



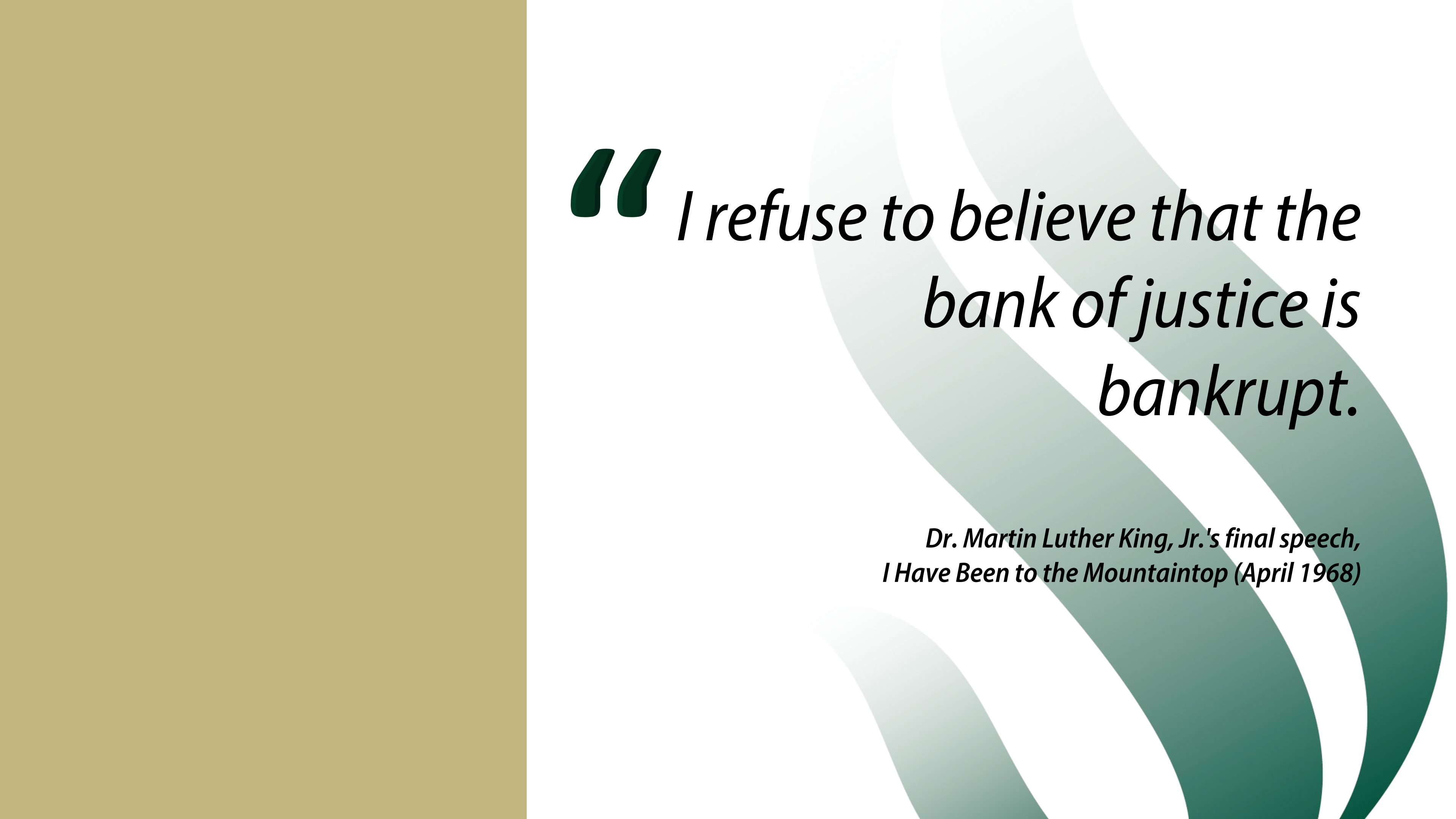
A Historical Worldview Timeline of Reparations 1783 -2023

*Actions taken by the United States & Abroad at the Federal, State, Institutional, & Community Level**

*Adapted with permission from Allen J. Davis, Ed.D. (2023) University of Massachusetts Amherst



SACRAMENTO STATE
DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE



**“ *I refuse to believe that the
bank of justice is
bankrupt.***

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s final speech,
I Have Been to the Mountaintop (April 1968)*



Individual, Organizational & Institutional Reparations

To his Excellency the Governor & the honourable Council of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Petition of Belinda Sutton of Boston in the County of
Suffolk Widow humbly sheweth, that your petitioner in con-
sideration of her service for a long course of years in the
family of the hon^{ble} Isaac Royall Esq^r had an Allowance
by a Resolve of the honourable General Court of this Com-
monwealth of fifty two Dollars per Annum - & your peti-
tioner begs leave further to represent to your Ex-
cellency & honours that three years of the said pen-
sion is now due to her Therefore she begs that Your
Excellency would be pleased to Issue a Warrant direct-
ed to the Treasurers of this Commonwealth in her favour
for the sum of one hundred & fifty six Dollars the
whole amount as aforesaid and as in Duty
bound Your Petitioner will ever pray

Boston March 13th 1788

Belinda Sutton
mark

Belinda Sutton's 1788 petition, courtesy of the
Massachusetts Archives

1783

Belinda Sutton

Belinda Sutton (also Royal or Royall) was born in modern-day Ghana in 1713 and sold into slavery as a child to Isaac Royall in Massachusetts. After 50 years of enslavement, she was made a freedwoman when Royall fled to Nova Scotia. Sutton petitioned the commonwealth of Massachusetts for a pension. In 1783 she was awarded a pension of 15 pounds, 12 shillings, to be paid from the estate of Isaac Royall.

We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy by Ta-Nehisi Coates, p. 176 in the chapter "The Case for Reparations", 2017.



Courtesy of the New York Public Library. [CC0 1.0](#)

1863

Merchants' Committee

Over four days in July, mobs of white New Yorkers terrorized Black people by roaming the streets from City Hall to Gramercy Park to past 40th Street, setting fire to buildings and killing people. The overall death toll is estimated at between over 100 and over 1,000. Immediately after the riots, the white merchants of New York combined forces to raise money to care for the injured, repair the damaged property, and support the legal and employment needs of the community's Black people. The shopkeepers raised over \$40,000, equivalent to \$825,000 today.

("The Real Story of the 'Draft Riots'" by Elizabeth Mitchell, The New York Times, February 18, 2021)

("Report of the Merchants' Committee for the Relief of the Colored People Suffering from the Late Riots in the City of New York", 1863 booklet)



James Forman at the Montgomery March, 1965. [CC-BY-SA-4.0](#)

1969

The Black Manifesto

The Black Manifesto was launched in Detroit as one of the first calls for reparations in the modern era. Penned by James Forman, former SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) organizer, and released at the National Black Economic Development Conference, the manifesto demanded \$500 million in reparations from predominantly White religious institutions for their role in perpetuating slavery.

About \$215,000 (other sources say \$500,000) was raised from the Episcopalian and Methodist churches through rancorous deliberations that ultimately tore the coalition apart. The money was used to establish organizations such as a black-owned band, television networks, and the Black Economic Research Center.

("Black and Blue Chicago Finds a New Way to Heal" by Yana Kunichoff and Sarah Macaraeg, YES Magazine, Spring 2017; From Here to Equality:



JPMorgan was not alone. The predecessors that made up Citibank, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo are among a list of well-known U.S. financial firms that benefitted from the slave trade. [CC-BY-SA-4.0](#)

2005

JPMorgan Chase

Banking corporation JPMorgan Chase issues an apology for their historical ties to the slave trade. The corporation set up a \$5 million scholarship fund for Black students to attend college.

The scholarship program, called Smart Start Louisiana, was likened to reparations by several commentators, including Rev. Jesse Jackson.

