

five percent nation history

Five Percent Nation History: Exploring the Origins and Legacy of a Unique Movement

five percent nation history traces back to a fascinating and often misunderstood chapter in American cultural and religious life. Emerging during the turbulent 1960s, the Five Percent Nation, also known as the Nation of Gods and Earths, carved out a unique identity by blending elements of Islam, Afrocentrism, and street philosophy. Understanding this movement's roots, beliefs, and cultural impact not only sheds light on a vital part of African American history but also reveals how it continues to influence music, education, and social thought today.

The Origins of the Five Percent Nation

The story of the Five Percent Nation begins with Clarence 13X, a charismatic figure who was once a member of the Nation of Islam (NOI). Dissatisfied with certain teachings of the NOI, Clarence 13X left the organization in 1964 and founded the Nation of Gods and Earths in Harlem, New York City. The name “Five Percent Nation” stems from the group's core belief about society: they divide people into three categories—85% who are ignorant of the truth, 10% who manipulate the ignorant, and the remaining 5% who are enlightened and tasked with teaching the rest.

Clarence 13X and the Break from the Nation of Islam

Clarence 13X, born Clarence Edward Smith, was deeply influenced by Elijah Muhammad's teachings but sought a different path. He rejected the NOI's strict hierarchy and doctrines and instead emphasized the divinity of the Black man and woman as literal gods and earths, respectively. This spiritual empowerment was revolutionary, especially during the Civil Rights era when African Americans sought identity and pride in a society rife with oppression.

The Meaning Behind “Five Percent” and Core Philosophy

The Five Percent Nation's name is more than symbolic; it reflects a worldview that categorizes humanity into three distinct groups:

- **85%:** The masses who live in ignorance and are unaware of their true identity.
- **10%:** Those who know the truth but use it to deceive and control the 85% for their gain.

- **5%:** The enlightened who understand reality and have a mission to educate and uplift the others.

This philosophy encourages members to see themselves as teachers and leaders within their communities, promoting knowledge of self, empowerment, and social consciousness.

Beliefs and Teachings of the Five Percent Nation

Unlike traditional religions with rigid structures, the Five Percent Nation incorporates a unique blend of spiritual and practical teachings. At its core lies the belief that the Black man is divine, often referred to as the “God” and the Black woman as the “Earth,” representing nurturing and life-giving forces.

The Supreme Mathematics and Supreme Alphabet

One of the most intriguing elements of Five Percent Nation history is its use of the Supreme Mathematics and Supreme Alphabet. These are systems developed by Clarence 13X to unlock hidden meanings in words and numbers. Members use these tools to interpret the world around them, decode language, and teach lessons about life and spirituality.

The Supreme Mathematics associates numbers 0 through 9 with concepts such as Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding, and Power. Similarly, the Supreme Alphabet assigns meanings to each letter, transforming everyday communication into a coded language of enlightenment.

Knowledge of Self and Community Empowerment

At the heart of Five Percent teachings is the pursuit of “knowledge of self.” This means understanding one's identity, history, and potential as a divine being. The movement encourages members to reject negative stereotypes, embrace Afrocentric pride, and actively contribute to the betterment of their communities. This focus on self-awareness and social responsibility has inspired generations to challenge systemic injustice and seek educational and economic advancement.

The Cultural Impact and Legacy of the Five Percent Nation

The influence of the Five Percent Nation extends far beyond its religious roots, permeating music, fashion, language, and social activism. Its members have played a crucial role in shaping hip-hop culture and African American intellectual thought.

Influence on Hip-Hop and Popular Culture

Many iconic hip-hop artists, including Rakim, Wu-Tang Clan members, and Brand Nubian, have openly referenced Five Percent Nation teachings in their lyrics and public personas. The movement's unique vocabulary and philosophy have enriched hip-hop's narrative, offering listeners a blend of spirituality, social critique, and empowerment.

Hip-hop's use of terms like "God," "Earth," "cipher," and references to the Supreme Mathematics highlight the deep connection between the Five Percent Nation and this musical genre. This relationship has helped spread the movement's ideas to a global audience, influencing youth culture and inspiring new generations to explore their identity and potential.

