

CHRONOLOGY

MARCH 1908–AUGUST 1920

1908

- ca. March Marcus Garvey is elected vice-president of the compositors' branch of the recently formed Jamaica Typographical Union, a union of printers and compositors organized under the aegis of the Typographical Union of North America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.
- December A strike is called by the printers' union to try to secure fair wages and an eight-hour day; the strike is quickly defeated and the union collapses.

1909

- August–September Garvey becomes involved in political activity in Jamaica; he supports Jacob Wareham's election to the city council in Kingston and joins the National Club, Jamaica's first nationalist political organization; speaks at political meetings on behalf of H. A. L. Simpson in the general election.

1910

- January In response to the beating of two Jamaican workers by a United Fruit Company supervisor in Costa Rica, an estimated two thousand Jamaican banana workers form the Artisans and Labourers' Union.
- May Garvey issues a pamphlet, *The Struggling Mass*, in support of S. A. G. Cox, the leader of the National Club, in his struggle with the governor of Jamaica.
- 16 July The Artisans and Labourers' Union informs the United Fruit Company that it intends to take 1 August ('Emancipation Day' throughout the British West Indies) as a holiday from work.

1910 (cont.)

- 1 August Organized and encouraged by the recently formed Artisans and Labourers' Union, five thousand Jamaicans stage an Emancipation Day demonstration in Limón to show the strength of the union.
- 2 August Demonstrating banana workers are locked out and dismissed from their jobs by the United Fruit Company; the Artisans and Labourers' Union calls a strike, which involves approximately five hundred workers.
- 24 August Representing the parish of St. Ann, Garvey is one of fifteen contestants in an all-island elocution competition held at Collegiate Hall in Kingston; he protests the judges' decision.
- ca. October Garvey leaves Jamaica and travels to Central America.
- 16 November Over seven hundred workers recruited by the United Fruit Company in St. Kitts and Nevis arrive at Limón aboard a dangerously overcrowded vessel and are sent to outlying farms, where they face extremely unhealthy conditions. The workers return to Limón and refuse to return to work; they also demand that the British vice consul at Limón seek redress from the company. For three weeks the firm stand of the St. Kitts workers continues to generate the strong support of the Jamaican community.
- 7 December Joseph Nathan, the leader of the St. Kitts workers, is deported from Limón, signaling the end of the banana workers' strike. Shortly after his expulsion and return to St. Kitts, Nathan helps to launch the labor movement in the Leeward Islands and assumes leadership of the Garvey movement in St. Kitts.
- December The leadership of the Artisans and Labourers' Union collapses and is replaced by more militant members of the rank and file, but the new leaders are eventually deported from Limón.

1911

- March Garvey is associated in Limón, Costa Rica, with publication of a small newsheet, *La Nación*; writes letter critical of the editor of the West Indian newspaper, *The Times/El Tiempo*, setting off protracted controversy between the two papers.

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- April Garvey launches a subscription drive for a “Coronation Fund” to celebrate the coronation of King George V, to be held on 22 June.
- 10 June Garvey resigns as head of the coronation committee organized by him and agrees to merge with the “official” coronation committee chaired by the Anglican archdeacon of Limón.
- 14 June Just prior to his departure from Limón aboard the S.S. *Cartago*, Garvey is apprehended and escorted ashore, allegedly for unpaid debts to various creditors, including unpaid wages to the staff of *La Nación*.
- June Following the demise of the Artisans and Labourers’ Union, a wave of intense religious revivalism sweeps over Limón. The *Times* newspaper complains of the “vile practices which have stirred the town during the past month the like of which has never been known in the previous history of Port Limón” (13 June 1911).
- August–September Garvey visits British Honduras; gives elocution concert.

1912

- ca. January Garvey returns to Jamaica from Central America.

1913

- May Garvey organizes a series of island elocution contests in Jamaica.
- ca. June Garvey leaves Jamaica for England.
- 8 July Garvey applies to the British Colonial Office for financial assistance to return to Jamaica.
- October An article by Garvey, “The British West Indies in the Mirror of Civilization: History Making by Colonial Negroes,” is published in the *African Times and Orient Review*.
- ca. 1913 Garvey reports that he has visited Spain and France.

1914

- 7 June After ten years of construction, the first vessel passes through the fifty-two mile Panama Canal waterway; in the course of the American-led construction, some 5,000 workers, most of them West Indian, perished.

1914 (cont.)

