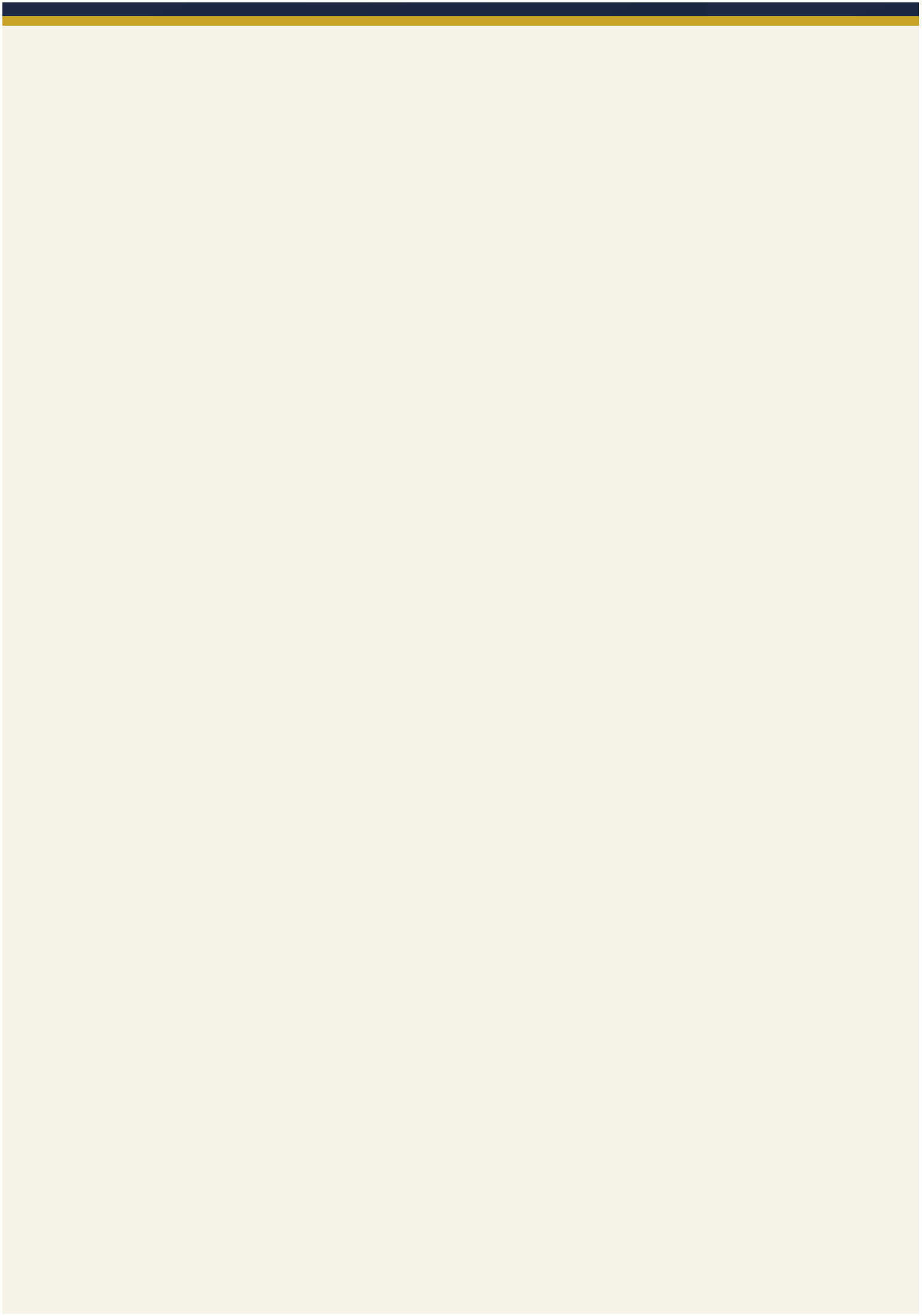


A GENERATIONAL HISTORY · COMPILED FROM CONVERSATION

Seventeen Generations 1619 → 2026

*Tracing African American history from the first
documented arrivals in Virginia to the present day — by
generation, origin, identity, rebellion, and record.*

