

SIX-PART CYCLE GUIDE

How FBA Harm Is Created, Diluted, and Redirected

PURPOSE

The **Six-Part Cycle** is a structural pattern that appears across every major era of U.S. policy.

It explains how harm to Foundational Black Americans (FBAs) is:

- created
- partially addressed
- reframed through broad categories
- redirected to other groups

This guide walks through the stages and shows why identity clarity is a non-negotiable requirement for real repair.

WHAT IS THE SIX-PART CYCLE?

The conditions FBAs face today were not created by chance. They result from a repeated pattern in federal policy and institutional behavior.

That pattern unfolds across six stages:

Harm → Partial Repair → Category Expansion → Immigration Shift → Redirection → Rollback

Each stage reshapes how FBA harm is acknowledged, addressed, and ultimately displaced over time, producing predictable outcomes across eras.

Together, the stages explain how policies that begin with FBA harm at the center:

- expand from lineage-specific harm into broad racial or equity categories
- shift language away from naming FBAs directly
- absorb populations that did not share the original harm
- redirect benefits away from FBA communities
- produce limited or temporary repair despite repeated interventions

The Six-Part Cycle is:

- not a theory about individuals
- not a cultural explanation
- not a moral argument

It is an explanation of how systems are designed, how categories change, and how benefits move away from the community that endured the original harm.

STAGES IN THE CYCLE

Stage I: Harm

Policies create direct, targeted harm to FBAs through exclusion, extraction, and dispossession.

How it Works:

- Laws and policies are used to structure FBA life outcomes
- Enforcement is intentional and systemic, not incidental

Examples Include:

- enslavement and slave codes
- Black Codes and racial terror
- land theft and exclusion from citizenship
- redlining and displacement
- targeted criminalization

Structural Outcomes:

These decisions shape where FBAs live, how we work, what we are paid, and how state power operates in our communities.

Key Truth:

Harm is not a side effect. It is the starting point.

Stage II: Partial Repair

Limited reforms are introduced when harm becomes impossible to ignore.

How it Works:

- Public pressure or moral crises force acknowledgment
- Reforms stabilize the system more than they transform it

Examples Include:

- Reconstruction Amendments
- civil rights protections
- voting rights enforcement
- targeted funding programs

Structural Outcomes:

These policies move conditions forward but rarely shift ownership, land, or long-term control for FBAs.

Key Truth:

Partial repair acknowledges harm without fully correcting it.

Stage III: Category Expansion

Programs widen from FBA-specific harm to broad racial or “minority” categories.

How it Works:

- Language shifts from naming FBAs directly
- Broad labels replace lineage specificity

Common Expanded Categories:

- Black
- African American
- minority
- people of color
- disadvantaged
- underserved
- at risk

Structural Outcomes:

This expansion brings groups without the same lineage-specific harm into policy spaces originally created to address FBA harm.

Key Truth:

As categories expand, the connection between harm and repair weakens.

Stage IV: Immigration Shift

Voluntary-arrival groups enter expanded categories and reshape who is counted.

How it Works:

- Immigration laws change, increasing the presence of voluntary-arrival groups
- New populations are classified inside categories originally tied to FBA harm

Results Include:

- altered demographics
- shifted outcomes
- changed narratives

Structural Outcomes:

These shifts reduce the accuracy of measurement and accountability, allowing unresolved FBA harm to persist while progress is reported through expanded categories.

Key Truth:

The category changes, but the original harm to FBAs remain unresolved.

Stage V: Redirection

Benefits, resources, and representation move away from FBAs to other groups inside the category.

How it Works:

- Aggregated data is used to claim progress
- Resources flow to groups best positioned to access them

Commonly Redirected Benefits:

- funding and contracts
- leadership roles
- scholarships
- DEI opportunities

Structural Outcomes:

The conditions in FBA communities do not improve at the same rate, but the numbers suggest that “Black” or “minority” outcomes are getting better.

Key Truth:

Allocations that were justified using FBA harm data no longer reach FBA communities.

Stage VI: Rollback

Systems reduce or eliminate even the limited gains created in the partial repair stage.

How it Works:

- Once redirection becomes normalized, political and legal resistance intensifies
- Court decisions, policy shifts, and institutional fatigue are used to justify retreat

Examples Include:

- rollback of civil rights enforcement
- weakened or narrowed voting protections
- removal of remedial policies without addressing the harm

Structural Outcomes:

Progress is declared complete, while FBAs see little lasting benefit from policies tied to their historical suffering.

Key Truth:

The cycle ends where it began, with FBAs absorbing harm that is no longer named or addressed.

STRUCTURAL HARM TIMELINE

The Structural Harm Timeline shows what happened and when. The Six-Part Cycle explains how those decisions behave across eras.

Mapped examples:

- Enslavement, Black Codes, Jim Crow → **Harm**
- Reconstruction, civil rights laws → **Partial Repair**
- Broad racial categories → **Category Expansion**
- Immigration policy shifts → **Immigration Shift**
- Modern DEI and minority frameworks → **Redirection**
- Legal attacks on equity remedies → **Rollback**

FBA harm did not end; it was redesigned through shifting policies, expanded categories, and institutional practices that changed how harm was named and measured while leaving underlying conditions intact.

WHY NAMING THE CYCLE MATTERS

When FBAs remain hidden inside broad racial categories, the Six-Part Cycle can repeat without interruption. Harm continues to be created, partially acknowledged, diluted through language, and redirected to other groups. In this environment, lineage-based repair will always be overridden by category-based policy.

Understanding the cycle restores:

- **Identity clarity**

FBAs are a distinct people whose harm is rooted in a specific lineage

- **Evidence clarity**

Disparities are produced by structures, not culture or individual behavior

- **Claim clarity**

Reparations must be tied to who was harmed, not to whoever fits a shifting demographic label

The Six-Part Cycle provides a shared structural framework for explaining what has been done to FBAs, what has been done in our name, and what must change to prevent harm from being redesigned again.

HOW TO APPLY THE SIX-PART CYCLE

For Individuals and Families

Ask:

- Who was harmed originally?
- Who is named now?
- Who is actually benefiting?

For Institutions and Partners

Review:

- Are FBAs named directly?
- Has lineage-specific harm been absorbed into broad categories?
- Are outcomes improving for FBAs or only for aggregated groups?

For Restoration Zones (Phase II)

Planning:

- Map policies and funding onto the Six-Part Cycle
- Identify where your zone sits today
- Redesign systems so repair is not redirected again

The goal is not guilt, but accuracy in how harm is named, measured, and addressed. Clear identification ensures responsibility remains tied to the lineage that experienced the harm and prevents repair from being redirected or diluted again.

ROLE OF THE SIX-PART CYCLE

The Six-Part Cycle is a core informative tool in the USBA ecosystem.

It connects to:

- Identity → **Structural Harm Timeline**
- Reparations → **Legislative Timeline of Redress and Retreat**
- Reparations → **Mass Immigration & FBA Reparative Claims**

In Phase I, the cycle is a teaching and grounding tool.

In later phases, it becomes part of how policy is designed and evaluated.

BREAKING THE CYCLE

The Six-Part Cycle explains how we got here and clarifies what must change.

Breaking the cycle requires that Foundational Black Americans are:

- named
- counted
- protected
- repaired

This approach affirms FBAs as a distinct people with a lineage-specific harm and prevents their experiences from being absorbed into broader categories.

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