?