

# United We Win

**Creator:** War Manpower **Commission** (Alexander Liberman, photographer)

**Date:** 1943

**Published in:** Powers of Persuasion: Poster Art from World War II

**Source type:** Poster

**Source:** National Archives

**Introduction:** One important way the government communicated with citizens about their war duties was by using posters. This poster was created by the War Manpower **Commission**, a **government agency** whose job was to make sure that the military had enough soldiers and factories had enough workers.





# Crowded Cities, Racial Violence During World War II

**Creator:** American Social History Project, City University of New York

**Date:** 2014

**Published in:** Adapted from *To Make Our World Anew: A History of African Americans* (Oxford University Press, 2000)

**Source type:** Essay (secondary source)



Attracted by new jobs created by the war effort, nearly 1.6 million African Americans moved into the nation's cities. The percentage of blacks living in urban areas rose from less than 50% in 1940 to nearly 60% in 1945. For

the first time, they settled in large numbers in western cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. Cities in the Northeast and Midwest also attracted large numbers of new black residents. In the three-year period between 1940 and 1943, Detroit's black population increased by fifty thousand.

As the black urban population increased, black and white citizens came into close contact, often for the first time. Black migrants found segregation, discrimination, competition with whites for jobs, and sometimes police brutality in their new homes. Overcrowded public spaces and neighborhoods resulted in social tension and, sometimes, violence directed at black residents. Racial violence reached a peak in 1943.

The year's worst riot erupted in Detroit, where a fight at the Belle Isle amusement park ignited 30 hours of violence and left nine whites and 25 blacks dead and more than 700 people seriously injured. In Beaumont, Texas, thousands of white shipyard workers terrorized black neighborhoods, assaulting African Americans and destroying property; after two days, four residents were dead and 50 injured.

## Racial Violence in 1943

<i>Date</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
May 25	Mobile, Alabama	50 injured
June 15-16	Beaumont, Texas	4 dead, 50 injured
July 20	Detroit, Michigan	34 dead, 765 hospitalized, \$2 million in property damage
August 1	New York, New York	6 dead, more than 500 arrested