("JPMorgan: Predecessors linked to slavery", January 21, 2005, Associated Press; "JP Morgan Chase Creates 'Smart Start Louisiana'", Howard University News Service.)

2019

Reparations by Religious Institutions

2019: Catholic nuns of the Society of the Sacred Heart introduced a scholarship fund to benefit African-American students at their school in Louisiana, along with a memorial to the 150 enslaved persons who labored to build the schools.

(Swarns, R. L. (2019, August 2). The nuns who bought and sold human beings. The New York Times; Jones, T. L. (2018, March 11). Society of the Sacred Heart hopes for understanding, reconciliation as it delves into its history of slave ownership. The Advocate.)

2019: The Virginia Theological Seminary has earmarked \$1.7 million to pay reparations to descendants of African Americans who were enslaved to work on their campus. The first payments of \$2,100, to 15 recipients, were distributed in February 2021.

("Virginia Theological Seminary, With Deep Roots in Slavery, Sets Aside \$1.7 Million to Pay Reparations" by Dara Sharif, The Root, September 10, 2019; Wright, W. (2021, May 31). Seminary built on slavery and Jim Crow labor has begun paying reparations. The New York Times.)

2019: Princeton Theological Seminary announced a \$27 million commitment for various initiatives to recognize how it benefited from Black slavery. This is the largest monetary commitment by an educational institution.

("WWJD: Princeton Theological Seminary Announces \$27 Million Reparations Plan" by Anne Branigin, The Root, October 24, 2019.)

2019: A convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York voted to allocate \$1.1 million to initiate a reparations program. (Episcopal Diocese of New York.

(2019, November 10). Diocesan Convention votes \$1.1 million towards reparations, passes 1860 anti-slavery resolutions.)



2019

Georgetown University

"Students at Georgetown University voted to increase their own tuition to benefit descendants of the 272 enslaved Africans that the Jesuits who ran the school sold nearly two centuries ago to secure its future."

In a nonbinding student-led referendum, "the undergraduate student body voted to add a new fee of \$27.20 per student per semester to their tuition bill, with the proceeds devoted to supporting education and health care programs in Louisiana and Maryland, where many of the 4,000 known living descendants of the 272 enslaved people now reside."

("Georgetown Students Agree to Create Reparations Fund" by Adeel Hassan, The New York Times, April 12, 2019.)

2019

Georgetown University

Georgetown University announced that it would raise about \$400,000 a year to benefit descendants of the 272 enslaved people who were sold to aid the college 200 years ago, and the funds will be used to support community projects. While students would be involved in the initiative, they would not be required to pay extra fees; the money would be raised through voluntary donations from alumni, faculty, students, and philanthropists.

("Descendants of 272 Slaves Offered Aid By Georgetown" by Rachel Swarns, The New York Times, October 30, 2019.) image retrieved from the Archives of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus

Charles about 55	Betty 50	Charles 3	Elizabeth 20	Henry (m. off) 28	Nate 18
Charles son 15	Joseph son 14	Benjamin 55	Elizabeth daughter 7	Amelia 11	Henry son 14
Betty daughter 13	Betty daughter 12	Sam 30	Barry daughter 22	Amelia 8	Frank 20
Brother do 5	Mary daughter 6	John Butler 35	Robert 22	Elizabeth 7	Sam 14
Barth do 5	Sam son 4	John Boyle 21	Roseanne his wife 24	Betty 6	Richard 11
Patrick son 33	Elizabeth daughter 1	George 65	Charlotte 23	Betty 5	Alexander 10
Lettie his wife 30	Polly 50	Sam daughter 20	Mary m. off 23	Harriet 5	Charlotte 7
Comelius his son 13	Sally m. off 30	Daniel 30	Richard m. off 24	Robert 13	Emeline 6
Francis do 12	William son 21	Nace 35	Greenfield 24	Mary 13	Nate 3
John do daughter 10	Mary Anne daughter 15	Bernard 35	James 21	Abraham 10	Child 1
Gabriel do son 5	Robert son 12	William 15	Frederick 20	Robert 14	John runaway 40
Peter do son 5	Henry 35	John 15	Sylvester 19	James 12	Adeline 32
Frederick 3	Harriet m. off 33	John 12	Christian 18	Frederick 11	Matt 10
Elizabeth 1	Elizabeth daughter 15	Henry 10	Harriet 14	Mary Jane 10	Gunny 7
James son 25	John son 21	Francis 8	Emeline 14	Simon 8	Bartholomew 4
Delia his wife 22	Mary Ellen daughter 17	Stephen son 60	Elizabet 14	Sally Anne 7	Child 12
James son daughter 3	Barry son 15	Mary 2 daughters 15	Henry 12	Betty 6	Kelly 25
George son 15	Matha runaway 15	Betty 2 daughters 15	Anna 14	Charles 5	Elizabeth daughter 22
James son 15	Henry 1	Matha 3 daughters 15	Anna 13	Child 2	Regis m. off 25
Betty his wife 28	Betty runaway 32	Kelly 1 son 1 daughter 15	Annus 17	Betty 28	Kelly 25
John son 5	William son 10	Margaret 1 daughter 15	Milly 15	Regis son (m. off) 25	John 22
James do 4	William 10	William 2 sons 2 daughters 15	Lucy Ann 11	Betty 25	Richard m. off 33
Eliza do 12	Henrietta 7	William 3 daughters 15	Lucy Ann 10	James 21	Sid 13
Sally about 65	Harriet Anne 4	Henry 10	Dora 8	Gusty 8	Sally 54
Neil his eldest son 40	Richard m. off 35	Louisa 35	Lucy 8	George 13	Stephen m. off 36
Richard his wife 43	Henry 36	Louisa 35	Lucy 8	Joseph m. off 32	Henry 12
Simon son 20	Henry 36	Henry 35	Lucy 8	Mary 25	Frederick 12
Anderson do 18	Henry 35	Mary 35	Lucy 8	Henry 25	Gunny m. off 19
Louisa son daughter 14	Henry m. off 35	Henry 35	Lucy 8	Henry m. off 34	John child 2
Neil son 16	Henry son 35	Henry 35	Lucy 8	Betty 35	John m. off 32
Betty (Sally) 2 sons 14	Mary do 32	Henry 35	Lucy 8	Gabe (black) 35	John 64
Betty his daughter 38	James (m. off) 36	Dinah his wife 68	Betty 24	Daniel 35	Henry his wife 30
John son 5	James m. off 35	Joe 37	Harriet 21	Louisa 25	James m. off 36
John (black) 50	John 45	Robert his wife 54	Frederick 17	Annabel runaway 38	
Henry his wife 24	Bill 12	Bill (m. off) 21	Frederick 14	Henry 27	
Patrick son 3	Elizabeth m. off 20	Stephen 49	Basel 12	Annabel son 7	
Charles son 15	Henry son 17	Sarah his wife 48	Martha 24	Louisa 5	272 in all
Sally his wife 44	Kelly 35	Barbara 49	Ann 24	Betty 38	
Henry daughter 17	Edward son 35	Mary m. off 39	Gabe 28	Barry 12	
Margaret do 13	William do 31	Betty 46	Betty 27	Sarah 10	
Edward do son 17	James son 28	Bennett 45	Henry 26	Greenfield 5	
Elizabeth daughter 12	Maria m. off 26	Blair his wife 42	Thomas 25	Daniel 4	
Matha 15	John son 25	John m. off 21	John 25	John 25	

The original list of people from the Jesuit plantations (1838). Courtesy of the Archives of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, Box OS1/ Folder 14, on deposit at the Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Georgetown University Library, Washington, D.C.

