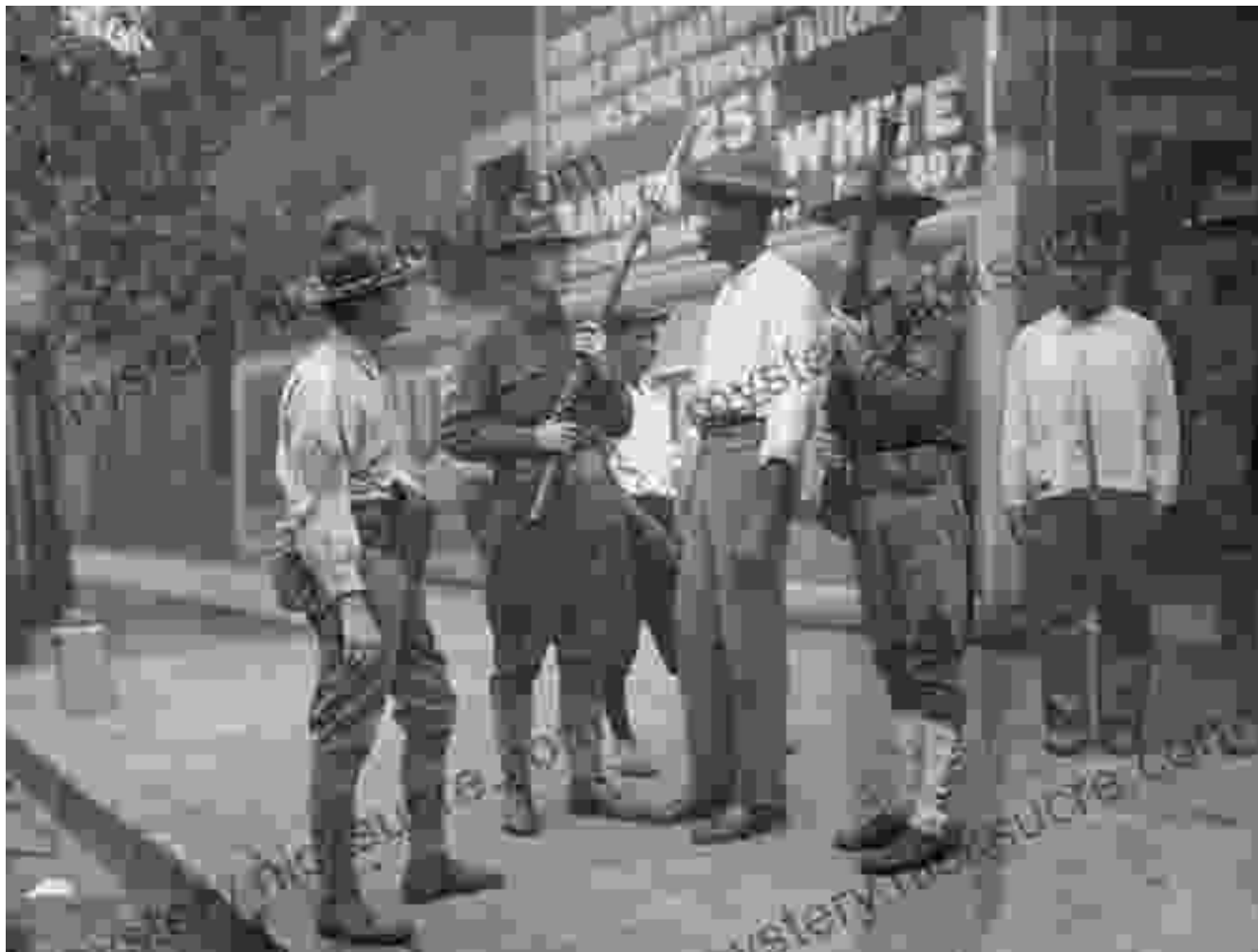


# The Transformative Summer of 1919: The Dawn of Black America's Resistance



## Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America by Cameron McWhirter

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 970 KB  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 366 pages



The summer of 1919 was a tumultuous time in American history, particularly for the African American community. It was a period marked by intense racial violence, but also by unprecedented resistance and the emergence of a new era of activism. Known as the "Red Summer," this period saw a wave of race riots erupt across the country, leaving a lasting scar on the nation's social fabric.

The spark that ignited the Red Summer was the Chicago Race Riot of 1919, which began on July 27th. The riot was sparked by a white man throwing rocks at a group of African American teenagers swimming in Lake Michigan. In the ensuing violence, 38 people were killed and over 500 injured. The riot also caused widespread property damage, with over 1,000 homes and businesses destroyed.

The Chicago Race Riot was not an isolated event. In the months that followed, similar riots erupted in cities across the country, including Omaha, Washington, D.C., and Tulsa. The most destructive of these riots was the Tulsa Race Massacre, which took place on May 31st and June 1st. In this massacre, a white mob attacked the prosperous African American community of Greenwood, burning down over 1,200 homes and businesses and killing an estimated 300 people.

The Red Summer was a watershed moment in the history of Black America. It marked the end of the Reconstruction era and the beginning of a new period of racial segregation and discrimination. However, it also sparked a new wave of resistance among African Americans. In the years

that followed, a new generation of activists emerged, led by figures such as Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. Du Bois, and the NAACP. These activists fought for civil rights and social justice, and their work laid the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

The events of the Red Summer had a profound impact on the African American community. They left a legacy of pain and trauma, but they also inspired a new spirit of resistance. The summer of 1919 was a turning point in the history of Black America, and its legacy continues to shape the fight for racial justice today.

## **The Causes of the Red Summer**

The Red Summer was caused by a complex combination of factors, including:

- The return of African American soldiers from World War I, who were met with discrimination and violence.
- The Great Migration, which saw millions of African Americans move from the rural South to the urban North and West, where they faced new challenges and discrimination.
- The rise of the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups.
- The economic competition between African Americans and whites for jobs and housing.
- The widespread belief in white supremacy and the inferiority of African Americans.

These factors created a volatile atmosphere that made the Red Summer inevitable.

## **The Impact of the Red Summer**

The Red Summer had a devastating impact on the African American community. The riots left hundreds dead and injured, and thousands homeless. They also destroyed homes, businesses, and communities. The Red Summer also had a profound psychological impact on African Americans, who were left feeling vulnerable and afraid.

The Red Summer also had a major impact on the American civil rights movement. It sparked a new wave of activism, led by figures such as Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. Du Bois, and the NAACP. These activists fought for civil rights and social justice, and their work laid the foundation for the modern civil rights movement.

## **The Legacy of the Red Summer**

The Red Summer remains a dark chapter in American history. However, it also inspired a spirit of resistance that has shaped the fight for racial justice in the United States. The Red Summer is a reminder of the challenges that African Americans have faced, but it is also a testament to their resilience and determination.

The events of the Red Summer continue to resonate today. They remind us of the dangers of racism and discrimination, and they inspire us to continue fighting for justice and equality for all.

The summer of 1919 was a pivotal moment in the history of Black America. It was a period of intense racial violence, but also of unprecedented

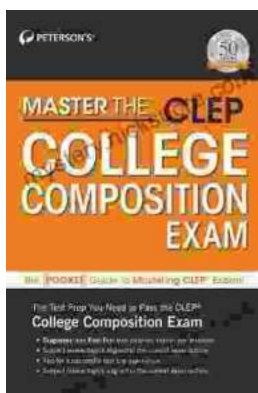
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