

# The Great Migration and the Democratic Party: A Transformative Era in American Politics

The Great Migration was a period of vast movement of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North, Midwest, and West. It occurred in two major waves, the first from 1916 to 1940 and the second from 1940 to 1970. The Great Migration was caused by a number of factors, including economic opportunity, racial discrimination in the South, and the lure of the North's urban centers.



## The Great Migration and the Democratic Party: Black Voters and the Realignment of American Politics in the 20th Century by Keneshia N. Grant

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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The Great Migration had a profound impact on the Democratic Party. Prior to the Great Migration, the Democratic Party was the party of white Southerners. However, as African Americans began to migrate to the North, they became an increasingly important voting bloc. This led the Democratic Party to adopt a more progressive platform on racial issues.

The Great Migration also helped to fuel the civil rights movement. As African Americans gained political power, they were able to push for changes that would improve their lives. These changes included the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Great Migration was a transformative era in American politics. It led to the rise of the Democratic Party as the party of African Americans and helped to fuel the civil rights movement. Today, African Americans continue to be a major voting bloc for the Democratic Party.

## **The Causes of the Great Migration**

There were a number of factors that contributed to the Great Migration. These factors included:

- **Economic opportunity:** The North offered African Americans better job opportunities than the South. This was due in part to the growth of the industrial economy in the North.
- **Racial discrimination:** African Americans faced widespread discrimination in the South. This discrimination included segregation, lynching, and other forms of violence.
- **The lure of the North's urban centers:** The North's urban centers offered African Americans a sense of community and opportunity that they could not find in the rural South.

## **The Impact of the Great Migration on the Democratic Party**

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they became an increasingly important voting bloc. This led the Democratic Party to adopt a more progressive platform on racial issues.

In the 1930s, the Democratic Party began to embrace the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. These policies included programs that aimed to help African Americans, such as the Social Security Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

In the 1940s, the Democratic Party adopted a more progressive platform on civil rights. This platform included a plank calling for the end of segregation and the passage of a federal anti-lynching law.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Democratic Party continued to support civil rights legislation. In 1964, the Democratic Party-controlled Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This law outlawed segregation in public places and prohibited discrimination in employment and housing.

In 1965, the Democratic Party-controlled Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This law prohibited racial discrimination in voting and established federal oversight of voter registration and elections in areas with a history of racial discrimination.

The Great Migration helped to transform the Democratic Party into the party of African Americans. Today, African Americans are a major voting bloc for the Democratic Party.

## **The Great Migration and the Civil Rights Movement**

The Great Migration also played a major role in fueling the civil rights movement. As African Americans gained political power, they were able to

push for changes that would improve their lives. These changes included the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The civil rights movement was a period of great social and political change in the United States. It led to the end of segregation and the passage of laws that prohibited discrimination based on race.

The Great Migration was a major factor in the civil rights movement. It helped to raise awareness of the plight of African Americans and to build support for civil rights legislation.

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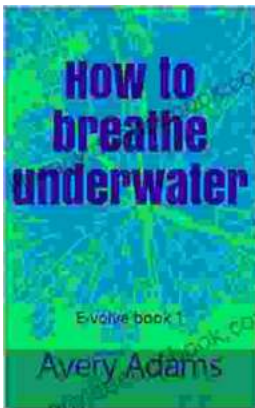
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