



Part of “*A Toolkit for Reparations in Community: A Resource for the Body of Christ*”

# Reparations Resources and Suggested Reading List

Developed by the Subcommittee on Reparations

Racial Justice Commission

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

November 2021

## Articles on reparations efforts and the rationale for reparations:

“[A Christian Call for Reparations](#),” by Kelly Brown Douglas (*Sojourners*, July 2020).

“[What is owed?](#),” by Nikole Hannah-Jones (*The New York Times Magazine*, June 30, 2020)

“[Reparations Mean More Than Money For This Family](#)” by Tracy Jan (*The Washington Post*, January 24, 2020)

“[First community in Massachusetts adopts plan to pay reparations to descendants of slavery](#),” by Bob Dumas, Boston 25 News, August 2, 2021

“[Evanston, Ill., leads the country with first reparations program for Black residents](#),” by Mark Guarino (*The Washington Post*, March 22, 2021)

“[Oldest Episcopal parish’s past holds uncomfortable truths in city where African American history began](#),” by David Paulsen (Episcopal News Service, January 20, 2020)

## Other Resources on Reparations

Reparations4Slavery (<https://reparations4slavery.com/>), a portal “for white Americans walking the path of reparations,” developed and supported by a woman as part of her own reparations.

[Belinda Sutton’s 1783 Petition](#). Belinda Sutton, a slave in the Royall House, Medford, MA, wrote a petition to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1783, requesting an income from the estate of her enslaver, Isaac Royall. The February 1783 pension awarded to Sutton might be regarded as one of the first cases of reparation for slavery and the slave trade in the United States.

[Reparations for Amherst](#), includes draft reports, an op-ed piece, sample letters of support, and other resources put together by the grassroots organization that led the successful movement to create a reparations fund in Amherst, MA.

Movement for Black Lives - [Reparations Toolkit](#)

National African American Reparations Commission - [10 point plan](#)  
<https://reparationscomm.org/reparations-plan/>

## Books on Antiracism and Reparations

*How to Be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi (One World, 2019)

Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

*Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*, by Jennifer Harvey (Eerdmans, 2014)

In this provocative book Harvey argues for a radical shift in how justice-committed white Christians think about race. She calls for moving away from the reconciliation paradigm that currently dominates interracial relations and embracing instead a reparations paradigm.

*From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century*, by William A. Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen (University of North Carolina Press, 2020)

In this well-regarded presentation of the case for reparations in this country, Darity and Mullen propose a policy of ARC: Acknowledge, Redress, and Closure.

*Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing*, by Dr. Joy Degruy (Joy Degruy Publications, 2017)

While this book is not specifically about reparations, Degruy brings her master's degrees in social work and clinical psychology, and PhD in social work research into her research on the intersection of racism, trauma, violence, and American chattel slavery. Just as the trauma of slavery continues to live in current generations, so too lies the responsibility to repair the harm to the extent possible.

*The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee (One World, 2021)

McGhee explores what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm—the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others, and, she casts a light on what she calls the Solidarity Dividend: the benefits we gain when people come together across race to accomplish what we can not do on our own.

## Books on the history of enslaved people in America and their descendants

*Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain (One World, 2021)

The editors have gathered a community of 90 Black writers —historians, poets, journalists, novelists, and activists, each writing with their unique voice and from their particular perspectives—to tell the 400-year history of Africans in America, from the arrival of the White Lion, which brought enslaved people to the colonies in 1619, to the Black Lives Matter movement.

*Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson (Random House, 2020)

Wilkerson's central thesis is that caste, while a global occurrence, achieves its most violent manifestation in the treatment of American Blacks, set at the lowest level in society through historical and contemporary oppression, marginalization, and violence—all legally maintained through systems of law and order.

*The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*, by Edward E. Baptist (Basic Books, 2014)

Told through intimate slave narratives, plantation records, newspapers, and the words of politicians, entrepreneurs, and escaped slaves, *The Half Has Never Been Told* forces readers to reckon with the violence at the root of American supremacy, as well as with the survival and resistance that brought about slavery's end—and created a culture that sustains America's deepest dreams of freedom.

*Empire of Cotton, A Global History*, by Sven Beckert (Vintage, 2015)

The empire of cotton was, from the beginning, a fulcrum of constant global struggle between slaves and planters, merchants and statesmen, workers and factory owners. Beckert shows how these forces ushered in the world of modern capitalism, including the vast wealth and disturbing inequalities that are with us today.

*The Kidnapping Club: Wall Street, Slavery, and Resistance on the Eve of the Civil War*, by Jonathan Daniel Wells (Bold Type Books, 2020)

We often think of slavery as a southern phenomenon, far removed from the booming cities of the North. But even though slavery had been outlawed in Gotham by the 1830s, Black New Yorkers were not safe. Not only was the city built on the backs of slaves; it was essential in keeping slavery and the slave trade alive.

*Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*, by W. Caleb McDaniel (Oxford University Press, 2019)

The epic tale of Henrietta Wood, a black woman who survived slavery twice and who achieved more than merely a moral victory over one of her oppressors. Above all, it is a portrait of an extraordinary woman and a searing reminder of the lessons of her story as Americans continue to debate reparations for slavery.

*The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*, by Andrés Reséndez (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016/Mariner Books, 2017)

There was no abolitionist movement to protect the tens of thousands of Native people who were kidnapped and enslaved from the time of the conquistadores to the 20th century, but Reséndez builds the incisive case that it was mass slavery—more than epidemics—that decimated Indian populations across North America.

*Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo,”* by Zora Neale Hurston (republished by Amistad Press, 2018)

Hurston opens our eyes to the story of Cudjo Lewis, whom she interviewed in Alabama in 1927. One of the men aboard the last Black Cargo ship to arrive in the United States, Lewis was one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade.

*The Last Slave Ships: New York and the End of the Middle Passage*, by John Harris (Yale University Press, 2020)

The international slave trade persisted in the U.S. long after its formal abolition in 1808. In this book, Harris reveals how and why the long survival of the slave trade in the United States was related to the politics of slavery across the Atlantic World and how much of this bondage survived as a result of financial and diplomatic support from the nation that had proclaimed itself a “shining city upon a hill.”

## Reparations Work and Action Around The Episcopal Church

[Healing from Internalized Oppression](#), a curriculum from The Office of Black Ministries of The Episcopal Church.

[“Reparations and Beloved Community: A report from the Theology Committee of the House of Bishops for its September 2021 gathering”](#)

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland: [Reparation Resources](#)

Episcopal Diocese of New York: [Diocesan Reparations Committee Toolkit](#)

The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island: [Funds for Reparations](#)

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas: [Missionary Vision for a Racial Justice Initiative](#) and its \$13-million commitment towards racial reconciliation projects and scholarships for the future training and education of people of color.

Diocese of New Jersey: [Webinar](#) to help guide its journey into reparations. See also a [recent statement](#) from the Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes, Bishop of New Jersey

[“Report for the House of Bishops from its Theology Committee: White Supremacy, the Beloved Community, and Learning to Listen,”](#) September 23, 2020.