

**Podcasting the Past**  
**European and world history**  
**Part G: USA, 1918-1968**  
**Primary Sources**

*This is a list of primary sources written in line with Section G of the [Higher History Course Specification](#). The purpose of this list is to give teachers easy access to primary sources for use in their lessons. Whether teachers use them to illustrate a point or as part of a structured source analysis exercise, the sources listed here are intended to stimulate discussion and promote critical thinking. Some, but not all, of the sources will be familiar to teachers and pupils.*

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Description of Content</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1. An evaluation of the reasons for changing attitudes towards immigration in the 1920s.	Isolationism	<a href="#">Awake! America, awake!</a> by Richard Aden Hallock, 1919 (song)	The song includes the lyric ‘That flag of glory and renown/We never never will pull down/This mystery League of Nations Spurn/That double-crossing treaty burn – ‘
	Fear of revolution	<a href="#">The Case Against the Reds</a> by A. Mitchell Palmer, U.S. Attorney General, 1920 (essay)	In this essay, Palmer defends the actions of the Department of Justice, warns of the threat posed by ‘seditious aliens’ and promises that ‘no alien, advocating the overthrow of existing law and order in this country, shall escape arrest and prompt deportation.’

	Prejudice and racism	<a href="#">Who Was Shut Out?: Immigration Quotas, 1925–1927, 1929</a> (statistics)	This table shows that the federal government allowed many more Western Europeans to immigrate to the U.S. than Eastern Europeans. Between 1925 and 1927, for example, 34,007 British immigrants were permitted whereas only 603 Romanian immigrants were allowed in.
	Social fears	<a href="#">‘Guarding the Gates Against Undesirables’</a> in <i>Current Opinion</i> , 1924 (newspaper editorial)	This editorial expresses a concern that some immigrants, particularly from Eastern Europe, would not integrate into American society. The editorial presents this concern as a reason for both restricting immigration and continuing with a policy of ‘systematic Americanisation’.
	Economic fears	<a href="#">‘The Tariff and Immigration Questions’</a> in the <i>Chicago Daily Tribune</i> , 1 March 1921 (newspaper cartoon)	This cartoon encapsulates many of the economic fears associated with immigration, namely ‘cheap foreign labour’ and ‘cheap foreign goods’(page 4 of the PDF).
2. An evaluation of the obstacles to the achievement of civil rights for black people, up to 1941.	Legal impediments	<a href="#">‘They Have Ears But They Hear Not’</a> by Albert Alex Smith in <i>The Crisis</i> , November 1920 (magazine cartoon)	Published in the official magazine of the NAACP <i>The Crisis</i> in November 1920, this cartoon illustrates racial injustice, particularly in the South (page 5 of the PDF)

	Popular prejudice	<a href="#">Within Our Gates</a> directed by Oscar Micheaux, 1920 (film)	<p>This is a silent film that dramatically exposes racism in America during the violent years of Jim Crow, the Ku Klux Klan, the Great Migration, and the emergence of the 'New Negro'. The film is about an African American woman who goes North to fundraise for a rural Southern school for black children. Her romance with a black doctor eventually leads to revelations about her family's past and her own mixed-race, European ancestry.</p> <p>Made as a rebuttal to D. W. Griffith's <i>Birth of a Nation</i>, which glorified racism, the film emphasises the malevolence of a racist mob, particularly through its depiction of lynching (this clip is not graphic, but it does depict violence).</p>
	Activities of the Ku Klux Klan	<a href="#">'40,000 Ku Klux Klansmen'</a> (1925) (Pathé newsreel clip)	<p>Ku Klux Klan members march in Washington, D.C. This clip conveys the size of the organisation and, to some extent, the political influence the organisation had. The newsreel describes the marching Klansmen as a 'wonderful spectacle' and notes</p>

	Lack of political influence	<p><a href="#">‘The Negro Citizen’ by W. E. B. Du Bois in <i>The Negro in Civilization</i> (1930) (conference paper)</a></p> <p><a href="#">‘Letter, Eleanor Roosevelt to Walter White detailing the First Lady's lobbying efforts for federal action against lynchings’, 19 March 1936 (letter)</a></p>	<p>the participation of ‘white-robed women’ too.</p> <p>In this chapter, Du Bois argues that the position of black people will never improve unless black people acquire political influence. The implication of his paper is that black people had no, or very limited, political influence at that time. Du Bois concludes that many of the social problems experienced by black people ‘depend primarily for their final solution upon political power.’</p> <p>This letter from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt is indicative of the efforts the NAACP went to in order to acquire the political influence needed to outlaw heinous practices like lynching. Mrs. Roosevelt offered to lobby on behalf of Walter White, the leader of the NAACP; advised him on who else to contact; and alludes to President Roosevelt’s reluctance to legislate against lynching for reasons of political expediency. This letter proves that the NAACP was trying to</p>
--	-----------------------------	--	--

