

NO APOLOGY + NO REPARATIONS = NO RESPECT

Black African Americans have never received the full respect and honor deserved for the great gifts their enslaved ancestors provided America during their 246 years of free forced labor, slavery. Nor have their descendants back breaking labor, scientific application, and agricultural knowledge been fully appreciated. The enslaved unpaid labor transformed our young nation into the number one world financial power. Government sanctioned Slavery in the United States officially ended December 6, 1865, by ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Texas complied 3 years later, January 1, 1868. President Abraham Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation to proclaim the wrongness of slavery.

Approximately, 4,000,000. Black Africans were forcefully shipped in chains from the continent of Africa to America, beginning in 1619, by way of the route across the Atlantic Ocean known as the “Middle Passage.” They and their twenty generations of descendants were held for life in slavery until 1865, a period of 246 years. Their suffering in slavery was sanctioned by our government even after it became the United States of America in 1776. This enriched all the nations who took part in the shipping and slave trade related industries. This included Great Britain,

Spain, Italy, Greece, and others. Many American industries have made great gains from past slavery, according to records.

Resolution Language, passed in 1994 at the NAACP National Convention, summarizes the issue well. The dehumanization of black persons began by officially relegating their status to three fifths of a human being to give slave owners complete freedom from guilt in their handling of the enslaved and subjected them to the barbarities of institutionalized slavery.

In post-revolutionary United States, slavery was maintained by governmental decree, with violence, stripping black slaves of name, family, cultural heritage, privacy, denying education, freedom of association, life, liberty, fruits of their own labor, property, and due process of law, in complete abdication of the spirit and letter of the Bill of Rights from its inception and ratification. The unequal treatment of Black Slaves was continued by the Anti-Slavery Amendment of 1865, Jim Crow Laws, Gentlemen's Agreements, and Public Policy, even after the passage of the 14th Amendment in 1868, until passage of the 1965 Civil Rights Act, and still the struggle continues.

President Abraham Lincoln signed into law a bill passed by Congress on March 3, 1865 entitled the "Freedman and Refugees Act" establishing a Freedman and Refugees Bureau for assistance and protection to the freed slaves and white men loyal to the union. Out of this came the

term “40 Acres and a Mule,” under which a few freed slaves received land. President Andrew Johnson abolished this bureau as one of his first acts when he succeeded Abraham Lincoln as president of the United States. He stated he felt it was unfair to the former slave owners. Thus, many freed slaves were left unprotected and vulnerable to the “nightriders” and natural elements. Many died. No apologies were made.

The enslaved suffering from unbelievable torture kept slaves in submission for 246 years, by use of whips, chains, rape, maiming, murder, or by whatever means selected by slave masters. In addition to the physical, mental torture became an effective tool since our government declared black slaves to be only three/fifths human, withheld legal protection, and supported the slave masters in their choice of punishments to maintain long lasting control of the enslaved. Army troops were engaged to hunt in the search and return of “run-a-way” slaves. For maximum control, slaves were separated from their family members, cut off from their cultural heritage, denied their names, privacy, education, freedom of association, life, liberty, fruits of their own labor, property, and due process of law. This was an inhumane and shameful process.

No other friend or foe of this nation has had to wait 140 years to receive an apology and reparations for harm done by our Government. Black Americans are due this last

vintage of respect from our nations' leaders. This is about honor and dignity for human beings, to restore harmony and healing to their descendants who continue to suffer past slavery.

The United States Government and various states have seen fit to take reparative steps for wounds caused to others, such as awarding the sums of \$20,000 each to Japanese Americans incarcerated in Detention Camps during World War II; \$32,000,000 to Ottawa and Chippewa tribes of Michigan by 1836 treaty; \$81,000,000 to Klamath Tribes of Oregon; \$30,000,000 to Chippewas of Wisconsin; \$12,000,000 to Seminoles of Florida; over \$105,000,000 to the Sioux of South Dakota; in addition, the cost of the "Marshall Plan" to aid Europe's World War II recovery exceeded 112 Billion Dollars. Today, and over the years multimillions in assistance and loans has been provided to various nations throughout the world.

It is difficult to believe that any caring American would have reluctance with the idea of issuing an apology for the horrors committed against Black American people, who to this day continue to suffer on-going effects of slavery, racial discrimination, fear, inferior education, unequal employment, substandard housing, inadequate healthcare, leading to shorter life spans, disparate sentencing with high percentage of jail incarceration rates, inadequate legal representation, racially criminally profiled, difficulty in securing loans for business and personal purposes, presumed to be guilty, subject to lynching,

mistakenly perceived to possess lower intelligence and potential, disparate juvenile justice, supplied with drugs and weapons, low self- esteem, depression, lower income, and living a lifetime with high stress. This is continuing dehumanization.

246 years of enslavement, followed by persecution under Jim Crow segregation laws, the free forced labor without the fruits of that labor, and left with no inheritance to pass on to their children, Black Americans have earned not only the nation's respect, but apologies, and reparations as well. Reparations is the act of making amends for a wrong, harm, or injury, repairing damages, compensation in money, materials, etc.

Join the NAACP and the 184 other groups working for Reparations across the country, including churches, fraternities, Civil Rights Organizations, city councils, colleges, universities, and legal associations. **IT'S NOT HOW WE MAKE MISTAKES, BUT HOW WE CORRECT THEM.**

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