

The Indispensable Weekly
The Voice of the Awakened Negro

The Negro World

A Newspaper Devoted Solely to the Interests of the Negro Race

Reaching the Masses of Negroes
The Best Advertising Medium

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PREPAREDNESS ON THE PART OF THE NEGRO

FELLOW MEN OF THE NEGRO RACE, *Greeting:*

I have often written to you on the subject of "Preparedness," but I feel that now, more than ever, we should consider this subject as all-important, because, as we look around, we find that all the other races and nations of the world are preparing themselves against the changes of the future, and it is to our interest to so prepare ourselves.

A Century of Exploitation

The Universal Negro Improvement Association desires that the four hundred million Negroes in the world prepare themselves through organized determination to resist the designs of others that seek to make us slaves, to reduce us to an inferior standing among the other races and nations of the world. That there is a world movement to further subjugate and exploit the weaker peoples of the world is not doubted. It can be seen, not only beneath but above the surface of all that is said and done by other peoples. As a race scattered and despised and exploited for hundreds of years, we cannot afford to hold ourselves at the mercy of those who might be disposed to treat us with sympathy, but it is for us, through our own initiative, to so environ ourselves as to assure that protection that is necessary to prevent us from being overriden by the stronger forces of the world.

Preparation for the Future

To observe the activities of other peoples reveal to us their high state of preparation for meeting any contingency that may arise. If you were to look at the great Anglo-Saxon race you will find them in every department of human effort making every preparation to safeguard their racial rights and interests. As of them, so of the other races of Europe and Asia. We, as four hundred millions of people, should do no less than prepare ourselves through organization to ward off the dangers not only of the present, but of the future. We seek by unity of effort and of action to bring about a universal standardization of the race. We desire to place ourselves upon a level equal to that of other races and nations. This we will have to do by preparing the minds of our people everywhere for concerted action. We must forget our national, insular and parochial selfishness that has kept us apart for so many centuries. We must, if we are to go forward, broaden our outlook and widen our fellowship with the men and women of our race everywhere, because at no one section or point are we strong enough to independently carve out a destiny of our own. We have tried this in the past, and we have failed; hence, by the experience of the past we now guide ourselves with the intention of not only nationalizing our intentions and our outlook, but to broaden it to take in Negroes everywhere, and to have them all look toward the one objective of an emancipated race and a redeemed Fatherland.

We must start out to prepare ourselves—mentally, spiritually, physically, and in every way—to meet the growing demand that will be made upon us as a people, marching toward an independence of our own.

Now is the Time!

The other peoples who have climbed the ladder of success did so by preparing themselves in the one age for the conditions that had to be met in the other, so that we of the Universal Negro Improvement Association are advising that the four hundred millions of us prepare ourselves in this age to meet the changes that will come as we move along, and with which we will have to cope through superior fitness. There are some of us who believe that the program we have to put over can be accomplished in a day. It cannot be done; it has never been done before, and, naturally, cannot be done now. We must prepare ourselves and abide our time, as all other races and nations have done.

World Movement to Further Subjugate and Exploit Weaker Peoples—Negroes of Today Should Lay Solid Foundation Upon Which Future Generations Can Build—After Days Ahead if We Support Universal Negro Improvement Association

We are now engaged in a long and arduous organizing period of our work. Now is the time to bring all the people together, to give them a program, and to have them adopt and start putting into execution the details as outlined. The objective of a mighty nation is before us, yet the complete realization of it will take much time, but we must naturally start by laying a foundation, and that is what the Universal Negro Improvement Association is doing now.

We, therefore, ask Negroes everywhere to co-operate with us in laying this solid foundation upon which generations that will follow will build until we have realized in every detail the perfect state of our imperial vision.

Take History as Your Guide!

Those of us who lead this mighty world movement of the Universal Negro Improvement Association are cognizant of the fact that the work that we have chosen will consume much time. We naturally, therefore, expect some to become discouraged by not seeing the immediate realization of everything planned, but how many of those who have started reform movements ever lived to see the full and complete realization of their dreams? That you can answer for yourself by taking history as your guide, so naturally you will not expect that all of us will live to see the day when Africa will be completely redeemed, when the entire race will be completely emancipated, but each and every one of us in a lifetime can contribute so much to the bringing about of a successful conclusion of the plans undertaken. If each and every Negro in his and her part of the world will buckle down in all seriousness to do something for the cause of African freedom we can well assure ourselves that the day would not be far distant when great changes would take place, that would in a way place the entire race in a better condition than it is at present.

