



*Mission Peak Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
on  
Reparations*

Presentation by Donald K. Tamaki | [SupportReparations.org](https://SupportReparations.org)

## **GRAPHIC CONTENT WARNING**

Some portions of this presentation contain unedited photographs of racial hatred, murder, lynching, and other depictions of violence.



**Four months later, the Legislature created the 9 member Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. Its purpose:**

***...Document the harm of slavery and its lingering effects***

***...Educate the public of our findings; and***

***...Develop reparations proposals.***

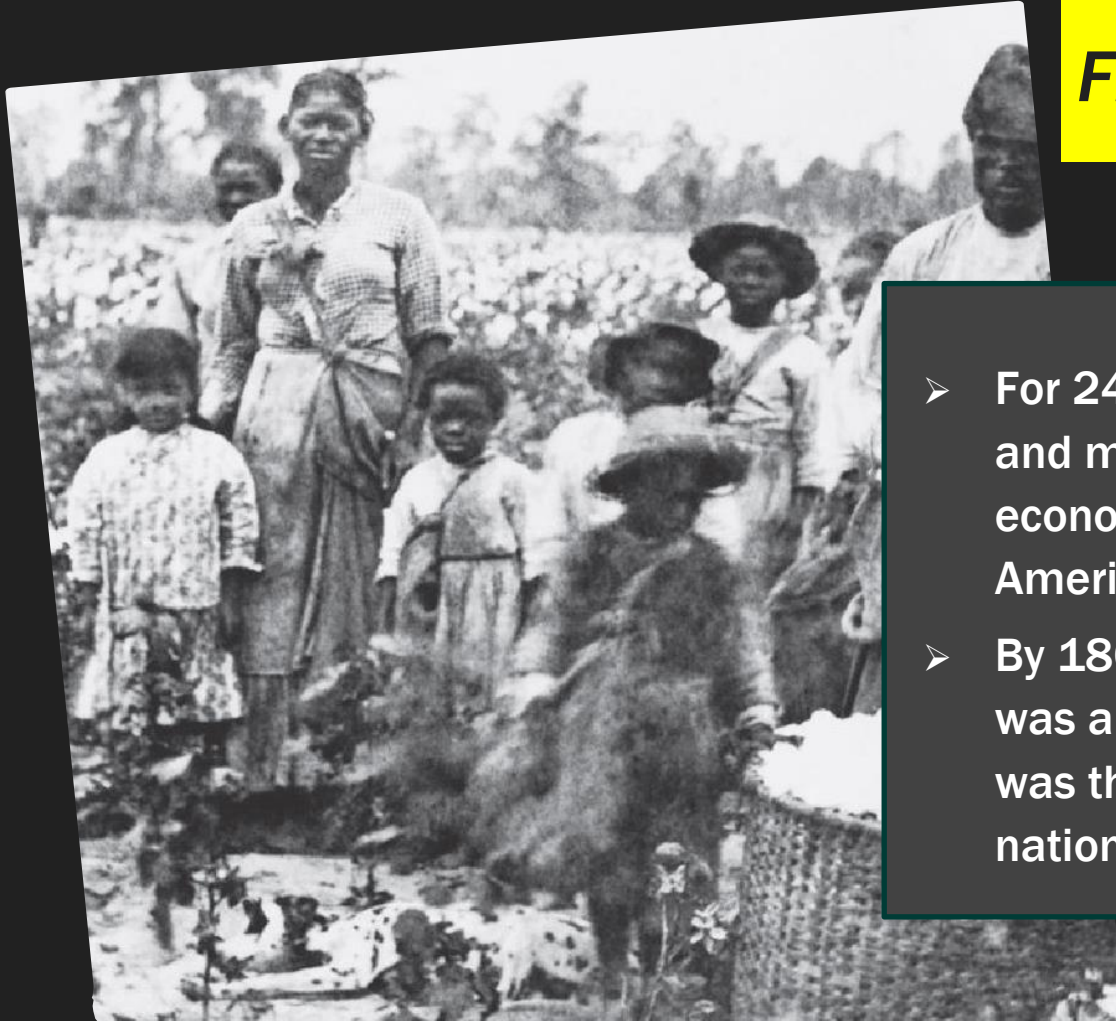
The Task Force's Final Report  
draws a through line from the  
harm of:

- 246 years of slavery;
- 90 years of Jim Crow and racial terror; and
- Decades more of continuing discrimination—

....Resulting in today's racial  
disparities.



