Worker’s Movement in the 1800s

- 100 Maya marched to the house of the magistrate and threatened to go to Belize town to present because John Carmichael was forcing them out of his land if they did not take larger tasks per day. However, Carmichael was forced to withdraw his proposal.

- In 1891 protests: 1887 a law was passed that made the Guatemalan silver dollar currency in British Honduras. In 1891, the value of the silver went down making the Guatemalan sol value 50 cents. When the people that worked in camps came in town and received their pay, it valued less. John Alexander Tom, one of the workers, organized riots demanding that the employers give the workers a raise of pay for them to survive. The employers were upset and did not want to provide any sort of extra money, however, because of the constant riots they were eventually forced to.

Marcus Garvey

- He is credited for forming the University Negro Improvement Association.

- **Garvey’s View of People:** He argued that god created all people equally and that no specific group of people should accept inferiority.

- Garvey encouraged blacks to develop and accept a better self-image and approach life in all its dimensions with an equal ethos, as other races.

- Blacks had the power, through their own will, to curb the status quo and develop a society that promoted a continued equality.

- **Garvey’s View of Nationalism:** Marcus Garvey is popularly known for his back to Africa movement in the 1900s.

- He believed that individuals of various races could only fully realize themselves in their own separate nations.

- Firstly, he argued that if blacks were part of any country as a minority, they would never realize their higher ambitions and potentials.

- Secondly, he stated that only in a black nation would blacks set priorities based on their needs and aspirations.

- Lastly, Garvey proposed that the return to Africa of African-Americans will enable the birth of a true black aristocracy based on merit.

- **Garvey’s organization:** Garvey also established a newspaper called the “Negro-World” to share his views and empower blacks to unite for their betterment.

- The UNIA encouraged the formation of economic independence by forming the Royal African Motos, Negro Factories Corporations, and the Black Starline shipping line.

- **BLACK CROSS NURSES reading! Read and analyze review the questions!**

THE LUA

- The Great Depression: 1929 the economy of the USA and industrialize countries crashed; The USA and other European countries restricted the importation of certain goods.

- Impact on British Honduras: Export prices were reduced, Imports dropped sharply, Government finances collapsed, Unemployment increased.

- 1931 Hurricane: The Hurricane further damaged the infrastructure and social and economic system; The government offered temporary work programs= failed; People were near starvation: Rice lab, a porridge consisting of boiled rice with sugar, was distributed to the public.

- The Unemployed Brigade (1934): The ”Unemployed Brigade” marched through the streets of Belize City to the office of the Governor; The governor asked the unemployed to register; 1800 registered but he only offered jobs to 80 persons (breaking stones at the northern road); The leaders of the UNIA resigned from the jobs.

- Antonio Soberanis: Preferred to be "a dead hero than a living coward; Soberanis held regular meetings at Battlefield park demanding work; He attacked the Belize Estate Company, the rich merchants, colonial officials and the colonial system; He formed the Labor and Unemployed Association. He organized pickets and boycotts against merchant houses. He travelled to Dangriga raising the wages of dock workers loading grapefruit from 8 cents to 25 cents an hour.
-Riot in Belize City: Soberanis organized a picket of the B.E.C. sawmill to convince its workers to strike for more pay; On October 1, 1934 the picket turned into a riot. A demonstrator was shot in the neck; The Acting Governor promised the demonstrators $3,000 for immediate “outdoor relief”, then imprisoned 17 of the demonstrators; When Soberanis went to post bail for the demonstrators, he himself was arrested; In April 1935 he urged road workers in Dangriga to strike for more wages. This almost started another riot.

Labor Movements

-Laws to Control the Rebels in 1935: Allowed the police to ban processions; Gave the Governor powers in the event of an emergency; Did not allow criticism of the government; These laws were used against Soberanis in October 1935, when he addressed a crowd in Corozal Town.

-They were too busy talking about each other; Soberanis took his movement into the districts; A major achievement of the LUA was that they won a constitutional change in which the British allowed for elected representatives, and women to voice out in gender issues.

-Aftermath of the LUA: Better Economic Conditions ended the Unemployed Brigade; Soberanis created: British Honduras Workers and Tradesmen Union: renamed the General Worker’s Union; In early 1947 the GWU led a successful two-week strike of some 300 workers at the Belize Estate Company sawmill in Belize Town, winning 60 percent wage increase.