

REPARATIONS - I OWE HOW MUCH TO WHO FOR WHAT?

By Alan Myers

Before I get deep into this topic, let's go basic for a moment by answering a few questions. First, what is the definition of "reparation"? According to the 1967 Edition of The World Book Dictionary, reparation means "a giving of satisfaction or compensation for wrong or injury done." According to another source, the web, reparation means "the making of amends for a wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged." Overall, I get that reparation means making amends or giving something for a wrong one has done, by providing compensation or helping someone who was wronged or injured by one's actions. That is, to say, there is a direct connection between who did the wrong and who was wronged.

Next, what are the different types of reparations that exist? The list includes restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. This means, there are forms of reparations that do not include the payment of money.

Next, who were the Free States and who were the slave states? In 1860, just before the Civil War, there were 20 Free States and 15 slave states. The Free States were California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin. The states that permitted slavery up to the beginning of the Civil War were Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Which means, it is the slave states and their citizens that allowed and supported the wrong to be done.

Next, who were the wronged parties that would be deserving of reparations? Those people who were either sold into or were born into Slavery in one of the above-named slave states that permitted the absolutely, hateful, horrendous, indescribably mean, hurtful and brutal treatment of human beings.

Next, who would owe the reparations to the wronged parties? Why of course, those that "owned" slaves in the above-named slave states. I have now named the wronged parties, the slaves, and those that did the wrong, the slave owners and their states that permitted the hateful wrong to be committed.

Next, who did not commit a wrong that would warrant and or require being involved in providing slavery reparations? Why of course, those people who did not own slaves by living in a Non-Slave State. Which begs the question - Why would I, a citizen of California, a Free State as of its founding in 1850, be required to pay reparations for the hateful acts of slavery that ended more than 85 years before I was born? I did no wrong.

Juneteenth honors the date, June 19, 1865, when the last Confederate community of enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, received word that they had

been freed from bondage. On December 06, 1865, the 13th Amendment was Ratified and became a part of the United States Constitution. The 13th Amendment officially abolished slavery within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

The upshot for me is that only those people who did the wrong, and they are all dead now, would be required to pay reparations to those people who were so horribly wronged. They too are all dead now. Please ask yourself, can a person who has absolutely, no direct connections to the hideous acts of Slavery be required to provide monetary compensation to another person who never actually experienced the dreadful acts of Slavery? I say no.

But before we get heavy into being critical of the United States, let's take a brief journey back into history, a history of slavery. For more information on this please visit the website at slavevoyages.org. A tremendous amount of time and effort has been and continues to be spent to create the contents of this website. The contents of this website come with very high praise from Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

The website has a specific database with 36,079 line entries. Each line provides critical information regarding a voyage including Year arrived with slaves, Vessel name, Place where vessel's voyage began, Principal place where captives were purchased, Principal place where captives were landed, Captives arrived at 1st port and Captain's name. Note the words, where captives were Purchased.

I downloaded a summary of information about the 36,079 slave trading voyages divided into 5 year time periods and 7 columns that report where the captives were taken to. The first time period is 1501 - 1505 and a total of 950 captives. 475 captives are in the column labeled Spain/Uruguay and 475 captives are in the column labeled Portugal/Brazil. Obviously, this part of the time line begins 118 years before 1619. The last 5 year time period is 1866 - 1870.

The total captives assigned to each of the 7 columns are as follows. Spain/Uruguay received 1,061,526, 8.477%. Portugal/Brazil received 5,848,267, 46.706%. Great Britain received 3,259,439, 26.031%. Netherlands received 554,336, 4.427%. U.S.A. received 305,326, 2.439%. France received 1,381,406, 11.032%. Denmark/Baltic received 111,039, 0.888%.

What the above summary reports is that U.S.A. received less than 2.5% of the entire total. Yet in the current CAN, common accepted narrative, there is no mention of the other countries that participated and profited from this horrendous activity. No mention at all, just the U.S.A. And according to the summary from SlaveVoyages.org, the U.S.A. did not receive any captives until the time period of 1641 - 1645. In that time period, U.S.A. received 371 out of a total of 67,121.

But where are we as a world when it comes to Slavery today? I will tell ya. There is an organization that was founded in London in 1839 called Anti-Slavery

International (ASI). The founders were Thomas Clarkson & Thomas Fowell Buxton. After 184 years, ASI is still in business. Their website is www.antislavery.org.

Anti-Slavery International is still in business because Slavery, in various forms, still exists in our world TODAY!. In our world TODAY, there are at least 6 different types or forms of Slavery. These forms include child slavery, human trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor, forced marriage & descent based or born into slavery. Which means as a world, when it comes to eradicating Slavery, we suck.

We got choices. Either continue to plan, implement and force people to PAY big money "reparations" for a wrong they never committed to a group of people who never directly suffered the horrors of Slavery. OR. As a world of people who absolutely oppose and hate Slavery, we come together and Unite with the single purpose to eliminate Slavery in our world for all times to come. I vote for the later.

How do we do this? You could get in touch with Anti-Slavery International. Find out how the enslaved are being used by businesses and or governments. Get in touch with these groups and let them know their evil must stop now. If a business is directly or indirectly connected to Slavery, stop buying their products or using their services. If it is a government, tell your elected employees in DC to stop doing business with that country. It takes local action to get anything done, and this is a very needed action to be completed. Let us end this worldwide evil in our time and stop pretending we are so wonderful and better than those that came before our time.

Speaking of before our time. How about a bit of history on this evil activity. It has been written that Slavery began as far back as 3500 BC in Mesopotamia. The Code of Hammurabi from 1750 BC actually refers to slavery as an established activity.

It has been written that the transatlantic slave trade began with the Portuguese. Their ships sailed to the West African coast looking to trade for gold and spices. What they discovered was a more valuable commodity to trade for, and that was human beings. This horrific trade took place between 1501 to 1867. Portugal and Spain started this evil activity, but in the end, most of Europe would be involved in this brutal, horrific but profitable trade. The very unfortunate people who were enslaved were either captives from tribal warfare, kidnaped and some were sold into slavery for debt or as punishment.

In summary, Slavery exist today in our world, so how can we claim to be better than the past? We cannot undo the past. We are not personally responsible for what was done in the past. We must all work together to end Slavery in our time. We must all work together to help bring about equality of opportunity for all people. Then and only then can we really consider ourselves civilized. It is time to end the taking and it is time to begin the Give Back. Be safe and well.