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CARNEGIE-MYRDAL STUDY
THE NEGRO IN AMERICA
RECORDS

The New York Public Library
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in Black Culture
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New York, New York 10037

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CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK. CARNEGIE-MYRDAL STUDY OF THE NEGRO IN AMERICA. RECORDS, 1935-1944, 1948.
82 microfiche and 13 microfilm reels.

History

The Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America, 1937-1941, was a comprehensive investigation of African-American life commissioned by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as a guide for the Corporation's activities as well as for "broader reasons."¹

The Corporation hired Gunnar Myrdal, a Swedish social scientist with the University of Stockholm and an advisor to the Swedish government to organize and direct the project. Myrdal put together a team of social scientists of both races and sexes with the mandate to prepare memoranda on all aspects of life in the African America community. These memoranda were to serve as working documents which would assist him in the preparation of his report. The report published in 1944 was entitled, *An American Dilemma* (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1944).

The social scientists who worked on the project and produced memoranda encompassed anthropologists, sociologists and political scientists. They included M. F. Ashley-Montague, Margaret Brenman, Sterling Brown, Ralph J. Bunche, Barbara Burks, Allison Davis, Harold F. Dorn, J. G. St. Clair Drake, G. James Fleming, Lyonel C. Florant, E. Franklin Frazier, T. Arnold Hill, E. C. Isbell, Charles S. Johnson, Guion G. Johnson, Guy B. Johnson, Louise K. Kiser, Dudley Kirk, Otto Klineberg, Ruth Landes, Gunnar Lange, T. C. McCormick, Benjamin Malzberg, Paul Norgren, E. Nelson Palmer, Arthur Raper, Ira de A. Reid, Edward A. Shils, Richard Sterner, Samuel A. Stouffer, Louis Wirth, Doxey Wilkerson, and Thomas J. Woofter.

The memoranda cover a variety of topics from religion, leisure activities, labor, family, health, leadership, organizations, migration, education, and political status to mental disease, miscegenation, segregation, stereotypes and physical characteristics. According to Myrdal, in his preface to *An American Dilemma*, he relied most heavily on the memoranda by Bunche (*Conceptions and Ideologies of the Negro Problem, The Programs, Ideologies, Tactics, and Achievements of Negro Betterment and Interracial Organizations, A Brief and Tentative Analysis of Negro Leadership, The Political Status of the Negro*), Norgren (*Negro Labor and its Problems*), Raper (*Race and Class Pressures*), Stouffer and Florant (*Negro Population and Negro Population Movements, 1860-1940...*), Dorn (*The Health of the Negro*), Drake (*Negro Churches and Associations in Chicago*), Kirk (*The Fertility of the Negro*) and Lange (*Trends in Southern*

¹Johnson, Charles S. Patterns of Negro Segregation (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1943. Foreward, p.ix.

Agriculture).²

Scope and Content

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORANDA, 1935-1948, series include letters from Frederick Keppel, President of the Carnegie Corporation, establishing the project; correspondence between Keppel and Gunnar Myrdal, memoranda or interviews with Myrdal and the social scientists who wrote the reports; and files for the Committee on Selection, 1940-1943.

Correspondence, 1935-1948, with the social scientists who authored the reports, as well as with scholars and experts with whom Myrdal conferred. The correspondents include Sterling Brown, Ralph J. Bunche, Horace R. Cayton, Melville Herskovits, Guy B. Johnson, Paul Norgren, Richard Sterner, Samuel A. Stouffer (director of project during Myrdal's absence in Europe during the war years), Dorothy S. Thomas, Doxey A. Wilkerson, and Thomas J. Woofter, Jr..

The **RESEARCH MEMORANDA** series consists of the twenty-nine memoranda prepared by the team of social scientists.

RELATED OR COMPLEMENTARY COLLECTIONS

Manuscript of *An American Dilemma* in Literary and Scholarly Manuscript Collection (MG 44).

Carnegie Corporation of New York. Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America Collection of Related Documents (MG 514).

Ralph J. Bunche Papers (MG 290). Contains administrative and other correspondence, research material and working drafts for the memoranda prepared by Bunche, and field notes on southern trips taken by Bunche, Myrdal and Richard Sterner. Includes contributions by George C. Stoney, James E. Jackson and Wilhelmina Jackson.

Provenance

Gift of Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1943.

² Myrdal, Gunnar. *An American Dilemma*. (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1944), p.xv.

Container List

<u>Microfiche</u>	<u>Number of Microfiche</u>	
1	2	General Correspondence and Memoranda, 1935 - 1938
2	3	January - July 1939
3	6	July - December 1939
4	5	1940
5	2	1941
6	4	January - August 1942
7	2	September - December 1942
8	2	1943
9	3	1944
10	4	Committee on Selection, 1940 - 1943
11		<u>Fortune</u> Magazine Survey
	1	Correspondence, 1939 - 1943
12	3	Reviews, 1944 - 1945
13	2	Sterling A. Brown, 1939 - 1943
14	7	Ralph J. Bunche, 1939 - 1943
15	2	Horace R. Cayton, 1939 - 1942
16	2	Melville Herskovits, 1939 - 1944
17	4	Guy B. Johnson, 1939
18	5	Guy B. Johnson, 1940
19	2	Guy B. Johnson, 1941 - 1942, 1948
20	3	Paul Norgren, 1939 - 1943
21	4	Richard Sterner, 1939 - 1948
22	2	S. Stouffer and D. Thomas, 1939
23	4	S. Stouffer and D. Thomas, 1940
24	3	S. Stouffer and D. Thomas, 1941
25	4	Doxey A. Wilkerson, 1939 - 1944
26	1	T.J. Woofter, Jr., 1939 - 1943