Generation length: 25 years · 17 generations · 407 years

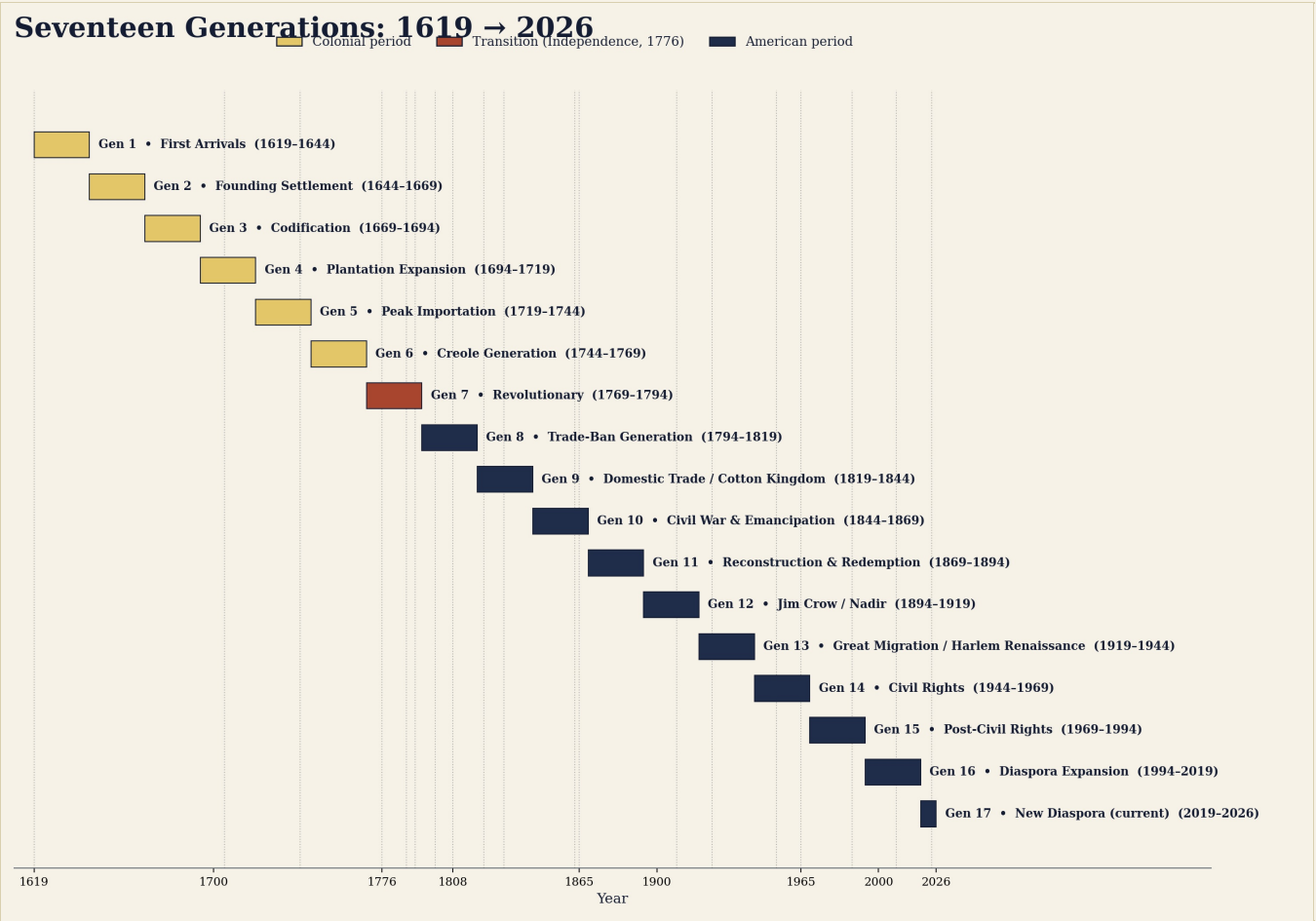


METHODOLOGY & SCOPE

How This Document Is Built

This report divides the 407 years between 1619 (when the first documented enslaved Africans arrived in English North America) and 2026 into seventeen 25-year generations, then layers in everything discussed across this conversation: demographic ratios, ethnic/tribal origins, shifting self-identification, key books, documented rebellions, and a closer look at why Generations 7 and 8 mark the most consequential hinge point in the whole timeline.

A note on precision. Generation names (e.g. "Creole Generation," "New Diaspora") are descriptive labels created for this document, not standardized historical terms. Demographic ratios are best estimates from historical demography — precise to the era and region, and harder to pin down before the first US Census (1790). Two genuinely different phenomena are tracked under one "ratio" metric: the forced transatlantic slave trade (Generations 1–8) and voluntary African immigration (Generations 15–17). Generations 9–14 saw effectively none of either.



