



Harlem Renaissance in the USA

Xusanova Indira Akbardjanovna

English teacher Tashkent State Transport University Department of Foreign Languages.

Matyokubova Shukurjon Farhodovna

English teacher Tashkent State Transport University Department of Foreign Languages.

Abstract: To identify dements and reveal the techniques used by the author to illustrate racial discrimination and injustice. This work includes several tasks that will be clarifying: to give general information; to give brief information of the evidence of the Harlem period in America; to explain about that period in America. In this research include historical, biographic, analytical, descriptive and comparative methods.

Key words: literature, drama, music, visual art, dance.

The Harlem Renaissance. This term refers to the flowering of African American cultural and intellectual life during the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, it was known as the "New Negro Movement", named after the anthology *The New Negro*, edited by Alain Locke in 1925. Centered in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City, the movement impacted urban centers throughout the United States. Across the cultural spectrum (literature, drama, music, visual art, dance) and also in the realm of social thought (sociology, historiography, philosophy), artists and intellectuals found new ways to explore the historical experiences of black America and the contemporary experiences of black life in the urban North. Challenging white paternalism and racism, African-American artists and intellectuals rejected merely imitating the styles of Europeans and white Americans and instead celebrated black dignity and creativity. Asserting their freedom to express themselves on their own terms as artists and intellectuals, they explored their identities as black Americans, celebrating the black culture that had emerged out of slavery and their cultural ties to Africa.

The Harlem Renaissance had a profound impact not only on African-American culture but also on the cultures of the African diasporas as a whole. Afro-Caribbean artists and intellectuals from the British West Indies were part of the movement. Moreover, many French-speaking black writers from African and Caribbean colonies who lived in Paris were also influenced by the Harlem Renaissance.

Historians disagree as to when the Harlem Renaissance began and ended. It is unofficially recognized to have spanned from about 1919 until the early or mid 1930s, although its ideas lived on much longer. The zenith of this "flowering of Negro literature", as James Weldon Johnson preferred to call the Harlem Renaissance, is placed between 1924 (the year that *Opportunity* magazine hosted a party for black writers where many white publishers were in attendance) and 1929 (the year of the stock market crash and then resulting Great Depression).



The Harlem Renaissance grew out of the changes that had taken place in the black community since the abolition of slavery, and which had been accelerated as a consequence of the First World War. It can also be seen as specifically African-American response to and expression of the great social and cultural change taking place in America in the early 20th century under the influence of industrialization and the emergence of a new mass culture. Contributing factors that lead to the rise of the Harlem Renaissance included the great migration of African Americans to the northern cities and the First World War. Factors leading to the decline of this era include the Great Depression.

The Harlem Renaissance reflected social and intellectual transformations in the African-American community that had taken place since the late 19th century. At the end of the Civil War, the vast majority of African Americans had been enslaved and lived in the South. Immediately after the end of slavery, the emancipated African Americans began to strive for civic participation, political equality and economic and cultural self-determination. The failure of Reconstruction resulted in the establishment of a white supremacist regime of Jim Crow in the South, which through Jim Crow laws and through lynching denied African Americans civil and political rights, and undergirded their economic exploitation as share croppers and laborers. As life in the South became increasingly difficult, African Americans increasingly migrated North.

Most of the participants in the African-American literary movement descended from a generation that had lived through the gains and losses of Reconstruction after the American Civil War, and often their parents or grandparents had been slaves. Many participants in the Harlem Renaissance were part of the Great Migration out of the South into the black neighborhoods of the North and Midwest regions of the United States, where African-American sought a better standard of living and relief from the institutionalized racism in the South. Others were Africans and people of African descent from racially stratified communities in the Caribbean who had come to the United States hoping for a better life. Uniting most of them was their convergence in Harlem, New York City.

The Great Migration greatly expanded black communities, creating a greater market for black culture and Jazz and Blues, the black music of the South, came to the North with the migrants and was played in the nightclubs and hotspots of Harlem. At the same time, whites were becoming increasingly fascinated by black culture. A number of white artists and patrons began to view blacks and black culture less condescendingly, and began to offer blacks access to "mainstream" publishers and art venues.

Conclusion

Langston Hughes is one of the first Black writer who could support himself by his wrting. He is praised for his ability to say what was important to millions of black people. He is famous for his description of Black American life . He used his works to praise his people and voice concerns about race and social injustice. He ofen writers about racial issues, describing his people in realists way . Between 1926, when he had his break through with *The Weary Blues*, and his untimely death in 1967, he wrote sixteen books of poems, two novels, seven collections of short stories, two autobiographies, five works of non-fiction, and nine children's books. In addition to this, he edited nine anthologies of poetry, folklore, short fiction, and humor. Furthermore, he translated Jacques Roumain, Gabriela Mistral, and Frederico Garcia Lorca. He also wrote at least thirty plays.



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