Community Programs and Educational Initiatives

Beyond music, the Five Percent Nation has been active in community education and social programs. Members often engage in mentoring, literacy campaigns, and workshops focused on self-improvement and cultural pride. Their emphasis on knowledge and self-discipline makes education a cornerstone of their activism.

In many urban areas, the Nation of Gods and Earths has become a support network for young people seeking guidance and purpose amidst challenging environments. This grassroots approach has contributed to healthier community dynamics and offered alternatives to violence and despair.

Common Misunderstandings and Clarifications

Despite its contributions, the Five Percent Nation has frequently been misunderstood or mischaracterized. Some confuse it with traditional Islam or view it solely as a street gang due to its urban presence and distinctive symbols.

Not a Traditional Religion, But a Way of Life

While rooted in Islamic teachings, the Five Percent Nation does not require its members to follow conventional Islamic practices, such as prayer five times daily or fasting during Ramadan. Instead, it presents itself as a cultural and philosophical movement focused on empowerment and knowledge rather than strict religious observance.

Symbols and Language

The movement's use of symbols—such as the Universal Flag featuring a 7-pointed star—and its distinctive language can sometimes create barriers to understanding.

However, these elements are intended to foster unity, identity, and a sense of belonging among members rather than exclusion.

Continuing the Legacy: Five Percent Nation Today

Today, the Five Percent Nation remains active, with chapters across the United States and internationally. Its teachings continue to resonate with individuals seeking a sense of identity, community, and spiritual enlightenment.

Adapting to Modern Challenges

In the 21st century, the Five Percent Nation has adapted to new platforms, using social media and digital content to share its messages. This has allowed the movement to reach younger audiences and engage in contemporary dialogues about race, identity, and social justice.

The Role of Education and Self-Improvement

The emphasis on knowledge and self-betterment remains central to the Five Percent Nation's mission. Members often pursue higher education, entrepreneurial ventures, and artistic expression as means to uplift themselves and their communities. This focus on positive action and intellectual growth ensures that the movement's spirit lives on in evolving forms.

Exploring five percent nation history uncovers a story of resilience, innovation, and empowerment. From its origins in Harlem to its influence on global culture, the Nation of Gods and Earths offers a unique perspective on spirituality and identity. Its legacy continues to inspire those who seek knowledge, purpose, and a deeper connection to their heritage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Five Percent Nation?

The Five Percent Nation, also known as the Nation of Gods and Earths, is a cultural movement founded in 1964 by Clarence 13X, a former member of the Nation of Islam. It emphasizes knowledge of self, empowerment, and the belief that 5% of the population are enlightened and responsible for educating others.

Who founded the Five Percent Nation and when?

The Five Percent Nation was founded by Clarence 13X in 1964 after he left the Nation of Islam. He developed the teachings into a distinct movement focusing on self-knowledge and empowerment.

Why is it called the Five Percent Nation?

It is called the Five Percent Nation because its teachings divide people into three groups: 85% who are unaware of the truth, 10% who know the truth but use it to deceive, and 5% who know the truth and strive to enlighten and educate the rest.

What are the core beliefs of the Five Percent Nation?

Core beliefs include the idea that Black people are the original people and are divine, that knowledge of self is essential, and that individuals can manifest divinity within themselves. It rejects traditional religious doctrines and emphasizes personal empowerment and education.

How did the Five Percent Nation influence hip hop culture?

The Five Percent Nation had a significant impact on hip hop culture, especially in the 1980s and 1990s. Many influential rappers, such as Rakim, Wu-Tang Clan members, and Brand Nubian, incorporated Five Percent teachings and language into their lyrics, spreading its philosophy.

What is the Supreme Mathematics in Five Percent Nation history?

The Supreme Mathematics is a system of numerology created by Clarence 13X that assigns meanings to numbers 0 through 9. It is used by members to interpret life's experiences and communicate philosophical concepts within the Five Percent Nation.

How did Clarence 13X's departure from the Nation of Islam shape the Five Percent Nation?

Clarence 13X left the Nation of Islam due to ideological differences and created the Five Percent Nation to focus more on individual empowerment and knowledge of self rather than strict religious doctrine, which shaped its unique teachings and culture.

