

The Minnesota Migration Act

MN HF 3850



IDENTITY REPAIR RESTITUTION

1600	1700	1800	1900	2000
1619 Start of American Slavery	AMERICAN SLAVERY	1863 Emancipation Proclamation	1862 President Lincoln Signed Executive Order Making Slavery Illegal	
	1776 Declaration of Independence Adopted		Jim Crow	
			American History	
				CRACK COCAINE THE INCARCERATION

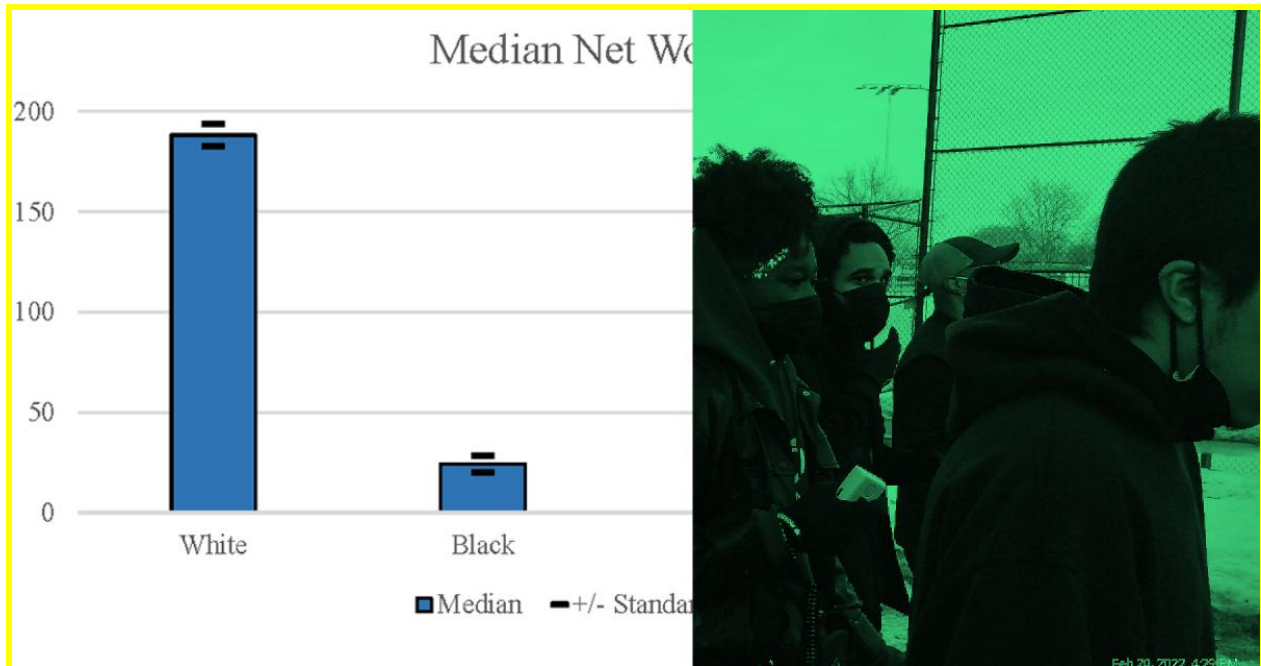
Starting from 1619, Foundational Black Americans were first harmed by the emergence of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade which resulted in the forcible removal of people of African descent from their ancestral homelands on the continent of Africa. In the United States, this initial crime against humanity was extended by the creation of a “race-based” system of black chattel slavery undergirded by a doctrine of White Supremacy. Slavery persisted until the end of the Civil War and its official abolishment with the adoption of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

Even with three constitutional amendments and other legislation establishing equality for formerly enslaved people, American Descendants of Chattel Slavery were relegated to second-class citizenship by virtue of economic, social, and political forces that denied them their newly won freedom and equal protection under the law. For example, practices like sharecropping, unfairly treating trivial offenses as felonies, convict labor leasing, Black codes, denial of the right to vote, Ku Klux Klan terror, and separate but equal laws reinstated “slave-like” conditions.

Throughout the 20th century, these practices continued evidenced by the adoption of restrictive covenants and later redlining to bar African Americans from homeownership to wanton violence in the form of race riots and spectacle lynchings. These were abetted by government policies and practices that facilitated segregation and contributed to inequality compounding the intergenerational harm suffered by African Americans in the areas of housing, education, unfair labor practices, denial of voting rights, and access to places of public accommodation. While not all, it took the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to alleviate some of these adversities - yet many disparities like the “over-policing”, which led to the unnecessary death of George Floyd and countless others, still exist to this day.

The Lineage Wealth Gap:

According to Demos, the racial wealth gap is substantial and is driven by public policy. The Federal Reserve reports that: In the 2019 survey, White families have the highest level of median incomes: \$188,200 respectively (Figure 1). Black families' media income is, at \$24,100



WCCO Reported: according to Wallethub Minnesota has the 3rd biggest Racial Wealth Gap in the Country. [Wealth Gap](#) Not only does Minnesota has one of the biggest racial wealth gaps it also leads the nation in disparities in housing, education, health, and according to the Saint Paul Chief of Police Todd Axtell Black motorist in Saint Paul are 4 times more likely to be pulled over by the police than white counterparts. The New England Journal of Medicine is on record writing "Black Reparations is a long-overdue approach to Black-White disparities in the United States." [New England Journal of Medicine Black Reparations](#)

ABOUT THE REPARATIONS ISSUE:

Reparations are payments (monetary and otherwise) given to a group that has suffered harm. They are not foreign to the United States as Native Americans have received land and billions of dollars for various benefits and programs for being forcibly exiled from their native lands. For Japanese Americans, \$1.5 billion was paid to those who were interned during World War II. And via the Marshall Plan, the United States helped ensure that Jews received reparations for the Holocaust for in 1952, West Germany agreed to pay 3.45 billion Deutsche Marks to Holocaust survivors.

The first major opportunity that the United States had and where it should have atoned for slavery was right after the Civil War. Union leaders including General William Sherman

concluded that each Black family should receive 40 acres. Sherman signed Field Order 15 and allocated 400,000 acres of confiscated Confederate land to Black families. Additionally, some families were to receive mules left over from the war, hence 40 acres and a mule.

Yet, after President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, President Andrew Johnson reversed Field Order 15 and returned land back to former slave owners. Instead of giving Blacks the means to support themselves, the federal government empowered former enslavers. For example, in Washington D.C., slave owners were actually paid reparations for lost property—the formally enslaved. This practice was also common in nearby states. Many Black Americans with limited work options returned as sharecroppers to the same land for the very slave owners to whom they were once enslaved. Slave owners not only made money off the chattel enslavement of black Americans, but they then made money multiple times off the land that the formerly enslaved had no choice but to work.