A Flaming Optimism!

We are hoping for better days and the achievement of greater things. We are not pessimists; we are optimists in every sense of the word. We feel that by our own effort as four hundred millions of people we can so fashion and create things as to satisfy our own needs. Such has been the action of all other great peoples and nations of the world. They have always shaped and fashioned their own destiny, they have always created their own conditions and environments. As, for instance, the position that Great Britain now occupies was fashioned and created by the desires of Englishmen and Britishers to be what they are. They determined among themselves that they would never be slaves; they would build an empire upon which the sun would never set, and today you see that they enjoy and live in such environments. The early Colonists who settled themselves in North America determined to build up for themselves a free and independent country where they would worship religiously and politically in their own way. Today we have the great American Republic, the outcome of their determination to do for themselves. In like manner must the four hundred million Negroes of the world make up and determine in their minds that they will do for themselves in bringing about conditions suitable to their own happiness. The trouble with us now is that our leaders are in the main visionless. It is said somewhere that "where there is no vision the people perish." We have been perishing for hundreds of years because of the lack of vision on the part of those who lead. A proper survey of conditions among Negroes throughout the world will reveal the fact that we are handicapped by having in our midst hundreds of different leaders scattered here, there and everywhere who have subordinated the rights of the people to their own selfish interests. The one kind you will find at this end having under his control fifteen hundred persons, two thousand persons, or three thousand as members of his church, or his sect, or of the political party, and each leader will endeavor to pass his own program in a different direction to the other leaders, and thus the race is divided.

different ways, rather than working in universal harmony. We will never be able to get anywhere as a people until we destroy that selfish kind of leadership that will keep us divided into a dozen different groups. The trouble with the race at this time is not so much the mass of the people, as that the masses are inclined to follow anywhere and everywhere, but the trouble is with the leaders. Can we not originate a program by which we can bring all these different leaders into one harmonious body and get them working toward the same end?

The Third International Convention

We desire to prepare the minds of our people everywhere, leaders and followers, to realize that only through unity of effort can we achieve anything worth while that will tend to better our condition economically and politically.

We are hoping that the various race leaders of the world in religion, in politics and otherwise, will now concentrate upon the consolidation of Negro sentiment by attending the Third International Convention of the Negro peoples of the world to be held in New York from the 1st to 31st of August of the present year.

The Universal Negro Improvement Association hopes that every Negro preacher, politician and leader will make it possible for all of us to meet in New York in the month of August at this convention to discuss among ourselves the ways and means by which we can give out to the world one common program, and unitedly, as four hundred millions of people, stand behind it and make it go for the good of all.

The Universal Negro Improvement Association extends an invitation to all unselfish leaders to fall in line with us and help put over our program that we have undertaken.

The time has come for the race to determine whether it should be governed. The time has really passed for strong peoples to allow themselves to be dictated to and governed by others, without their having a voice in their own affairs. We can no longer tolerate a position of inferiority among the other races of the world; hence, we must lay out a program and a policy of our own, and it is our hope that such a program and policy will be outlined at the Third International Convention of the Negro peoples of the world. Therefore it is necessary for each and every representative member of the race to give his and her support to the Universal Negro Improvement Association in making the convention a great success. Plans are being laid by which we hope to lay our claims before the nations of the world, and to have these claims adjusted. It is our use in our continuing to divide among ourselves and agitate questions by thousands or by the hundreds. Now is the time that we must settle the questions that affect us as four hundred millions of people all over the world. Among the vital things that affect us now are national freedom, industrial freedom and political equality everywhere. If we are to win our demands for an adjustment of these questions we must do so as a united body united on the common cause. Why should we differ? Why should we fight each other if our hopes and desires are the same? So now the Universal Negro Improvement Association appeals to Negroes everywhere, to individuals everywhere to let us get together and put over the program of an emancipated race and a redeemed country.

What Are You Going to Do About It?

This Association needs support morally and financially; therefore, we call upon every one of its eight hundred divisions to do the best they can, seeing that each and every member pays his dues, and contributes to the movement, so that our treasury can be strengthened to meet the demands that are now being made for the carrying on of the work. We ask that every division get in their regular monthly reports, and we ask that every Negro not yet a member of the Universal Negro Improvement Association send a contribution, whether a dollar or a cent, to help us carry on the work.

You can do your bit wherever you are. Write to the Universal Negro Improvement Association, 125 West 47th Street, New York City, U. S. A.

With your best wishes, the Universal Negro Improvement Association, New York City, U. S. A.

