

# Form 3

# Challenges to the Social Order

A VIEW OF ELMA FRANCOIS AND AUDREY JEFFERS

# UNDERSTANDING HISTORY

You can understand history by looking at an event that occurred before the event or period you are studying. Let's see!

# Are you familiar with these images?



# QUESTIONS

What is the nature of the event in the image?

What was the setting of the event(s)?

What was the mood of the event(s)?

What strategies did the persons involved in the event use?

What were they trying to achieve OR What were their goals? Use two nouns to describe their goals

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

The images represented the **Black Lives Matter Activist Movement**. The movement began as a hashtag (#BlackLivesMatter) after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African-American teenager killed in Florida in July 2013. The movement became more widely known and popularized after two high-profile deaths in 2014 of unarmed African-American men (Eric Garner in Staten Island, NY and Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO) at the hands of police officers who were ultimately not indicted.

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# BLACK LIVES MATTER

Since August 2014, ongoing local and national protests and other actions—often sparked by the deaths of other unarmed African Americans—have brought the movement to the public consciousness and conversation. Black Lives Matter, which originated as a hashtag on Twitter and other social media, has since evolved into a “movement.” As of August 2015, more than 1000 Black Lives Matter demonstrations have been held worldwide.

<https://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/black-lives-matter-from-hashtag-to-movement>



There were also  
periods of protest  
in Trinidad and  
Tobago's history  
involving  
individuals and  
groups fighting  
against/for  
Injustice!  
Unemployment!  
Better wages!

The 1930s in Trinidad and Tobago was a period of unrest with high unemployment among the masses, low wages, dissatisfaction with living and working conditions. Individuals such as A.A. Cipriani, Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler, Christina King and Jim Barrette and workers' organisations such as the TWA and the NWA organised meetings and marches to influence the colonial authorities to improve living and working conditions of the working classes. The struggle for improvement did not only take place on the streets but through involvement in political life.

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO- Here are some images illustrating the 1930s labour unrest!





# WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

- Women played a significant role in the efforts to improve living and working conditions in Trinidad and Tobago in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Women were involved in the marches, protests and strikes and the early trade union movement . These included women such as Christina King, Daisy Crick, Theresa Ojoe, Thelma Williams, Henrietta Waldron.

**Activity 1**-Do some additional research on the issues that were existing at the time. Here are some links for you.

# LINKS TO INFORMATION ON THE LABOUR UNREST OF THE 1930S

- <https://natt.gov.tt/sites/default/files/pdfs/ButlerRevisedBoards11June.pdf>
- <https://www.nalis.gov.tt/Resources/Subject-Guide/Labour-Day>
- <https://owtu.org/content/owtu-history>

# TWO WOMEN-TWO DIFFERENT LIVES-TWO DIFFERENT STRATEGIES

## ELMA FRANCOIS AND AUDREY JEFFERS

One has been described as the Mother of Philanthropy and the other as a Heroine to Workers. Can you match them?

**Clue:** *Though born one year apart, the Heroine to workers died at a younger age.*



1897-1944



1898-1968

## ACTIVITY 2

Read the quotation below and answer the questions that follow

“I first saw her one night at a TLP meeting at the corner of Quarry and Observatory Street. She spoke on the platform with Julian Brathwaite. She had a good voice and was an explicit speaker. I was fascinated by the away she put it. She was strong on things Africa....one day she gave me a book on the French revolution to read and asked me to bring other friends.” *Jim Barrette*



# QUESTIONS

- Who is the she being referred to?
- What were the things she was talking about?
- What do you think was taking place at Quarry and Observatory Street?
- Apart from being a good speaker what else did you learn about the person Jim Barrette was talking about?
- Have you ever heard about the French Revolution? These famous words Liberty! Fraternity! Equality!

Activity 3-View the short video on the French Revolution below at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEZqarUnVpo!>  
Can you figure out why the speaker gave the book on the French Revolution to Mr. Barrette to read?



## ACTIVITY:

Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow

The first black female member of the Legislative Council in 1936. This was during a time when women could only vote if they “owned land or a decent house as her personal property.” As a result she along with other women in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando who owned houses were allowed to vote. A social worker by profession, she established the Coterie of Social Workers in 1921 which provided free lunches to poor school children. The first “Breakfast Shed” was established in 1926 which provided daily meals to the working class children.

# QUESTIONS

Based on the extract

- What were the TWO main areas of her role in the society at that time?
- How did her social activities help the working class at that time?
- In your view would her work have helped to change the society at that time?



# ACTIVITY

Two similarities in the work of Elma Francois and Audrey Jeffers

- 1.
- 2.

Two differences in the work of Elma Francois and Audrey Jeffers

- 1.
- 2.

# ACTIVITY

Have you figured out why Audrey Jeffers has been called the Mother of Philanthropy and Elma Francois as a Heroine to Workers? I hope so!

# SOURCES

- <https://natt.gov.tt/sites/default/files/pdfs/ButlerRevisedBoards11June.pdf>
- <https://www.nalis.gov.tt/Resources/Subject-Guide/Labour-Day>
- <https://owtu.org/content/owtu-history>
- <https://www.looptt.com/content/10-women-who-helped-shape-trinidad-and-tobago>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=451wlpKTNzM>
- <http://thevincentian.com/elma-francois-from-domestic-worker-to-national-heroine-p15071-112.htm>