## *First, some history....*



- For 246 years, one of the largest and most profitable enslaved labor economies in the world thrived in America.
- By 1861, the enslaved population was almost four million, and cotton was the economic engine for the nation.



Half of the nation's pre-Civil War presidents were enslavers.

More than 1,800 Congressmen from 37 states enslaved Black people.

The Constitution protected slavery and gave the South outsized political power.

On January 16, 1865,  
General Wm. Sherman  
issued Field Order 15,  
confiscating a strip of  
coastline from South  
Carolina to Florida...

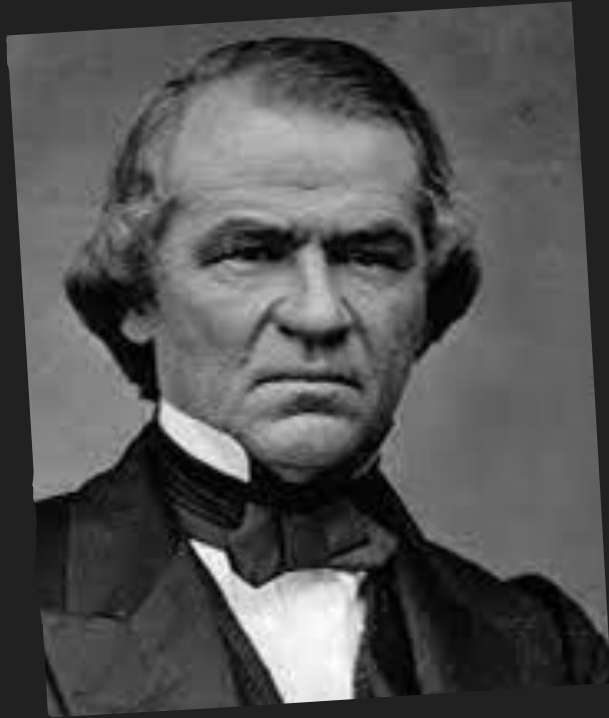
...and deeded 400,000  
acres in 40-acre plots  
to 40,000 newly freed  
Black families who  
settled on the land.