2020

Reparatory Actions

The University of Mississippi has apologized to dozens of African Americans who were arrested in 1970 for protesting racial inequality and Confederate imagery on campus.
("Ole Miss Apologizes to Black Protesters Arrested in 1970", Associated Press, February 26, 2020.)

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston reached an agreement with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to implement policies and procedures, and a \$500,000 fund, to address diversity issues. The agreement follows an incident of racial discrimination towards Black students visiting the museum in May 2019.
("AG's Office and Museum of Fine Arts Reach Historic Agreement to Support Diversity and Inclusivity", MFA Press Release, May 5, 2020.)

The "Fund for Reparations Now" was established to raise \$150,000 for the descendants of the Elaine, Arkansas massacre in which at least 200 African Americans were killed. The fund is a collaborate effort amongst the Elaine Legacy Center, the National African American Reparations Commission, and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. As of December 2020, \$50,000 has been contributed to the fund.
(National groups honor pledge to descendants of Elaine, Arkansas massacre. December 15, 2020.)



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2020

Reparatory Action Continued

The city council of Burlington, Vermont, voted in a resolution to create a task force to study possible reparations for the state's involvement in the slave trade. A Racial Justice Fund was created to fund the work of the task force. This resolution follows the Resolution Relating to Racial Justice Through Economic and Criminal Justice which was passed in June.

(Press Release. "Burlington City Council votes unanimously to pass a historical reparations resolution to study reparations for Vermont's role in chattel slavery" 2020, August 11, VT Digger.)

At the recommendation of the Racial Equity Task Force, Durham, N.C., city officials passed a resolution calling for the federal government to grant reparations to the descents of Black slaves.

(Branigin, A. (2020, October 6). Durham, Washington, D.C., become latest cities to call for reparations for Black residents. The Root.)

The town of Asheville, North Carolina, voted to give reparations to its Black residents, in the form of a public apology and investing in Black communities.

("A Liberal North Carolina Town Has Unanimously Voted to Give its Black Residents Reparations" by Anne Branigin. The Root, July 15, 2020.)





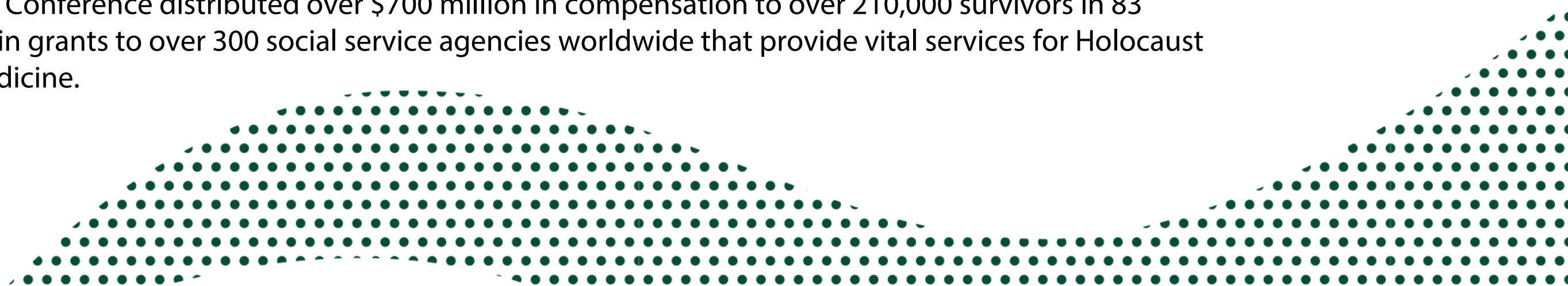
Claims Conference Negotiations, 2019

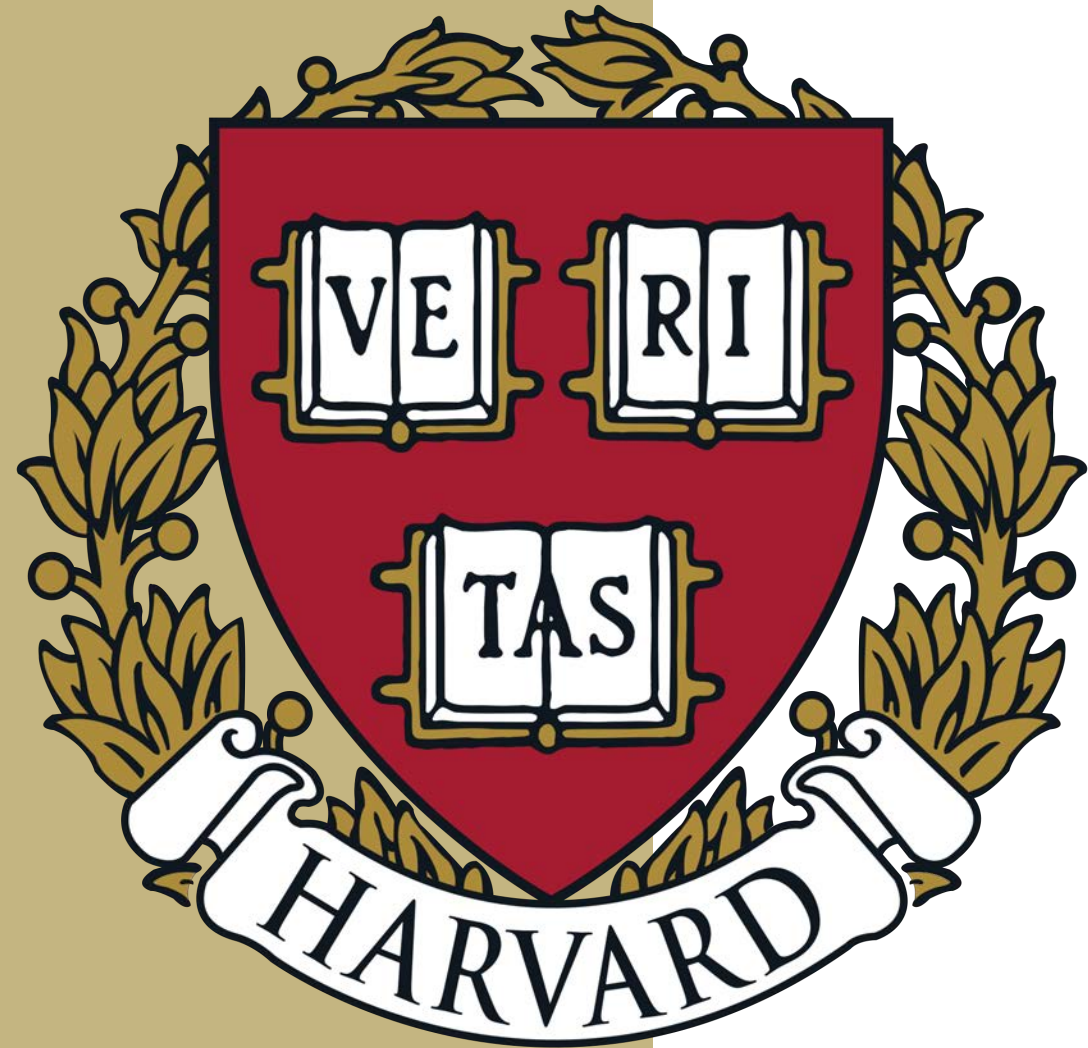
2020

The Claims Conference

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), a nonprofit organization, secures material compensation for Holocaust survivors around the world. Founded in 1951, their focus has been to negotiate for and disburse funds to individuals and organizations while also seeking the return of Jewish property stolen during the Holocaust.

As a result, the German government has paid more than \$90 billion in indemnification to individuals for suffering and losses resulting from Nazi persecution. In 2022, the Claims Conference distributed over \$700 million in compensation to over 210,000 survivors in 83 countries and allocated over \$720 million in grants to over 300 social service agencies worldwide that provide vital services for Holocaust survivors, such as homecare, food and medicine.





