

# Joe Gifford in Tal Afar, Iraq (A)

*A brief look at the history behind  
the day of importance*

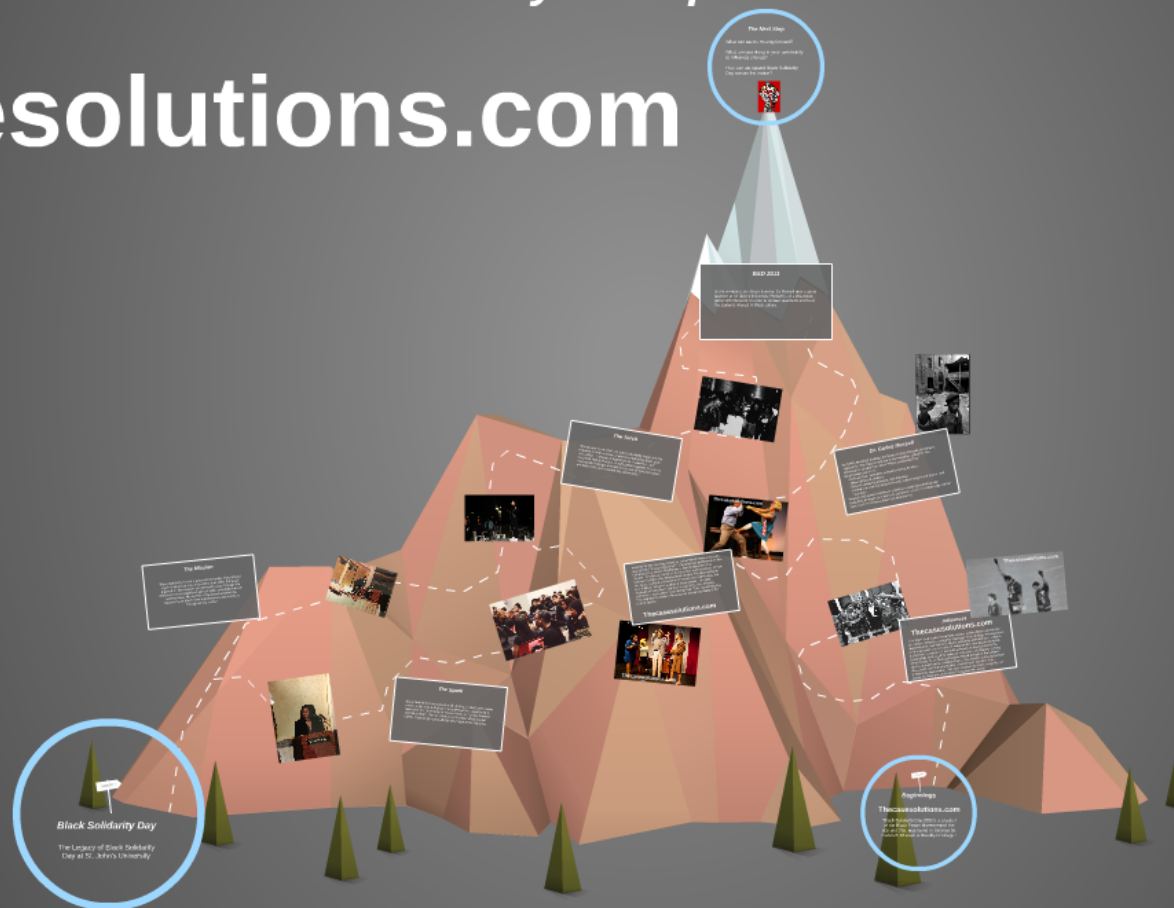
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SUMMIT

## *Beginnings*

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"Black Solidarity Day (BSD), a product of the Black Power Movement of the 60s and 70s, was found in 1969 by Dr. Carlos E. Russell at Brooklyn College."



*Influences*

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The Black Nationalist movement compelled the Black community into action enforcing a singular ideology. This ideology included self-determination, self-reliance, Black solidarity, self-defense, cultural re-identification, the creation of independent and Black-centered institutions, a critique of normative American values/standards, Black pride, and a call for relevant education and history, among other things. From these principles, Black people in the United States questioned our relationship to this country. Ensuing serious discussion and implementation of doctrine to redefine that hegemonic relationship. This also involved working alongside our Diasporic brothers and sisters throughout the world.

