

Read the article and answer the questions that follow in the spaces provided.

Marcus Garvey came to the United States penniless in 1916. In just 11 years, he built the first black nationalist movement the country had seen. Famed as a public speaker, idealized as a leader, and notorious to some for his separatist and inflammatory beliefs, Garvey's impact was undeniable.

Born and raised in Jamaica, Garvey travelled in Central and South America, then moved to England to continue his education. In 1914 he started the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and African Communities League (ACL). Its motto was "One God, One Aim, One Destiny," and pledged itself to the uplift of Black people everywhere. It aimed at racial pride, self-reliance and economic independence.

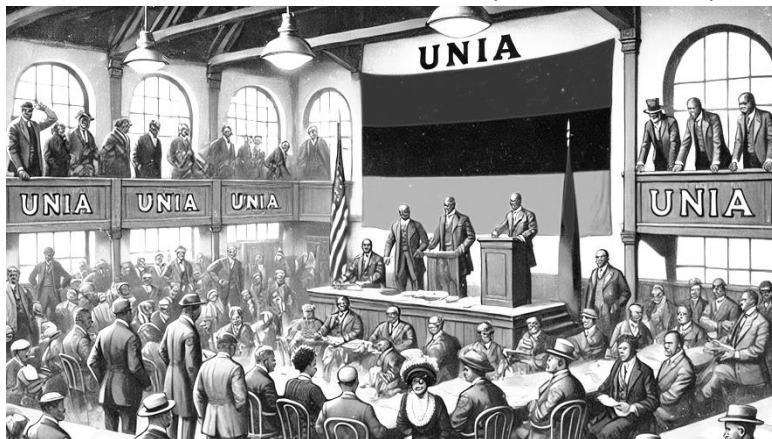
Garvey said that the most influential experience of his stay in London was reading Booker T. Washington's autobiography *Up From Slavery*. Washington believed African-Americans needed to improve themselves first, showing whites in America that they deserved equal rights.

World War I was seen by many African-Americans as the perfect opportunity to fulfill Booker T. Washington's plan for equality and freedom. Through dedicated service in the armed forces, they could prove their worth and show they deserved the same rights as whites. However, as black soldiers returned from the war, more and more African-Americans became disillusioned. Many moved into the urban areas and racial tensions grew. Between 1917 and 1919 race riots erupted in East St. Louis, Chicago, Tulsa, and other cities, demonstrating that whites did not intend to treat African Americans any differently than they had before the war.

After surveying the racial situation in America, Garvey was convinced that integration would never happen and that only economic, political, and cultural success on the part of African-Americans would bring about equality and respect. With this goal he began to spread a message of black nationalism and the eventual return to Africa of all people of African descent.

He helped start a steamship company, the Black Star Line. It was both a business venture and a part of his "back to Africa" plan for Americans of African descent -- the notion that African-Americans should return to Africa and set up their own new country there. He also began speaking out publicly in favor of worldwide black unity and an end to colonialism.

Within a few years Garvey had become the best-known and most dynamic African leader in the Western Hemisphere and perhaps the entire world. By 1920 the UNIA had hundreds of divisions. It hosted elaborate international conventions and published a weekly newspaper entitled the *Negro World*.



Garvey was always a controversial figure: he favored fiery rhetoric and elaborate uniforms, and was considered a dangerous character by some established politicians. Garvey was jailed in 1925 after being convicted of mail fraud (related to the sale of stock in the Black Star line), but his sentence was reduced and he was deported to Jamaica two years later. Garvey eventually moved back to London, England, where he died in 1940. His body was returned to Jamaica in 1964.

1. Which of the following could be described as examples of his “separatist and inflammatory beliefs”?

- a. African-Americans needed to improve themselves.
- b. African-Americans should unify against whites and return to Africa.
- c. Economic success would bring about equality and respect.
- d. Booker T. Washington was an inspirational leader.

2. Why did many African-Americans see WWI as an opportunity?

3. What is most likely the meaning of “disillusioned” in the 4th paragraph?

- a. Encouraged
- b. Obsessed
- c. Disgusted
- d. Disappointed

4. What most likely convinced Garvey was convinced that integration would never happen?

- a. Being jailed in 1925 for mail fraud.
- b. Race riots in Chicago and other cities.
- c. Him being deported to England.
- d. Many successful UNIA conventions.

5. Which of Garvey’s ideas would Booker T. Washington most likely agree with?

- a. African-Americans should move back to Africa.
- b. Integration would never happen.
- c. All African-Americans should support the Black Star Line.
- d. African-Americans deserve equal rights.

6. Which politician probably saw Garvey as the most dangerous?

- a. A Jamaican diplomat.
- b. A Southern Congressman
- c. A Senator from Utah.
- d. A state judge in Vermont.

7. Based on your knowledge of US History, do you think many African-Americans took up Garvey’s idea to move back to Africa? What might make them do so? Why wouldn’t they?