**But just four months later, in April, Lincoln was assassinated.**

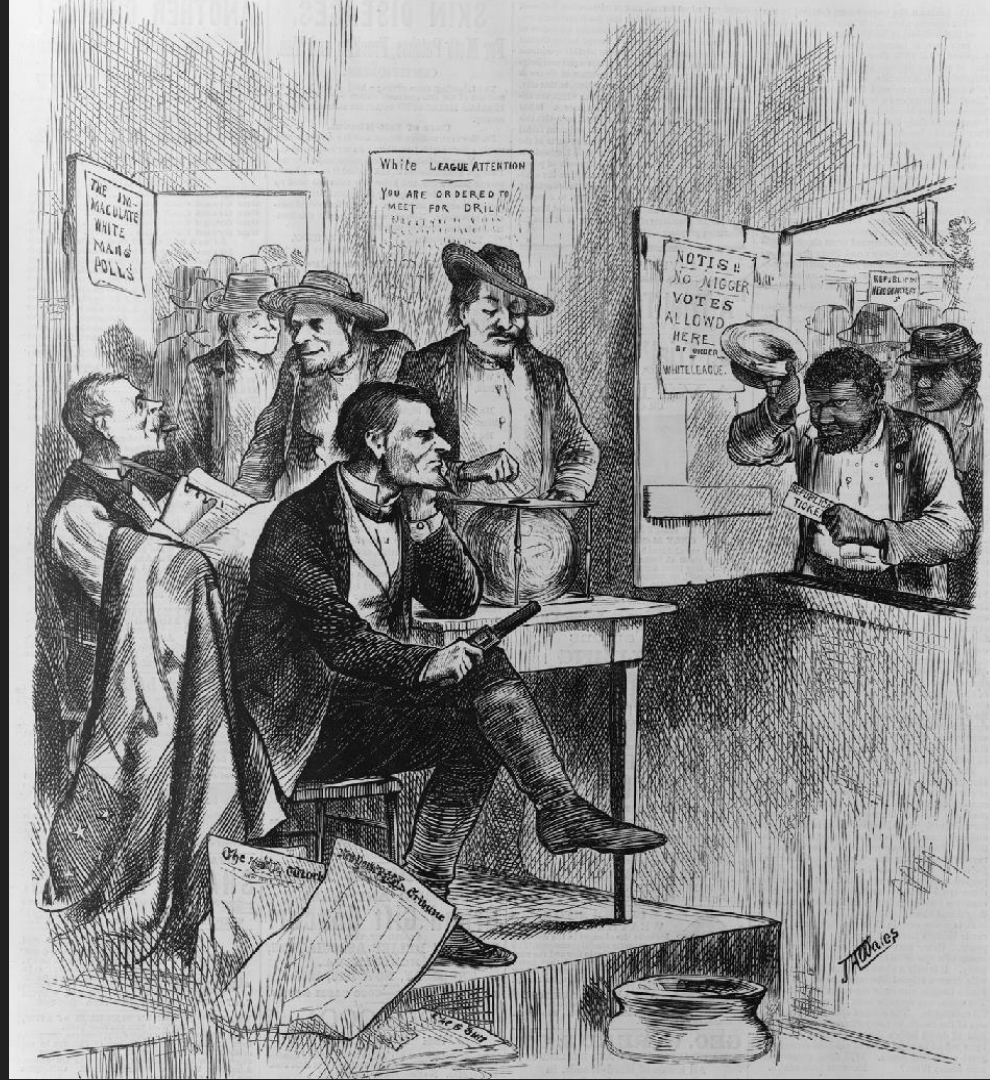




...Vice President Andrew Johnson assumed the Presidency, declaring ***“...this is a country for White men.”***

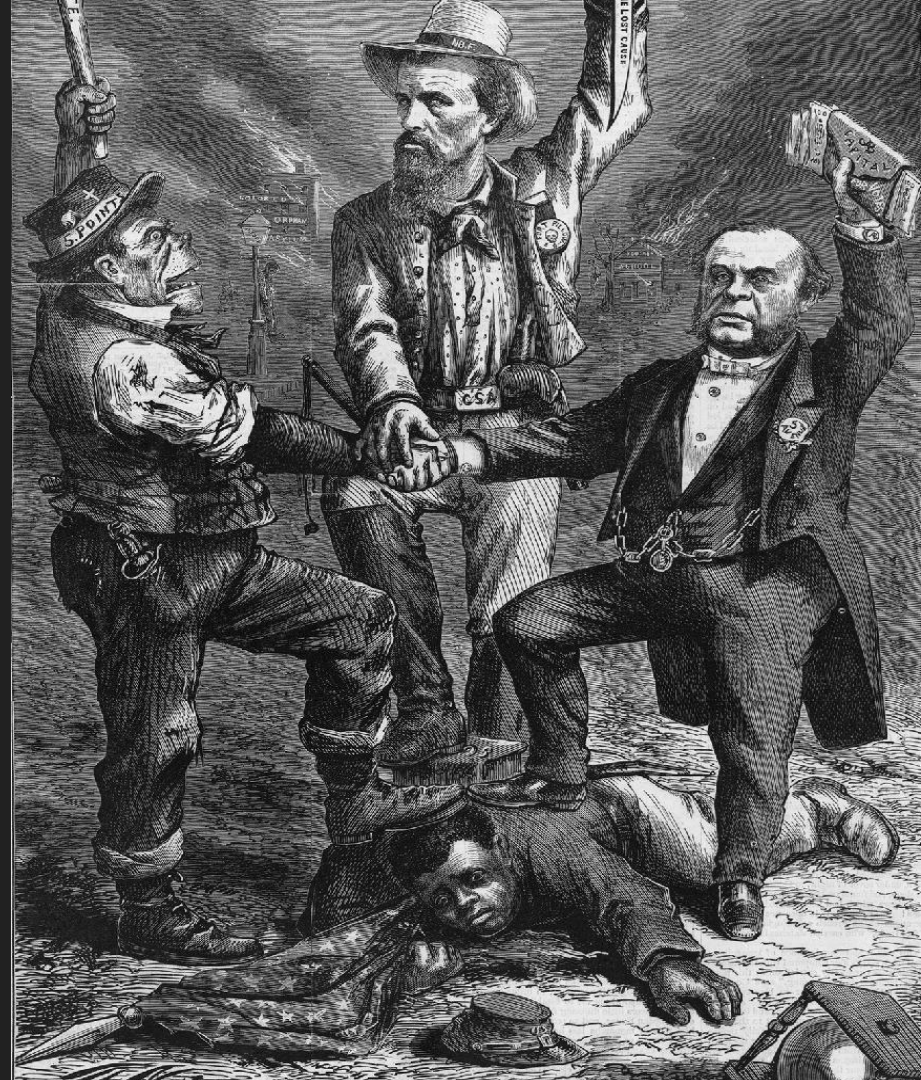
The land reparations program was rescinded, and Black settlers evicted.

