

Garvey's Report Card, 1917-1937

Arguments for the Continuation, Perpetuation and Support of the U.N.I.A.

The U.N.I.A.'s Work from 1917-1937

1. The U.N.I.A. has stirred the entire world of Negroes to a consciousness of race pride which never existed before.
2. The U.N.I.A. broke down the barriers of racial nationality among Negroes and caused American, African, West Indian, Canadian, Australian and South and Central American Negroes to realize that they have a common interest.
3. The U.N.I.A. has given Negroes throughout the world a program of racial nationalism which never existed before.
4. The Association caused all Negroes to recognize their common origin as Africans and their African descent.
5. It has caused all the other races to recognize the national aspirations of the Negro. It placed the Negro's cause before the League of Nations and the Versailles Peace Conference.
6. It placed the national aspirations of the Negro before the Disarmament Conference in Washington, in 1924.
7. The U.N.I.A. caused the French, English and other European governments with colonies in Africa and the West Indies to extend greater privileges to the native race and to offer them more secure positions in the respective civil service, diplomatic service and political life of the country.
8. Negro justices, magistrates and heads of government departments were appointed because of the activities of the U.N.I.A. in different countries.
9. The economic status of Negroes was raised in different countries because of the Association.
10. The Association taught the Negro how to go into big business.
11. It taught the Negro how to secure his own business enterprises through which tens of thousands of Negro businesses have been started all over the world.
12. It taught Negroes how to support their own professional men; doctors, lawyers, etc.
13. The U.N.I.A. taught the Negro how to support his own church.
14. It taught the Negro how to use his political power from which he has benefitted in the United States, the West Indies, Africa and other countries.
15. The U.N.I.A. gave the Negro a national flag and a national hymn.
16. It caused the other races to spell the word "Negro" with a capital "N."
17. It taught Negroes self-respect for their race.
18. It brought courage to the Negro race throughout the world.
19. It caused the Negro to search for a new type of leadership.
20. It taught the Negro preparedness against adversity.
21. It has been the most outstanding Negro organization throughout the world.
22. It is the most recognized international organization among Negroes.
23. It is known in all parts of the world.
24. It has taught the Negro to follow only Negro leadership.

25. It has saved the Negro from the hypocritical, dishonest leadership of other people which has never brought the Negro any good results.
26. It taught the Negro that the cats don't lead the rats, nor the lions the sheep, nor the wolves the foxes, and so Negroes should lead Negroes.
27. The U.N.I.A. has taught the Negro to never rely upon the sweet sounding words and promises of others, but to rely on his words and his own promises if he is to be led safely.
28. It has taught the Negro to believe in himself and not to believe that what another man seeks for himself he is going to give away freely.
29. It has taught the Negro to have his own labor organizations and not to expect other laborers who are competing with him for the same employment, to give honest leadership for him to compete with them for the same job.
30. It is the only organization that has given the Negro an international outlook.
31. It gave the Negro press a broader point of view.
32. It has kept the Negro from going RED for the convenience of others.
33. In twenty years the U.N.I.A. changed the attitude of the Negro and set him on the way to a new hope.
34. One of the fundamental desires of the U.N.I.A. is to approach every Negro with the attitude of friendship, brotherhood and sympathy. Therefore, every representative of the association must adopt an attitude that works to bring about the realization of such a desire.

It may be necessary to use a great amount of tolerance to reach the desired end, but whatever is necessary must be done to bring about such a state of affairs. The policy is that you cannot drive a Negro away from the organization and still want to organize all the Negroes. Every Negro that is lost prevents the ultimate achievement of the aims of the organization; so never try to drive a member out of the organization. Hold him and convert him.

Always appreciate the fact that the majority of Negroes are ignorant, and you must exercise a great amount of tolerance to educate them to your point of view. This is your missionary work. As other people were willing to sacrifice their time and even their lives to christianize our race, so we must exercise patience and time to civilize our people.

 Source: *Message to the People: The Course of African Philosophy*, ed. by Tony Martin, (Dover, Mass.: The Majority Press, 1986) pp. 173-176.