

FIGURES ON THE DISPERSAL OF THE BLACK PEOPLE FROM THE BLACK BELT SOUTH

James Allen, a theoretician of the Communist Party, USA, drew out his concept of the maximum area of black majority in the South for the year 1930. This included 321 counties in 12 states. He described this as being essentially the area of the black nation in the black belt South. At this time, he was an ardent supporter of the analysis that a black nation existed in the South.

But tracing the evolution of this area verifies

Census Year	Total Population	Black Population	Black %	% of all US Blacks
1860	4,362,009	2,461,099	56.4%	55%
1880	5,750,410	3,466,924	60.3%	53%
1910	8,387,958	4,842,766	57.7%	49%
1920	8,968,132	4,806,565	53.6%	46%
1930	9,525,865	4,790,049	50.3%	40%
1940	10,256,289	4,993,612	48.7%	39%
1970	11,037,426	4,288,911	38.5%	19%

the dispersal of the black people away from it, especially after World War II.

Below are the population statistics for these counties over a 110 year period. The figures for 1860 through 1940 are from James Allen (The Negro Question in the U.S., 1936, and an article in the Nov. 1946 Political Affairs). 1970 figures were tabulated from the 1970 census.

Today it is impossible to draw a continuous area of black majority as James Allen did. Instead there are roughly five separate groups of counties with a majority black population. These are drawn up by combining counties with a majority black population with some with less than a black majority to get a continuous zone in each of the five areas. As well, commercial centers have been included such as Warren County (Vicksburg), Mississippi which is 37% black; Hinds County (Jackson), Mississippi which is 45% black; and Montgomery, Alabama which is 39% black.

Taken together the five areas include a total of 82 counties of which 74 are black majority counties. There are 1,095,727 black people concentrated in these areas making up about 51.1% of its population. The black population in these areas is about 4.1% of the total black population in the U.S. Together the blacks in these five areas number fewer than the number of black people in either New York City or Chicago. The figures below were tabulated by the MLP from the 1980 Census.

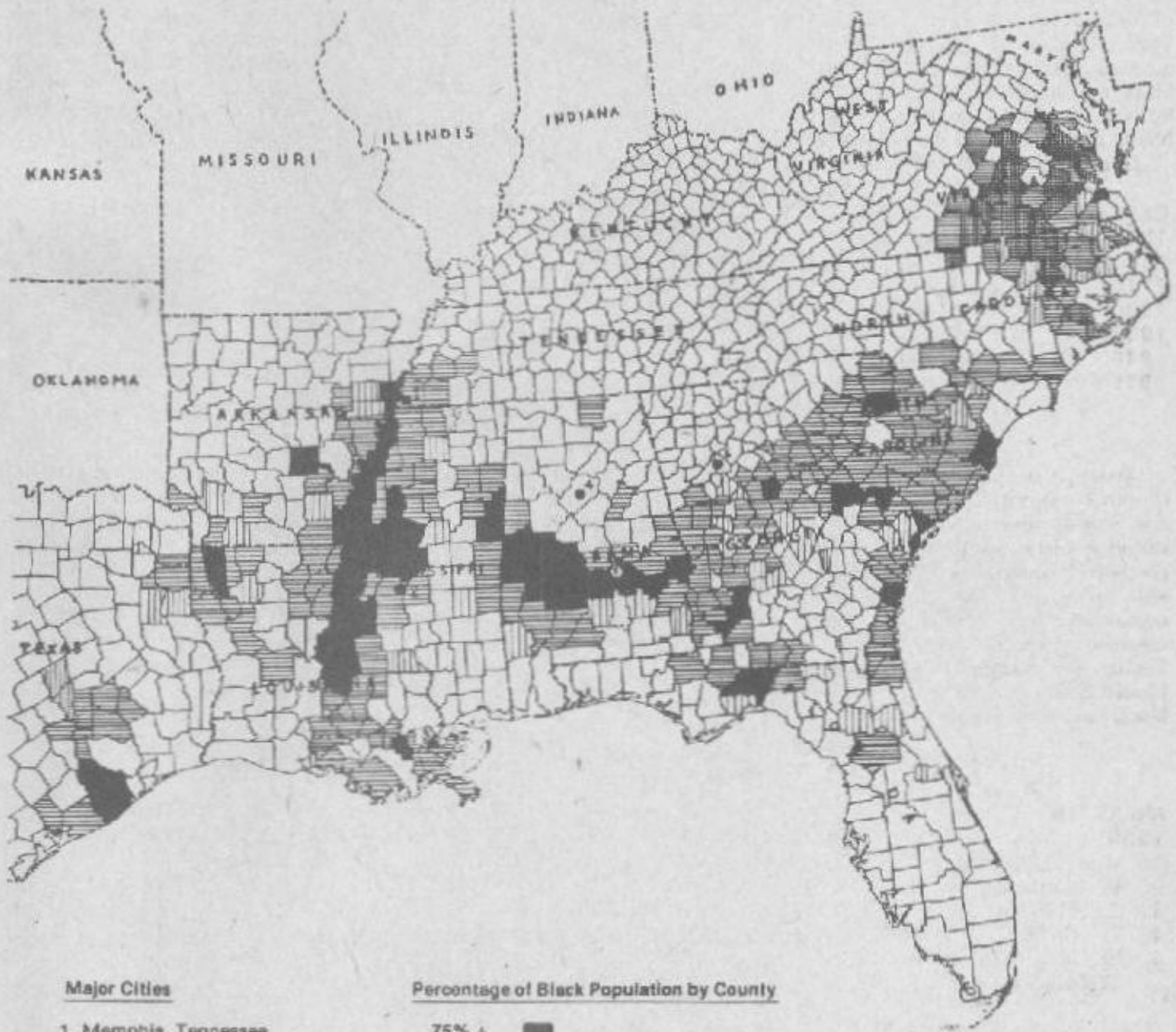
Rough Area of Black Majority in the South in 1980

