

Economic and Social

1. Prior to November 1898 African Americans in Wilmington were employed in all segments of the workforce, as professionals, skilled artisans, government employees, maritime crew members, industrial workers, laborers, and domestics. After 1898 the number of blacks employed as professionals (aside from ministers), as skilled artisans, and in government jobs declined while the number working in lower status jobs increased.
2. Prior to November 1898 African Americans in Wilmington benefited from a cohesive social network composed of churches, strong fraternal organizations, and other civic and benevolent groups. After 1898 the network gradually rebounded but the social structure was altered as a result of statutory segregation.
3. One result of the Wilmington diaspora (the departure of African Americans from the Port City, voluntary or otherwise) was a decline in economic opportunity for black citizens.
4. Analysis of statistical data indicates that Wilmington's black businesses and workers suffered losses after 1898 in terms of job status, income, and access to capital.
5. After 1898, black-owned businesses suffered economic decline as some businesses closed or moved from the city's business district to traditionally black neighborhoods.
6. Analysis of deeds and tax records indicates that most black property owners in Wilmington retained ownership of holdings after 1898. No evidence was found to support the thesis that seizure of black-owned property by whites was widespread after 1898.
7. Analysis of residential patterns after 1898, based on the mapping of city directory and tax data, indicates that segregated neighborhoods in Wilmington increased and that the city's center became almost exclusively white.
8. After 1898, Wilmington's black schools and teachers received significantly less funding compared to white schools and teachers, a pattern reflective of trends across North Carolina. Black literacy rates in the city dropped to rates much lower than those of whites.

1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission FINDINGS

Political

1. The racial violence of November 10, 1898, in Wilmington precipitated an armed overthrow of the legitimately elected municipal government.
2. The organizers of the overthrow took part in a documented conspiracy. The leaders, members of the Democratic white elite in Wilmington and New Hanover County, achieved their political goals through violence and intimidation.
3. Involved in the conspiracy were men prominent in the Democratic Party, former Confederate officers, former officeholders, and newspaper editors locally and statewide rallied by Josephus Daniels of the Raleigh *News and Observer*.
4. Organizers of the coup instituted a banishment campaign, targeting political opponents, black and white, leading to the expulsion from the city of over twenty targeted individuals and a mass exodus of over 2,100 others. Consequently, the Republican power base in Wilmington was destroyed.
5. The overthrow or *coup d'état* took place within the context of an ongoing statewide political campaign based on white supremacy. The Wilmington events spurred the subsequent development of statutory basis for segregation (i.e., Jim Crow) and disfranchisement legislation in North Carolina.
6. Publication of an editorial by African American editor Alex Manly in August 1898 and subsequent reprintings by the white press stimulated public debate. The burning of Manly's press and office were the flashpoint on November 10. The mob action satisfied a perceived need for the organizers of the coup. Yet, the overthrow still would have taken place irrespective of Manly's role.
7. The events of November 10 left an unknown number of dead on Wilmington's streets. The coroner performed fourteen inquests but other evidence indicates that the total number of deaths was as high as sixty.
8. Government at all levels failed to adequately respond to the violence or to reverse the political overthrow. Troops sent to Wilmington by Governor Daniel L. Russell were ineffective in quelling the violence of November 10.