This Harvard University logo was first recorded in 1644 and has changed over time. [PD US](#)

2022

Harvard University

Harvard University published a report (Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery) detailing how the institution benefitted from the enslavement of Black people in the United States. The university has also pledged \$100 million for a fund to continue researching its ties to slavery, and for programs of reconciliation and redress.

(Hartocollis, A. (2022, April 26). Harvard details its ties to slavery and its plans for redress. The New York Times.)

City, State, & Government Reparations





The First Homestead in the United States, U.S.A.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress - LC-USZ62-20063

1866

Southern Homestead Act

A United States federal law enacted to break a cycle of debt during the Reconstruction following the American Civil War. Prior to this act, Black and white people alike were having trouble buying land. Sharecropping and tenant farming had become ways of life. This act attempted to solve this by selling land at low prices so Southerners could buy it. Many people, however, could still not participate because the low prices were still too high.

"Ex-slaves were given 6 months to purchase land at reasonable rates without competition from white southerners and northern investors. But, owing to their destitution, few ex-slaves were able to take advantage of the program. The largest number that did were in Florida, numbering little more than 3,000... **The program failed.**"



Courtesy of the Library of Congress. LC-DIG-ppmsca-05084

1924

Pueblo Lands Act

With the Pueblo Lands Act of 1924, Congress authorized the establishment of the Pueblo Lands Board to adjudicate land title disputes, along with a payment of \$1,300,000 to the Pueblo for the land they lost (although the Pueblo disputed the amount).

(A History of the Indians in the United States by Angie Debo (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984, p. 335).



John Collier, Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (1933-1945) standing with Tribal Chiefs. Through this Act, he intended to reverse a long-standing policy of cultural assimilation of Native Americans.

PD US not renewed

1934

The Indian Reorganization Act

Congress passed the Wheeler-Howard Act, known today as the Indian Reorganization Act, which authorized \$2 million a year in appropriations for the acquisition of land for Indians (except for the state of Oklahoma and the territory of Alaska until 1936). Congress made appropriations until 1941.

In total \$5.5 million was appropriated for 400,000 acres of land, and further legislation added 875,000 acres to reservations. One million acres of grazing land and nearly one million acres intended for homesteading were returned to the tribes.

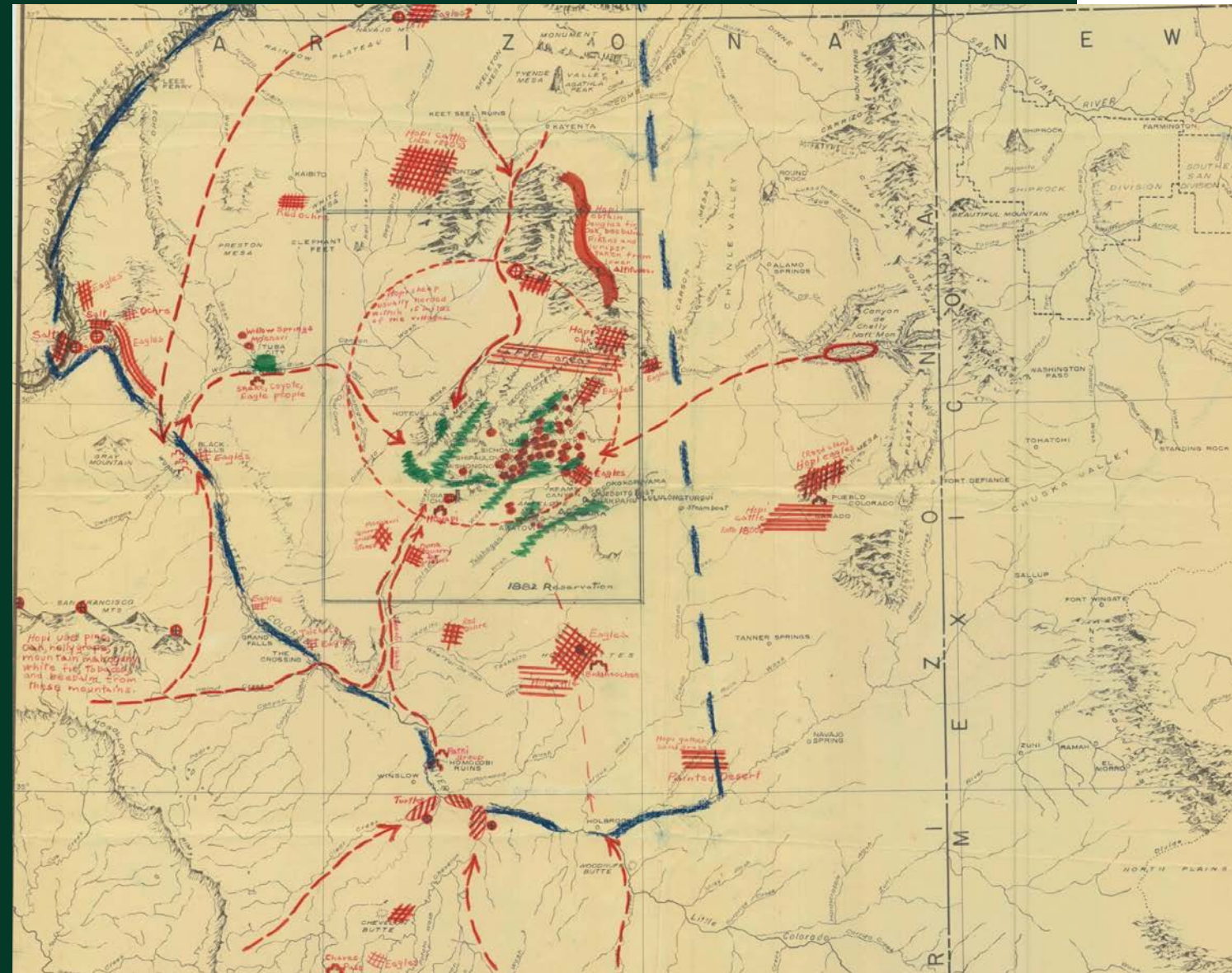
(A History of the Indians in the United States by Angie Debo (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984, pp. 228-341).

1946

Indian Claims Commission

Congress created the Indian Claims Commission to hear fraud and treaty violation claims against the United States government. The Commission was adjourned in 1978 with all pending cases transferred to the United States Court of Claims. By this time, the Commission had adjudicated 546 claims and awarded more than \$818 million in judgments.

(A History of the Indians in the United States by Angie Debo (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984, p. 346).



Map of Hopi Land Use. Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives. Record Group 279: Records of the Indian Claims Commission



1947

The Treaty of Paris

The Treaty of Paris between Italy and the Allied Powers was signed on February 10, 1947, and formally ended hostilities between the both groups. It came into general effect on September 15, 1947.

In accordance with Article 47 of the treaty, Italy was obliged to pay the following war reparations along with agreeing to many territorial changes both domestically and abroad.

\$125,000,000 US to Yugoslavia

\$105,000,000 US to Greece

\$100,000,000 US to the Soviet Union

\$25,000,000 US to Ethiopia

\$5,000,000 US to Albania

Grant, John P.; J. Craig Barker, eds. (2006). International Criminal Law Deskbook. Routledge: Cavendish Publishing. p. 130. ISBN 9781859419793.



1950

Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act

The Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act was passed, authorizing an appropriation of \$88,570,000 over 10 years for a program benefiting the Navajo and Hopi, including soil conservation, education, business and industry development on reservation, and assistance in finding employment off-reservation.

(A History of the Indians in the United States by Angie Debo (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984, p. 348). Image from TIME LIFE).



1952

The Luxembourg Agreements

The September 10, 1952, representatives from Germany and Israel met in Luxembourg to sign an agreement to provide ongoing financial and social welfare compensation for Jews who suffered under Nazi Germany. \$822 million was provided to Holocaust survivors. Known as the Luxembourg Agreements, the \$822 million provided was fundamental and led to financial compensation in the amount of more than 80 billion euros that Germany has paid by the end of 2021.