- 17 June Garvey leaves England to return to Jamaica aboard the S.S. *Trent*.
- June An article by Garvey, "The Evolution of Latter-Day Slaves: Jamaica, A Country of Black and White," is published in the *Tourist: A Literary and Anti-Slavery Journal*, published by the Anti-Slavery Society in England.
- 8 July Garvey arrives in Jamaica.
- 20 July The first meeting of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and African Communities League (ACL) is held, along with the election of officers, in Kingston, Jamaica.
- ca. July–August Garvey publishes a pamphlet, *A Talk with Afro-West Indians: The Negro Race and Its Problems*.
- 4 August Great Britain declares war on Germany.
- 15 August The Panama Canal is officially opened to traffic. The majority of West Indian workers choose to remain in Panama despite deteriorating working conditions and oppressive discriminatory policies.
- 28 August The Colonial Office communicates the West Indian desire to send a military contingent overseas; the War Office immediately rejects the offer on the grounds that blacks are required for local defense purposes and to maintain order locally.
- August In Antigua, Robert and James Brown return to the island from New York; the brothers become engaged in organizing the Antiguan working class.
- 8 September Garvey writes a letter appealing to Booker T. Washington, principal of the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, for support.
- 14 December British Army Council informs the Colonial Office that it does not consider West Indian troops suitable for service in Egypt or West Africa; offers to accept a West Indian contingent to serve as a peacekeeping force in captured territories in West Africa, causing public anger in the West Indies.

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1915

- January The *West Indian*, a newspaper, is established in St. George's, Grenada, as the official voice of the West Indian reform movement in Grenada.
- 12 April Garvey writes to Booker T. Washington informing him of an impending trip to America and requesting his assistance for the program of the UNIA in Jamaica.
- 17 April King George V of England indicates his support for the idea of sending a West Indian regiment to the war front.
- 20 April Upon receiving word from the Colonial Office of the king's support for a West Indian regiment, Lewis Harcourt, Secretary of State for the Colonies, informs the king that insuperable difficulties, namely, the War Office's intransigence, render West Indian participation impossible.
- 22 April The king reiterates to the Colonial Office the political importance of accepting West Indians' patriotic offers to serve; the War Office, determined to keep blacks away from the Western front, insists that West Indians would only be accepted without receiving any assurances as to where they would serve.
- 27 April Booker T. Washington responds to Garvey welcoming his proposed visit to America.
- 27 May Bonar Law replaces Harcourt as secretary of state for the colonies, but maintains Harcourt's position that accepting black soldiers on the Western front would destabilize colonial rule at the end of the war.
- May The King's decision to accept a military contingent from the West Indies is communicated to local governors.
- May–September Local governments, the Colonial Office, and military officials engage in protracted negotiations over the terms and conditions under which the West Indian contingent will be recruited, as well as the financial contributions of the individual colonies; public dissatisfaction mounts in the West Indies over the slow pace of negotiations.
- 30 August The West Indian Contingent Committee is formed to raise money and look after the welfare of all West Indian soldiers overseas.

1915 (cont.)

- 26 October The British West India Regiment (BWIR) is formed, and recruitment begins under the same terms and conditions as British recruits, marking a “victory” for West Indians; by the end of the war, the regiment comprises about 15,200 men enlisted into twelve battalions.
- October The First Battalion of the BWIR arrives in England for training at Seaford, Sussex. A group of soldiers, led by Henry Somerset from British Guiana and several others from Trinidad, strike to protest delays in their remuneration and poor quality and inadequate amounts of food. Leaders of the Seaford strike, along with several other “undesirables,” are repatriated to the West Indies; to emphasize their punishment, their uniforms are confiscated.
- 5 November Somerset arrives for discharge in Georgetown, British Guiana. There is considerable interest in his grievance about the treatment of West Indian soldiers in England.
- 14 November Booker T. Washington dies.

1916

“Professor” Arlington Newton of Barbados tours St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, and the Windward Islands; creates the Ulotrichian Universal Union (UUU).

Two battalions of the BWIR are dispatched to Egypt. Battalions are also stationed in Italy, Palestine, France, West Africa, and Mesopotamia.

In St. Kitts, Joseph Nathan and George Wilkes, recently returned from New York, and black building contractor Frederick Solomon form the St. Kitts Trades and Labour Union. The colonial government immediately passes antitrade union legislation, making the formation of trade unions a criminal offense, and forcing union organizers to restructure themselves as a friendly society, the Universal Benevolent Association (UBA), allies with Arlington Newton and the UUU.

- 6 March Garvey leaves Jamaica for America aboard the S.S. *Tallac*.
- 24 March Garvey arrives in New York.

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- 25 April Garvey visits the *Crisis* office of W. E. B. Du Bois.
- 9 May Garvey holds his first public lecture in America at St. Mark's Church Hall in Harlem.
- May Newton and the Brown brothers establish an Antigua branch of the UUU, also known as the "Johannes Society" or "Johannes League," catalyzing an upsurge of racial consciousness on the island, especially among the Antiguan laboring population. Police reports indicate membership is well over 1,000 people, including women and domestic servants.
- ca. May–June Garvey embarks on a speaking tour throughout the United States.
- 26 July With the arrival of the Fourth Battalion in the Suez Canal Zone, a draft of 500 officers and men from the first three battalions of the BWIR are ordered to East Africa as part of the East African Expeditionary Force at Mombasa, British East Africa.
- ca. July Confidential police reports indicate secret meetings convened by Newton throughout Antigua; the Chief Inspector of Police recommends a ban on Newton from the Leeward Islands, under section 3 of the Presidential Martial Law Regulations.
- ca. September Newton is arrested and deported as persona non grata from Antigua.
- Antiguan Victor De Suze [Sauzey] forms the Colón Federal Labor Union (CFLU), in Colón, Panama.
- October About 6,000 "silver" workers in Panama strike to protest deteriorating conditions. Panamanian President Ramón Valdéz, under military threat by U.S. Canal Governor Chester Harding, puts down the strikes with prohibitions and arrests. Five days later, Harding agrees to investigate strikers' complaints.
- December Panama "silver" workers win an 11 percent wage increase.