What role does 'knowledge of self' play in Five Percent Nation history?

'Knowledge of self' is central to the Five Percent Nation's philosophy. It encourages individuals to understand their divine nature and cultural heritage, which is considered essential for personal and communal liberation.

How has the Five Percent Nation evolved since its founding?

Since its founding, the Five Percent Nation has expanded globally and influenced various cultural movements. While maintaining its core teachings, it has adapted to contemporary issues and continues to promote education, empowerment, and cultural pride.

Additional Resources

Five Percent Nation History: Origins, Evolution, and Cultural Impact

five percent nation history traces back to a transformative period in mid-20th century America, a time marked by social upheaval, cultural shifts, and a burgeoning quest for identity among African Americans. Also known as the Nation of Gods and Earths, the Five Percent Nation emerged as a distinct movement in the 1960s, blending elements of Islam, Afrocentrism, and esoteric teachings. Its development reflects a complex interplay of religious innovation, racial consciousness, and urban cultural expression, making it a subject of considerable interest within the fields of religious studies, sociology, and hip-hop culture.

Origins of the Five Percent Nation

The Five Percent Nation was founded in 1964 by Clarence 13X, a former member of the Nation of Islam (NOI). Often referred to by members as Father Allah or Clarence Smith, Clarence 13X broke away from the NOI due to theological differences and a desire to reinterpret Islamic teachings in a way that emphasized individual divinity and empowerment, particularly for Black men and women. Unlike the NOI's strict hierarchical structure and emphasis on separation, the Five Percent Nation adopted a more open and decentralized approach.

Clarence 13X introduced unique concepts such as the idea that the Black man is God, and the Black woman the Earth, symbolizing a divine unity and creative power. This ideology was encapsulated in the teachings of the "Supreme Mathematics" and "Supreme Alphabet," which served as interpretive tools for understanding the universe and human existence. The movement was named after the belief that 5% of the population—the "poor righteous teachers"—are enlightened individuals tasked with educating the masses, while 85% remain unaware, and 10% are seen as deceptive oppressors.

Historical Context and Influences

The Five Percent Nation's emergence coincided with the Civil Rights Movement, the rise of Black nationalism, and growing dissatisfaction with mainstream religious institutions. Clarence 13X drew heavily from the Nation of Islam's teachings but diverged by rejecting certain dogmas, such as Elijah Muhammad's prophethood, instead positioning himself as a teacher rather than a prophet. The movement also incorporated elements of Freemasonry,

Gnostic thought, and pan-Africanism, synthesizing a worldview that was both spiritual and political.

Core Beliefs and Teachings

Central to Five Percent ideology is the belief in the divinity of the Black man, who is considered the original man and the embodiment of God on Earth. This theological stance challenges conventional monotheistic doctrines by asserting that God is not a distant figure but an inherent quality within each individual. The teachings emphasize self-knowledge, empowerment, and the pursuit of truth as vital to overcoming systemic oppression.

Supreme Mathematics and Supreme Alphabet

The Supreme Mathematics and Supreme Alphabet are foundational to Five Percent teachings, functioning as symbolic languages that decode the hidden meanings behind numbers and letters. Each number and letter corresponds to a concept or principle—such as 1 representing “Knowledge,” 2 symbolizing “Wisdom,” and 3 standing for “Understanding.” This system allows adherents to interpret everyday communication and events through a spiritual lens, fostering a unique cognitive framework that permeates both personal reflection and communal dialogue.

The Role of Language and Symbolism

Language within the Five Percent Nation serves not only as a communication tool but also as an instrument of cultural reclamation and identity formation. Members often replace standard English terms with alternative expressions—such as referring to women as “Earths” and men as “Gods”—to reflect the movement’s cosmology. This linguistic innovation reinforces a sense of belonging and distinguishes the group from other religious or social organizations.

Cultural and Social Impact

The Five Percent Nation has had a significant influence beyond its religious teachings, particularly within urban communities and hip-hop culture. Its philosophies have permeated the lyrics of numerous prominent artists, who incorporate Five Percent concepts and terminology into their music, thereby broadening the movement’s reach and visibility.

