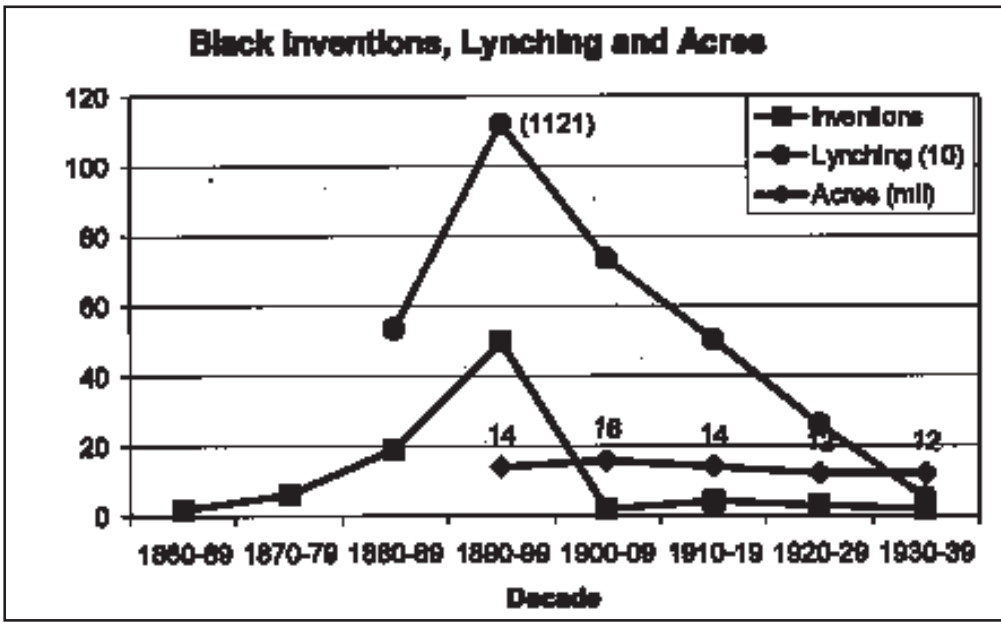


# Celebrating Black History Month

## What happened to Blacks?

By RIDGELY ABDULMU'MIN MUHAMMAD, Ph.D

Today, many Black youth have been lead to believe that the failure of Blacks to rise was because they did not have the intelligence or internal fortitude to be independent and prosperous. However, an analysis of America s history of psychological terrorism gives a more rational explanation for the stunted development of Black people in the US.

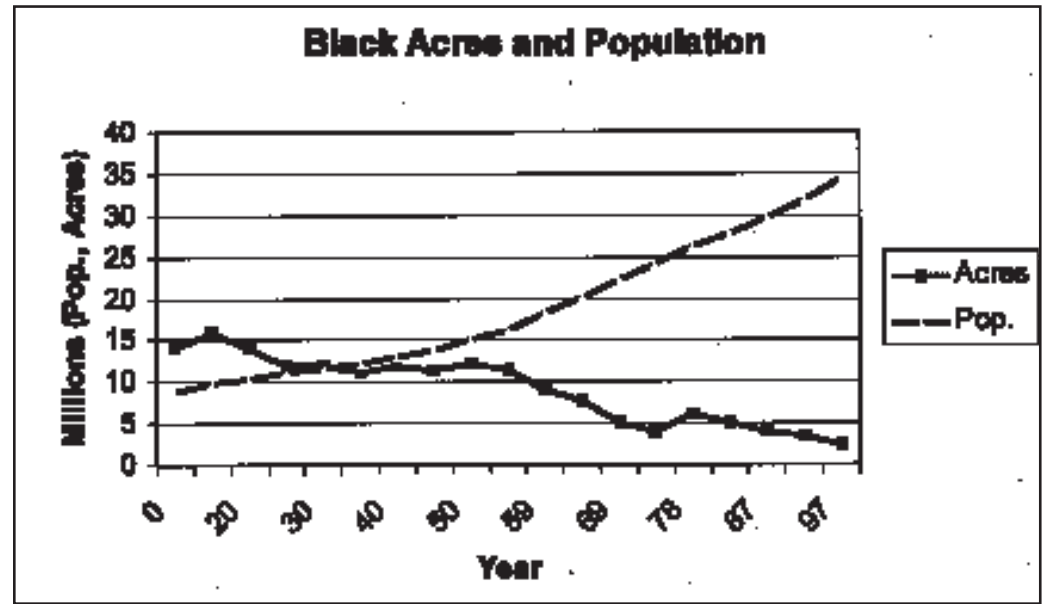


The number and type of inventions that Blacks had patented in the brief period from 1865 to 1899 such as the: baby buggy, bicycle frame, chamber commode, clothes dryer, door knob, egg beater, electric lamp bulb, elevator, fire extinguisher, fountain pen, golf tee, guitar, horse shoe, ironing board, lawn mower, lawn sprinkler, mail box, mop, peanut butter, pencil sharpener, phone transmitter, refrigerator, stove, street sweeper, tricycle, and typewriter.

The level of creativity that Blacks exemplified in the two decades between 1880 and 1900. This twenty year period accounted for almost 70 inventions compared to less than 10 for the period between 1900 and 1920.

What happened to dampen this quick rise of Black creativity? The answer lies in the increased brutality and lawlessness perpetrated against Blacks during this period.

However, the research reveals that right after slavery Blacks showed great genius and ingenuity which is proven by all of these patented inventions produced in that short period of time. One may ask "If they were so smart, then why are they still poor?" The short answer to that is "terrorism". White terrorism worked to destroy the hope and creativity of a Black nation on the rise.



In studying the history of Black land ownership I became fascinated with those 45 years after slavery when Black people amassed over 16 million acres of land. As cruel as slavery was, it had not broken Black people to the point that they had given up on being free, independent and productive. Most of the land was in what is called the Black Belt.

We have shown how the USDA in collaboration with the whites down South worked to take back that 16 million acres of farm land. A study of lynching will reveal how whites also used a type of psychological warfare to intimidate the very "minds" of Blacks.

### A history of lynchings



The Northern troops were pulled out of the South allowing the KKK to have its way with Blacks. A string of crucifixions called lynching reached a crescendo by the 1890s terrorizing Black people literally out of their minds. Between 1889 and 1930 at least 3,000 Blacks were lynched, some specifically targeted because they owned land or had businesses.

All attempts of passing anti-lynching legislation failed as the federal government sat holding its hand. These political and judicial signals, on both state and national levels, humiliated and frightened the black population, while giving the KKK and other terrorist organizations more fuel for their "burning crosses".



### Tulsa Oklahoma

Afraid to be prosperous, Black communities would be destroyed.

Between 1895 and 1921 there were at least 36 riots where white folk destroyed Black neighborhoods in US cities in the South and North. The most outrageous level of white mob violence occurred in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921. Many Blacks ran out of the Black Belt into Oklahoma and Kansas. By the early 1920s they had amassed much wealth in enclaves of Black dominated regions such as "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma. However, whites there like whites in the South, when they saw their once slaves breaking away and doing something for self, reacted with mob violence. The whites blew that portion of Tulsa off the map using aircraft to bomb Black neighborhoods