SECTION 1

The Seventeen Generations

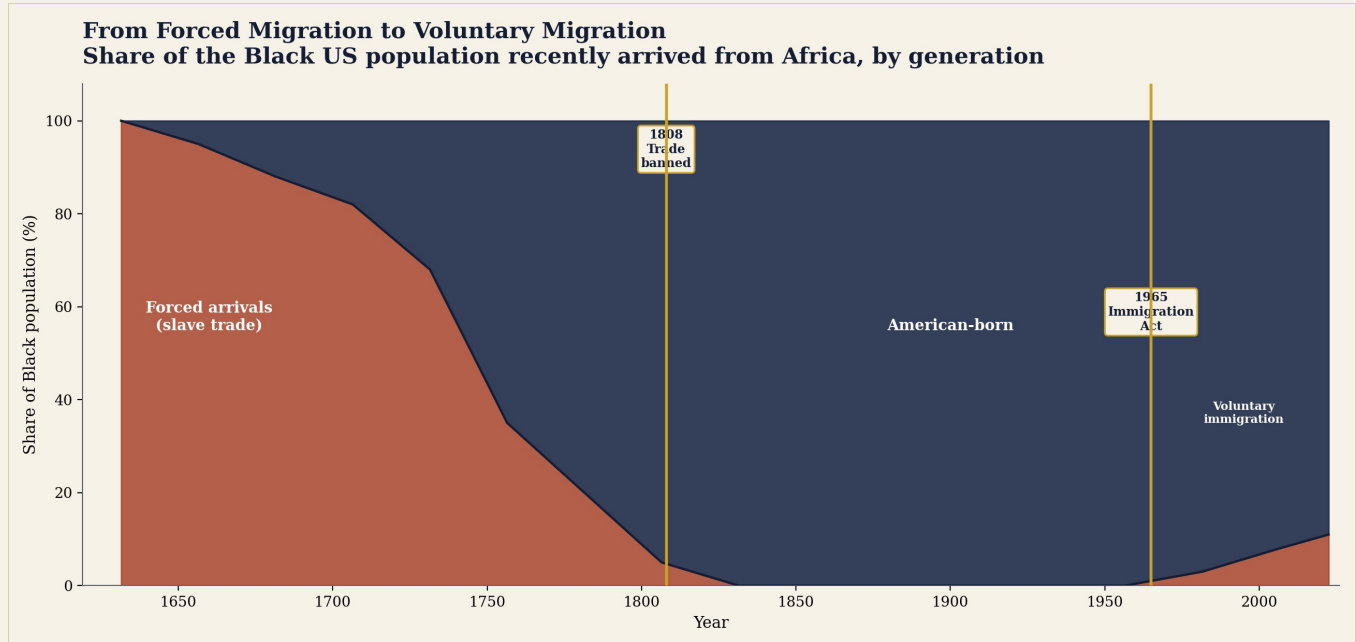
#	YEARS	GENERATION NAME	PERIOD	DEMOGRAPHIC RATIO
1	1619-1644	First Arrivals	Colonial	~100% African-born — tiny population sustained entirely by new imports
2	1644-1669	Founding Settlement	Colonial	~95%+ African-born; first small native-born cohort appears
3	1669-1694	Codification	Colonial	Majority African-born
4	1694-1719	Plantation Expansion	Colonial	Majority African-born
5	1719-1744	Peak Importation	Colonial	Imports peak; Chesapeake nearing 50/50, Lower South still heavily African-born
6	1744-1769	Creole Generation	Colonial	Virginia flips to ~75% native-born by 1750s-60s
7	1769-1794	Revolutionary	Colonial → American (1776)	Majority native-born nationally; legal trade still active in Lower South
8	1794-1819	Trade-Ban Generation	American	Legal Atlantic trade ends Jan. 1, 1808 — completes shift to ~100% American-born
9	1819-1844	Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom	American	100% American-born; growth via internal slave trade only
10	1844-1869	Civil War & Emancipation	American	100% American-born
11	1869-1894	Reconstruction & Redemption	American	100% American-born; negligible African immigration
12	1894-1919	Jim Crow / Nadir	American	100% American-born
13	1919-1944	Great Migration / Harlem Renaissance	American	100% American-born
14	1944-1969	Civil Rights	American	100% American-born; 1965 Immigration Act passed at the tail end
15	1969-1994	Post-Civil Rights	American	Voluntary trickle begins; Africans ~10% of Black foreign-born by 1980
16	1994-2019	Diaspora Expansion	American	African-born share of Black immigrants jumps ~20% to 42% (2000-2019)
17	2019-2026	New Diaspora (current)	American	~11.4% of US Black population is foreign-born (2024)

Period boundary: the Revolutionary generation (7) spans the 1776 Declaration of Independence, so it is marked as a colonial→American transition.

SECTION 2

African-Born vs. American-Born

The single biggest demographic shift in this entire history is the move from a population sustained by forced importation to one sustained entirely by births on American soil — and, centuries later, a second, voluntary wave of African arrival.



Imports of new Africans peaked in the Chesapeake by the 1740s; within a decade, roughly three-quarters of Black Virginians were native-born, while South Carolina's Lowcountry stayed far more evenly split between African-born and creole well into the 1700s. The legal Atlantic slave trade ended on January 1, 1808, after which the enslaved — and later free — Black population grew almost entirely through natural increase for roughly 150 years. That changed again after the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 reopened the door to African immigration, a trend that has accelerated sharply since 2000.

SECTION 3

Tribes & Ethnic Origins

Origins varied sharply by colony — the Chesapeake (Virginia/Maryland) and the Lower South (South Carolina/Georgia) drew on different regions and ports at different times. Senegambia's Muslim populations (Fulani/Fula, Wolof, Mandinka, Tukolor) ran throughout this entire period in smaller, steady numbers alongside the larger Gold Coast, Bight of Biafra, and Kongo/Angola flows.