("West Germany Signs 822 Million Dollar Reparations Pacts with Israel Govt. and Jewish Material Claims," JTA Daily News Bulletin, September 11, 1952.)



1962

Georgia

Georgia restored many Cherokee landmarks, a newspaper plant, and other buildings in New Echota. It also repealed its repressive anti-Native American laws of 1830.

(Race, Racism, and Reparations by J. Angelo Corlett, 2003, Cornell University Press, p. 170.)



Cherokee National Capital, Calhoun, Georgia. [CC0 1.0](#)

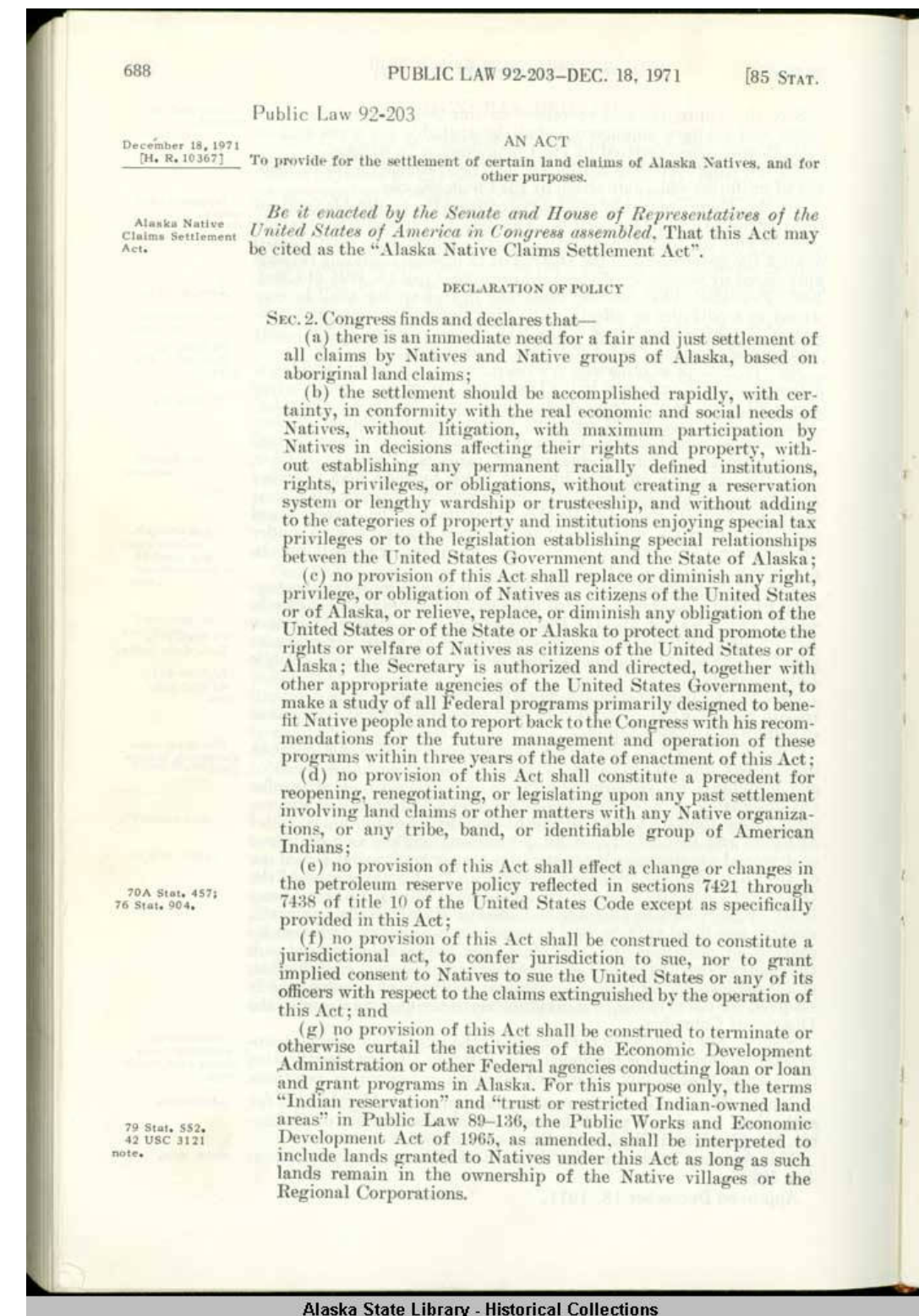
Rosewood Massacre Historical Marker

Alaska Native Claims Act

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) passed the United States Congress in a bipartisan majority and was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on December 18, 1971. It created 12 private, for-profit Alaska Native regional corporations and over 200 private, for-profit Alaska Native village corporations to be held in Alaska Native ownership.

This amounted to around \$1 billion + 44 million acres of land: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Black Reparations Now! 40 Acres, \$50 Dollars, and a Mule, + Interest by Dorothy Benton-Lewis; and borrowed from N'COBRA (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America).



Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act ANCSA
Courtesy of Alaska Digital Archives - ASL-KF50.U58v85-p688

1984

National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons

Argentine President, Raúl Alfonsín, created the Comisión Nacional sobre la Desaparición de Personas (National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons) to investigate the whereabouts of desaparecidos ("the disappeared") who were abducted or killed by the military during the previous dictatorship. The Commission issued a report (Nunca Más) that led to prosecution of those involved, reparations paid to families of victims in the form of pensions, and new standards implemented to provide accountability for human rights violations.

(The Handbook of Reparations by Paulo de Greiff (Oxford: OUP, 2006).)



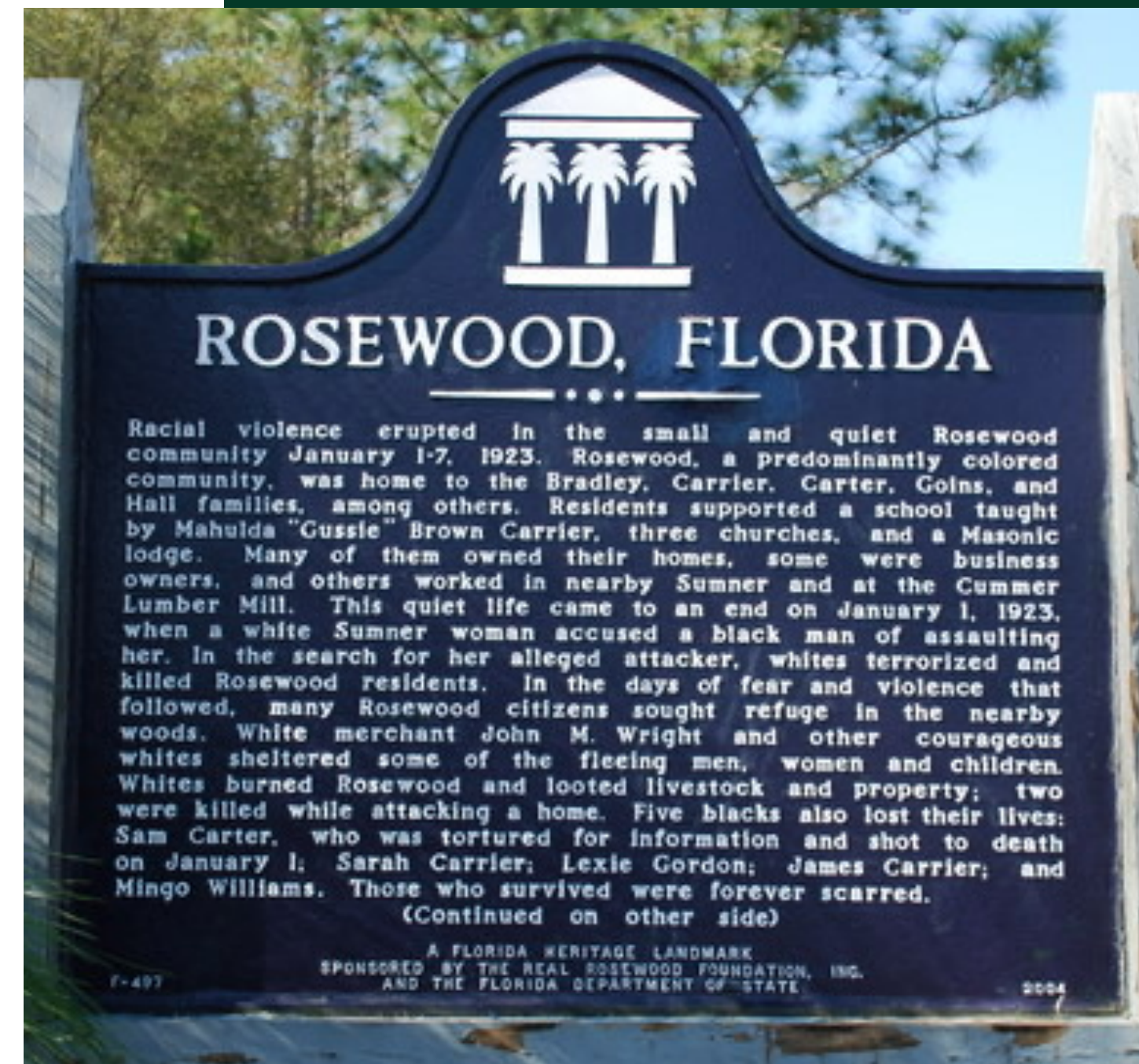
Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo claim for their missing children. From 1976-1983, during Argentina's "Dirty War," up to 30,000 people "disappeared." [CC-BY-2.0](#)