Influence on Hip-Hop and Popular Culture

Artists such as Rakim, Wu-Tang Clan, Brand Nubian, and Poor Righteous Teachers have openly acknowledged the impact of Five Percent teachings on their artistic expression. The

movement's emphasis on knowledge, self-awareness, and social justice resonates strongly within hip-hop's narrative tradition, where storytelling often addresses issues of racial inequality, empowerment, and resistance.

The Five Percent Nation's presence in hip-hop has also contributed to the dissemination of its ideas among younger generations and diverse audiences, positioning it as a cultural force that transcends strictly religious boundaries. This intersection of spirituality and music has fostered a dynamic dialogue around identity and empowerment in contemporary urban life.

Community Organization and Education

Beyond music, the Five Percent Nation has engaged in grassroots educational efforts and community organizing. Members often conduct classes and workshops focusing on personal development, history, and social consciousness. These initiatives aim to uplift marginalized populations by promoting self-respect, discipline, and critical thinking.

However, the movement has also faced criticism and controversy, particularly regarding its unorthodox beliefs and occasional conflicts with other religious groups or law enforcement. Some have questioned the Five Percent Nation's theological legitimacy or expressed concerns about its influence on youth, highlighting the complex and sometimes contentious nature of its public presence.

Comparisons with Other Movements

When examining five percent nation history, it is important to contextualize the movement alongside other African American religious and social organizations. Unlike the Nation of Islam, which emphasizes a strict religious hierarchy and prophetic leadership, the Five Percent Nation promotes a more decentralized and individualistic approach. Compared to mainstream Islam, its teachings are non-traditional and syncretic, blending spiritual, cultural, and political elements.

In contrast to secular Black nationalist movements, the Five Percent Nation incorporates a metaphysical framework that attributes divine significance to racial identity, which can be seen as both empowering and controversial. This unique positioning allows it to occupy a distinctive niche within the broader landscape of African American thought and activism.

Strengths and Challenges

- **Strengths:** The movement's focus on education and self-empowerment provides a constructive outlet for disenfranchised individuals. Its innovative use of language and symbolism fosters a strong group identity and cultural pride.
- **Challenges:** Its esoteric teachings and exclusivity can limit broader acceptance. The

movement's deviation from orthodox religious doctrines sometimes leads to misunderstandings or opposition from both religious and secular communities.

The nuanced legacy of the Five Percent Nation underlines the complexity of religious innovation within marginalized communities, illustrating how spiritual movements can simultaneously serve as vehicles for empowerment and sources of contention.

As interest in African American religious history and urban culture continues to grow, the study of the Five Percent Nation remains a vital area of inquiry. Its blend of theology, community activism, and cultural influence offers valuable insights into the evolving dynamics of identity, belief, and expression in modern society.

Five Percent Nation History

five percent nation history: In the Name of Allah Vol. 2: A History of Clarence 13x and the Five Percenters Wakeel Allah, 2009-02 In the name of Allah the History of Clarence 13X and the Five Percenters Vol. 2 is the follow up of the much anticipated In the Name of Allah the History of Clarence 13X and the Five Percenters Vol. 1. Volume 2 takes you into the life of Father Allah (Clarence 13X) through the eyes of his family, friends, peers, and those that walked and mentored under the man known as Allah in the streets of Harlem, NY. Volume 2 also details the influence that the Five Percent Nation had not only on the City of New York, but also how the Gods started Hip Hop and their introduction into the world of R&B and Funk of the 70s.

five percent nation history: The Five Percenters Michael Muhammad Knight, 2013-10-01 From Malcolm X to the Wu Tang Clan, the first in-depth account of this fascinating black power movement With a cast of characters ranging from Malcolm X to 50 Cent, Knight's compelling work is the first detailed account of the movement inextricably linked with black empowerment, Islam, New York, and hip-hop. Whether discussing the stars of Five Percenter rap or 1980s crack empires, this fast-paced investigation uncovers the community's icons and heritage, and examines its growing influence in urban American youth culture.

five percent nation history: Five Percenter Rap Felicia M. Miyakawa, 2005 Hip-hop evangelism--a compelling look at a rap subgroup that explores its musical, social, and political contexts.

