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 Projection used is USA  
 Contiguous Albers Equal  
 Area Conic. All census  
 data from census.gov  
 and historical dates  
 from infoplease.com

# SHIFTING CENTERS

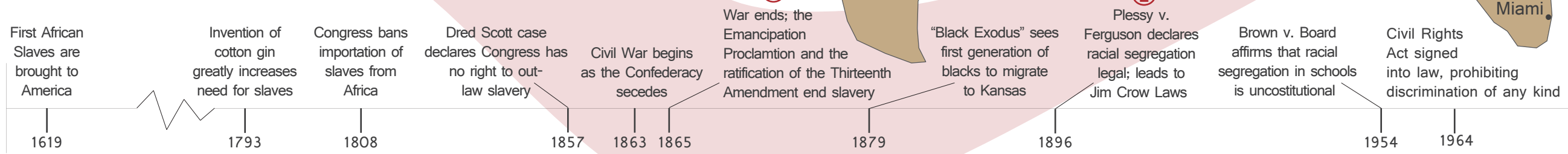
Geographic mean centers pinpoint the exact center of a population. Starting with the most eastwardly points, data begins in 1790 and continues every ten years until 1990. The blue dots represent the population centers of white Americans, while red symbolize black Americans.



**Black Population Patterns**

The first trend in black Americans is a steady push to the south and west, as these areas became more dependent on slave labor due to the advent of the cotton gin. In the aftermath of the Civil War, however, this pattern slowed and almost stopped. This can partially be explained by "exodusters," recently freed slaves who made their way to Missouri and Kansas to escape the newly passed Jim Crow laws. Another reason for this sudden shift came in the onset of the first World War, which offered many factory jobs in the north that were previously unavailable to African-Americans. After 30 years of northern movement,

**Significant Events in African-American History**



**Black Mean Centers**

- Small red dot: 750,000 (1790)
- Large red dot: 30,000,000 (1990)

**White Mean Centers**

- Small blue dot: 3,000,000 (1790)
- Large blue dot: 200,000,000 (1990)

**Year State was Admitted to Union**

1790 (Yellow) | 1800-1849 (Light Brown) | 1850-1899 (Medium Brown) | 1900-1912 (Dark Brown)

