Factors that helped bring about change for African American’s between 1945-1955

- **World War Two (1939-1945)**
  - Tens of thousands of blacks were called upon to fight in the war
  - “Double V” campaign for victory at home and abroad against racial injustice
  - NAACP membership quadrupled after the war due to new found motivation from victory against racial injustice
  - January 1945 first formally integrated military unit was set up
  - Provided blacks with valuable skills to help them get jobs in the North improving unemployment figures and their standard of living

- **Brown v Board of Education (1954)**
  - Outlawed the Supreme Court case of Smith v Allwright (1944) “separate but equal” policy in segregating state schools
  - Verdict emboldened the black population to fighting further for equal rights
  - Northern states such as Washington, Baltimore and St Louis desegregated their schools