1916 (cont.)

ca. December Serious manpower shortages force the British War Office to employ large numbers of black and other colonial troops in Europe, beginning the eventual employment of approximately 193,500 laborers from China, India, South Africa, Egypt, the West Indies, Malta, Mauritius, the Seychelles, and Fiji along the Western front.

1917

The Representative Government Association (RGA) is formed in Grenada to agitate for the abolition of the Crown Colony government.

30 January The UUU is registered as a friendly society in Barbados.

January An article by Garvey, entitled "West Indies in the Mirror of Truth," is published in Chicago in the *Champion Magazine*.

February Following several days of demonstrations in Petrograd, followed by the mutiny of troops sent to quell the demonstrations, the Russian tsar (Nicholas II) abdicates and is replaced by a provisional government.

The Antigua division of the UUU splits; disaffected leaders from fifteen branches leave and form a rival friendly society, the Antigua Progressive Union (APU).

2 April The Antigua branch of the UUU is registered as the UUU Friendly Society, with Robert Brown as President and James Brown as Marshal. By the end of 1917, the society claims membership of 4,174 people.

April The United States enters World War I.

May Garvey returns to New York after his speaking tour.

The first American branch of the UNIA is organized in Harlem with thirteen original members; after successive splits followed by reorganizations over the next eighteen months, the New York division henceforth serves as the international headquarters of the movement.

12 June The inaugural meeting of the Liberty League of Negro-Americans in New York, spearheaded and organized by Hubert H. Harrison, is addressed by Garvey.

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- 1–2 July East St. Louis, Illinois, located on the east bank of the Mississippi River across from St. Louis, Missouri, is the scene of one of the worst race riots in U.S. history and the worst incidence of labor-related violence in twentieth-century American history. It results in an estimated one hundred deaths and leaves six thousand blacks homeless after their neighborhood was burned. The ferocity of the racially motivated violence causes the riot to gain national attention, and, due to the brutality of the attacks and the failure of the authorities to protect innocent lives, it contributes to the radicalization of the mood of the national black community.
- 4 July The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society demands that the postwar reconstruction of Africa recognize the interests and wishes of the native inhabitants; the resolution is forwarded to the representatives of the Allied and Neutral powers.
- 8 July Garvey delivers a speech on “The Conspiracy of the East St. Louis Riots” at Lafayette Hall in Harlem. The text of the speech is published as a pamphlet.
- 28 July In New York City, ten thousand black people march down Fifth Avenue in silent protest against the East St. Louis riots. The march is organized by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and various groups in Harlem. Women and children are dressed in white, and the men dressed in black.
- July Public debate intensifies in the West Indies regarding the denial of military commissions due to color prejudice, increasing apathy and resistance to military recruitment in the region.
- September Army Order Number 1/1918 institutes a 50 percent pay increase throughout the British Army, but excludes members of the BWIR.
- 2 November The British cabinet issues the Balfour Declaration, supporting the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- 6 November The Bolshevik Revolution triumphs in Russia with the seizure of power by the Bolsheviks in Petrograd.

1917 (cont.)

- 25 November Speaking before a meeting of the New York branch of the UNIA on the subject of "The Opportunities of the Young Negro," Garvey announces that "he will leave for Boston and other points soon and will then go to Africa, where he will organize the work among the natives there."
- December In British Guiana, Hubert Crichlow leads a campaign for a general wage increase.

1918

- The Army Council concedes that commissions in the BWIR might go to "slightly coloured persons" at the discretion of the governors of the West Indian colonies.
- 5 January British Prime Minister David Lloyd George outlines British war aims, endorsing "the general principle of national self-determination" as applicable to the conquered German colonies in Africa.
- 8 January U.S. President Woodrow Wilson goes before Congress to lay out what he considers the basis of a just and lasting peace. The Fourteen Points, as the speech came to be called, consists of certain basic principles, such as freedom of the seas, open covenants, a variety of geographic arrangements carrying out the principle of self-determination, and, above all, establishment of a League of Nations to enforce the peace.
- 27 February In Antigua, groups of cane cutters begin to organize strikes on at least four estates; planters appeal to the acting governor.
- February A second split occurs in the leadership of the UNIA in New York.
- 8-9 March Following an outbreak of cane fires on a sugar estate near Antigua's capital, St. Johns, police attempt to arrest the suspected arsonists, but a large crowd prevents the capture of the ringleaders and resists all subsequent attempts to arrest the men. The Antigua Defence Force fires directly into the crowd, killing two men and wounding fourteen rioters, including four women.

