Article Analysis of “Racial Militancy and Interracial Violence in the Second World War”

During the time period that the Second World War took place, racial attitudes were still very negative and there was still racial tension in place. In Harvard Sitkoff’s article, Racial Militancy and Interracial Violence in the Second World War, his purpose is to show the interracial violence in World War II eventually led to moves for equality once the war ended. Sitkoff’s thesis is supported in the article with examples of African Americans fighting to fight in the war, as well as discrimination that received, and tells how the advancement of their organizations and civil rights movements occurred in result of what the African Americans went through.

In Racial Militancy and Interracial Violence in the Second World War, the author uses a combination of primary and secondary sources. For example, primary sources are used when referring to people’s speeches or papers, like Franklin D. Roosevelt, when he responded to the African Americans. Secondary sources, like articles from the New York Times Magazine, talking about the extent of American racism, were also used frequently in Sitkoff’s article. Because Sitkoff does use primary sources and his secondary sources are from scholarly sources, it does seem that his sources are reliable. Judging from the abundant amount of sources that are used in Racial Militancy and Interracial Violence in the Second World War, it seems that a great amount of research was done in preparing for this article, which in turn, seems to again prove that Sitkoff’s facts and sources are reliable.
Sitkoff’s main conclusions in *Racial Militancy and Interracial Violence in the Second World War* state that in 1944 and 1945 many racial incidents declined, and that not since the Civil War had African Americans heard that many whites talk about racial equality. In my opinion, I agree with this because soon after World War II, racial equality did in fact rise, and the treatment of African Americans bettered after their successful involvement in the war, like the Tuskegee Airmen.