- Slavery had ended, but the nation clamored to preserve White supremacy.
- *For example:* States, including California, imposed literacy tests, poll taxes and other voter suppression tactics.



**These restrictions secured  
the power of White  
politicians...**

**...Allowing them to block  
hundreds of civil rights  
laws.**





- *Racial terror followed...*
- More than 6,500 documented lynchings occurred nationwide between 1865 and 1955...
- ...Which is likely an undercount.

## “California was not slave state...”

- *But California was complicit with slavery...*
- About 1,500 enslaved people were brought to California.
- Despite its anti-slavery constitution, it was not a crime to enslave African Americans.



“California was not slave state,” but...

- California passed Fugitive Slave Laws and banned Black people from testifying against White people.
- African Americans were subject to arrest and return to the South— even though they had been living in the “free” state of California.

**\$100 REWARD**—Runaway from MRS. ELIZABETH WARR in the month of October, 1850, from Marysville, a BLACK GIRL, named HAGAR, 5 feet 5 inches high, 24 years of age, dark complexion, round face, broad front teeth. Since leaving she has changed her name to MARY. The above reward will be paid if found in this county, or \$150 in any other county; to be delivered in the hands of the Sheriff of San Francisco. jv25 1w

Advertisement from the *San Francisco Herald*, 1852.

### African American Slavery: California Fugitive Slave Case:

**Stovall v. Archy**  
**Legal Papers**

*John A. Stovall*  
being the identical person who now claims a certain negro slave called Archy in the matter of which claims proceedings are at this time pending before Hon. George Thomas Johnson United States Commissioner for the District of California. Affiant says that he made this affidavit in explanation of the original affidavit filed on the present proceedings.

