

Race 4 Coates, The Case for Reparations

Please read pages 1-27 of Coates's essay "The Case for Reparations." Consider the following questions as you read:

1. In what *specific* ways was black labor stolen?
2. What two things made Mississippi a "kleptocracy," or a government whose corrupt leaders use political power to steal citizens' wealth, according to Coates?
3. In what ways was the Ross family robbed?
4. How did the Federal Housing Administration lock Black citizens out of the housing market? Why was this important to the prospects for Black citizens building wealth?
5. How much more are white families worth than black families, on average? Can you express this as a percentage?
6. What history of reparations does Coates find at the beginning of the United States?
7. Why did the Chicago Tribune say in 1891 that "the account is square with the ex-slaves?"
8. What did Timothy Dwight mean when he said that "We inherit our ample patrimony with all its incumbrances; and are bound to pay the debts of our ancestors?"
9. What is the primary division in society that replaces that of rich and poor starting in 18th century America?