

HARLEM RENAISSANCE

(1920'S – 1930'S)

“One ever feels his two-ness – an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled stirrings: two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.”

*– W.E.B. Du Bois from *The Souls of Black Folks**



COMMON THEMES:

- ❖ Alienation/Marginalization
- ❖ Folk material/tradition
- ❖ Problems writing for an elite audience
- ❖ Self-determination

PHILOSOPHY



1925: Alain Locke published *The New Negro*

Locke:

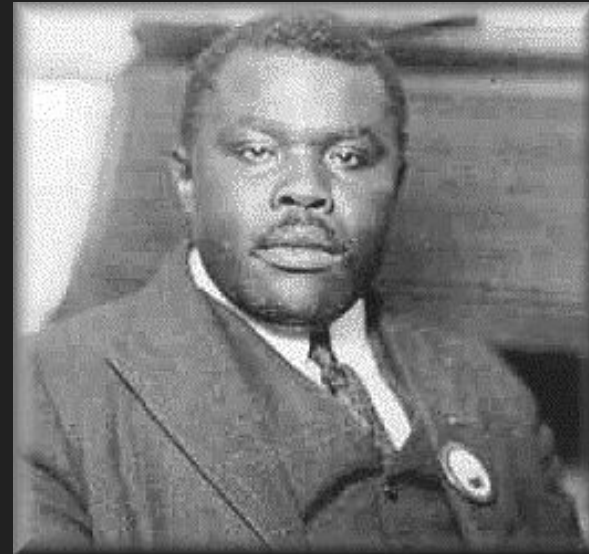
"Negro life is seizing upon its first chances for group expression and self-determination"

PLAYERS AND INSTIGATORS

W.E.B. DuBois - NAACP



Marcus Garvey - UNIA



JAZZ

- Duke Ellington
- Cab Calloway



BLUES

- Robert Johnson
- WC Handy, Bessie Smith, and the Blinds



Harlem Renaissance Art

What influenced this movement and what
this movement influences...

Picasso was influenced by African art



Aaron Douglas was influenced by Egyptian art



Does this remind you of anything?



Aaron Douglas,
Aspiration,
1934.

Aaron Douglas, *Deep South*, 1934



Jacob Lawrence, *Migration*



Three Musicians vs. Three Folk Musicians



THE END OF AN ERA

Great Depression

Harlem Riot

NOW YOU...

- ❖ Read the poetry selections by Langston Hughes and Claude McKay
- ❖ Read the brief excerpt from James Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues"
- ❖ Watch the CBS Sunday Morning video explaining the trouble Billie Holiday got in for singing "Strange Fruit"