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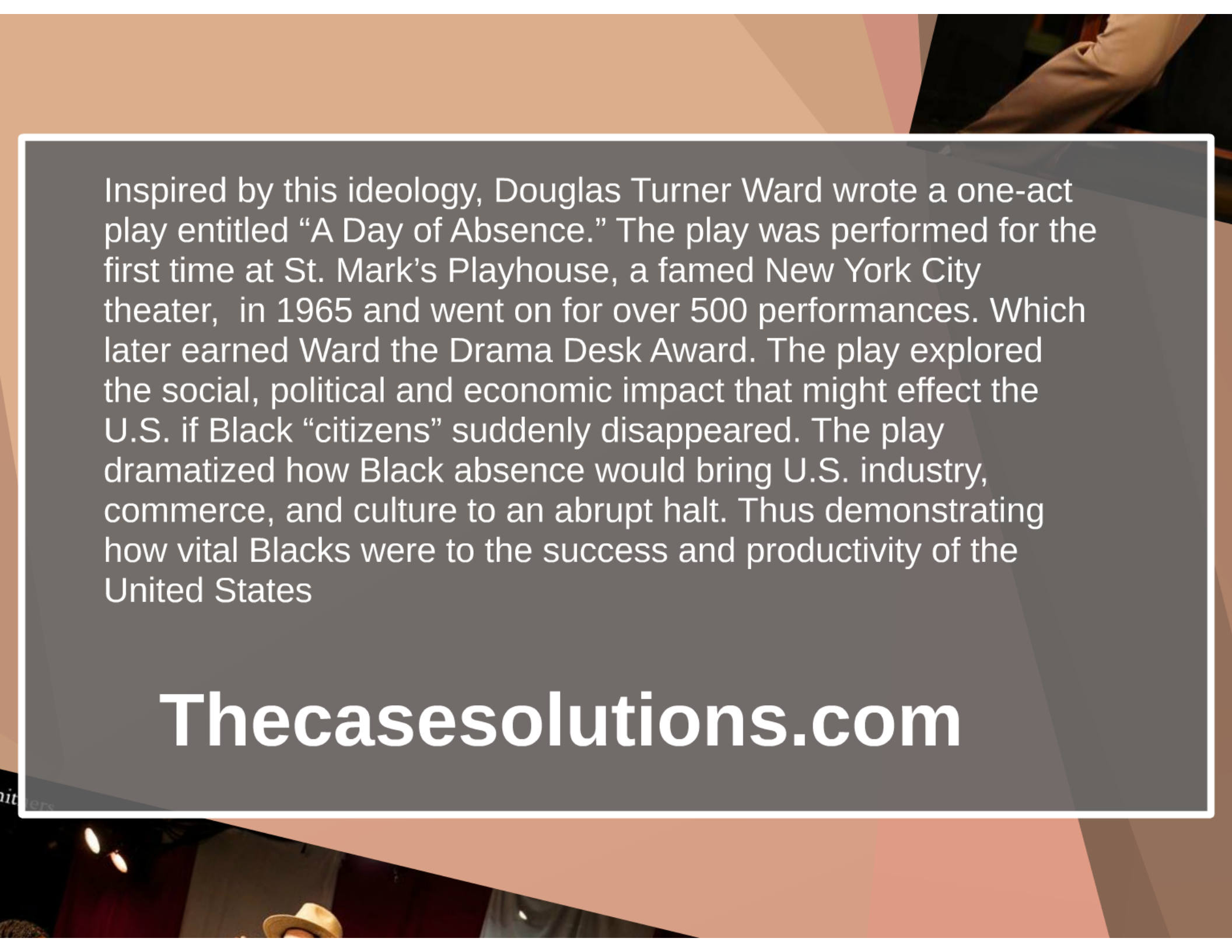


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The background of the slide is a collage of images. In the top right, there is a close-up of a person's arm and shoulder in a light-colored suit jacket. In the bottom left, there is a person wearing a straw hat. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of orange, brown, and grey.

Inspired by this ideology, Douglas Turner Ward wrote a one-act play entitled “A Day of Absence.” The play was performed for the first time at St. Mark’s Playhouse, a famed New York City theater, in 1965 and went on for over 500 performances. Which later earned Ward the Drama Desk Award. The play explored the social, political and economic impact that might effect the U.S. if Black “citizens” suddenly disappeared. The play dramatized how Black absence would bring U.S. industry, commerce, and culture to an abrupt halt. Thus demonstrating how vital Blacks were to the success and productivity of the United States

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A theatrical performance scene on a stage. In the center, a man wearing a light-colored fedora, a grey blazer over a patterned shirt, and light-colored trousers stands with his hands raised in a gesture of surprise or surrender. To his left, a woman in a blue dress holds a clipboard and pen, looking at him with an expressive face. Next to her, another woman with bright yellow hair, wearing a white top and a dark skirt, looks on. To the right, a man in a long brown trench coat over a white t-shirt and dark shorts stands barefoot, holding a black shoe in his hands. The background features a red curtain and a wooden desk. The floor is dark, and stage lights are visible in the upper left.

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