How far did the second world war improve the lives of blacks c.1945

To some extent the Second World War did improve the lives of black people.

This was because men who fought alongside blacks saw that they were their equals. For example, a platoon sergeant from the segregated South Carolina said of blacks after the war ??? They??™re just like any of the other boys to us??™. However, in this essay I am going to explore that not everyone??™s attitudes changed and in some circumstances the quality of lives for blacks actually deteriorated. In the South after the war the number of blacks registered to vote went from 2% to 15%. However, even though more blacks were registered this does not mean that more of them voted.

Therefore, we can??™t properly gage if the political power of blacks increased after the war. This is because it was still dangerous for blacks to vote, not only this but there were not many political figures that supported black issues fully. Although, the fact that more blacks did register to vote shows that they were beginning to fight against ??? Jim Crow??™ laws which is a positive effect from the Second World War. In the North after the war there was more racial interaction. This was helped by the fact that the North didn??™t have legal separation of education and transport like the South. However, even though there was more racial interaction blacks were still forced to live in poorer parts of towns such as ghettos which still separated them from wealthier whites. Although, this was beginning to change as the education in the north was not segregated therefore, more blacks could get a proper education which would lead to them getting a higher paid job. In the South there was an increase in lynchings for a period after the Second World War.

This was caused by the fact that during campaigning for equal rights and votes people in the South were reminded of the sacrifices that black soldiers made during the Second World War the hostility that this created led to the increase in lynchings. However, the fact that black people were making others aware of the sacrifices made during the war shows that they did have a boost of self esteem. Also in the South industries that were used during the war were forced to employ black people under the FEPC in 1941. As a result of this many blacks moved from farm work to the Southern cities to join factories during the war effort. This created a better economical situation for many blacks which led them to be more financially secure even though they were often paid much less than their white counterparts and would also not get promotions. The lack of money would again force black people in to poorer accommodation this was not just a problem in the South as it was a problem across America. For example, in Washington 40% of housing was substandard for blacks compared to just 12% of substandard housing for whites. After the Second World War 500, 000 blacks moved from the South to the North for a better life and wages.

This was good as it meant that they now had the ??? balance of power??™ and the black vote could make the difference to an election. However, because of the massive influx of the black population in the North there were riots. These riots were very destructive and led to the deaths of 34 people and 600 people getting injured. This was another example of police brutality toward blacks as most police officers were white.