#	YEARS	TRIBES / ETHNIC ORIGINS
1	1619-1644	Kingdom of Ndongo, Angola — Kimbundu-speaking (Ambundu/Mbundu) Bantu people
2	1644-1669	Senegambia (Wolof, Fula/Fulani, Mandinka) and Central Africa (Kongo/Ndongo)
3	1669-1694	Gold Coast (Akan/Fante) rising; continued Senegambian Muslim presence (Fulani, Wolof, Mandinka)
4	1694-1719	Bight of Biafra dominant in Virginia (Igbo, Ibibio, Efik, Moko); steady Senegambian Muslim arrivals
5	1719-1744	Senegambia & West Central Africa rise in Virginia from the late 1720s
6	1744-1769	Senegambia (Wolof, Mandinka, Fulani, Tukolor) and Kongo/Angola both heavy in VA imports
7	1769-1794	West-Central Africa (Kongo/Angola) supplies nearly half of all captives overall; Senegambia/Sierra Leone Muslim communities documented
8	1794-1819	Final legal imports — West Central Africa plus Senegambia/Sierra Leone
9	1819-1844	No new arrivals; population now a creolized blend of all prior groups

Notable documented Muslim/Fulani individuals: Ayuba Suleiman Diallo ("Job ben Solomon," enslaved MD, 1730) · Abdul Rahman Ibrahima ibn Sori (Natchez, MS, 1788) · Omar ibn Said (NC, c. 1807, wrote the only known American slave narrative in Arabic) · Bilali Muhammad & Salih Bilali (Georgia Sea Islands). Historians estimate Muslims may have made up anywhere from roughly 10% to nearly 30% of enslaved Africans in the US Antebellum South — a wide range reflecting how little of this history was formally documented at the time.

Generations 9-14: No New Arrivals

From the 1808 trade ban through the mid-20th century, the Black population grew entirely through births in America; ethnic identity gave way to a shared African American identity rather than discrete tribal origin.

Generations 15-17: The Modern (Voluntary) Diaspora

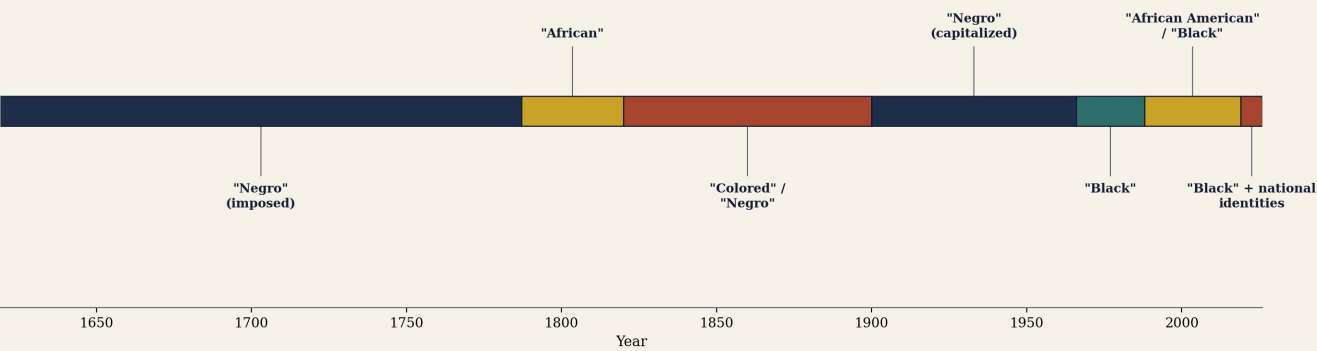
#	YEARS	TRIBES / ETHNIC ORIGINS
15	1969-1994	Early voluntary immigrants: Nigerian (Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa), Ghanaian (Akan)
16	1994-2019	Diversifying — Ethiopian, Somali, Liberian, Eritrean, plus continued Nigerian/Ghanaian
17	2019-2026	Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya, Liberia, Somalia, Morocco, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Sudan/South Sudan (~75% of African immigrants)

SECTION 4

Self-Identification Over Time

Terminology shifted repeatedly — and twice, the community actively moved away from a term that had previously been a point of pride ("African" in the 1820s, "Negro" in the 1960s), usually in response to a specific political moment.

