

# The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance

## I. The Great Migration

- **When:** 1914 to 1919 (hundreds of thousands of blacks moved from poor, rural areas of the south to northern cities)
- **Why:** European demand for American products and ultimately U.S. participation in World War I
  - **Push Factors:** poverty, indebtedness, racism, and violence in the rural South
  - **Pull Factors:** factory jobs in the urban North, opportunity to live in communities with more freedom and autonomy
- **Where:** largest concentration to Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, and New York
- **Effects (good and bad):**
  - **Good:** Cultural Diffusion (music, religion, art, literature, regional customs, etc.)
  - **Bad:** many times met with hostility and discrimination in the North (especially at wars end)

## II. The Harlem Renaissance

- **Where:** Harlem (once an affluent white suburb in northern Manhattan)--- became the nations largest and most influential African-American community
- **When:** post WW I into the 1920s
- **What:** a flourishing of black artists and intellectuals due to greater autonomy in North (an opportunity to demonstrate the richness of their racial heritage)
- **Noted Figures:**
  - Musicians: Duke Ellington, Jelly Roll Morton
  - Writers: Langston Hughes, Alan Locke, Claude McKay
  - Painters: Aaron Douglas
- **Significance:** brought together white and black communities and became a vehicle for raising the self-respect and status of African-Americans nationwide