



REPARATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

WHY NOW?

ENG

origins of REPARATIONS

From the beginning of American history, Black men, women and children were kidnapped and brought to the U.S. to be slaves.

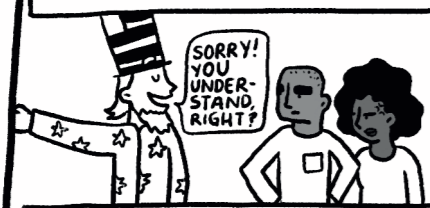


They were sold, beaten, worked, and tortured.



By law, they were not even humans. They were property.

Black folk were promised 40 acres, a mule, and more as an apology for the wrongdoings.

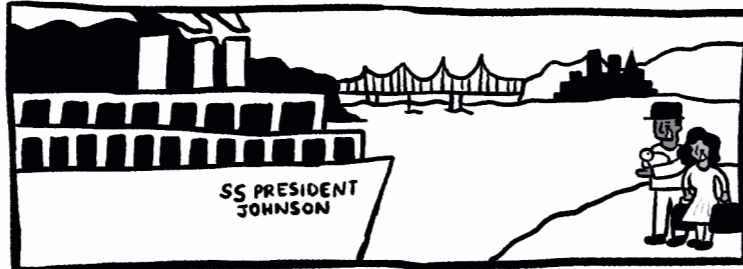


But they were revoked and never came about.



HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Black folk have been in the Bay Area since the gold rush era. Work opportunities during WWII brought a new wave of African Americans to the Bay Area. Yet institutional racism made it hard for them to thrive economically. Many were forced to leave.



From birth to death, Black people face systematic disadvantages in American life more than 150 years after slavery was abolished.



BAYVIEW & HUNTER'S POINT

Bayview Hunters Point was once a navy shipyard that drew many African Americans to San Francisco during World War II (WWII). However, when the naval shipyard closed in 1974, this left many residents unemployed. In addition, industrial facilities polluted the air and water in the community. Poor housing, poverty, and pollution have exacerbated many pre-existing health problems.



Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

Black men have a life expectancy of 72.2 years, more than four years less than white men.

Black families have one-tenth of the median net worth than white families have.

A Black family is about half as likely to own their home as a white family.

Why support reparations

WE ARE HUMAN.

Everyone deserves to live a happy and healthy life. This country's history has made it so that we are pitted against each other. Black and Indigenous communities are often placed at the bottom. If we can help others rise, we can make life better for ALL people.

WE ARE AMERICAN.

The Constitution starts with "We the People." This means we need to stand up together and ensure all of our communities thrive. Who are we if we do not reflect this founding value of the United States and help one another?

WE ARE CHINESE AND CHINESE AMERICAN.

We also benefit from the sacrifices and work of African American communities. In February 2024, the Board of Supervisors issued a formal apology for the city's role in harming San Francisco's Black residents. A formal apology is the first step in a reparations process.

Zine illustrations by: Katie Quan of REALSOUL. A huge thank you to Mike Lee and Florence Go of AACRE, Anisha Hingorani, Denise Chen, Crystal Van, Kennis Chen, Jinxia Niu of Chinese for Affirmative Action, Professor Xiaoyan Zhang, and the OS Focus Group. We could not have done this without you! Statistics by Reuters Graphics and the San Francisco African American Reparations Advisory Committee.

WHAT ABOUT IN SAN FRANCISCO

A few years ago, the city recognized its role in harming Black residents and created an advisory committee to develop a reparations plan. The impacts of the city's decisions on the Black community, including evicting families and destroying their neighborhoods, clearly demonstrates that the city, whether intentionally or unintentionally, caused significant harm to the city's Black community. The Reparations Plan recommendations seek to address harm across the areas of economic empowerment, education, health and policy, and include a proposal for a reparations program and eligibility requirements for reparations recipients.

THIS INCLUDES:

- Financial reparations (to those eligible).
- Affordable housing.
- Ensuring accountability & consequences for racial discrimination in city hiring.
- Funding for school infrastructure.
- Gaining public support to remedy harmful state policies (Prop 209 & Prop 13).

DEFINING REPARATIONS

Reparations is a principle of international human rights and means fixing and making up for the harm done to a group of people when their rights were violated by governments and corporations. This includes apologies, memorials, and institutional reforms. Harmed groups have the right to obtain from the government or corporation responsible for the injuries reparations, which they need to repair and heal themselves. The United States government has paid reparations for groups that they have harmed, including Japanese families who were incarcerated during World War II and survivors of government-led forced sterilization programs.

The United Nations principles says these steps are important and vital for an effective reparations program.

- RESTITUTION**
Restoring the victim to the life prior to the life they had before their rights were violated.
- COMPENSATION**
Providing economic resources to victims for losses suffered (physical/mental harm, lost opportunities).
- REHABILITATION**
The process of restoring victims' physical and mental health through medical, psychological, legal, social, and other services.
- GUARANTEES OF NON-REPETITION**
A set of measures or laws seeking to ensure similar atrocities never happen again.
- SATISFACTION**
A range of non-monetary or symbolic measures designed for and dedicated to victims beyond financial compensation.