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The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Featured Interviewees

Episode Six: ***A More Perfect Union (1968 – 2013)***

Tuesday, November 26, 8-9 p.m.

After 1968, African Americans set out to build a bright new future on the foundation of the civil rights movement's victories, but a growing class disparity threatened to split the black community in two. As hundreds of African Americans won political office across the country and the black middle class made unprecedented progress, larger economic and political forces isolated the black urban poor in the inner cities, vulnerable to new social ills and an epidemic of incarceration. Yet African Americans of all backgrounds came together to support Illinois Senator Barack Obama in his historic campaign for the presidency of the United States. When he won in 2008, many hoped that America had finally transcended race and racism. By the time of his second victory, it was clear that many issues, including true racial equality, remain to be resolved. Now we ask: How will African Americans help redefine the United States in the years to come?

Michelle Alexander, associate professor of law at Ohio State University and author of *The New Jim Crow*

Location: Columbus, OH

W. Kamau Bell, comedian/TV host (Totally Biased)

Location: New York, NY

Angela Glover Blackwell, founder of PolicyLink

Location: Cambridge, MA

Vincent Brown, Charles Warren Professor of History at Harvard University

Location: Cambridge, MA

William Jelani Cobb, Associate Professor of History and Director, Institute for African American Studies at University of Connecticut

Location: Cambridge, MA

Roland Doucette, Paul Sylvester and Galen Banks, members of Black Men of Labor

Location: New Orleans, LA

Kathleen Cleaver, senior lecturer, Emory Law and former communications secretary Black Panther Party

Location: Atlanta, GA

Vernon Jordan, former president of the National Urban League and former advisor to President Clinton

Location: New York, NY

Peniel E. Joseph, professor of history at Tufts University

Location: Cambridge, MA

Maulana Karenga, professor and chair department of Africana Studies California State University, Long Beach and founder of US Organization and Kwanzaa

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Robin D. G. Kelley, professor of American History, UCLA and author

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Colin Powell, former secretary of state and former head of Joint Chiefs of Staff

Location: Josephine Butler Parks Center, Washington, DC

Carlton "Chuck D" Ridenhour, rapper, producer and leader of Public Enemy

Location: Ventura, CA

Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, musician, producer, author, and band leader on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon

Location: New York, NY

Tricia Rose, professor of Africana studies and acting director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University

Location: Cambridge, MA

Kurt Schmoke, vice president of Howard University and former mayor of Baltimore

Location: Sterling Memorial Library, New Haven, CT

Terrence Stevens, founder of In Arms Reach
Location: New York, NY

William Julius Wilson, author and Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University professor, Harvard
University
Location: Cambridge, MA

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Final 10.07.13