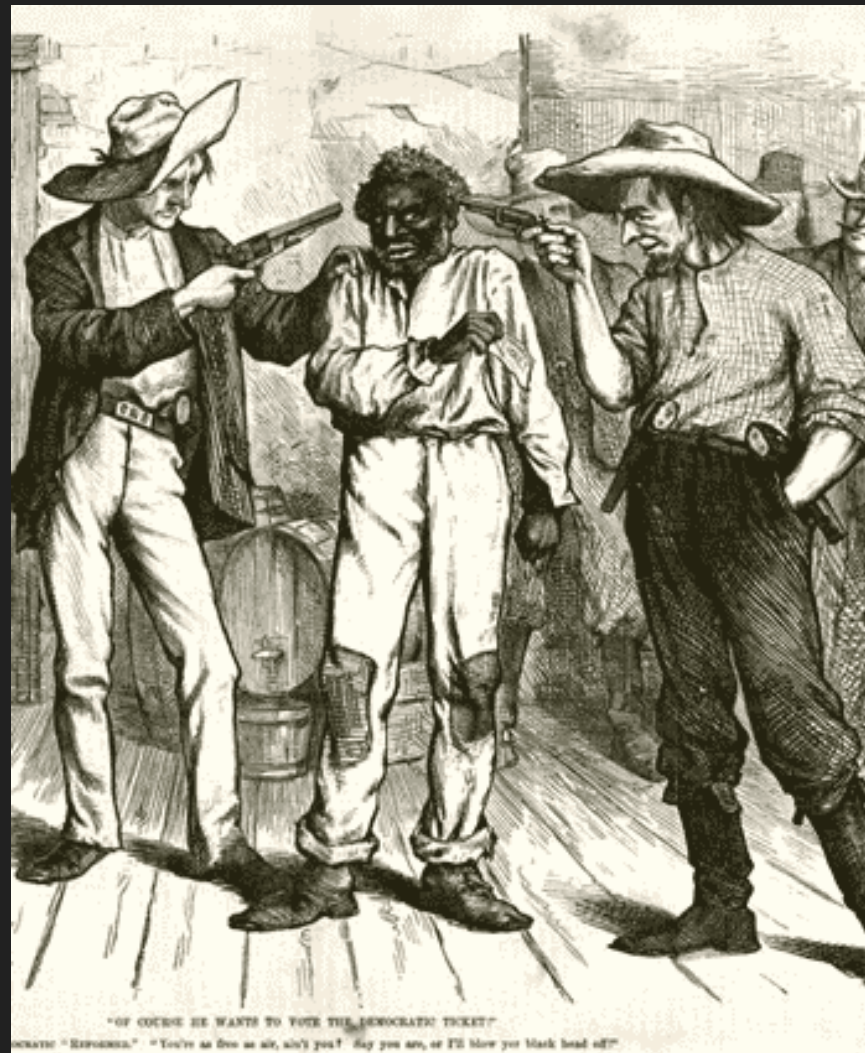
*He says that it is true that he was the owner and lawfully entitled to the possession of said Archy in the State of Mississippi, that under and by virtue of the laws of said State said Archy was*

## California embraced Jim Crow...

By 1867, politicians rose to power by opposing any laws that would make Black, Native and Chinese people equal to Whites.

During Reconstruction, Congress passed the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment—promising equal rights, and the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment—prohibiting states from racially denying voting rights—

*...But California did not ratify these amendments until 1959 and 1962, respectively.*



"OF COURSE HE WANTS TO VOTE THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET!"  
DEMOCRAT: "RESPOND!" "You're as free as air, ain't you? Say you are, or I'll blow your black head off!"



## *California embraced Jim Crow...*

By the 1920s, sizeable KKK chapters emerged in...

...Los Angeles San Francisco,  
Oakland, Fresno, Riverside,  
Sacramento, Anaheim, and  
San Jose.



## *California embraced Jim Crow...*

*For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, California sanctioned discrimination.*

*For example: the SF Fire Dept. had no Black firefighters before 1955, and by 1970, despite Black residents being 14% of the city's population, -*