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- ca. 10–11 March Canadian artillery troops stationed in St. Lucia land in Antigua from the British warship, H.M.S. *Eileen*, and remain until the full restoration of order.
- 24 March The reorganized UNIA under Garvey's leadership holds a debate in Harlem on the subject of the "Self-Government of Africa."
- April West Indians in Panama organize the National Association of Loyal Negroes for the purpose of making representations to the Allied Powers on behalf of the natives of the African colonies; the group in Colón, Panama, seeks support of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society in England to win the establishment of independent native African states under international guarantees.
- June Facing severe manpower shortages, the Army Council decides that blacks can be enlisted into combatant and other units.
- July After a year of deteriorating health conditions, the most devastating effects of disease on black soldiers occur when the Spanish influenza pandemic paralyzes the BWIR in Egypt; more than 700 soldiers require isolation.
- 17 August The *Negro World*, the official UNIA organ, begins publication in New York.
- August In British Honduras, protesters set a fire, extensively damaging the property of elites and the government.
- ca. August Censorship authorities in British Guiana intercept a circular letter from Dillon C. Govin of the Association of Universal Loyal Negroes, in Montreal, Canada, announcing the movement for an independent African state in areas of former German occupation. Governor Wilfred Collet of British Guiana also sends warnings of Govin's activities to the Dominion governor in Canada and West Indian colonial governors.
- 18 October After serving with the Cameroon Expeditionary Force, Capt. Joshua Cockburn, on leave from Elder Dempster's Liverpool–West African line, visits New York on his way home to the Bahamas; he meets Garvey and informs him of great prospective wealth in West Africa.

1918 (cont.)

- 5 November The counterespionage department of the British War Office (MI5) submits a request to the Military Intelligence Division (MID) of the United States Army for information on Garvey and the UNIA; it discloses that “Garvey corresponds with negro soldiers in the British Army, who are apparently engaged in extending the membership of this Society.”
- 9 November The National Association of Loyal Negroes forwards a petition to Arthur J. Balfour, the secretary of state for the colonies, recommending “the handing over the reins of government of all [African] territories involved to the natives themselves to be safe-guarded by international guarantees.” A similar message is sent to British Prime Minister Lloyd George.
- 10 November A mass meeting of the New York division of the UNIA and ACL is held at the Palace Casino, 135th Street and Madison Avenue, New York; a resolution is passed enumerating peace aims of the UNIA.
- 11 November Germany and the Allied Forces sign an armistice agreement ending World War I.
- 15 November An African American magazine in New York reports that Capt. Cockburn was commissioned by wealthy Africans to purchase schooners for trading purposes. In its December issue, the *Crusader* editorializes that Cockburn “brings a message of hope from Africa” and refers to Africa as the economic salvation of Negroes everywhere.
- 1 December The UNIA elects delegates to the Paris Peace Conference, called to negotiate the treaties to end World War I.
- A public meeting of the National Association of Loyal Negroes is held in Panama City, Panama, and passes the UNIA/ACL resolution as adopted in New York; a public meeting of the recently formed Colón division of the UNIA/ACL is held in Panama.
- 4 December U.S. President Woodrow Wilson sets sail for Europe as the head of the American delegation to the Paris Peace Conference. On arrival Wilson is treated as a triumphal

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hero: he receives a tumultuous welcome in Paris and is greeted by huge crowds cheering him in France, England, and Italy.

Garvey is reported to have addressed a letter to President Wilson asking him to “name a day when he will make an official announcement for Negro emancipation.”

The National Association of Loyal Negroes redrafts a petition detailing steps for African self-determination, the establishment of African states, and an international “Back to Africa” movement.

5 December

As a result of a sharp drop in wages and steep increase in food prices charged by the company, Jamaican laborers strike on the United Fruit Company’s banana plantations in Panama (Bocas del Toro and Almirante) and Costa Rica (Sixaola). The strike, which lasts two months, turns violent, and twenty-six workers are arrested and jailed by Costa Rican authorities.

6–9 December

Soldiers of the Ninth and Tenth battalions of the BWIR, while awaiting demobilization, mutiny at Taranto, Italy. The mutiny is in response to racist and degrading treatment by officers and is sparked when senior commander Lt. Col. R. B. Willis, commanding the Ninth Battalion, orders the troops to clean the latrines of the Italian labor corps. He is assaulted by soldiers who go on to attack other officers; one man is shot and killed in the ensuing uprising. The mutiny lasts for four days but is finally brought to an end by the arrival of a machine-gun company and a battalion of the Worcester Regiment. Sixty soldiers are tried for mutiny, forty-nine of whom are found guilty, with harsh sentences meted out, including one death sentence, later commuted to twenty years’ imprisonment.