How Self-Identification Shifted Over Time



#	YEARS	HOW THEY IDENTIFIED
1	1619-1644	By specific African nation ("Ndongo/Angolan"); English colonists recorded them as "Negroes"
2	1644-1669	Homeland-nation identity; "Negro" used in English law and records
3	1669-1694	Slave codes legally categorize by "Negro" status, erasing tribal distinction in law
4	1694-1719	African-born hold homeland identity; first native-born "creole" identity begins forming
5	1719-1744	Growing native-born population identifies as colony-born/"creole"
6	1744-1769	Native-born majority in Chesapeake; Gullah Geechee culture solidifies in SC Lowcountry
7	1769-1794	Free Black community organizes under "African" — Free African Society (1787), African Lodge of Masons (1784)
8	1794-1819	"African" widely used as self-identifier; AME Church founded 1816
9	1819-1844	Shift away from "African" after backlash to colonization movement; "Colored" rises (Colored National Convention, 1848)
10	1844-1869	"Colored" and "Negro" both common; "Freedmen/Freedwomen" after 1865
11	1869-1894	"Colored" remains dominant in political organizing
12	1894-1919	"Negro" gains traction; Du Bois pushes capitalization; NAACP founded 1909
13	1919-1944	"New Negro" identity asserted with pride (Alain Locke, 1925)
14	1944-1969	"Negro" dominant through early 60s; 1966 "Black Power" begins rapid shift to "Black" by 1969
15	1969-1994	"Black" dominant through 70s-80s; Jesse Jackson pushes "African American" in late 1988
16	1994-2019	"African American" and "Black" used interchangeably; growing specific identities (Nigerian-American, etc.)
17	2019-2026	"Black" as broad umbrella term; live debate distinguishing ADOS from Black immigrants

SECTION 5

Key Books, By Generation

#	GENERATION	RECOMMENDED READING
1	Gen 1: First Arrivals (1619-1644)	• 1619 — James Horn
2	Gen 2: Founding Settlement (1644-1669)	• Myne Owne Ground — Breen & Innes
3	Gen 3: Codification (1669-1694)	• Black Majority — Peter H. Wood
4	Gen 4: Plantation Expansion (1694-1719)	• Slave Counterpoint — Philip D. Morgan
5	Gen 5: Peak Importation (1719-1744)	• Servants of Allah — Sylviane Diouf • Many Thousands Gone — Ira Berlin
6	Gen 6: Creole Generation (1744-1769)	• Slave Counterpoint — Philip D. Morgan
7	Gen 7: Revolutionary (1769-1794)	• Servants of Allah — Diouf • Rough Crossings — Simon Schama
8	Gen 8: Trade-Ban Generation (1794-1819)	• Servants of Allah — Diouf • Soul by Soul — Walter Johnson
9	Gen 9: Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom (1819-1844)	• The Half Has Never Been Told — Edward Baptist
10	Gen 10: Civil War & Emancipation (1844-1869)	• Twelve Years a Slave — Solomon Northup
11	Gen 11: Reconstruction & Redemption (1869-1894)	• Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution — Eric Foner
12	Gen 12: Jim Crow / Nadir (1894-1919)	• The Souls of Black Folk — W.E.B. Du Bois
13	Gen 13: Great Migration / Harlem Renaissance (1919-1944)	• The Warmth of Other Suns — Isabel Wilkerson • Their Eyes Were Watching God — Zora Neale Hurston
14	Gen 14: Civil Rights (1944-1969)	• The Fire Next Time — James Baldwin • Parting the Waters — Taylor Branch
15	Gen 15: Post-Civil Rights (1969-1994)	• Beloved — Toni Morrison
16	Gen 16: Diaspora Expansion (1994-2019)	• Homegoing — Yaa Gyasi • Americanah — Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
17	Gen 17: New Diaspora (current) (2019-2026)	• The 1619 Project — Nikole Hannah-Jones • How the Word Is Passed — Clint Smith

SECTION 6

Why Generations 7 & 8 Were So Pivotal

Generations 7 (1769-1794) and 8 (1794-1819) sit on top of the single biggest hinge point in the whole timeline: the colonies became a nation, the legal slave trade peaked then died, and an entire free Black civil society was built from almost nothing — all within about 50 years.

186,446

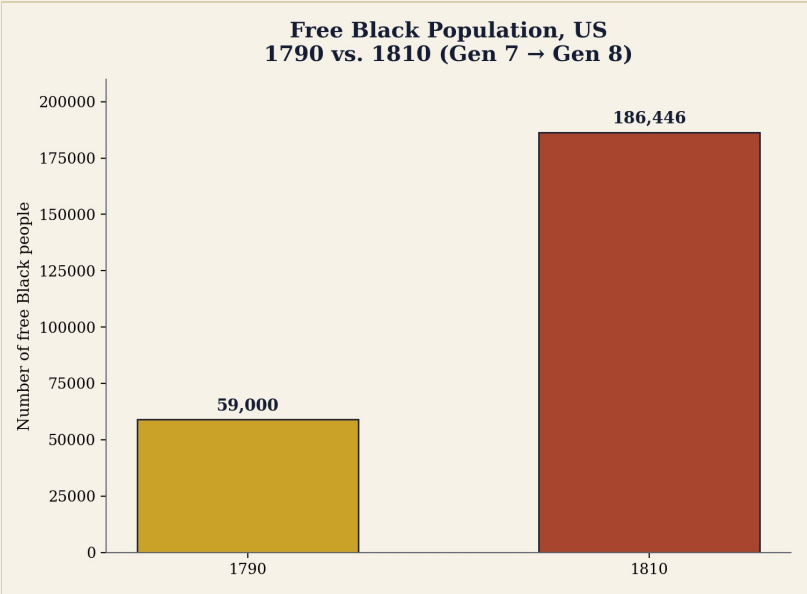
FREE BLACK AMERICANS BY 1810
(UP FROM 59,000 IN 1790)

75%

OF NORTHERN BLACK AMERICANS
WERE FREE BY 1810

1808

YEAR THE LEGAL ATLANTIC
SLAVE TRADE ENDED



Revolutionary ideology became a weapon. The Declaration of Independence's claim that "all Men are created equal" raised a question Americans couldn't dodge — weren't enslaved people entitled to the same freedom? Black Americans used that exact language in freedom petitions throughout this period, while roughly 5,000 Black men served in the Continental Army.

