

## The Case for Reparations Part 2

### "Are reparations the answer to America's historic racial wealth gap?"

#### CBS Sunday Morning

Link: [https://youtu.be/g\\_bZKh4-gw](https://youtu.be/g_bZKh4-gw) (June, 2021 [10 mins])

Duke economist William Darity and his wife, forklorist Kirsten Mullen believe that if the "40 Acres" promised had actually been given to freed slaves, as a country, we would likely not need reparations today. Mullen describes slavery as the first Affirmative Action for white people, "free labor. How about it?" CBS narration: "Whites acquired wealth, Blacks were repeatedly shut out... then terrorized by Jim Crow, later discriminated against when it came to the GI Bill after WWII, or social security benefits, or by Red-Lining or other practices which prevented home ownership." Wealth begets wealth and US practices advantaged whites at the literal expense of Blacks. Darity and Mullen anchor Reparations on the cumulative effects of slavery—including all racist practices since. As of 2019, according to the Federal Reserve, Blacks had 12 cents of wealth for every \$1 held by whites. Darity suggests that the reparations price tag would be \$300,000 per person. Senator Cory Booker supports a plan to narrow the wealth gap across all races called Baby Bonds; the lowest income kids at age 18 would accumulate \$50,000. The Biden Administration has committed to decreasing poverty, but the "how" remains without a clear path. Ray Boshara, a senior advisor at the Federal Reserve believes the poverty/ wealth gap problem cannot be solved with one path alone. Senator Booker: "We are a nation that is still suffering self-inflicted wounds because we have not dealt that original sin and how it affects us today. It is to all of our self-interest to get at this [plan to address the wealth gap]."

### "Lawmakers push for full House vote on slavery reparations bill" CBS News

Link: <https://youtu.be/5JHEsGhj55g> (February, 2022 [12 mins])

April 2022 marks the mark one year anniversary since a House of Representatives, "committee approved legislation that would study slavery reparations for African Americans. H.R. 40 would create a panel that would examine lasting effects of slavery and discrimination in the U.S. But the bill has yet to be brought to a full vote in the chamber. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, who is the lead sponsor of H.R. 40, joins CBS News' Lilia Luciano to discuss," (YouTube Description). 350 organizations have backed H.R 40 including the Anti-Defamation, Stop AAPI Hate (Asian American, Pacific Islander), Children's Defense Fund. 216 Congresspersons are co-sponsors of the Bill.

Rep. Jackson Lee: "HR 40 is a form of healing and answering questions and determining why there is such an enormous Wealth Gap and why racism still exists, why the voting rights act couldn't be passed, why we are still working to get the George Floyd Police Reform Bill. All this ties into disparities in how African Americans are treated... When I speak to people about healing, restoring and fixing- which is repairing—they open their minds. It is not about accusing people who are just here. It is historically looking at the record.... African Americans have said all along, slavery has never been responded to, we've never been addressed. We've not even gotten an apology. And it is long overdue." Ms. Jackson Lee reminds us all that this nation overwhelmingly benefited financially from slavery and it is time to reckon with America's original sin.



**Additional Resources:**

**"Reparations | Real Time with Bill Maher (HBO)"**

**Link:** <https://youtu.be/pKZENkKesGc> (2021 March 2021 [5 mins])

**Note: This video contains profanity.** Charlamagne Tha God, Co-Host of the Breakfast Club and Frank Bruni, NYT columnist respond to the Biden Administration's decision to study reparations. join Bill to discuss the idea of compensating the descendants of slaves for unpaid labor by their ancestors. Charlemagne Tha God, "To act like Black people in this country don't deserve reparations is nuts to me." Bruni responds that, "We should be spending much, much more on the schools that serve Black children, we should be spending much more on the infrastructure in predominantly Black communities... A debt is owed." Bruni goes on to say that we need to close the opportunity gap, but that reparations in cash payments are less feasible, so what can we do? One idea was need-based reparations.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

THE CASE FOR REPARATIONS

Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.

By [Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)

[https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/katrinaforrester/files/forrester\\_reparations\\_history\\_and\\_the\\_origins\\_of\\_global\\_justice.pdf](https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/katrinaforrester/files/forrester_reparations_history_and_the_origins_of_global_justice.pdf)