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# Opinion

## History of Black Women in the Peace Movement

In this Women's History Month, it makes sense to reflect on women and the peace movement, and especially on the African American women who have been peace activists and have played a significant role in this movement.

The Women's International League of Peace and Freedom (WILPF) was founded in 1915 in the midst of World War I. Its first chair, Hull House's Jane Addams, cared deeply about world disarmament. Early on, though, there were criticisms of WILPF and the peace movement because African American were too often invisible. In a book poignantly titled, *No Peace Without Freedom, Race and WILPF*, Joyce Blackwell writes about tensions within the path breaking peace organization. In a similar book, *A Band of Noble Women: Racial Politics in the Women's Peace Movement*, Melinda Plastas writes that African American women combined the effects of race, gender and war, and "demanded a place for Black women in the international peace movement.

Mary Church Terrell was involved in WILPF almost from its outset, serving on its board for a time. The D.C. doyenne, who was one of the first African American women to



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earn a college degree, was involved in the civil rights and social justice movements. A teacher by profession, she was one of the first women to serve on the Washington, D.C. Board of Education. She played founding roles in many justice organizations, including the NAACP, the In-

**“African American women combined the effects of race, gender and war, and “demanded a place for Black women in the international peace movement**

ternational College of Women, the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Some of her dealings with WILPF were not smooth — she was not re-elected to serve a second term on the Board of the organization, to the chagrin of many of the White women who felt that Black women's voices needed to be heard on peace matters.

Terrell was not the only woman who worked with WILPF during its early days. Addie Hunton came to activism early, working as an organizer for NACW in the early twentieth century. She worked with servicemen in France during the war. Those war experiences perhaps influenced her to work as a peace activist during the 1920s. In 1926, she wrote a report condemning US occupation of Haiti. Bertha McNeill was another of the African American women involved in WILPF. She led the Washington, D.C. chapter, and also

of increasing militarism into consideration. With the immigration crisis sparked by conflict in Syria, the violence maintained by ISIS, unrest in the Middle East, and tension with Russia, not to mention the number of US troops still in Afghanistan and Iraq, wouldn't it be appropriate for us to hear about alternatives to militarism.

That brings me to California Congresswoman Barbara Lee — the only person who had the courage to oppose President George W. Bush's push for military action after September 11, 2001. She appropriately asked whether our country was rushing into war. Subsequent events suggest that we did rush. "Weapons of mass destruction" were never found.

Many of us are quite familiar with Barbara Lee's peace activism, but far fewer of us know much about Mary Church Terrell and Addie Hunton. While African American peace activists were few in the WILPF early days, their contributions were significant and, more importantly, they paved the way for activists like Barbara Lee to advocate a peace agenda and a peace budget.

Read the rest of this editorial at  
**TheSkanner.com**

## Trump's Hostile Takeover of the Republican Party

I have repeatedly heard many of the talking heads in Washington, D.C. and the Republican establishment accuse Donald Trump and his presidential campaign of engaging in a hostile takeover of the Republican Party. I agree with them.

According to Investopedia, "a hostile takeover is the acquisition of one company (called the target company) by another (called the acquirer) that is accomplished not by coming to an agreement with the target company's management, but by going directly to the company's shareholders or fighting to replace manage-

**“Many in the party see no value in the Black community because they don't think they will ever vote Republican**

ment in order to get the acquisition approved.”

Investopedia continues, "The key characteristic of a hostile takeover is that the target company's management does not want the deal to go through.”

Typically a company is targeted for a hostile takeover when their assets are considered to be undervalued. Trump sees the Black community as an undervalued asset within the Republican Party. Unfortunately, many in



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the party see no value in the Black community because they don't think they will ever vote Republican. These are the consultants that go from one losing campaign to another, doing the same thing, and wonder why they never win an election.

In 2016, you still have people in the party that believe if

market share by cultivating substantial relations with the Black and Hispanic communities, not just with words, but also by his actions.

Trump's national spokesman is a Black woman; his state director in North Carolina is a Black man. No other presidential campaign or party institution has Black staffers in such a position. Trump has publically stated his goal of getting at least 25 percent of the Black vote. No other presidential campaign or party institution has made such a goal.

The Republican Party will continue to be an underval-

ued asset as long as they hire consultants who go from losing campaign to losing campaigns.

from high school to the NBA, there will be some growing pains and many unforced errors (LeBron James, Kobe Bryant).

One way of trying to prevent a hostile takeover is by using a poison pill. The purpose of the poison pill is to prevent the takeover from ever happening.

Marco Rubio said, "Trump can't win the general election." Nebraska's United States Senator Ben Sasse said, "I will never vote for Trump." Defeated campaign staffers constantly go on TV and talk about how Trump can't beat Hillary or he will never get the female vote.

They don't really believe that, but this is the poison pill that the establishment is putting up because they can't fathom the idea of an outsider like Trump becoming president and they have little to no access to the inner circle.

Republicans have spoken out more on racial issues during the past two weeks than they have in my entire time as a Republican — not because they are so concerned about racism, but because they think it will hurt Trump's candidacy.

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