1994

Rosewood Massacre

The state of Florida approved \$2.1 million for the living survivors of a 1923 racial pogrom that resulted in multiple deaths and the decimation of the Black community in the town of Rosewood.

("Rosewood Massacre: A Harrowing Tale of Racism and the Road toward Reparations" by Jessica Glenza, The Guardian, January 3, 2016.)



CC-by-2.0

2001+ Tulsa, Oklahoma

The Oklahoma legislature passed, and Governor Keating signed, a bill to pay reparations for the destruction of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Greenwood community in 1921 in the form of low-income student scholarships in Tulsa; an economic development authority for Greenwood; a memorial; and the awarding of medals to the 118 known living survivors of the destruction of Greenwood.

Known as Black Wall Street, Greenwood was destroyed when a white mob killed several hundred Black people and destroyed a prosperous Black neighborhood in one of the worst cases of racial violence in U.S. History. (*Human Rights Watch*)



Smoke billowing over Tulsa, Oklahoma during race massacre. Oklahoma Tulsa, 1921. Courtesy of the Library of Congress LC-USZ62-33780

2005

Prince Edward County

Virginia, five decades after ignoring Prince Edward County and other locales that shut down their public schools in support of segregation, made a rare effort to confront its racist past, in effect apologizing and offering reparations in the form of scholarships.

With a \$1 million donation from the billionaire media investor John Kluge and a matching amount from the state, Virginia has up to \$5,500 to any state resident who was denied a proper education when public schools shut down. As of 2012, more than 80 students have been approved for the scholarships and the numbers are expected to rise. Several thousand are potentially eligible.

"A New Hope For Dreams Suspended By Segregation", The New York Times, July 31, 2005, by Michael Janofsky.)



This photograph of the agricultural shop at R. R. Moton High School was used as Defendant's Exhibit No. 78, in the civil rights case Dorothy E. Davis et al. v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, Virginia. [PD US](#)

2014

North Carolina Eugenics Board

The state of North Carolina set aside \$10 million for reparations payments to living survivors of the state's eugenics program, which forcibly sterilized more than 7,600 inmates or patients of public-funded institutions that were judged to be 'mentally defective or feeble-minded' by authorities.

Academic sources have observed that this was not only an ableist and classist project but also a racist one, as Black people were disproportionately targeted.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Brenda Feign Fasteau said of the situation, "As far as I can determine, the statistics reveal that since 1964, approximately 65% of the women sterilized were Black and approximately 35% were white.

*("North Carolina Set To Compensate Forced Sterilization Victims" by Scott Neuman, NPR, July 25, 2013;
"Families of NC Eugenics Victims No Longer Alive Still Have Shot at Compensation" by Anne Blythe, News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.), March 17, 2017.)*



This Eugenics Marker by North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program [CC0 1.0](#)

2014

France

More than 700 claims have been filed under an agreement between U.S. and France in which French officials have agreed to pay out \$60 million for the deportations carried out by SNCF, France's railway system during the Holocaust. The United States will administer and distribute this amount to eligible Americans, Israelis and other foreigners and their families who were not entitled to make claims under the existing French program

A joint statement by the United States and France called the agreement a "measure of justice to help those who suffered the harms of one of history's darkest eras."

In exchange, the U.S. government agreed to ask courts to dismiss any lawsuits against SNCF or the French government.

("U.S. Begins Paying Out Reparations from France to Holocaust Survivors and Their Heirs" by Katherine Shaver, Washington Post, September 15, 2016.)



CC-Zero

2015+

Burge Reparations

In May of 1972 Jon Burge, a Vietnam veteran, was promoted to police detective on Chicago's south side. For the next twenty years Burge and other officers used torture techniques Burge learned in Vietnam to force confessions from men arrested in the neighborhood. Jon Burge eventually sent over 200 hundred men to prison based on confessions obtained through torture.

In 2015, the City of Chicago signed into law an ordinance granting cash payments, free college education, and a range of social services to 57 living survivors of police torture (Burge Reparations). Explicitly defined as reparations, which totaled \$5.5 million, the ordinance includes a formal apology from Mayor Rahm Emanuel and a mandate to teach the broader public about the torture through a memorial and public-school curriculum.



A press conference on torture and wrongful convictions outside the Chicago federal courthouse [CC-BY-SA-3.0](#)



[cc-by-sa-2.0](#)

2019

Evanston, Illinois

The City of Evanston, Illinois, voted to allocate the first \$10 million in tax revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana (which became legal in the state on January 1, 2020) to fund reparations initiatives that address the gaps in wealth and opportunity of Black residents.

"This week's City Council vote appears to have made Evanston the first municipal government in the nation to create and fund its own reparations program." Note: While Chicago created a program to compensate victims of police torture (Burge Reparations), the reparations were not primarily race-based.

("Future Weed Revenue Will Fund Evanston's New Reparations Program" by Jonah Meadows, Patch, November 27, 2019; Associated Press. (2021, March 23). Evanston, Illinois, becomes first U.S. city to pay reparations to Black residents. NBC News.)



Golden gate Bridge from Marshall's Beach. [CC-BY-SA-4.0](#)

2020 California

California enacts a new law to create a task force to determine how the state could provide reparations to Black Americans and who would be eligible.

Known as Assembly Bill 3121, the purpose of the Task Force is: (1) to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans; (2) to recommend appropriate ways to educate the California public of the task force's findings; and (3) to recommend appropriate remedies in consideration of the Task Force's findings.

Once signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, California became the first state in the nation to consider reparations for those harmed by slavery and racial discrimination

(Linly, Z. (2020, October 1). California passes bill to consider slavery reparations. The Root.)

2021

St. Petersburg, Florida

St. Petersburg, Florida, city council approved the creation of a reparations program and the implementation of an equity officer in response to a study that identified structural racism in the state. The program will establish affordable housing, educational opportunities, and other means of economic development that would contribute to an equal environment for Black residents.

