Woodrow Wilson House Scholar Projects

Kyra Joostema
## MY PROJECTS AS A SCHOLAR

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<td>James Weldon Johnson (x2)</td>
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<th>Education Project:</th>
<th>US occupation of Haiti</th>
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<td>Mentorship from WWH Board Member Ambassador Joel Danies</td>
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Haiti Occupation Media

- Written
- Images
- Videos
- Music
1915: Assassination of Haitian President
Start of US occupation
Haitian-American Convention
First Caco War

1918: Second Caco War
Senate Inquiry into Haiti and Santo Domingo

1919: Les Cayes Massacre
Charlemagne Peralte assassinated
Paris Peace Conference

1922: Senate Inquiry into Haiti and Santo Domingo

1929: Les Cayes Massacre

1930: Commissions for Withdrawal Plan
First real Haitian election

1934: US Occupation officially ends (Good Neighbor Policy)

1947: US relinquishes influence over Haiti's external finances

2015: 100-year anniversary of occupation
Background

History of Haiti:

- Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)
- Established itself as the first independent Black republic in 1804
- Not recognized as a nation for many decades (U.S. was 1862)
Context

• **US has always had an interest in Haiti**
  • President Andrew Jackson (1868)
  • Secretary of State James Blaine (1889)
  • President Woodrow Wilson (1915)

• **Western Hemisphere Power**
  • France vs. Germany vs. US
  • Roosevelt Corollary and Monroe Doctrine

• **Control of Latin America**
  • Moral diplomacy vs. Dollar diplomacy
  • Democracy

• **July 28, 1915: beginning of the US occupation of Haiti**
Haitian-American Convention (1915)
- Granted US the power to oversee security and appoint leaders in Haiti

Haitian Constitution
- Foreign land ownership

Dissolving the Haitian Parliament

Gendarmerie
- US military members and Haitian elites

1922 Senate inquiry
- Found the occupation to be a failure

Forbes Commission of 1930
- Withdrawal plan

1934 Roosevelt administration completed withdrawal plans
- Good Neighbor Policy
The U.S. Occupation of Haiti
Political Ramifications
ECONOMIC
Economic

- **US control of Haiti’s finances**
  - Control of Haitian debt
  - Removal of gold from Haitian National Bank
- **American businessmen**
  - Information of the president;
  - Exploitation of Haitian resources
- **Forced labor**
- **Retained influence over Haiti’s external finances until 1947**
SOCIAL
Social

• James Weldon Johnson
  • NAACP Secretary sent to write about American imperialism in Haiti

• Rebellions
  • "Cacos" = insurgents
  • First Caco War (1915)
  • Second Caco War (1918)

• Les Cayes Massacre
  • International outrage

• Haitian activism against social injustices
  • Fueled by ideas of Haitian Revolution
  • La Revue Indigène
LEGACY
Legacy

• Evaluation of US occupation of Haiti
  • Failure
  • What remained were systems of disrepair

• New standards set by the Wilson administration
  • Gunboat diplomacy
  • Navy power is overwhelming
  • Use of naval presence to influence foreign government

• 2015: 100-year anniversary of invasion
  • "Our desocupacion has yet to come" - Edwidge Danticat
BHM Project
BHM Media

• Written text
• Videos

Videos

Written Text

Rosamond Johnson, August 25, 1913 - November 10, 1964

In the pursuit of music and dance, Rosamond Johnson (often referred to as "Rosie"") was a significant figure in the world of modern dance. Her career spanned several decades, during which she was a dancer, choreographer, and dance teacher. Johnson was recognized for her unique contributions to the modern dance movement.

Johnson was born in New York City in 1913 and grew up in Harlem. She developed an early interest in dance, and at a young age, she began studying with various dance schools and instructors. In the early 1930s, Johnson moved to Paris, where she continued her dance studies and was inspired by the works of Germaine就这样 did

During her career, Johnson taught at several schools and studios in New York City. She founded her own dance school, the Rosamond Johnson Dance Studio, and became known for her innovative teaching methods and dedication to dance education. Johnson was particularly influential in the training of future dance artists and choreographers.

In addition to her work as a dancer and teacher, Johnson was also a prolific writer and prolific writer and dancer. She authored several books on dance, including "The Art of Modern Dance," which remains a classic in the field.

Johnson's contributions to dance were recognized by numerous awards and honors. She was a member of the American Dance Festival and the Dance Magazine, and was awarded the Award of Honor by the National Dance Association. Johnson's legacy continues to inspire dancers and dance students today.

To find out more about Rosamond Johnson, visit https://www.woodrow wilsonhouse.org/
| BHM Project                  | • Matthew Henson  |
|                            | • Rosamond Johnson |
|                            | • James Weldon Johnson |
CONCLUSION

- The importance of public history
- Collective memory
- Linking the past to the present to take action in the future