

A: 5 Reasons Why *Black Panther* Is a Transformative Film

\$426 million later we delve into the significance of this empowering film.

B: *Black Panther* Broke the Box Office – Here Are 5 Reasons Why

This impactful film is breaking down sociocultural barriers.

C: 5 Reasons Why *Black Panther* Killed It at the Box Office

In the midst of ever-growing socio cultural dissonance, one film bridges the gaps.

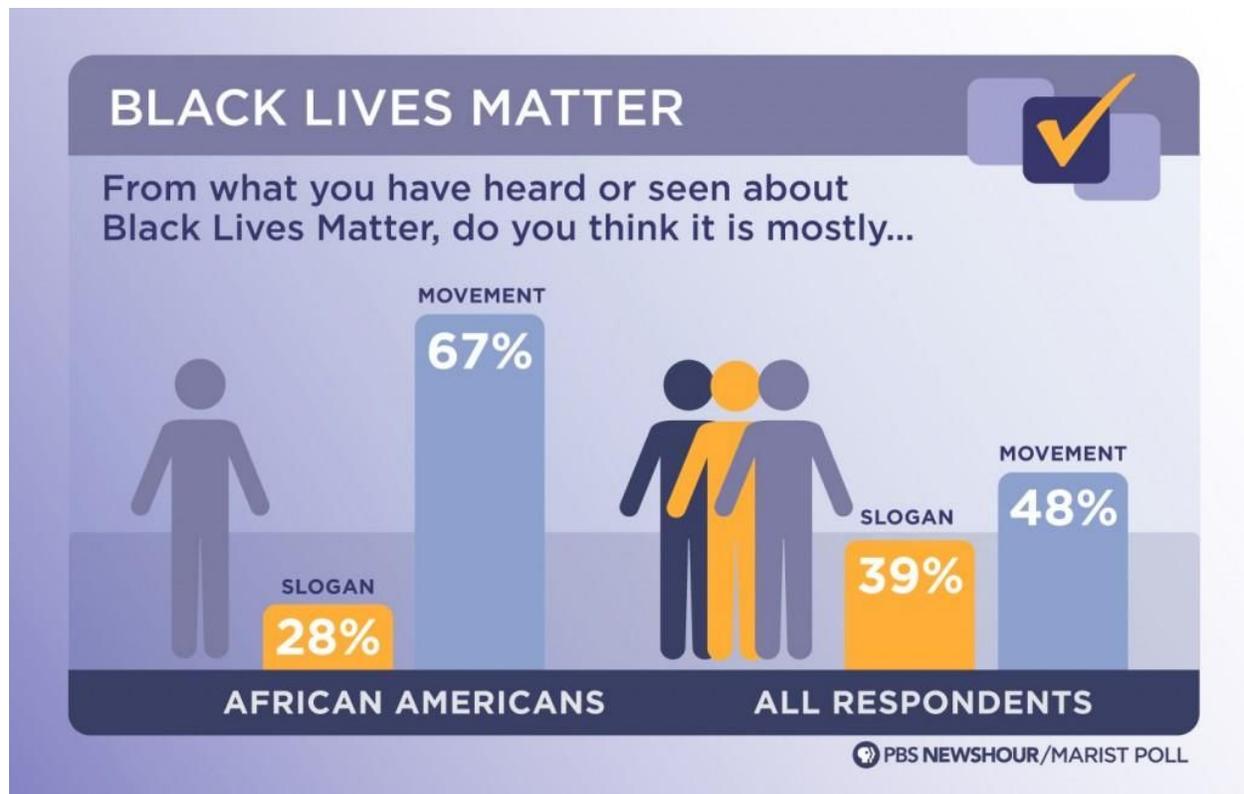


[Source](#)

The [critically-acclaimed](#) *Black Panther* film raked in \$242 million domestically and \$426 million worldwide over its opening weekend, becoming the [fifth-highest opening](#) for a film ever.

The ground-breaking experience has managed to become one of the “biggest blockbusters” in the Disney Marvel franchise while simultaneously expounding upon what is arguably one of the most acute sociocultural issues in American history.

Here are five reasons why this film has officially cemented itself into American history:



[Source](#)

1. **The subject of contemporary and historical race relations in America is officially thrust into the mainstream public discourse, to the point where it is permeating through our entertainment industry.**

While the topic of race has long been a hotly debated subject in American society, the fact remains that for the most part, many minorities feel that their plights – as well as those of their friends, families, and ancestors – remain marginalized.