*...only 4 of the 1,800 firefighters were Black.*

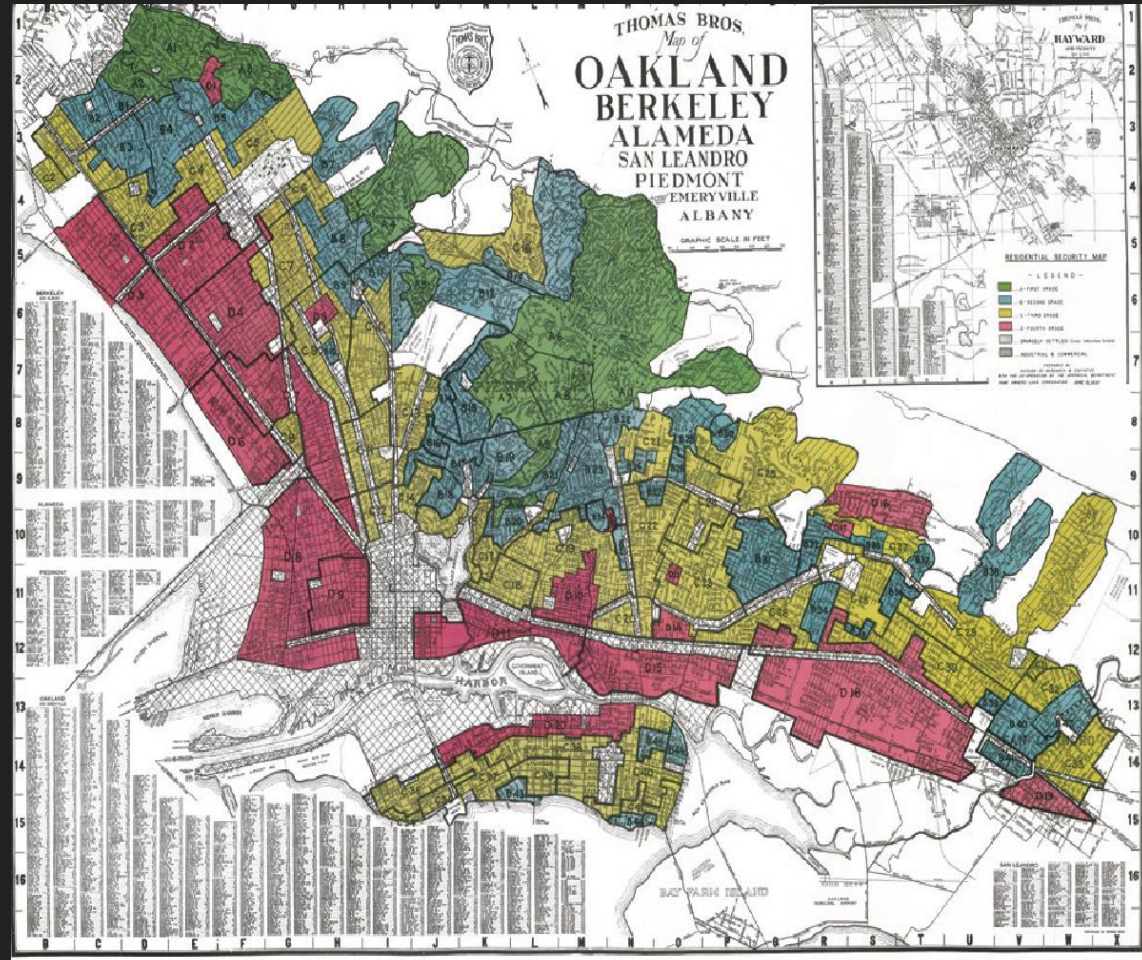
Redlining, racial zoning, racially restrictive deed covenants, and the razing of Black neighborhoods to make way for freeways, subways, development, and regional infrastructure—*were the norm.*



The 1930s-1970s redlining maps used by lenders to exclude African Americans from federally insured loans...

...Align exactly with today's maps of the most segregated, impoverished, underserved, neighborhoods.

