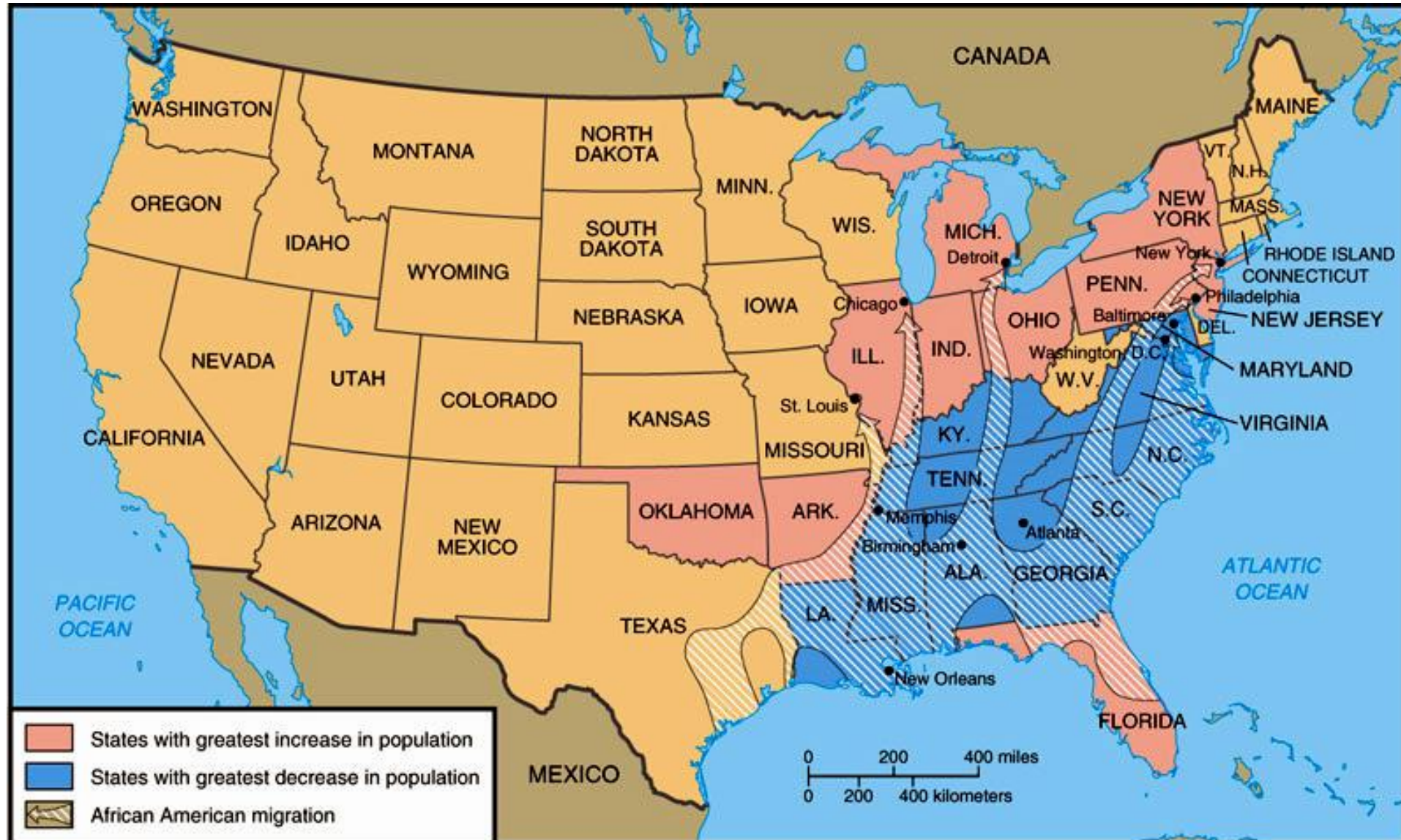# African-Americans in WWI: Document A

- WWI accelerated the **Great Migration,** the large-scale movement of hundreds of thousands of Southern blacks to cities in the North:
    - Many African Americans sought to escape racial discrimination in the Jim Crow South.
    - In the North, there were more job opportunities for African Americans in steel mills, munitions plants, and stockyards.
    - Northern manufacturers sent recruiting agents to distribute free railroad passes through the South to bring blacks into cities such as Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia.

African-Americans in WWI: Document A

African-Americans in WWI: Document B

- During WWI, the U.S. military was segregated:

  - 367,710 African Americans were drafted, but only 10% served in combat duty. Most blacks worked in Army Services of Supplies (SOS) units.

  - The 40,000 black soldiers who saw combat were part of the all-black 92nd or 93rd combat divisions.

  - When allowed to fight, they did so with honor. Several units fought Germans alongside French soldiers and 171 black soldiers were awarded the French Legion of Honor; By 1917, over 600 blacks were commissioned as officers in the U.S. Army.

African-Americans in WWI: Document B

African-Americans in WWI: Document C

- African Americans who moved into the North faced discrimination & violent race riots:

  - In 1917, a race riot exploded in Illinois when white workers attacked blacks when African-Americans were hired as strikebreakers at a munitions plant; , 40 blacks and 9 whites died.

  - Another riot erupted in Chicago in 1919 after whites drowned an African American boy who swam at a white beach. African Americans retaliated, and several riots broke out in the city. Order was restored after several days of violence that involved about 10,000 people.

African-Americans in WWI: Document C

FRENZIED THOUSANDS JOIN IN ORGY OF BLOOD AND FIRE

Douglas County Court House Fearfully Damaged as Howling Avengers Storm Jail With Bullet and Flame—One Man Killed and Many Injured—Police Overwhelmed and Soldiers Summoned.

CROWDS SEARCH THROUGH STREETS, ATTACKING NEGROES EVERYWHERE