five percent nation history: The True History of Allah and His 5% The Gods & Earths Who Were There!, 2019-03-16 This book is based on the true history of Allah the Father and His great Nation of Gods and Earths known as the Five Percenters. This is the greatest story that was never told by the Gods and the Earths during their younger years with Allah the Father from the early 1960s up until the time of his assassination on June 13, 1969. This was a time of struggle for the Black Man, Woman, and Child (the Universal Family). This was the time of the Big Five, who were: Allah the Father, who brought about the Nation of Gods and Earths known as the Five Percenters; the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, who was the last and greatest messenger of Allah, also the leader and teacher of the Black Muslims; Malcolm X of the new arrival; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights leader; and the Black Panther Party on the East and West coasts. These five groups were called the Big Five, because they had the attention of every Black Man, Woman, and Child in the wilderness of North America and other parts of our planet. There was a host of other Black groups as well. This was a time when the Five Percenter's teachings were being taught/spoken so plain and simple that even a child could understand. Black people were on the rise, and it was a time for a

change—for Black Man, Woman, and Child to take their place on earth. Peace!

five percent nation history: In the Name of Allah Wakeel Allah, 2009-02

five percent nation history: History and Mystery: The Complete Eschatological Encyclopedia of Prophecy, Apocalypticism, Mythos, and Worldwide Dynamic Theology Vol 3

Bernie L. Calaway, 2018-08-27 Surely you've lain awake at night to ponder life beyond time? Or dreamed restlessly of those multi-honored beast of Revelation? Or became frustrated because you don't know how to properly use your athame? How about all those times you came across a theological word that battered your brain? No problem. History and Mystery: The Complete Eschatological Encyclopedia of Prophecy, Apocalypticism, Mythos, and Worldwide Dynamic Theology has arrived, Here, just for you, are four volumes of exhaustive information that every student, teacher and interested person everywhere needs to know. Over 8000 defined words and phrases, 60 exploratory essays, and mini-sections of relational materials await. Before you know it, you'll be the best informed reader in your neighborhood and most of the next state over.

five percent nation history: African American History Day by Day Karen Juanita Carrillo, 2012-08-22 The proof of any group's importance to history is in the detail, a fact made plain by this informative book's day-by-day documentation of the impact of African Americans on life in the United States. One of the easiest ways to grasp any aspect of history is to look at it as a continuum. African American History Day by Day: A Reference Guide to Events provides just such an opportunity. Organized in the form of a calendar, this book allows readers to see the dates of famous births, deaths, and events that have affected the lives of African Americans and, by extension, of America as a whole. Each day features an entry with information about an important event that occurred on that date. Background on the highlighted event is provided, along with a link to at least one primary source document and references to books and websites that can provide more information. While there are other calendars of African American history, this one is set apart by its level of academic detail. It is not only a calendar, but also an easy-to-use reference and learning tool.

five percent nation history: The Righteous Way: Infinity Edition (Part 3) Starmel Allah, 2020-12-14 The Righteous Way: Infinity Edition is a practical self-help guide for readers to tap into their infinite potential and power. It includes an exclusive interview with Big Daddy Kane, including mental health specialist Allah Shah, and entrepreneur Knowledge Infinite Allah; featured essays from Saladin Quanaah Allah and Infinite Mind Allah; and photos by Jamel Shabazz and Khalik Allah.

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five percent nation history: *Radical religious thought in Black popular music. Five Percenters and Bobo Shanti in Rap and Reggae* Martin A. M. Gansinger, 2017-12-04 This book is discussing patterns of radical religious thought in popular forms of Black music. The consistent influence of the Five Percent Nation on Rap music as one of the most esoteric groups among the manifold Black Muslim movements has already gained scholarly attention. However, it shares more than a strong pattern of reversed racism with the Bobo Shanti Order, the most rigid branch of the Rastafarian faith, globally popularized by Dancehall-Reggae artists like Sizzla or Capleton. Authentic devotion or calculated marketing? Apart from providing a possible answer to this question, the historical shift of Bobo adherents from shunned extremists to firmly anchored personifications of authenticity in mainstream Rastafarian culture is being emphasized. A multi-layered comparative case study attempts to shed light on the re-contextualization of language as well as expressed dogmatic perceptions and symbolism, attitude towards other religious groups and aspects of ethnic discrimination. Further analysis includes the visibility of artists and their references to practical and moral issues directly derived from two obscure ideologies that managed to conquer airwaves and concert halls.

