

Paul Robeson was a beloved international figure who spoke against racial injustice and was involved in world politics. He was one of the first African American men to play serious roles in the White American Theatre. He performed in a number of films as well, including the re-make of 'The Emperor Jones'. He used his popularity as an actor to rise to the pedestal of a national symbol and a cultural leader in the war against fascism abroad and racism at home. His talents brought him many admirers. He rose to prominence in a time when segregation was still legal in the United States and in a time when Black people were still being attacked by racist mobs. His increasing political awareness led Robeson to visit the Soviet Union and from that visit he was known for his left-wing commitments, while continuing his success in concerts.

He used his talent in acting to further advance his stand against racism. He traveled abroad to give performances in England, Australia etc. However, his Black Nationalist and anti-colonialist activities singled him out as a threat to the US Democracy. This led to his passport being revoked. He was later misdiagnosed several times for depression and was treated for various conditions. This led to depreciating health. His reputation was tarnished and he could no longer act and perform like he did at his prime and decided to live a life of seclusion until his death in 1976.

His legacy, however, still remains strong and has been passed down from generations after his death in 1976. His work in the acting industry and his strong stance against racism still inspires people to this date. The fact that he was able to land major roles in White-dominated movies and use his popularity for the greater good is something that can never be tarnished.