Container List

Reel 1: Research Memoranda

- 1- Ashley-Montague, M.F.
"Two Memoranda on the Origin, Composition and Physical Characteristics of the American Negro"
 - 1- The African Origins of the American Negro
 - 2- The Characteristics of the Negro Population
- 2- Brenman, Margaret
"The Personality of Urban Negro Girls"
- 3- Brown, Sterling A.
"The Negro in American Culture"
 - 1- Sports
 - 2- Music
 - 3- Stage
- 4- Bunche, Ralph
"Conceptions and Ideologies of the Negro Problem"
- 5- Bunche, Ralph
"The Programs, Ideologies, Tactics and Achievements of the Negro Betterment and Interracial Organizations"
(Books 1 & 2)

Reel 2:

- 1- Bunche, Ralph J.
"The Programs, Ideologies, Tactics and Achievements of the Negro Betterment and Interracial Organizations"
(Books 3 & 4)
- 2- Bunche, Ralph J.
"A Brief and Tentative Analysis of Negro Leadership"
- 3- Burks, Barbara S.
"The Present Status of the Nature-Nurture Problem as it Relates to Intelligence"
- 4- Davis, Allison
"The Negro Church and Associations of the Lower South"
- 5- Drake, J.G. St. Clair
"The Negro Church and Associations in Chicago"
(Book 2)

Reel 3:

Bunche, Ralph J.
"The Political Status of the Negro"
(Books 1 - 7)

Reel 4:

- 1- Dorn, Harold F.
"The Health of the Negro"
- 2- Etuk, S.
"A West African's Impression of the Negro in the United States"
- 3- Fleming, G.J.
"The Negro Press"
331 pp.
- 4- Florant, Lyonel C.
"Negro Migration 1860-1940"
- 5- Florant, Lyonel C.
"Critiques of the Census of the United States"
- 6- Frazier, E. Franklin
"Recreation and Amusement Among American Negroes"
- 7- Frazier, E. Franklin
Memorandum to Guy B. Johnson"
- 8- Haynes, George Edmund
"Toward Interracial Peace"
- 9- Hill, T. Arnold
"Digest and Analysis of Questionnaires Submitted by Urban League Secretaries"
- 10- Isbell, Eleanor C.
"Memorandum on the Negro Family in America"
- 11- Isbell, Eleanor C.
"Statistics of Population Growth and Composition"

Reel 5:

Johnson, Charles S.
"Source Material for Patterns of Negro Segregation"
1- Birmingham, Ala.
2- New York City

Reel 5:

Johnson, Charles S.
"Source Material for Patterns of Negro Segregation"
3- Richmond, Va.
4- Indianapolis, Ind.
5- Baltimore, Md.
6- Johnston County, N.C.

Reel 6:

Johnson, Charles S.
"Source Material for Patterns of Negro Segregation"
6- Chicago
7- Poinsett County, Ark.
8- Lourens - Laurens
9- Cleveland, Miss.
10-Nashville, Tenn.
11-Atlanta, Ga.

Reel 7:

- 1- Johnson, Charles S.
"Source Material for Patterns of Negro Segregation"
12-Houston, Tex.
- 2- Johnson, Guion G.
"A History of Racial Ideologies in the United States with
Reference to the Negro"
(Books 1 & 2)
- 3- Johnson, Guion G. & Johnson, Guy B.
"The Church and the Race Problem in the United States"
(plus appendices)

Reel 8:

- 1- Johnson, Guy B. & Kiser, Louise K.
"The Negro and Crime"
(Books 1 & 2)
- 2- Kirk, Dudley
"The Fertility of the Negro"
- 3- Klineberg, Otto w. Maltzberg, Wirth and Goldhamer
"Characteristics of the American Negro"
(Books 1 & 2)

Reel 9:

- 1- Landes, Ruth & Johnson, Guy B.
"The Ethos of the Negro in the New World"
- 2- Lange, Gunnar
"Trends in Southern Agriculture"
- 3- Lange, Gunnar
"Agricultural Adjustment Programs and the Negro"
- 4- Lester, R. M.
"Corporation Grants for Education of the Negro"
- 5- McCormick, T. C.
"Memorandum on the Negro in Agriculture"
- 6- McCormick, T. C.
"The Negro in Agriculture"
 - 1- Plantation System
 - 2- Selected Topics
- 7- Malzberg, Benjamin
"A Study of Delusions Among Negroes with Mental Disease"
- 8- Myrdal, Gunnar
"Memoranda on the Study of the Negro"

Reel 10:

- 1- Norgren, Paul H.
"Negro Labor and Its Problems"
(Books 1 - 5)
- 2- Palmer, E.N.
"The Development of Negro Lodges in the U.S."
- 3- Raper, Arthur
"Race and Class Pressures"

Reel 11:

- 1- Raper, Arthur
"Race and Class Pressures"
(Books 1 - 4)
- 2- Reid, Ira De A.
"The Negro in the American Economic System"
(Book 1)

Reel 12:

- 1- Reid, Ira De A.
"The Negro in the American Economic System"
(Books 2 & 3)
- 2- Shils, Edward A.
"The Basis of Social Stratification in Negro Society"
- 3- Stouffer, Florant, Isbell & Wyant
"Negro Population Movements 1860-1940"
- 4- Wilkerson, Doxey
"The Negro in Education"
(Books 1 - 3)

Reel 13:

- 1- Woofter, T.J.
"The Negro and Agricultural Policy"
- 2- Sterner, R.
"Standard of Living of the Negro"
(Books 1 - 4)