

The effects of the harlem renaissance

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The Harlem Renaissance continues to be the most momentous artistic movement in American history. The renaissance helped to form an awareness of characteristics for African-Americans. The Harlem Renaissance is best recalled today as an outburst of creativity overflowing from talented African-Americans in the sass.

The creative minds behind the Harlem Renaissance used artistic expressions to make an important effect on all features of society, while also providing African-American with heir first sense of while not being to slavery. Lain Locke said it best, " In the very process of being transplanted, the Negro is becoming transformed (Locke 6). In the early 20th century, African-Americans escaped the economic deficiency of the South and migrated northern and urban cities, mostly New York, in an anxious attempt to find good jobs and economic safety and also searching for a more racially open-minded society.

This collective desire to help each other was an element in changing the movement into one that embraced all the fine arts; it was also essential in evolving the Harlem Renaissance into a search for a new identity for a deprived ethnic group that is constantly being reminded of slavery. The Harlem Renaissance rapidly became just as important for the way in which it gave African-Americans a real culture and a pride in acknowledging and embracing that culture.

The intellectuals contributed to the significance of the Harlem Renaissance by understanding and contributing to its purpose in defining positive role models for blacks. In fact, the movement essentially created the idea of the

black intellectual for both Americans and Europeans. Some of the artists' contributions are actually still valuable today just as they were back then. James Weldon Johnson is an iconic symbol in the beginning of the Harlem Renaissance as a writer and also an editor.

He had written the controversial Autobiography of an Ex-colored Man in and had also edited The Book of American Negro Poetry. This collection showcased several of the Renaissance's most talented poets, including a man who would go on to become a giant in the literary world, Langston Hughes. Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist. He was one of the most primitive innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz poetry. He is highly recognized in the Harlem Renaissance period.

He famously wrote about the period that "the negro was in vogue" which was later paraphrased as "when Harlem was in vogue". Zora Neale Hurston published a literary magazine that crumbled almost immediately because of problems raising money, but was influential, however. Hurston later on accomplished immortality with her book *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Literature was not the only art that defined the Harlem Renaissance. In fact, the music of the period may have been more influential in defining the identity of the common African-American than the literary accomplishments.

The music turned into a background music for the age, while also providing motivation to the literary adventures of poets and dramatists. Jazz exploded into the arena of respectability and characterized for many whites the embodiment of the urban lifestyle. The leading jazz performers were

Bessie Smith, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker and Billie Holiday. Harlem Renaissance can be seen as a challenge to fuse imaginative means to produce an identity of artistic expression.

The most long-lasting effect of the Harlem Renaissance may have been the one that is endorsed upon the education of African-Americans. The vital importance of education, but it was also one which saw a huge growth in the importance and availability of high education. Since the realities of the racial division in America was at work either subliminally or obviously in closely every work of literature produced during this period, the Harlem Renaissance is acknowledged for constructing an aggressiveness borne by that search of knowledge.

Any time an ethnic group is exposed to education at a level they've been denied, it can be expected that certain people will recognize the political feature of the denial of that education. There was a beginning mindfulness among African Americans across America that promises made had not been kept from reconstruction through World War I. Many of the intellectuals of the movement insisted that discrimination of this type should be confronted and overcome. During the Harlem Renaissance, African-Americans for the first time had a real reason to experience pride and rejoice in their identity.

Harlem became the center of a "spiritual coming of age" in which Lockers' 'New Negro' transformed "social disillusionment to race pride" (Fonder, 2009). Out of Harlem came works of literary, musical and fine arts that spoke to the contribution of African-Americans, and forced the white power arrangement to recognize their contributions. The Harlem Renaissance

produced novelists, poets, artists and musicians who are today considered some of the finest that America ever produced, who were mostly blacks. That is the ultimate achievement of the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance should be acknowledged for its contribution to changing the self- perception of blacks in America; a rise in self-esteem that would in the long run transform into the Civil Rights Movement and also changed the identity of America. Works Cited Fonder, Eric. " Harlem Renaissance". The Harlem Renaissance. (2009). Web. 24 Feb.. 2014. Huggins, Nathan. Harlem Renaissance. Oxford University Press, 2007. Hutchinson, George. " Harlem Renaissance. " Harlem Renaissance. (2013). Web. 24 Feb.. 2014. Locke, Lain Leroy. The New Negro. Touchstone, 1999. Tate, Eleanor. Celesta's Harlem Renaissance. Little Brown and CO, 2009.