8 December

Speaking before several hundred people at the Regent Theatre in Baltimore, Garvey is reported by the Baltimore *Afro-American* (13 December 1918) to have declared that “in addition to forming a league for political and social improvement of the Negro’s condition in this country, the aim is to establish in Africa a strong Negro Nation, which could command respect for the Negro, who resides in white countries.”

1918 (cont.)

17 December The Caribbean League is formed by noncommissioned officers of the BWIR at Cimino Camp, Taranto, Italy. Attended by fifty to sixty sergeants, the meeting sets forth the objectives of the league as being self-government for the West Indies as well as closer union.

20 December At a second meeting of the Caribbean League, members discuss a general strike for higher wages on their return to the West Indies. Kingston, Jamaica, is designated as the official headquarters of the league, with sub-offices in other West Indian territories.

1919

In British Guiana, the campaign for a general wage increase culminates in the formation and legal recognition of the British Guiana Labour Union.

In St. Kitts, J. M. Sebastian, a teacher from Antigua, becomes president of the UBA. Sebastian is also the founding chairman of the St. Kitts branch of the UNIA.

9 January In a speech in Brooklyn, Garvey announces: "Whether it is in America, in the West Indies, in Central America or South America or Africa, the news is coming to us every day of the readiness of the people to cooperate with us."

12 January The Paris peace Conference begins. One of its first acts is to draw up a constitution for a League of Nations.

13 January In a letter intercepted by the U.S. Censor, Eliézer Cadet, a young Haitian recruit to the UNIA, writes to H. Dorsinville, the editor of *L'Essor Quotidien* of Port-au-Prince, to say that "If our peace propositions are accepted, we shall assemble the great negro capitalists of the U.S. and establish a line of ships between the West Indies[,] America, and Africa to facilitate the exchange of raw materials for manufactured products."

31 January In an editorial letter published in the *Negro World*, Garvey announces: "If we are to rise as a great [people] to become a great national force, we must start business enterprises of our own; we must build ships and start trading with ourselves between America, the West Indies and Africa."

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- 19 February The National Association of Universal Loyal Negroes forwards a petition of 4 December to Prime Minister Lloyd George; copies of the petition also circulate in the U.S. State Department.
- 19–21 February The Pan-African Congress headed by Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois is held in Paris, France.
- 21 February Garvey appeals to the U.S. Congress to reject ratification of the League of Nations. He states that “with the control of constituted government, we fall short in getting our constitutional rights. We, therefore, desire a wider expansion. That expansion can only be realized on the continent of Africa, our ancient fatherland. Today, hundreds of us are ready to go back as missionaries in the cause of freedom.”
- February The *Negro World* is banned in British Honduras by the acting governor; the governor of Trinidad orders seizure of the *Negro World* on grounds that it is seditious.
- 28 April The Black Star Line is launched at a meeting at the Palace Casino in New York. Garvey announces that the proposed steamship line will operate between American ports and those of Africa, the West Indies, and Central and South America.
- 9 March Eliézer Cadet delivers the UNIA’s “Peace Aims” to the president and secretary of the Paris Peace Conference, with the request that they be published.
- 28 March Capt. Cockburn returns to New York after visiting the Bahamas; he works with Garvey to secure a suitable ship for West African trade.
- 2 May 1,200–1,500 longshoremen quit work in the Panama Canal Zone over a reduction in their workday from nine to eight hours without an increase in their hourly pay. Workers return after eleven days, when the governor promises raises.
- ca. 3 May West Indians awaiting repatriation in Winchester, England, are involved in disturbances after harassment by white U.S. servicemen stationed in the town.

1919 (cont.)

- 11 May Soldiers of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force erupt in rioting; thirty-two members of the Second West India Regiment are charged with mutiny, and the rest are urgently dispatched to Jamaica. BWIR battalions still in the Middle East are directed to Taranto for onward passage to the West Indies.
- May The British Guiana censor seizes copies of the *Negro World*.
- Work stoppages by stevedores, railway workers, and tramcar operators take place in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
- About 3,000 mainly middle- and upper-class women in Jamaica are given the right to vote in appreciation for their war services.
- 5-14 June Race riots erupt in Great Britain in Liverpool, Newport, Cardiff, Barry, and London.
- 6 June The Trinidad attorney general recommends that the British colonial secretary approve passage of legislation by West Indian colonies to suppress publications deemed to be seditious.
- 20 June The executive council in British Guiana instructs the postmaster general to prohibit importation of the *Negro World* and other black American newspapers.
- 23 June The BSL is incorporated in the state of Delaware.
- Mid-1919 After one year of vigorous protest, BWIR soldiers receive the legal entitlements of Army Order Number 1/1918.
- 3 July The secretary of state for the colonies telegraphs the British West Indies governors, warning them of the possibility of revolt among workers throughout the Caribbean.
- 5 July Trinidadian F. E. M. Hercules, general secretary of the London-based Society of Peoples of African Origin (SPA0), arrives in Jamaica and addresses a group of strikers.

