

## Ch 21 Section 4 The Harlem Renaissance

### African-American Voices in the 1920s

#### The Move North

- 1910–1920, Great Migration of thousands of African Americans
  - move from South to Northern cities
- By 1920, over 40% of African Americans live in cities
- Racial tensions escalate in North; about 25 urban race riots in 1919
- African-Americans continue to migrate in large numbers in 1920s

#### African-American Goals

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
  - protests racial violence
  - published *The Crisis*
- NAACP leader **James Weldon Johnson** fights for civil rights legislation
- NAACP antilynching campaign leads to drop in number of lynchings

#### Marcus Garvey and the UNIA

- **Marcus Garvey** founds Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
  - believes African Americans should build separate society
- Garvey promotes black pride, black businesses, return to Africa

#### The Harlem Renaissance Flowers in New York

##### African-American Writers

- Harlem world's largest black urban area; people from U.S., Caribbean
- **Harlem Renaissance**—African-American literary, artistic movement
  - express pride in African-American experience
- **Claude McKay**'s poems urge blacks to resist prejudice, discrimination
- **Langston Hughes**'s poems describe difficult lives of working class
  - many written in jazz, blues tempo
- **Zora Neale Hurston** shows folkways, values of poor, Southern blacks

##### African-American Performers

- Influence, popularity of Harlem Renaissance go beyond black audience
- Musical comedy *Shuffle Along* launches movement
  - is popular with white audiences
- African-American performers win large followings
- **Paul Robeson**—major dramatic actor in London, New York

##### African Americans and Jazz

- Jazz born in early 20th century New Orleans, spreads across U.S.
- Trumpeter **Louis Armstrong** makes personal expression key part of jazz
  - most influential musician in jazz history
- Concert music composer George Gershwin was influenced by both the music of Louis Armstrong and traditional music
- **Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington**—jazz pianist, orchestra leader
  - one of America's greatest composers
- Cab Calloway, Armstrong popularize scat (improvised jazz singing)
- **Bessie Smith**—blues singer, perhaps best vocalist of decade