			acquire the political influence it lacked.
	Divisions in the black community	<a href="#">‘Marcus Garvey to James Weldon Johnson concerning the NAACP’s alleged interference with the Universal Negro Improvement Association’</a> , 21 January 1922 (letter)	In his newspaper the <i>Negro World</i> , Marcus Garvey – a black nationalist who stressed self-help and entrepreneurship – often took aim at the NAACP, accusing it of attempting to ‘bring about the downfall’ of his radical Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). James Weldon Johnson, field secretary of the NAACP, wrote to Garvey on one occasion to say that ‘such a statement applied to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People could be characterized only as a malicious falsehood of the most contemptible sort.’ In this letter Garvey responds to Johnson’s demand for a retraction and his reply illustrates some of the animosity within the black community.
3. An evaluation of the reasons for the economic crisis of 1929–33.	Republican government policies in the 1920s	<a href="#">President Herbert Hoover’s first state of the union address</a> , 3 December 1929 (speech)	In his address, Hoover confidently asserted that the crisis was over. He told Congress that “I am convinced that through these measures we have re-established confidence. Wages should remain stable. A

			<p>very large degree of industrial unemployment and suffering which would otherwise have occurred has been prevented. Agricultural prices have reflected the returning confidence. The measures taken must be vigorously pursued until normal conditions are restored.” The speech reflects Hoover’s complacency or, even, his wishful thinking.</p>
	<p>Overproduction of goods and underconsumption</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Oscar Heline interviewed by Studs Terkel in <i>Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression</i>, 1970 (oral history interview)</u></a></p>	<p>“Grain was being burned. It was cheaper than coal. In South Dakota, the county elevator listed corn as minus three cents a bushel. If you wanted to sell them a bushel of corn, you had to bring in three cents. We had lots of trouble on the highway, people were determined to withhold produce from the market - livestock, cream, butter, eggs, what not. If they would dump the produce, they would force the market to a higher level. The farmers would man the highways and cream cans were emptied in ditches and eggs dumped out. They burned the Trestie Bridge, so the trains wouldn't be able to haul grain.” (p. 192)</p>

	Weaknesses of the U.S. banking system	<a href="#">‘Depositors, American Union Bank, New York, 1932’</a> (photograph)	This picture, and many others like it, conveys the panic a crowd of people can, unintentionally, cause. Bank runs could easily bankrupt a small bank, further limiting the supply of credit and harming confidence in the economy as a whole.
	International economic problems	<a href="#">‘Gold Standard Dropped Temporarily To Aid Prices And Our World Position; Bill Ready For Controlled Inflation’</a> in the <i>New York Times</i> , 20 April 1933 (newspaper)	The fact that suspending the gold standard was a major part of the solution to the Great Depression indicates that the gold standard was considered to be a major part of the problem of the Great Depression.
	Wall Street Crash	<a href="#">‘1929 Stock Market Crash’</a> , 1929 (newsreel clip)	This newsreel clip conveys the panic that resulted from the ‘greatest crash of the history of the New York Stock exchange’, and the attempts by some influential investors to calm nerves in the aftermath.
4. An assessment of the effectiveness of the New Deal.	Role of Roosevelt in ‘confidence building’	<a href="#">Oswald the Lucky Rabbit in Confidence</a> , 1933 (a children’s cartoon)	This short cartoon illustrates the role that Roosevelt had in confidence building and, moreover, contemporary understandings of his role in rebuilding economic confidence. Oswald asks Roosevelt “what will cure a depression?” “Confidence!” replies Roosevelt.

	Banking	<a href="#">‘Franklin D. Roosevelt - Fireside Chat #1, On the Banking Crisis’</a> , 12 March 1933 (radio address)	One of the first of Roosevelt’s ‘fireside chats’, in this radio address the president outlined the causes of the banking crisis (a series of debilitating bank runs); the powers Congress had granted him to stabilise the situation, and the steps his administration had taken to do just that.  (03:09 – 05:42)
	Agriculture	<a href="#">The Plow That Broke the Plains</a> directed by Paul Lorentz (1936) (film)	This film, sponsored by the Resettlement Administration (later, the Farm Security Administration) was meant to illustrate the harms done to the Great Plains by intensive agriculture farming. The film concludes with a summary of what actions the federal government had taken to restore the land and help the many farmers who were badly affected by the Dust Bowl.  (25:35 – 28:36)
	Industry	<a href="#">Give a Man a Job</a> produced by Metro Goldwyn-Mayer (1933) (promotional film and song)	These sources show the role the National Recovery Administration had in stimulating employment and attempting to improve employer-employee relations.