five percent nation history: *New Religions* Eugene V. Gallagher, Lydia Willsky-Ciollo, 2021-02-15 A valuable resource for students and general audiences, this book provides a unique global perspective on the history, beliefs, and practices of emergent faith communities; new religious traditions; and religious movements worldwide, from the 19th century to the present. *New Religions: Emerging Faiths and Religious Cultures in the Modern World* provides insightful global perspectives on the emergent faith communities and new traditions and movements of the last two centuries. Readers will gain access to the information necessary to explore the significance, complexities, and challenges that modern religious traditions have faced throughout their history and that continue to impact society today. The work identifies the themes and issues that have often brought new religions into conflict with the larger societies of which they are a part. Coverage includes new religious groups that emerged in America, such as the Seventh-day Adventists, the Latter-day Saints, and the Jehovah's Witnesses; alternative communities around the globe that emerged from the major Western and Eastern traditions, such as Aum Shinrikyo and Al-Qaeda; and marginalized groups that came to a sudden end, such as the Peoples Temple, Heaven's Gate, and the Branch Davidians. The entries highlight thematic and broader issues that run across the individual religious traditions, and will also help students analyze and assess the common difficulties faced by emergent religious communities.

five percent nation history: *Encyclopedia of African American History* Leslie M. Alexander, Walter C. Rucker, 2010-02-09 A fresh compilation of essays and entries based on the latest research, this work documents African American culture and political activism from the slavery era through the 20th century. *Encyclopedia of African American History* introduces readers to the significant people, events, sociopolitical movements, and ideas that have shaped African American life from earliest contact between African peoples and Europeans through the late 20th century. This encyclopedia places the African American experience in the context of the entire African diaspora, with entries organized in sections on African/European contact and enslavement, culture, resistance and identity during enslavement, political activism from the Revolutionary War to Southern emancipation, political activism from Reconstruction to the modern Civil Rights movement, black nationalism and urbanization, and Pan-Africanism and contemporary black America. Based on the latest scholarship and engagingly written, there is no better go-to reference for exploring the

history of African Americans and their distinctive impact on American society, politics, business, literature, art, food, clothing, music, language, and technology.

five percent nation history: *Why I Am a Five Percenter* Michael Muhammad Knight, 2011-10-13 A thoughtful, insider view of The Five Percenters—a deeply complex and misunderstood community whose ideas and symbols influenced the rise of hip-hop. Misrepresented in the media as a black parallel to the Hell's Angels, portrayed as everything from a vicious street gang to quasi-Islamic revolutionaries, The Five Percenters are a movement that began as a breakaway sect from the Nation of Islam (NOI) in 1960s Harlem and went on to impact the formation of hip-hop. References to Five Percent language and ideas are found in the lyrics of wide-ranging artists, such as Nas, Rakim, the Wu-Tang Clan, and even Jay-Z. The Five Percenters are denounced by white America as racists, and orthodox Islam as heretics, for teaching that the black man is Allah. Michael Muhammad Knight (the Hunter S. Thompson of Islamic literature -The Guardian) has engaged this culture as both white and Muslim; and over the course of his relationship with The Five Percenters, his personal position changed from that of an outsider to an accepted participant with his own initiatory name (Azreal Wisdom). This has given him an intimate perch from which to understand and examine the controversial doctrines of this influential movement. In *Why I Am a Five Percenter*, Knight strips away years of sensationalism to offer a serious encounter with Five Percenter thought. Encoded within Five Percent culture is a profound critique of organized religion, from which the movement derives its name: Only Five Percent can act as poor righteous teachers against the evil Ten Percent, the power structure which uses religion to deceive the Eighty-Five Percent, the deaf, dumb, and blind masses. Questioning his own relationship to the Five Percent, Knight directly confronts the community's most difficult teachings. In *Why I Am a Five Percenter*, Knight not only illuminates a thought system that must appear bizarre to outsiders, but he also brilliantly dissects the very issues of insiders and outsiders, territory and ownership, as they relate to religion and privilege, and to our conditioned ideas about race.

