## **Getting to the Root:** A Historical Review of Hair in US White-Black Race Relations and the Importance for Dermatologists

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Pre-Civil War- Kinky hair and dark complexion are associated with African ancestry, slavery, and inferiority in early American history.



Late 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 2000s-Black women and men hairstyles carry less political associations. Motives for hairstyles are: health, economic, convenience, personal preference, familiarity, and cultural aesthetics.

**Today-** Natural hairstyles continue to gain in popularity, but are still met with discrimination and a lack of cultural understanding.

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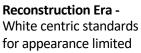
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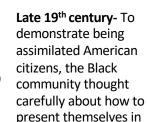
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for appearance limited the Black community's social mobility.



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**1960s**- Declarations of *Black is Beautiful* challenged the mainstream beauty ideals of light skin and straight hair.



**Civil Rights Era-** Afros and dreadlocks symbolize Black empowerment and political consciousness.

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century-The straightening "hot" comb is introduced.



To avoid discrimination Blacks invested in hair straightening techniques while striving for a place in society.

**1950s** – Chemical lye-based hair treatments were introduced to conveniently offer longer-lasting straightening of curly hair types.

Support legislation that bans the discrimination of natural hairstyles.

 Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act

Advocate for funding to research hair disorders in people with skin of color (SOC).

 American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) HAIR Grant

Utilize skin of color educational resources in training and practice.

AAD SOC curriculum

Perform shared decision making that is informed by the nuances of dermatoses and hair loss in people with skin of color.

