The objective of this paper is to argue that Southern radical left social movements paved the way for future Civil Rights Movements, even with Cold War disruption. I aim to prove that the long civil rights movement can provide context for radical activism within the African American left. I assert that radical liberalism and progressivism were able to survive the anti-communist crusade through ideals that became manifested in organizations and institutions. In addition to examining the anti-communist crusade, this paper will discuss the appeal of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) to youth leaders and tell the history of the Southern Negro Youth Congress (SNYC). I contend that a youth-oriented, politically left and communist-infused radical movement shaped the trajectory of the civil rights movement while largely being ignored in American memory. This article explores the leaders and events within the growing African American left during the New Deal/World War II era through social and labor history lenses. I argue that federal interaction, public fear of communism, and long-standing southern racial norms delayed the Civil Rights Movement from occurring in the 1930s and '40s. I will create a web of social activists within the black political left, providing the foundation for a largely overlooked aspect of American history. The story of the SNYC is a fundamentally untold--but significant--social, cultural, and political movement within African American history. By drawing on primary source material ranging from conference speeches and proceedings to newspapers, flyers, and pamphlets, as well as a variety of secondary sources, this article provides context on early twentieth-century social movements and the preservation of these organizations in the memory of American history.

This project will work in correlation with the College of Charleston’s Race and Social Justice Initiative. The release of the *State of Racial Disparities in Charleston County, South Carolina 2000-2015* has provided policymakers and community leader with an opportunity to
create insightful and impactful change along the lines of race and class in the South, particularly South Carolina. This report highlights the disproportionate social and economic status of African Americans in Charleston County. My research will provide a historical foundation for leaders to understand and implement lasting change. Additionally, this study can serve as a roadmap for radical activist movements and will work with local militant groups to establish a historical narrative as a starting point for social and economic development. This paper will encourage readers to use and understand the history of Southern radical activists to continue fighting for racial and class-based equality. Ultimately, I hope to partner with the Race and Social Justice Initiative to provide a historical approach to dismantling racial disparities.