



Marcus Mosiah Garvey (17 August 1887- 10 June 1940)
Black Separatist

I was born in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica. I am a publisher, a journalist, an entrepreneur, and an orator. My newspaper is called, *Negro World*¹. I am one of the most influential leaders of the early 20th century. I moved to the United States in 1916 and pushed my *Back to Africa*² campaign. I am also known as an activist, Black Nationalist and a supporter of Pan-Africanism. I believe that blacks will never be given complete equal rights here in the United States. I feel that we as Africans should go back to Africa to gain our freedom from the injustices of whites. We must kick all the European and United States influences out of Africa so it can be run by and for Africans again. I want to return Africa to its former glory of the great empires of Mali, Ghana, and Songhai in our past.

As you can see, I fashion elaborate uniforms and some established politicians consider me a dangerous character. Many call me a controversial figure because of my fiery rhetoric, and my emphasis on black pride and self-reliance.

My unique Pan-African philosophy was to inspire a global mass movement and economic empowerment focusing on Africa known as Garveyism. The intent of my movement was for those of African ancestry to "redeem" Africa, and for the European colonial powers to leave it. We do not need or want the European government or way of life governing our people.

As I quote:

"The Black skin is not a badge of shame, but rather a glorious symbol of national greatness."
"God and Nature first made us what we are, and then out of our own created genius we make ourselves what we want to be. Follow always that great law. Let the sky and God be our limit and Eternity our measurement."

I always felt that blacks in America should have the ability to return to Africa. The nation of Ghana³ has provided passenger ships of the Black Star Line⁴ for blacks to make the trip to Africa. I am against the Jim Crow laws, and denial of black voting rights and racial discrimination. However, I doubt whether whites in the United States will ever agree to African Americans being treated as equals and I argue for segregation rather than integration of the races. I suggest that African Americans should go and live in Africa. I believe in this principle, Europe for Europeans, and Asia for the Asians, and Africa for the Africans at home and abroad.

I want to sign up recruits who are willing to travel to Africa and clear out the white invaders.” I want an army with uniforms and weapons. My main appeal goes out to the new militant feelings of blacks that followed the end of the First World War. Come African Americans who have been willing to fight for democracy in Europe, to now join my army to fight for equal rights.

I was constantly harassed and even imprisoned by the United States government, because my ideas were seen as a threat. My project has not yet proven to be a success and in March of 1935, I moved back to England and published the book, “The Tragedy of White Injustice.” I have given many speeches⁵ concerning my beliefs.

Text to be annotated	Type of annotation	Annotation Text
orator	Definition	speaker
established politicians	Critical Thinking Question	To what race would the established politicians belong? Why might they see Garvey as “dangerous?”
rhetoric	Definition	Language, speaking, choice of words
racial discrimination	Definition	Treating one race of people as less worthy of rights than another race - keeping one race of people powerless
segregation	Definition	Separation by race

First World War	Historical background	Many blacks served in the military during the war and expected to be treated equally as whites as reward for their service. Instead they suffered discrimination in the army and many were hanged in their uniforms when they returned to the United States as a symbol to other blacks to not get any ideas of working for racial equality.

¹ http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/dumas/negroworld2.jpg

² http://lh4.ggpht.com/-PuB4NbhvHjc/TgyRSvG1rgI/AAAAAAAAAts/OgW2rPtZZ8E/Group%252520Starts%252520Petition%252520For%252520Obama%252520To%252520Pardon%252520Marcus%252520Garvey_img_1.jpg

³ <http://mommyonfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Ghana-map.jpg>

⁴ <http://www.ellislandtea.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Black-StarLine-1920.jpg>

⁵ http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/garvey/sfeature/sf_words_pop.html