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- 7 July Riots erupt in Kingston, Jamaica.
- 15 July The S.S. *Santille*, carrying repatriated seamen, stops in Barbados; more than eighty men disembark and besiege the treasury building, demanding their military advances. Advances are granted, but the men are not allowed to re-board the ship continuing to Jamaica.
- 17 July Trinidadians involved in the Cardiff riots in Britain return home.
- 18 July A crowd led by ex-servicemen and seamen confront white sailors from the H.M.S. *Constance* in Kingston, Jamaica; an armed party from the *Constance* restores order and patrols the streets for the rest of the night, and are re-enforced the next morning with guards from the West Indian Regiment.
- 19 July Ex-servicemen riot during peace celebrations held in Morant Bay and Savanna-la-Mar, Jamaica; later, a group of seamen send a petition to the governor focusing on violations of their “inalienable rights” as British subjects.
- 22 July Black soldiers and civilians attack white British sailors from the H.M.S. *Dartmouth* in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, allegedly in response to reports printed in the *Argos* newspaper describing the actions of a white mob in Cardiff who had attacked a black man’s funeral, cut off the corpse’s head, and used it as a football.
- About 4,000 people, including ex-BWIR troops, riot in Belize, British Honduras; the uprising lasts for three days. Suppression of the *Negro World* is cited as a contributing factor.
- 24 July The H.M.S. *Constance*, carrying an armed party of 100 men with machine guns, arrives off the coast of Belize to restore order.
- 26 July Martial law is declared in British Honduras to protect the white population.

1919 (cont.)

- 27 July–3 August In Chicago, ethnic tensions erupt in several days of sustained rioting, racial violence, and property destruction concentrated on the city’s South Side, the heart of the city’s black community. Most of the casualties and property damage are suffered by blacks: thirty-eight people are killed (twenty-three African Americans and fifteen whites), with 537 people injured, two-thirds of them African Americans. While the scale of the violence and destruction shocks the entire nation, the riot demonstrates the willingness of African Americans to fight to defend themselves against attack and in defense of their civil rights. The riot epitomizes the more than twenty-five race riots that take place that summer, which would cause it to become known as the “Red Summer” of 1919.
- 29 July The U.S. gunboat *Castine* lands in British Honduras to help restore order in the region.
- 30 July Influential white citizens in Trinidad, including the president of the Chamber of Commerce, write a “confidential and urgent” letter to the colonial secretary advising the suppression of the *Argos*, the arming of white civilians, the regular presence of white troops, and the prevention of an alliance between West Indians and East Indians.
- July The British colonial secretary instructs the governor of British Guiana to suppress publications “inciting to racial hatred.”
- White citizens in Trinidad protest against the militant local paper, the *Argos*, and impose economic sanctions against the paper by withdrawing advertising; the colonial government also considers deportation of the publication’s personnel.
- ca. July Upon returning to Trinidad, veterans of the BWIR organize the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Council and Organization and hold public meetings to propagandize their grievances. In response, Governor Sir John Chancellor appoints the Discharged Soldiers Central Authority to find jobs for unemployed soldiers and to administer a land settlement scheme.

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- 6 August The acting governor of Jamaica orders the postmaster to open and detain all copies of the *Negro World*.
- 19 August Legislation to ban the *Negro World* in the Windward Islands is advocated by the governor, G. B. Haddon-Smith.
- The governor of Grenada recommends that the British secretary of state for the colonies grant special executive power to West Indian governors to exclude newspapers considered seditious, such as the *Negro World*.
- 20 August Copies of the *Negro World* are confiscated by the authorities in Port Limón, Costa Rica.
- 1 September Black canal workers in Panama organize a massive Labor Day parade and demonstration, exhibiting the rising power of West Indian labor.
- 10 September The British colonial secretary authorizes West Indian governments to introduce legislation to suppress the *Negro World* and other publications considered seditious.
- 12 September The governor of British Guiana introduces the first reading of the seditious publications bill.
- The *Orca* departs England carrying about 650 black ex-servicemen, including seventy-five military prisoners of the BWIR, mainly from the Taranto mutiny, and 200 seamen and other civilians; mutiny ensues as passengers attempt to free the prisoners on board.
- 15 September Military prisoners aboard the *Orca* struggle against the military police and are confined to their cells in manacles; one prisoner is shot in the wrist.
- 23 September The *Orca* arrives in Barbados, where the governor refuses to allow mutineers to disembark for holding in the colony's prison.
- 27 September The governor of the Canal Zone orders the exclusion of Marcus Garvey under provisions of the Executive Order of 6 February 1917.

1919 (cont.)