		<a href="#">National Recovery Administration cartoon</a> by Cliff Berryman, June 1933 (newspaper cartoon)	
	Society	<a href="#">New Deal Murals</a> (1934-1939) (photographs)  <a href="#">Oral history interview with Arthur and Jean Goodwin Ames, 1965 June 9</a> (oral history interview).	Examples of artwork resulting from the Federal Art Project and an interview with two of the artists who participated in the project in California.
5. An evaluation of the reasons for the development of the Civil Rights campaign, after 1945.	Prejudice and discrimination	<a href="#">Oral History Interview with Gloria Register Jeter, December 23, 2000. Interview K-0549. Southern Oral History Program Collection</a> (oral history interview).	This wide-ranging interview covers Jeter's time at school, shortly after schools in North Carolina were desegregated. There are other useful excerpts from the interview that are just as useful, but this excerpt on the 'racially-tinged orientation' session pupils were obliged to attend shows how black pupils were discriminated against from the very beginning of their time at school. This excerpt demonstrates how insidious racism was in the 1950s.
	Experience of black servicemen during the Second World War	Interview with Robert P. Madison, <a href="#">segregated facilities, even for offices</a> and the <a href="#">GI Bill of Rights</a> , 15 January 2007 (oral history interview)	In this interview, veteran Robert Madison explains why he was willing to endure racism during the War and what he did to resist racism after the War.

			(13:48 – 15:27 and 01:05:04 to 01:14:10)
	Role of black civil rights organisations	<a href="#">A Fact Sheet on Cloture</a> , February 1952 (report)	The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) produced this proposal in 1952 that aimed to bring an end to the obstructive Senate filibuster. To stop Senators from ‘talking out’ important civil rights legislation, the LCCR wanted to abolish the rule that required two-thirds of senators to vote in favour of ending a filibuster, a procedure known as cloture. This document shows that black civil rights organisations were prepared to work together to overcome the obstacles to equal civil and political rights.
	Role of Martin Luther King, Jr.	<a href="#">Martin Luther King, Jr., on Nonviolence</a> , 27 October 1957 (TV interview)	In this interview, King advocates for non-violent resistance and reconciling resistance with his Christian faith. King explains
	Emergence of effective black leaders	<a href="#">Rose Parks Being Fingerprinted</a> , 1 December 1955 (photograph)  <a href="#">Diane Nash and Kelly Miller Smith organizing a CORE activity</a> , 1961 (photograph)  <a href="#">Ella Baker speaks</a> , 1962 (speech)	There were several black women who led the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. These three sources highlight the strengths that women brought to the freedom struggle.

6. An assessment of the effectiveness of the Civil Rights movement in meeting the needs of black Americans, up to 1968.	Role of NAACP, CORE, SCLC	<p><a href="#">NAACP Secretary Mildred Bond Roxborough Interviewed by Julian Bond in 2010</a> (oral history interview)</p> <p>(NAACP) <a href="#">Meeting with Senator Lyndon Johnson</a>, 2 March 1960 (letter)</p> <p>(CORE) <a href="#">CORE's Freedom Rides, 4 April 1961</a> (letter)</p> <p>(SCLC) <a href="#">Southern Negro Leaders Conference</a>, 1956 (report)</p>	<p>The first two sources on the NAACP support the view that the NAACP achieved considerable success in meeting the needs of black Americans through its extensive and sustained lobbying efforts.</p> <p>The second two sources show how different parts of the civil rights movement planned to be effective, outlining their motivations and strategy.</p> <p>The Southern Negro Leaders Conference was the predecessor organisation to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference</p>
	Role of Martin Luther King, Jr.	<a href="#">Martin Luther King's Last Speech: 'I've Been To The Mountaintop'</a> (speech)	This speech is a testament to King's rhetorical abilities.
	Changes in federal policy	<p><a href="#">President Lyndon B. Johnson Signs Civil Rights Act, Gives Pen to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</a>, 2 July 1964 (television address)</p> <p>'<a href="#">An excerpt from the March 1965 speech to Congress in which President Johnson called for passage of the Voting Rights Act</a>', March 1965 (speech)</p>	The fact that King is standing beside Johnson as the Civil Rights Act is signed into law proves his personal influence and that of the civil rights movement generally.

	Social, economic, and political changes	<p><a href="#">A 1965 photograph of a teacher distributing Project Head Start diplomas</a> (photograph)</p> <p><a href="#">“No Viet Cong Called Me Nigger”</a>, 1966-67 (television interview and speech)</p>	These sources stress the intersection between the freedom struggle, President Johnson’s Great Society, and the Vietnam War. The three issues became entangled in the 1960s.
	Rise of black radical movements	<p><a href="#">Divergent Views of President Kennedy’s Civil Rights Address</a>, 12 June 1963 (TV panel discussion)</p>	The views of black nationalist Malcolm X stood in stark contrast to other civil rights leaders and President Kennedy who, the evening before, had made a televised address in which he committed to proposing civil rights legislation to Congress (00:00 – 01:19)