

IN THE YEAR 2000

BLACKS AND THE FUTURE *Continued*

issue is the impact of these new technologies on the universe of Black America. Basing their predictions on hard data and current trends, the experts pose in provocative and sometimes startling terms the question of where Black people will be on January 1, 2000, when artillery volleys salute a new century and a new world.

Some of the answers to this question, according to the articles in this issue, are moderately clear. For one thing, Black people — barring a nuclear disaster — will survive, despite continuing racism, despite alarming trends, despite everything. And on January 1, 2000, as on January 1, 1900, Black people will be working loving singing dancing hoping dreaming struggling.

Not only will Blacks survive, but they will also grow and multiply. By 2000, the 20 Black seeds who landed at Jamestown in August, 1619, will have grown to 36,694,000, 13.6 percent of the population.

This huge and growing Black population will live in an America which will be grayer, browner, and blacker.

Demographers expect an older American population, proportionately, and an increasingly multicolored American population, rainbowed by growing Black, Hispanic and Asian populations.

There will be, of course, more Black politicians, especially in the major cities where most Black Americans will continue to live. Demographer John D. Reid predicts small Black numerical decreases in some major cities (Philadelphia, Detroit, Washington), which will continue to lose population.

By 2000, Blacks will be, according to his projections, 88.8 percent of the population of Detroit, 74 percent of the population of Atlanta and more than 60 percent of the populations of Baltimore, Memphis, New Orleans,

PROJECTIONS OF BLACK POPULATION IN 50 LARGEST CITIES*

CITY	BLACK POPULATION	BLACK POPULATION	TOTAL POPULATION	
	1985	2000	2000	
1. New York	1,846,400	1,977,400	27.6%	7,183,600
2. Chicago	1,247,500	1,355,300	45.9%	2,952,700
3. Los Angeles	506,700	508,900	15.2%	3,345,200
4. Philadelphia	631,700	617,800	40.0%	1,541,700
5. Houston	519,000	720,800	26.7%	2,694,300
6. Detroit	812,900	743,200	88.8%	836,200
7. Dallas	298,800	377,700	31.4%	1,200,900
8. San Diego	94,000	137,800	11.6%	1,182,900
9. Phoenix	46,200	60,500	5.7%	1,047,800
10. Baltimore	436,600	447,900	63.4%	706,300
11. San Antonio	61,800	70,900	6.8%	1,034,000
12. Honolulu	9,600	11,200	1.2%	901,100
13. Indianapolis	162,800	195,300	24.7%	747,700
14. San Francisco	82,100	74,000	9.6%	768,000
15. Memphis	346,600	439,800	68.3%	643,400
16. Washington	410,100	342,200	56.4%	605,800
17. Milwaukee	174,100	244,400	40.3%	605,000
18. San Jose	47,400	125,200	14.8%	856,600
19. Cleveland	234,700	204,500	42.4%	491,200
20. Columbus	140,100	176,100	29.1%	603,100
21. Boston	138,700	167,600	30.5%	548,800
22. New Orleans	331,400	382,600	63.3%	603,700
23. Jacksonville	148,200	172,600	26.4%	652,500
24. Seattle	52,100	64,600	13.7%	469,300
25. Denver	66,700	84,400	14.4%	585,100
26. Nashville	118,400	140,400	30.9%	453,000
27. St. Louis	185,700	150,500	41.8%	359,200
28. Kansas City	128,300	140,400	32.6%	429,500
29. El Paso	18,200	33,100	5.7%	576,100
30. Atlanta	298,000	330,700	74.0%	446,300
31. Pittsburgh	100,300	97,200	26.4%	367,300
32. Oklahoma City	63,900	74,900	12.6%	590,800
33. Cincinnati	133,200	138,800	39.4%	351,500
34. Fort Worth	92,900	104,100	20.5%	507,200
35. Minneapolis	34,600	51,500	14.3%	359,200
36. Portland	31,600	40,700	11.1%	364,100
37. Long Beach	59,400	126,200	29.0%	434,000
38. Tulsa	46,700	56,300	12.0%	468,300
39. Buffalo	106,500	115,300	38.7%	297,200
40. Toledo	66,700	77,900	23.7%	328,400
41. Miami	93,200	106,800	15.8%	668,400
42. Baton Rouge	237,600	302,100	65.1%	463,800
43. Austin	50,000	70,500	13.4%	524,100
44. Oakland	191,800	225,100	59.8%	376,400
45. Tucson	14,700	20,200	4.4%	454,400
46. Albuquerque	16,400	16,300	4.0%	402,100
47. Newark	184,400	170,500	61.9%	275,200
48. Omaha	42,300	48,500	14.5%	334,300
49. Charlotte	113,400	152,100	40.5%	376,600
50. Louisville	83,200	81,300	30.2%	265,900

*Projections of population of 50 largest cities as of 1980. All numbers in thousands.

Projections prepared exclusively for *Ebony* magazine by Dr. John D. Reid.

Demographer John D. Reid is graduate professor of sociology at Howard University. Dr. Reid, who predicts increases in the Black and Hispanic populations, is a former expert consultant for the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the National Center for Health Services Research.