- September At Belmont Road Military Hospital in Liverpool, England, around fifty West Indian servicemen recovering from lost limbs come under sustained attack by around 500 white South African soldiers who object to unsegregated hospital facilities. Other white soldiers intervene on behalf of the victims until the arrival of military police.
- A. L. Flint, the Chief of Office of the Panama Canal Division in Washington, D.C., recommends to the State Department that Garvey be denied a passport for passage to Panama.
- 1 October St. Vincent issues an ordinance prohibiting the importation of the *Negro World*.
- 9 October Following the arrival of the *Orca* in Kingston, Jamaica, a large crowd led by seamen demonstrates outside of the immigration office; violence ensues between demonstrators, police, and white sailors.
- 31 October A crowd of 15,000 gathers at Madison Square Garden in New York to celebrate the launching of the S.S. *Yarmouth*, the first ship of the Black Star Line.
- October Costa Rica orders the post office to detain copies of the *Negro World*.
- 1 November The UNIA appoints Capt. Cockburn commander of the S.S. *Yarmouth*.
- 14 November St. Vincent authorities burn all existing copies of the *Negro World*.
- 15 November Dockworkers and railway workers in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, members of the Trinidad Workingmen's Association, strike to protest low wages and demand a wage increase and eight-hour workday.
- 23 November The S.S. *Yarmouth*, renamed S.S. *Frederick Douglass*, leaves New York harbor for its maiden voyage to the West Indies and Central America.
- November Employers attempt to break the dockworkers' strike in Trinidad by importing workers from Venezuela, Barbados, and rural Trinidad.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1 December Black workers protest against labor conditions and low wages in Trinidad, with the support of the Trinidad Workingmen's Association and many ex-servicemen; authorities call out the Merchants and Planters contingent to patrol the streets; it is later joined by 350 men from the Royal Sussex Regiment and the arrival of British warships.
- 1–3 December Protests by strikers in Port of Spain, Trinidad, start a chain reaction of uprisings across the island. White militias in Trinidad, such as the "Mounted Volunteers of Trinidad," composed mostly of white businessmen, and the "Colonial Vigilantes," composed mostly of members of the whites-only Union Club and resident Americans, are called out to guard banks, the treasury building, and the electric power plant. The dockworkers' strike in Trinidad turns violent, closing businesses, halting traffic, and forcing the colonial government to encourage concessions. Within days, employers in Trinidad cede a 25 percent wage hike to Port-of-Spain stevedores. The Trinidadian governor requests an all-white military contingent to patrol the island in the aftermath.
- ca. 4 December Another warship, the H.M.S. *Calcutta*, complete with an admiral on board, arrives in Trinidad. Civil unrest spreads to rural Trinidad and Tobago, where police open fire on crowds and inflict several casualties.
- 10 December The S.S. *Yarmouth* arrives in Kingston.
- 14 December UNIA organizers Henrietta Vinton Davis and Cyril Henry visit Panama aboard the BSL steamer. Davis addresses UNIA meetings in various cities in Panama.
- 22 December Henrietta Vinton Davis is prohibited from entering Costa Rica.
- St. Kitts-Nevis passes an ordinance against seditious publications.

1920

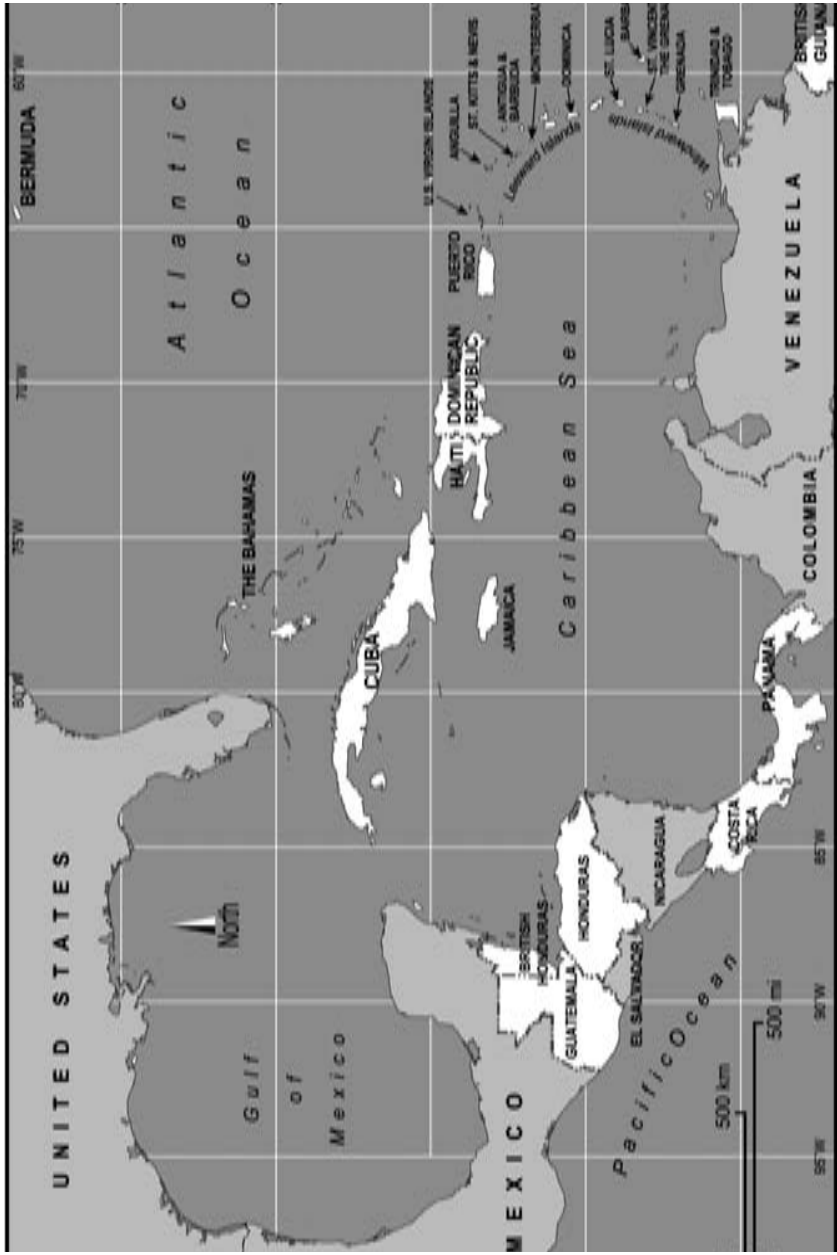
- 8–9 January Samuel Augustus Duncan writes a letter to the colonial governors in the West Indies and to the secretary of state for the colonies that the UNIA is an antiwhite and anti-British organization that seeks to foment disturbances in the British possessions.