It's no secret that much like the civil rights movement, the Black Lives Matter movement has received its fair share of disdain, contempt, and downright hatred. Many Americans have proven to be tremendously uncomfortable with discussing vital matters surrounding race relations or even accepting these matters as universal truths in the first place.

The *Black Panther* movie, along with its critical reception, serves as a giant leap in the fight to finally put many of these misguided beliefs surrounding race relations and African-American history to rest.

It achieves this by remaining accessible to individuals of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and belief systems and packaging up this message in a convenient and fun 2-hour futuristic, Afrocentric, sci-fi/action flick.



[Source](#)

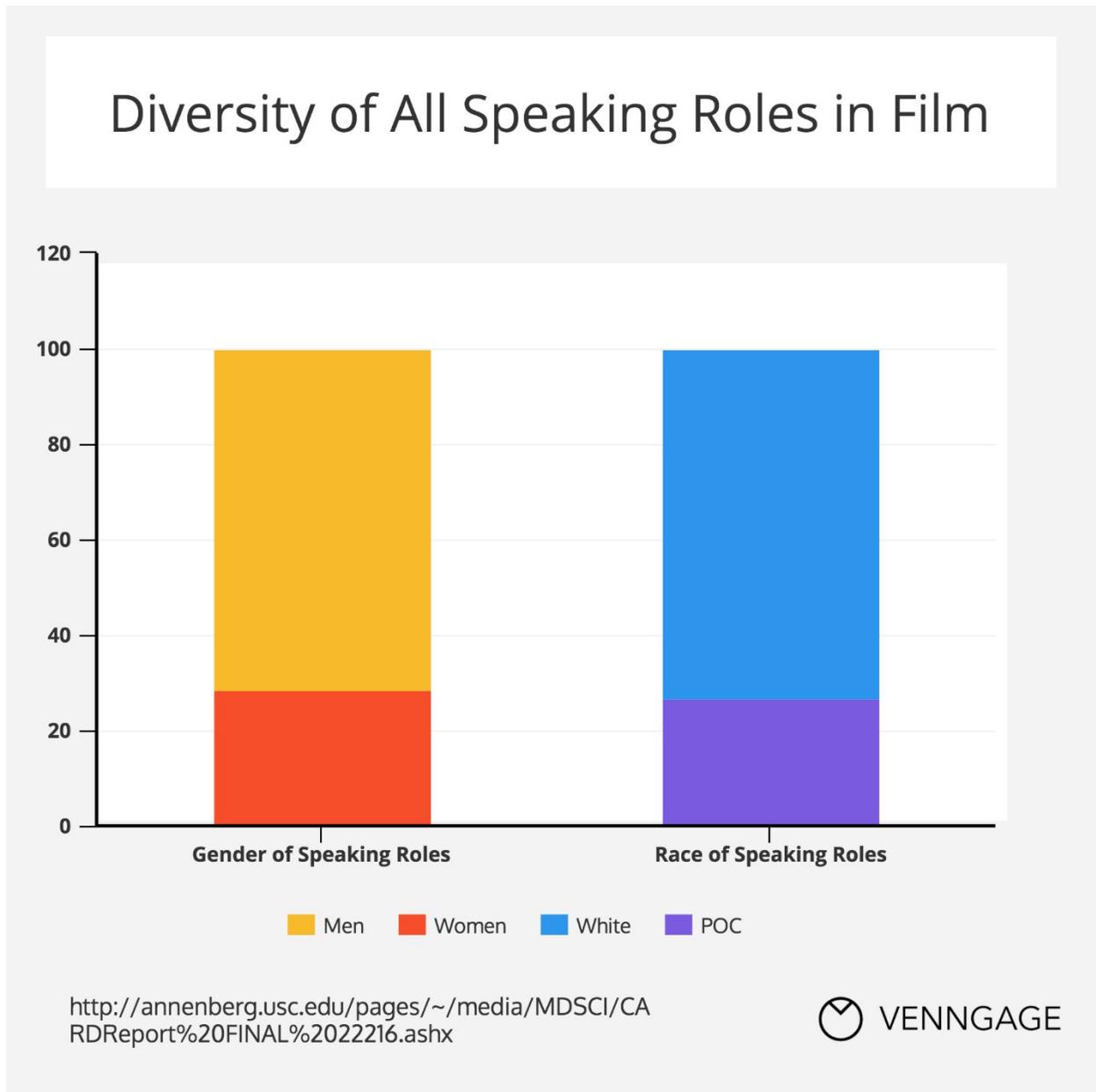
2. It serves as one of the more notable contemporary film responses to counteract the decades of damage perpetuated by injurious films such as *Birth of a Nation*.