Free Black institutions were built for the first time ever. The Free African Society (Philadelphia, 1787), Prince Hall's African Lodge of Freemasons (1784), and the AME Church (1816) gave Black Americans their own pulpits, lodges, and mutual-aid networks for the first time — previously, Black religious and civic life existed almost entirely inside white-controlled structures.

The Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) changed everything. The only fully successful slave revolution in world history landed in the middle of this window, directly inspiring Gabriel's Rebellion in Virginia (1800) and sending waves of free people of color to New Orleans, doubling its Black population in 1809 alone.

The slave trade itself ended. January 1, 1808 closed a 200-year chapter on forced African importation. Generation 8 is the last to receive new arrivals from Africa under the trade; every generation after grows entirely through births on American soil.

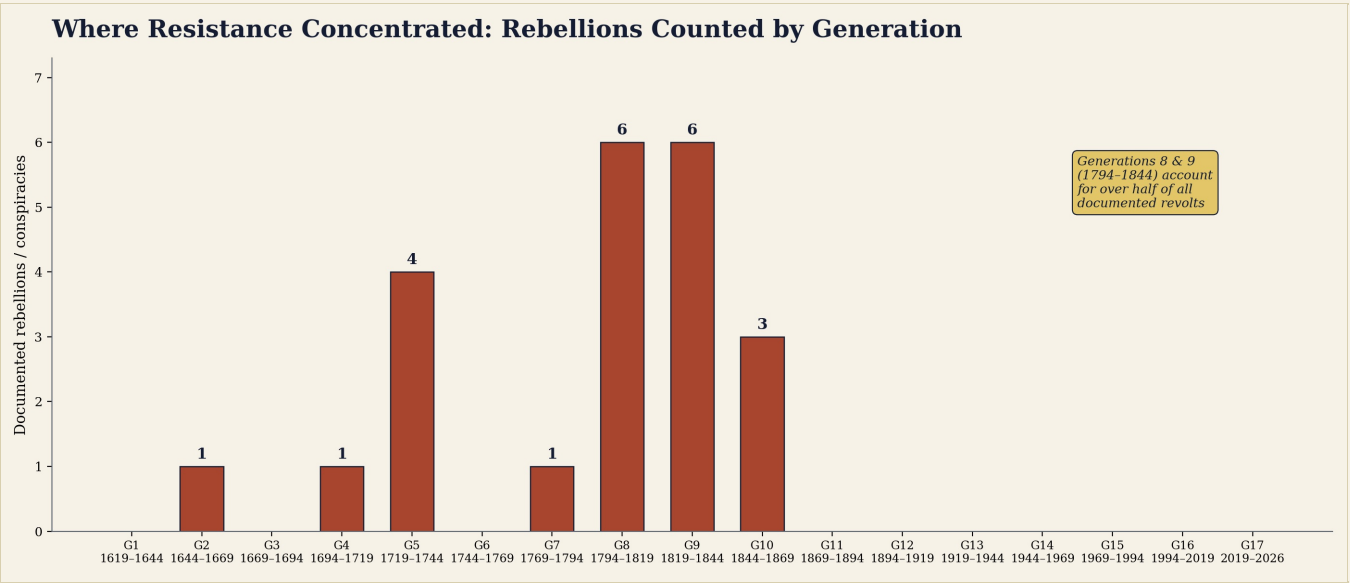
Ideology shifted, the free population multiplied, Black-led institutions appeared for the first time, a hemispheric revolution proved slavery could be overthrown by force, and the trade that had defined the whole system for two centuries shut down — all inside roughly 50 years.

SECTION 7

Documented Rebellions & Conspiracies

Historians have identified between 250 and 300+ slave uprisings or attempted uprisings in US and colonial history. Below are the most thoroughly documented, mapped to generation. The category necessarily ends with the abolition of slavery in 1865 (Generation 10).

Before Generation 1 (pre-1619): the **San Miguel de Gualdape** revolt of 1526, in a short-lived Spanish colony on the Georgia/South Carolina coast, is the earliest known slave rebellion in what is now the United States — it predates English colonization entirely.