five percent nation history: Higher Education in the United States James J. F. Forest, Kevin Kinser, 2002-06-21 Surveys the changing landscape of American higher education, from academic freedom to virtual universities, from campus crime to Pell Grants, from the Student Privacy Act to student diversity. In the years following World War II, college and university enrollment doubled, students revolted, faculty unionized, and community colleges evolved. Tuition and technology soared, as did the number of first-generation, minority, and women students. These changes radically transformed the American system of postsecondary education. Today, that system is in trouble. Its aging professoriate prepares for retirement, but low academic salaries can no longer attract the best minds to replace them. A flood of corporate dollars funds commercial research, but money for basic research—the seedbed of American scientific preeminence—has dried up. Colleges and universities also face heated competition with for-profit education providers for students, faculty, and external financial support, along with the costs of providing remedial education to growing numbers of students who are unprepared for postsecondary education. *Higher Education in the United States* provides a comprehensive analysis of these issues and others that scholars and practitioners of higher education study, discuss, and grapple with on a daily basis.

five percent nation history: *The Nuwaubian Nation* Susan J. Palmer, 2010 Presenting fresh and important insights into racist spirituality and the social control of unconventional religions in America, *The Nuwaubian Nation* follows the extraordinary career of Dwight York, who in his teens started out in a New York street gang, but converted to Islam in prison. Emerging as a Black messiah, York proceeded to break the Paleman's spell of Kingu and to guide his people through a series of racial/religious identities that demanded dramatic changes in costume, gender roles and lifestyle. Referring to theories in the sociology of deviance and media studies, the author tracks the escalating hostilities against the group that climaxed in a Waco-style FBI raid on the Nuwaubian compound in 2002.

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five percent nation history: Life and Def Russell Simmons, 2001-12-18 Russell Simmons, the original and eternal hip-hop mogul, is one of the most innovative and influential figures in modern American business and culture. When no one outside of inner-city New York had even heard of hip-hop, Simmons saw the seeds of a global force that would change the way people talk, dress, listen to music, and choose the heroes they hang on their walls. Today, he oversees a sprawling, multimillion-dollar empire of culture-defining businesses in everything from music to fashion, advertising to film, and media to visual art. At the same time he's broadened his interests and influence and pushed hip-hop to new plateaus of power and relevance. Life and Def is a one-of-a-kind tale that interweaves the remarkable journey of Russell Simmons with the story of the culture he's transformed and been transformed by. In his own brash, compelling voice, Simmons chronicles his numerous business successes and occasional failures. He tells the story of the founding of the legendary Def Jam Records, whose roster stretches from original rap icons like L.L. Cool J, Public Enemy, and the Beastie Boys to today's top stars, including Jay-Z and DMX. He traces the launching of Def Comedy Jam, the long-running hit television series that introduced a new generation of black comedic stars to America, from Martin Lawrence and Bill Bellamy to Bernie Mac and Chris Rock. He spins hilarious tales of his adventures in Hollywood, where he's produced hit movies like Eddie Murphy's The Nutty Professor and worked with quirky geniuses like Abel Ferrara. He also tells the story of Phat Farm, the wildly successful pioneering urban clothing label whose origins lay in Russell's longtime fascination with fashion (and fashion models). Simmons's story is also one of personal transformation, from the driven man who in the heady days of early success indulged himself with drugs, sex, and world-class decadence to the husband and father he is today, a man who has found meaning in activism, philanthropy, and spiritual practice while never losing his passion for the social, political, artistic, and commercial potential of hip-hop. Through it all he relates telling anecdotes about the characters he's dealt with: models and gangsters, street poets and gurus, and major players like Donald Trump, Sean Combs, Jon Peters, and Tupac Shakur. Full of advice, opinions, and behind-the-scenes scoop, Life and Def is the story of the quintessential hip-hop life.

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