The widespread popularity of D.W. Griffith's epic only served to help disseminate and cement long-standing intolerant views on black Americans. [The film's portrayal](#) of Aryan brotherhood superiority and black monstrosity had a butterfly effect of grave and devastating consequences for black Americans and their families, serving as racist propaganda for decades to come.

Dora Milaje's quote "Guns. So primitive" during an intense car chase scene provided us with a brief moment of profound irony steeped in the sharp hint of a reprehensible "truth" surrounding the concept of black inferiority that to this day continues to be perpetuated by far too many.

Black Panther's ambitious efforts sought to facilitate discourse and "reconcile a divide, both figurative and literal, that scattered Africans throughout the diaspora." NPR lauded the film as a "heroic attempt to rectify 400 years of racially fraught history while envisioning an Afrofuturist multiverse."

The film's theme song "Pray for Me" begs an answer to the question, "Tell me who can save me from myself, when this life is all I know," one that hits far too close to home in a contemporary society rampant with greed, conflict, and corruption.



3. It unabashedly and unapologetically puts the concept of black excellence front and center.

Black Panther crushed widely accepted “norms” on black representation in the film industry by presenting a predominantly black cast comprised of strong, heroic protagonists in a post-modern, technologically advanced culture infused with regal cultural pride.

Furthermore, the film’s soundtrack featured significant black artists such as Sza, The Weeknd, and Kendrick Lamar – known for their critically acclaimed works and performances rich in sociopolitical/cultural elements and raw, organic truth. [CNN](#) lauded Lamar’s approach, saying that his efforts proved successful in “preserving the album as artistic medium.”



[Source](#)

- 4. The film expounded upon various thematic elements, histories, characters, and concepts surrounding race, free from the constraints of “whitewashing” or political sanitization.**

Many times, American minorities and the general public are forced to confront a vigilantly sanitized view of American history and politics. *Black Panther* lifts the veil to reveal the not-so-pretty truths

embedded deep within our society's structures and past, shining a spotlight in the form of an inspirational African epic during a time when our country is rife in conflict on the subject of race relations.

The singularity lies in the film's ability to remain uplifting and empowering to people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and origins, thus somehow managing to transcend the confines of race or nationality while exposing the greater truths in society.

It may be too obvious to entertain the concept of how the Wakandan plight parallels that of contemporary black Americans. Many marginalized individuals are forced to reckon with the feeling of being continually tried and tested by "formidable" sociocultural and systemic barriers that have and continue to compromise the fate of the greater community.

This may be why RogerEbert.com deemed the film "one that transcends the superhero genre to emerge as an epic of operatic proportion."



[Source](#)

5. It distributes an exceptional archetype of female empowerment.

The female protagonists featured with their regal, bold, empowered aesthetics and enviable characters and ideals are sure to make just about anyone beam with pride. The female cast was inspirational; many of the women donned natural hair and bald heads during a time in American society where a sentiment of radical self-love is permeating through the black community at large.

This serves as a refreshing break from the status-quo of overtly sexualizing, painfully objectifying, or blissfully stereotyping the comparatively few and frequently underpaid female leads that all too often grace our screens.

Perhaps my personal favorite was the moment where Dora Milaje, the head of the all-women royal secret service, rips her wig off in frustration and tosses it in the face of one of her attackers in the middle of a fight scene just moments before she thrusts him off a balcony with her spear.

According to [Forbes](#), the film's second weekend at the box office is anticipated to further push it into a historically significant status as one of the "top 12 all-time superhero grosses in North America" by conservative measures.

While the long-term implications of this ground-breaking and transformational film are yet uncertain, one thing is – its immediate impact is staggering and has opened up the door to a broader, more open and honest discussion on race relations and a long-established history of systemic oppression in America.