The discrimination of the “not so distant past”— *created the present.*

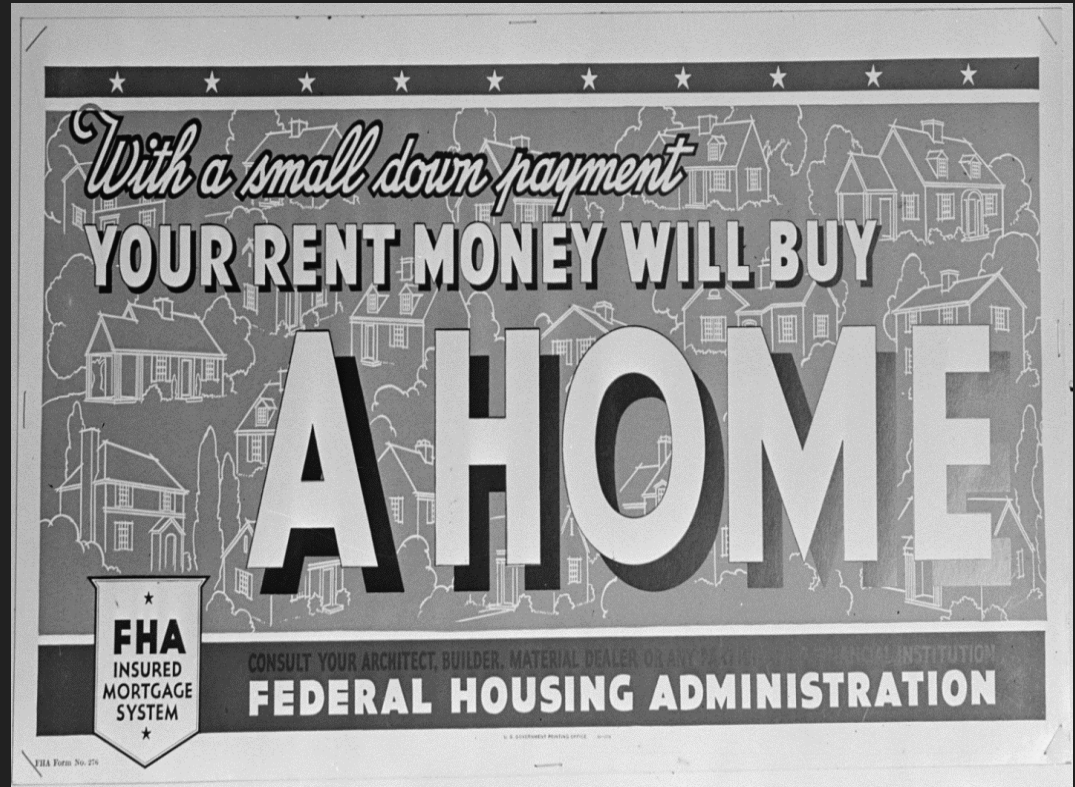


## Exclusion of African Americans from wealth opportunities...

Between 1934 and 1962, the federal gov't issued \$120 billion in federally insured loans...

...Enabling millions to become homeowners...

...But 98 percent of those loans went to White people.



## ***Progress met with resistance....***



**In 1940, 80% of L.A. homes contained racially restrictive deeds barring Black families.**

**1952, William Bailey and Roger Duncan look at the bomb wreckage in Bailey's home.**

**Duncan's house was also bombed and a note was left threatening all the Black families if they didn't move out.**

# Where to permit pollution?...

African American neighborhoods were zoned as commercial or industrial—enabling polluting industries to locate there...

*Result:* African American property values lowered...

...White property values enhanced.



# RACISM IN ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## Who resides in toxic environments?

Residents of Los Angeles who live near a hazardous waste facility are



**91%** people of color

*Example: Los Angeles*

Compared to other Americans, African Americans are

**75%** MORE LIKELY to live near hazardous waste or refining facilities

Black children are

**3x** MORE LIKELY to have elevated lead levels in their blood

Compared to white Californians, Black Californians are exposed to

**40%** MORE particulate matter from cars, trucks and buses

## *Freeways, subways, commercial developments...*

*...Which vastly increased regional productivity and wealth...*

*...Often routed through African American neighborhoods—destroying their homes and businesses.*

Between 1949 and 1973, there were 2,532 eminent domain projects in 992 cities, resulting in a million people being displaced—

*...Two-thirds African American.*





## The Fillmore District, San Francisco 1956



San Francisco used eminent domain to raze the Fillmore District, resulting in...

*...the eviction of 20,000 African American residents and...*

*883 African American-owned businesses destroyed.*

# *The history of American racial oppression in a single image:*

While the image inaccurately implies that segregation ended in 1954, it illustrates...

*...For the great majority of the existence of colonial America and the nation...*

*...Racial subjugation has predominated.*