#	YEAR	REBELLION	LOCATION	GENERATION	NOTE
1	1663	Gloucester County Servants' Plot	Virginia	Gen 2: Founding Settlement	Joint Black & white indentured-servant uprising
2	1712	New York Slave Revolt	New York City	Gen 4: Plantation Expansion	~23 enslaved people set fires, killed 9; 21 executed
3	1720	South Carolina Conspiracy	Charleston, SC	Gen 5: Peak Importation	Cormantee/Papa-nation plot uncovered before execution
4	1730	Chesapeake/Williamsburg Rebellion	Virginia	Gen 5: Peak Importation	Sparked by rumor that George I freed baptized slaves
5	1739	Stono Rebellion	South Carolina	Gen 5: Peak Importation	Largest slave revolt in British North America
6	1741	New York Conspiracy of 1741	New York City	Gen 5: Peak Importation	Alleged plot to burn the city
7	1791	Pointe Coupée Conspiracy	Louisiana (Spanish)	Gen 7: Revolutionary	Plot uncovered before Louisiana joined the US
8	1795	Pointe Coupée Conspiracy	Louisiana (Spanish)	Gen 8: Trade-Ban Generation	Second plot in same parish
9	1800	Gabriel's Rebellion	Richmond, Virginia	Gen 8: Trade-Ban Generation	1,000+ armed enslaved people massed; thwarted by rainstorm
10	1803	Igbo Landing	St. Simons Island, GA	Gen 8: Trade-Ban Generation	Captive Igbo people chose death over enslavement
11	1805	Chatham Manor Rebellion	Virginia	Gen 8: Trade-Ban Generation	Plantation-level revolt
12	1811	German Coast Uprising	Louisiana	Gen 8: Trade-Ban Generation	Largest US slave revolt by number of participants (200-500)
13	1816	George Boxley Rebellion	Virginia	Gen 8: Trade-Ban Generation	Plot organized partly by a sympathetic white storekeeper
14	1822	Denmark Vesey's	Charleston, SC	Gen 9: Domestic Trade /	Betrayed before it began; 35 executed

Conspiracy			Cotton Kingdom		including Vesey
15	1831	Nat Turner's Rebellion	Southampton Co., VA	Gen 9: Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom	Bloodiest revolt to both Black and white people
16	1836	Black Seminole Slave Rebellion	Florida	Gen 9: Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom	Escapees fought alongside Seminole in 2nd Seminole War
17	1839	Amistad Revolt	Aboard ship, off Cuba	Gen 9: Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom	Joseph Cinqué led the revolt; won freedom in US courts
18	1841	Creole Case	Aboard a US coastal slave ship	Gen 9: Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom	Most successful US slave revolt — 128 freed in the Bahamas
19	1842	Cherokee Nation Slave Revolt	Indian Territory	Gen 9: Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom	Mass escape attempt toward Mexico
20	1849	Charleston Workhouse Rebellion	Charleston, SC	Gen 10: Civil War & Emancipation	Revolt inside a municipal slave workhouse
21	1859	John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry	Virginia	Gen 10: Civil War & Emancipation	Aimed to arm up to 500 enslaved people
22	1860	Texas Troubles	Texas	Gen 10: Civil War & Emancipation	Panic over a likely-fictitious rebellion; ~100 killed

APPENDIX

Notable Individuals, By Generation

Specific named figures referenced throughout the earlier sections, organized by the generation in which their best-documented life events occurred.

Gen 1 • First Arrivals (1619–1644)

- Anthony and Isabella brought aboard the White Lion to Point Comfort, Virginia (1619)
- William, their son, the first recorded child of African descent born in English America (1624)
- Angela, brought aboard the Treasurer to Jamestown the same year (1619)
- "Antonio, a Negro" (later Anthony Johnson) arrives aboard the James (1621); survives a Powhatan uprising that kills 52 on the Bennett plantation (1622)

Gen 2 • Founding Settlement (1644–1669)

- Gloucester County Servants' Plot, VA (1663)

Gen 3 • Codification (1669–1694)

- Anthony Johnson dies (1670); Virginia courts rule his land escheats to the crown, ruling a free Black man not a "citizen" entitled to inherit
- Bacon's Rebellion (1676) — enslaved Africans, free Black people, and white indentured servants rise up together against Virginia's government
- Virginia bans interracial marriage and orders manumitted slaves to leave the colony (1691)

Gen 4 • Plantation Expansion (1694–1719)

- New York Slave Revolt (1712)

Gen 5 • Peak Importation (1719–1744)

- Ayuba Suleiman Diallo ("Job ben Solomon"), Fulani scholar enslaved in MD, 1730
- SC Conspiracy (1720)
- Chesapeake/Williamsburg Rebellion (1730)
- Stono Rebellion (1739)
- NY Conspiracy of 1741

Gen 6 • Creole Generation (1744–1769)

- Benjamin Banneker, future free Black mathematician and astronomer, is born in Maryland (1731)
- Briton Hammon publishes A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings..., the earliest known published slave narrative by a Black writer in British North America (1760)
- Phillis Wheatley, age seven or eight, is brought to Boston and bought by the Wheatley family (1761)

Gen 7 • Revolutionary (1769–1794)