1920 (cont.)

- 24 February A strike is called by 12,750 West Indian employees of the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad Company (75 percent of the work force); Garvey cables his sympathy to the strikers and sends financial assistance.
- 25 February Assistant U.S. Postmaster Thomas F. Murphy is notified that the importation of the *Negro World* into the Bahamas is prohibited.
- 26 February Governor Harding dispatches armed soldiers to forcibly evict families of striking canal workers from their homes.
- 28 February Governor Harding issues arrest warrants for twenty-four strike leaders, orders the deportation of William Stoute, the head of the striking workers, and urges Panamanian President Lefevre to increase militarization or face the calling in of American troops.
- February Antigua passes seditious publications prohibition ordinances.
- 4 March Panama strike leaders end their protest and send workers back to their jobs after funds run out and government and company officials refuse to back down. Seventeen strike leaders are arrested, and fourteen are deported. West Indians begin mass emigration out of Panama.
- ca. February–March The S.S. *Yarmouth* visits Cuba and Jamaica.
- ca. 4–10 April Henrietta Vinton Davis, Cyril Henry, and Captain Joshua Cockburn sail on the S.S. *Yarmouth* and make stops at Colón, Almirante, and Bocas del Toro, Panama.
- 9 April Trinidad passes a seditious ordinance against publications from the United States “apparently having no other object than to excite racial hatred.” A month later Grenada passes a similar ordinance.
- ca. 22 May Henrietta Vinton Davis claims in a report in the *Negro World* that William Stoute, the leader of the striking workers in Panama, kept for himself the UNIA money given to him in March, instead of giving it to the strikers. Stoute and his supporters refute these charges.

CHRONOLOGY

- May Protests against the Seditious Publications Act are held in Grenada.
- Sub-agencies of the Black Star Line are contracted by Garvey to Luc Dorsinville & Co. of the Republic of Haiti; sub-agencies are opened in the towns of Jeremie, Gonaives, Port de Paix, and Cape Hatien, Haiti.
- 12 June The Windward Islands approves a seditious publications ordinance.
- 13 June The Talamanca, Panama, division of the UNIA is organized.
- 27 June The BSL steamer *Yarmouth* arrives in Port au Prince, Haiti, from Havana, Cuba.
- 28 June St. Lucia passes a seditious publications ordinance.
- Luc Dorsinville, agent of the BSL in Haiti, holds a public meeting at the Theatre Parisiana in Port au Prince to discuss and promote the BSL.
- ca. June Reverend George A. Weston arrives in Antigua for one week as a sailor aboard a Royal Mail Canadian steamer. He campaigns for the UNIA and BSL; helps establish a local branch of the UNIA; and launches a fundraising campaign to enable UNIA delegates from Antigua to attend the UNIA's forthcoming First International Convention of Negro Peoples of the World in New York in August 1920.
- 28 July John Sydney de Bourg travels to New York as part of the Trinidad delegation to the UNIA convention, departing from Grenada after being deported from Trinidad for his role in the labor protests there the previous year.
- 31 July The BSL steamer *Yarmouth* leaves Port au Prince, Haiti, for Kingston, Jamaica.
- July The Negro Factories Corporation commences operation in Haiti.



Map of the Caribbean and Circum-Caribbean