AREAS IN 1980	TOTAL POPULATION	BLACK POPULATION	BLACK % OF AREA	BLACK MAJ COUNTIES	TOTAL COUNTIES
1. Miss. Delta	875,800	470,500	54%	25	27
2. W. Alabama	385,738	193,870	50%	10	11
3. E. Ala/SW Ga	178,000	101,200	57%	12	15
4. E. Ga/S.C.	448,700	243,875	54%	16	17
5. NE N.C./SE Va	256,000	137,700	54%	11	12
TOTAL	2,144,238	1,095,727	51.1%	74	82

The following three pages show this dramatic dispersal of the black people from the black belt south pictorially. They show the areas of black majority in the South for the years 1880, 1920 and 1980. Also see the discussion of this question in

the section "The Dispersal of the Black People Out of the Black Belt" of the article On the Black National Question and the Right to Self-Determination elsewhere in the Supplement. <>

Regions of Black Majority in the South 1880



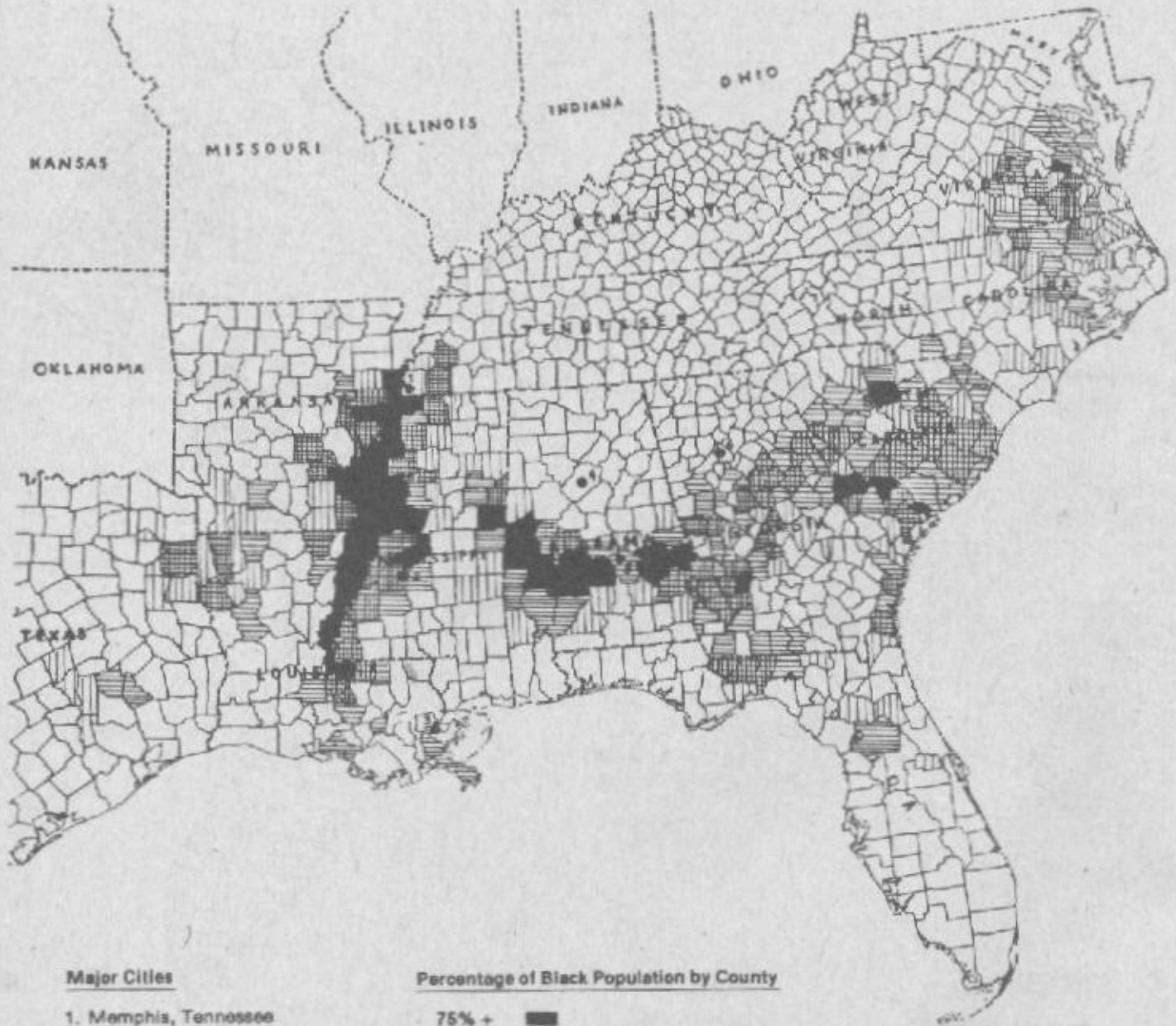
Major Cities

1. Memphis, Tennessee
2. Jackson, Mississippi
3. New Orleans, Louisiana
4. Birmingham, Alabama
5. Montgomery, Alabama
6. Atlanta, Georgia

Percentage of Black Population by County

75% +	■
60-75%	▨
50-60%	▧
40-50%	▩

Regions of Black Majority in the South 1920



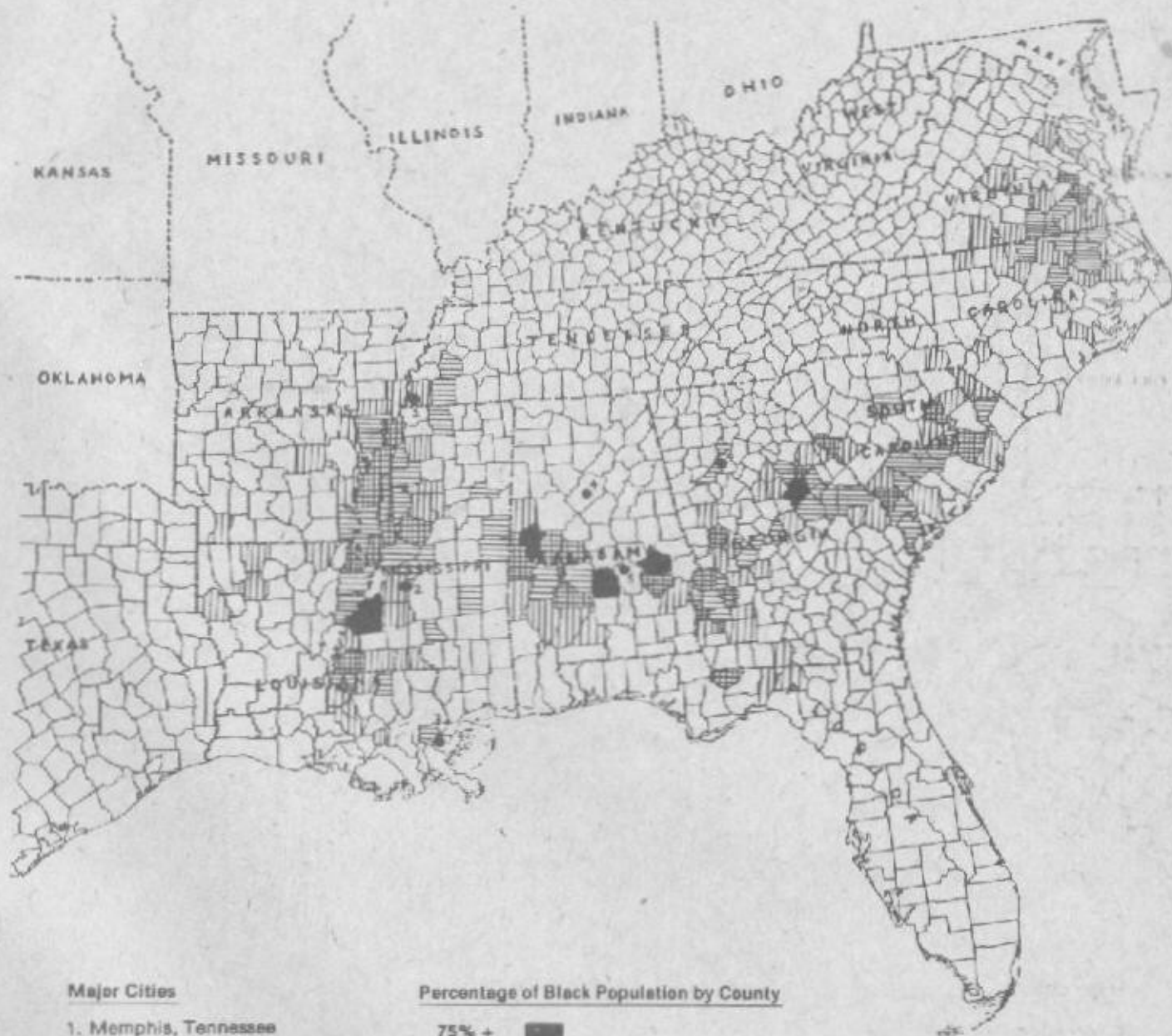
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