(Wright, C. (2021, December). St. Petersburg City Council approves 'reparations' to address structural racism. Tampa Bay Times.)



Seal of St. Petersburg, Florida

CC-BY-SA-4.0



California State Capitol Building. [CC-BY-SA-3.0](#)

2021

California Eugenics Law

The California legislature enacted a law requesting \$7.5 million of the budget be put towards providing reparations to survivors of the state's former eugenics law, by which over 20,000 institutionalized women were forcibly sterilized.

(California passes landmark law to provide reparations to survivors of state-sponsored forced sterilization. (2021, July 13). Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund.)

2022

Evanston, Illinois

Evanston, Illinois began paying reparations to Black residents under their Restorative Housing Program (see entry above in 2019). The 16 residents were chosen through a random drawing and will receive \$25,000 grants each for housing assistance.

(Mogos, A. (2022, January 22). Evanston selects first residents to receive housing benefits in reparations plan. WTTW News.)





West St. Paul, Minnesota, BLM Fence. [CC-BY-SA-4.0](#)

2023

St. Paul, Minnesota

The City of St. Paul, Minnesota, created the St. Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission to research possibilities for reparations to descendants of enslaved Africans.

(McGee, N. A. (2023, January 5). Minnesota city creates committee to give reparations to descendants of enslaved Africans. The Root.)

Apology Reparations





1993

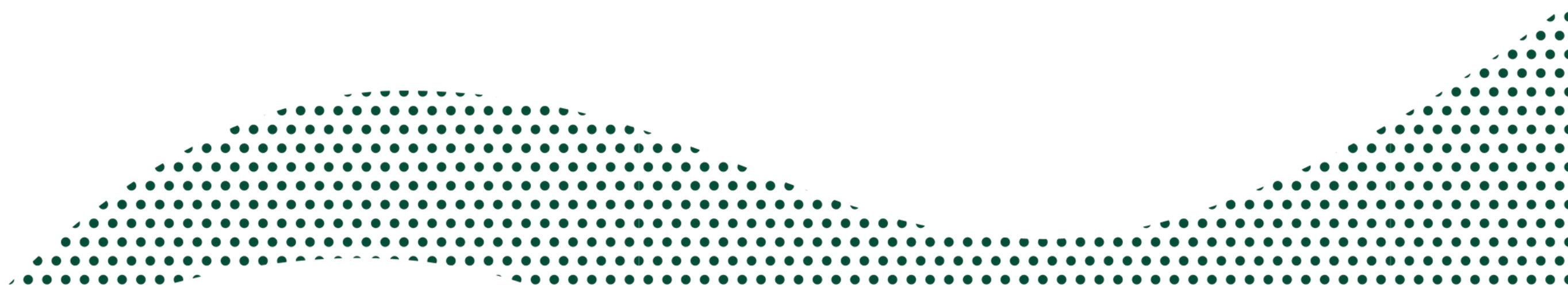
Joint Resolution Apologizing to Native Hawaiians

U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution acknowledging and apologizing to Native Hawaiians for the illegal United States–aided overthrow of the sovereign Hawaiian nation.

The following is a portion of United States Public Law 103-150 (the Apology Resolution, Nov. 23, 1993):

"The Congress-

...(3) apologizes to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the people of the United States for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on January 17, 1893, with the participation of agents and citizens of the United States, and the deprivation of the rights of Native Hawaiians to self-determination; ..."





In 1997, President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore helped Herman Shaw, 94, a Tuskegee Syphilis Study victim, during a news conference. Mr. Clinton apologized to black men whose syphilis went untreated by government doctors. Credit...Doug Mills/Associated Press

Doctor injects test subject with placebo as part of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration

1990's

Clinton Era Apologies & Acknowledgements

1997† President Bill Clinton apologized to the survivors of the U.S. government-sponsored syphilis tests in Tuskegee, Alabama.

1998† President Clinton signed into law the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Study Site Act, which officially acknowledges an 1864 attack by seven hundred U.S. soldiers on a peaceful Cheyenne village located in the territory of Colorado. Hundreds, largely women and children, were killed. The act calls for the establishment of a federally funded Historic Site at Sand Creek, which was established in 2007.

Reparations payments marked with † are taken from "How Chicago Became the First City to Make Reparations to Victims of Police Violence" by Yana Kunichoff and Sarah Macaraeg, YES Magazine, Spring 2017; and Long Overdue: The Politics of Racial Reparations: From 40 Acres to Atonement and Beyond by Charles P. Henry, 2007, NYU Press.



2002 - 2005

Apology Reparations

2002: Governor Mark Warner of Virginia issued a formal apology for the state's decision to forcibly sterilize more than 8,000 of its residents.

Of the victims, 66% were women and 20% were Black residents. The state's program was said to be the model for the Nazi eugenics policies introduced by Adolf Hitler when he aspired to create a "master race."

("Va. Apologizes to the Victims of Sterilizations" by William Branigin, Washington Post, May 3, 2002.)

2004: The faculty senate at the University of Alabama passed a resolution apologizing for its early faculty members' involvement in slavery prior to the Civil War.

(Harris, L. M. (2020, January 29). Higher education's reckoning with slavery. AAUP.)

2005†: The U.S. Senate approved, by voice vote, S.R. 39, which called for the lawmakers to apologize to lynching victims, survivors, and their descendants, several of whom were watching from the gallery.



*Reparatory Actions, Resolutions,
Referendums, Pledges & Promises*





1865

Special Field Order No. 15

On January 16, 1865, Union General William T. Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15 which confiscated as Federal property a strip of coastal land extending about 30 miles inland from the Atlantic and stretching from Charleston, South Carolina 245 miles south to Jacksonville, Florida. The order gave most of the roughly 400,000 acres to newly emancipated slaves in forty-acre sections.

Those lands (in orange) became the basis for the slogan “forty acres and a mule” based on the belief that ex-slaves throughout the old Confederacy would be given the confiscated lands of former plantation owners. It is the origin of the contemporary debate over reparations.

By June, roughly 40,000 Blacks had settled on four hundred thousand acres of land before Confederate landowners, aided by the new Johnson administration, started taking back "their" land.



1870

Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth distributed a petition calling for Congress to provide restitution through land redistribution to the “freed colored people in and about Washington” to allow them “to support themselves.” Truth asserted that enslaved people made significant contributors to the growth of the nation’s wealth and therefore required recompense.

Despite her efforts, Truth was unsuccessful. Freed people in the United States received no land or financial restitution in the post slavery era.

Araujo, A.L. (June 2019). “The History of Black Women Championing Demands for Reparations.” Truthout.



1894

Callie House

As a widow, a mother of five, and a washerwoman, House understood that many former slaves were old, sick, and unable to care for themselves. Through the formation of the National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief and Bounty and Pension Association, House challenged the United States to offer recompense through the establishment of pensions for former enslaved people. By 1898, her association had enrolled 300,000 African Americans to demand pensions from the federal government. The Association worked to provide a stipend of \$15 per month, and an award of \$500 for those formerly enslaved people who were seventy and above, with reduced benefits in varying amounts for those who were younger and had the ability to work.

Although similar pension bills for former slaves went before Congress between 1890 and 1903, none passed.

Araujo, A.L. (June 2019). "The History of Black Women Championing Demands for Reparations." Truthout.

1958

Audley Eloise Moore

"Queen Mother" Audley Moore stood before the United Nations and presented a petition calling for land and billions of dollars in compensation, as well as repatriation to Africa. She later published *"Why Reparations? Reparations Is the Battle Cry for the Economic and Social Freedom of More than 25 Million Descendants of American Slaves."*

Later, Moore became a prominent Black nationalist, Pan-Africanist, and civil rights activist, and created the Reparations Committee for the Descendants of American Slaves (RCDAS).

