# Resumen #3

VOA LEARNING ENGLISH

AS IT IS

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# What Was Black Wall Street?

LANGUAGES

Until recently, many AMERICANS had never heard of the GREENWOOD DISTRICT of the city of TULSA, OKLAHOMA. It **was** once one of the LARGEST BLACK COMMUNITIES in the United States. It **was destroyed** in 1921 during what the OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY calls the "single worst incident of racial violence in American history."

Before 1921, most of TULSA'S 10,000 AFRICAN AMERICANS **lived** in the neighborhood. The GREENWOOD DISTRICT **included** successful Black-owned businesses, two newspapers, several churches, a hotel and library. Some called GREENWOOD 'THE BLACK WALL STREET,' because it **was** so financially successful.

Riots **started** in June of 1921 after a BLACK TEENAGER **was** falsely accused of attacking a white woman. AN ARMED MOB **took over** THE BLACK AREA, stealing, and setting fire to homes and businesses. When the riots ended, almost all of GREENWOOD'S HOMES and BUSINESSES had been destroyed.

An investigation carried out in 2001 found that 168 PEOPLE **died** in the VIOLENCE. But other reports say the number is much higher – AS MANY AS 300. Most of the people of Greenwood were left homeless following the riots. They **spent** that winter living in tents. But Greenwood rebuilt. Gregory Fairchild is a professor of business administration at the University of Virginia. His father and grandfather **grew up** in Greenwood. "My grandfather **grew up** in and **watched** the destruction of such a community and also **watched** such a community **come back** and **raised** his son there," Fairchild **said**. His father **was raised** in Greenwood after the riots.

"...My dad, growing up in that community, **had** two college-educated parents, and he himself **became college-educated**, again solidly middle class." Greenwood **fell into poverty** in the 1960s and 1970s. So-called urban renewal projects **changed** the center of Tulsa, including Greenwood. A major road **cut off** the business district from the rest of the neighborhood. Banks **moved out** of the area, which meant **there were** few chances for local people to build wealth through savings or loans. In addition, the civil rights movement **gave** Black people the ability to go to stores once reserved for white people only. This **meant** people **spent** less money in the Greenwood area.

"The loss of this economic capital has impacted all...of the African American experience, from education to political influence to the ability to even preserve and tell our history," **said** Brent Leggs. He is the executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Leggs believes that understanding Greenwood's history can help create new neighborhoods. He **said** that knowing that African American communities **were** once successful centers of culture will make people "able to re-establish this sense of community and the opportunity to create healthy and vibrant neighborhoods," he says.

At the University of Virginia, Fairchild studies ways to bring wealth back to Black communities. Although segregation is illegal, most Americans remain racially separated. Many live in neighborhoods and go to schools with people of their own race. Fairchild **said** this leads to a decrease in social and economic opportunities for Black Americans. That financial inequity, he **said**, begins at birth [...]

Susan Shand.

What Was Black Wall Street? (voanews.com)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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1. Relaciona las columnas con una línea.

| ENGLISH | SPANISH |
|---|---|
| **riots** | pobreza |
| **mob** | muchedumbre |
| **poverty** | prestamos |
| **renewal** | riqueza |
| **wealth** | disturbios |
| **savings** | renovación |
| **loans** | perdida |
| **loss** | ahorros |
| **sense** | permanecer |
| **vibrant** | animado/dinámico |
| **remain** | sentido |

2. Responde a las siguientes preguntas.

a) ¿Cómo se describe TULSA, OKLAHOMA en 1921?

Tipo de comunidad:
Número de habitantes:
Sobrenombre de Greenwood:
Razón del sobrenombre:

b) ¿Cómo fueron los disturbios en 1921?

Causa de los disturbios:
Área destruida por la "muchedumbre armada":
Resultado de los disturbios:

c) ¿Cómo se describe la investigación de 2001?

Número de muertos reales:
Condiciones de vida despues de los disturbios:
Condiciones de vida durante el invierno:
Condición actual de Greenwood (2 o 3 palabras):

d) ¿Cómo se describe la segregación racial?

Legalmente:
Condición de muchos americanos:
Forma de vida:
Efecto directo en Afroamericanos:

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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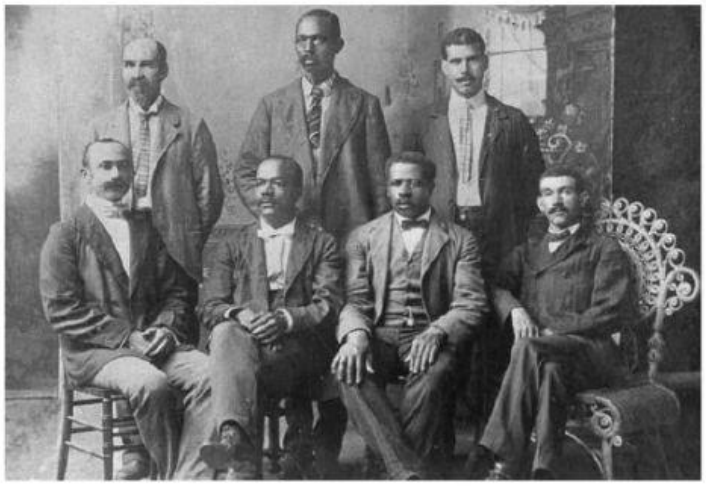
3. Una vez que hemos obtenido la información necesaria, elabora un breve resumen del evento histórico de "Black Wall Street" y su efecto en la vida de muchos americanos.



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