- Abdul Rahman Ibrahim ibn Sori, Fulani prince enslaved in Natchez, MS, 1788
- Crispus Attucks killed at Boston Massacre (1770)
- Pointe Coupée Conspiracy, LA (1791)

Gen 8 • Trade-Ban Generation (1794–1819)

- Omar ibn Said, Fulani-educated scholar enslaved in NC c. 1807
- Bilali Muhammad & Salih Bilali, Fulani Muslims on GA Sea Islands
- Pointe Coupée Conspiracy (1795)
- Gabriel's Rebellion, Richmond VA (1800)
- Igbo Landing, GA (1803)
- Chatham Manor Rebellion (1805)
- German Coast Uprising, LA (1811) — largest US slave revolt by participants
- George Boxley Rebellion, VA (1815/16)

Gen 9 • Domestic Trade / Cotton Kingdom (1819–1844)

- Denmark Vesey's Conspiracy, Charleston SC (1822)
- Nat Turner's Rebellion, Southampton Co. VA (1831)
- Black Seminole Slave Rebellion, FL (1835–38)
- Amistad Revolt (1839)
- Creole Case (1841)
- Cherokee Nation Slave Revolt (1842)

Gen 10 • Civil War & Emancipation (1844–1869)

- Charleston Workhouse Rebellion (1849)
- John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry, VA (1859)
- Texas Troubles (1860)
- Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
- 13th Amendment ratified (1865)

Gen 11 • Reconstruction & Redemption (1869–1894)

- Hiram Revels, first Black US Senator, Mississippi (1870)
- P.B.S. Pinchback, first Black governor of a US state, Louisiana (1872–73)

- Blanche K. Bruce, second Black US Senator (1875–1881)
- Ida B. Wells begins anti-lynching journalism after the 1892 Memphis lynchings
- Plessy v. Ferguson establishes "separate but equal" (1896)

Gen 12 · Jim Crow / Nadir (1894–1919)

- Booker T. Washington delivers the Atlanta Compromise address (1895)
- Madam C.J. Walker builds a hair-care empire, becoming America's first self-made female millionaire (1900s–1919)
- W.E.B. Du Bois co-founds the NAACP (1909)
- Jack Johnson becomes the first Black heavyweight boxing champion (1908)

Gen 13 · Great Migration / Harlem Renaissance (1919–1944)

- Marcus Garvey builds the UNIA, the largest Black mass movement of its era (1920s)
- Noble Drew Ali founds the Moorish Science Temple of America (1913), dies amid internal conflict (1929)
- Wallace Fard Muhammad founds the Nation of Islam in Detroit (1930), disappears (1934)
- Elijah Muhammad (Elijah Poole) joins Fard in 1931, builds Temple No. 2 in Chicago by 1933, and succeeds him as leader in 1934
- Father Divine's International Peace Mission movement draws thousands during the Depression
- Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance's flowering of Black literature and art
- A. Philip Randolph organizes the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (1925)
- Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

Gen 14 · Civil Rights (1944–1969)

- Emmett Till's murder (1955) galvanizes the movement
- Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955–56)
- Malcolm X rises as the NOI's most prominent spokesman, breaks away to found the OAAU, and is assassinated (1965)
- Clarence 13X (Clarence Edward Smith) leaves the NOI to found the Five Percent Nation (1964), is killed (1969)
- Martin Luther King Jr. leads the March on Washington (1963)
- Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black US Supreme Court Justice (1967)

Gen 15 · Post-Civil Rights (1969–1994)

- Shirley Chisholm becomes the first Black woman elected to Congress (1968) and runs for president (1972)
- Imam Warith Deen Mohammed succeeds his father, dissolves the NOI, and reorients it toward mainstream Sunni Islam (1975)
- Khalid Abdul Muhammad serves as a national NOI spokesperson before his widely condemned 1994 dismissal
- Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition and 1988 presidential campaign
- Toni Morrison wins the Pulitzer Prize for Beloved (1988)

Gen 16 · Diaspora Expansion (1994–2019)

- Colin Powell becomes the first Black US Secretary of State (2001)
- Louis Farrakhan rebuilds the Nation of Islam from 1978 and leads the Million Man March (1995)
- Barack Obama elected the first Black President of the United States (2008)
- Toni Morrison awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature (1993)

Gen 17 · New Diaspora (current) (2019–2026)

- George Floyd's murder (2020) sparks the largest protest movement in US history
- Kamala Harris becomes the first Black and South Asian Vice President (2021)
- Ketanji Brown Jackson becomes the first Black woman on the US Supreme Court (2022)

Compiled from a conversational research session. Sources behind specific claims include the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database literature, Sylviane Diouf's Servants of Allah, Ira Berlin's Many Thousands Gone, Philip Morgan's Slave Counterpoint, Peter Wood's Black Majority, Pew Research Center reporting on African immigration, and standard US Census historical series. This document is a synthesis for personal reference, not a peer-reviewed publication — treat generation names and some illustrative figures as organizing devices rather than settled historical consensus.