In 1962, Moore formed the Reparations Committee of the United States Slaves, Inc., with Dara Abubakari. That year, they returned to the United Nations to argue that the United States government should be compelled to pay reparations. They were unsuccessful.

Araujo, A.L. (June 2019). "The History of Black Women Championing Demands for Reparations." Truthout.



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Courtesy of the Richard Nixon Library

As leaders of the Pueblo of Taos look on, President Richard Nixon signs H.R.71, a bill to return the sacred Blue Lake in New Mexico to the tribe, on December 15, 1970. Courtesy of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library

1970

House Resolution 471

Richard Nixon signed into law House Resolution 471 restoring Blue Lake and surrounding area to the Taos Pueblo (New Mexico). The land had been taken by presidential order in 1906.

(A History of the Indians in the United States by Angie Debo (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1984, p. 422); see also "Taos Pueblo celebrates 40th anniversary of Blue Lake's return" by Matthew van Buren, Santa Fe New Mexican, September 18, 2010.)

1988

Civil Liberties Act

President Ronald Reagan signed a bill providing \$1.2 billion (\$20,000 a person) and an apology to each of the approximately 60,000 living Japanese-Americans who had been interned during World War II.

Additionally, \$12,000 and an apology were given to 450 Unangans (Aleuts) for internment during WWII, and a \$6.4 million trust fund was created for their communities.

("U.S. pays restitution; apologizes to Unangan (Aleut) for WWII Internment," National Library of Medicine.)



President Ronald Reagan Signs The Reparations Bill for Japanese Americans with Pete Wilson Spark Matsunaga, Norman Mineta, Robert Masui, and Bill Lowrey. Photo courtesy of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library



Congressman John Conyers, a Democrat who represented the Detroit area for more than 50 years, co-founded the Congressional Black Caucus and was the longest-serving African American lawmaker in congressional history. [CC-by-2.0](#)

1989

Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act

Congressman John Conyers, D-Michigan, introduced bill H.R. 3745, which aimed to create the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.

The bill was introduced "[to] acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes." (Preamble)

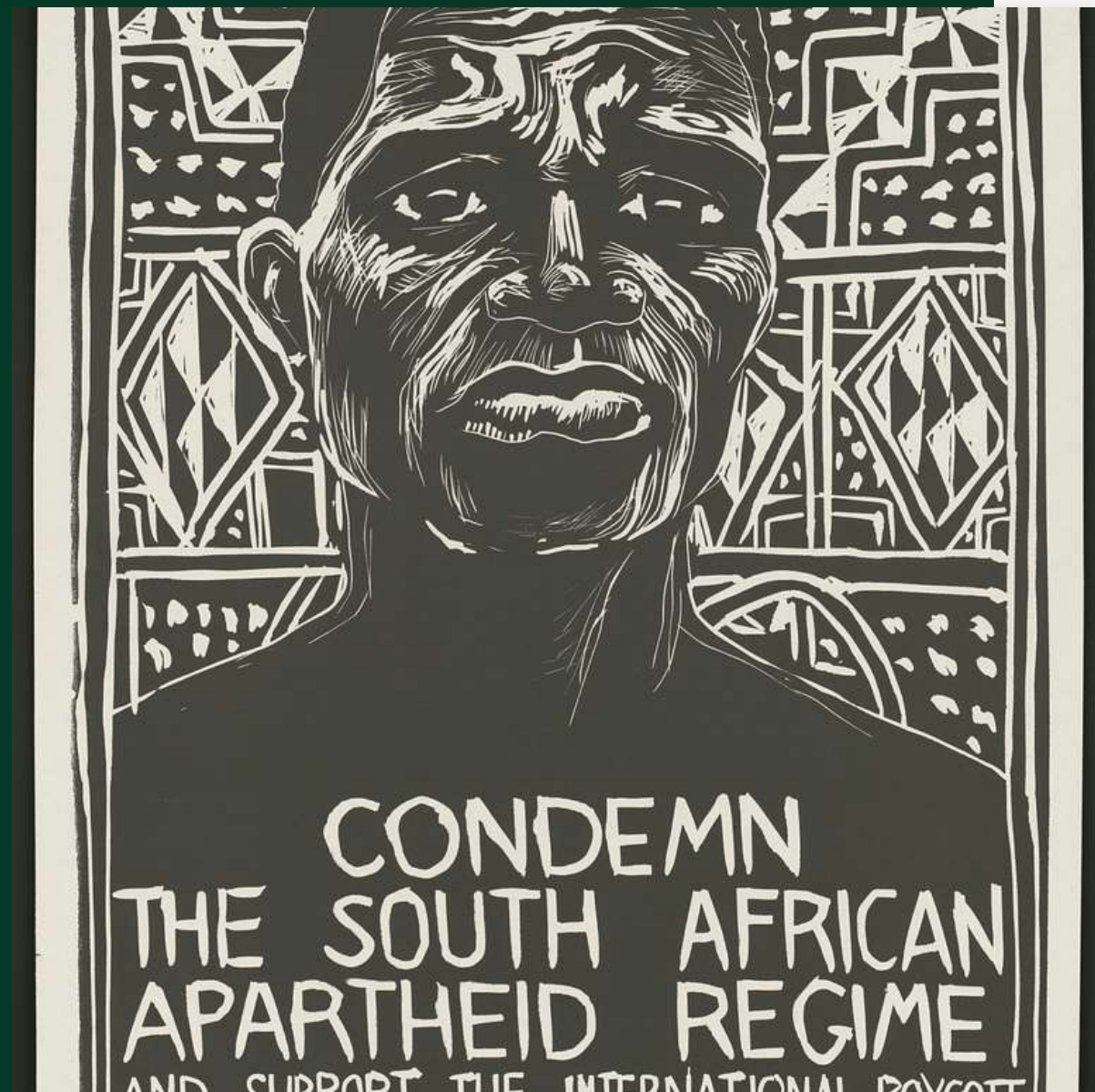
1996

The Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

The South African TRC was based on the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No 34 of 1995 and was established as a court-like restorative justice body to reconcile the impacts of apartheid.

The TRC effected its mandate via three committees: The Amnesty Committee, Reparation & Rehabilitation Committee, and the Human Rights Violations Committee, where both victims and perpetrators could express their regret and demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation.

In addition, the President's Fund was established to pay reparations to apartheid's victims of human rights abuses. Over the past five years, the Fund has received R531-million in investment revenue but only disbursed R97.7-million in reparations.



LC-DIG-ppmsca-43304

Courtesy of the Library of Congress LC-DIG-ppmsca-43304



U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ). [PD US Congress](#)

2019

House Resolution 40 (S. 1083)

Senator Cory Booker, D-New Jersey, introduced bill S. 1083 (H.R. 40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act) in the Senate that would provide for a commission to study and report on the impact of slavery and discrimination against Black Americans and deliver a verdict on different proposals for reparations.

The bill "is a way of addressing head-on the persistence of racism, white supremacy, and implicit racial bias in our country. It will bring together the best minds to study the issue and propose solutions that will finally begin to right the economic scales of past harms and make sure we are a country where all dignity and humanity is affirmed."

(Press release, April 8, 2019.)



Now is the Time

Explore Your Thoughts on Reconciliation & Reparatory Justice for our Nation's Past

How do these efforts amount to justice as intended (or not)?

What are some additional ways reparatory justice can be offered to groups in the U.S. and abroad who experienced historic and pervasive violations to their human rights?

According to the United Nations, adequate, effective and prompt reparation is intended to promote justice by redressing gross violations of international human rights law or serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Beyond money, consider the various forms of reparations that have been offered throughout United States History.

What message(s) do these reparations send to society about justice and injustice?

Thank you for visiting

The Historical Worldview Timeline of
Reparations 1783 -2023



SACRAMENTO STATE
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