



Chronology of the Reparations Movement of Africans in America

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A brief overview of the Reparations Movement beginning in 1780.

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STAGE I EMERGENCE

1780 – 1870 Repatriation and Reparations

- 1780: Paul Cuffe's demand for reparations and repatriation. Paul and his brother John submitted a petition to the government of Massachusetts to give African and Native Americans the right to vote and if not, to stop taxing them.

- 1782: *Belinda's Petition* is the first recorded instance of an African in America seeking and receiving reparations from her former enslaver. Belinda petitioned the Massachusetts State Legislature and asks for "the just rewards for honest labor" stemming from half of a century of enslavement by her enslaver, Isaac Royall. The legislators grant a lifetime pension for her and her daughter from Royall's estate.

- 1800: Gabriel Prosser's slave revolt and hundreds of others both successful and unsuccessful.

- 1803: The Haitian Revolution puts in motion the simultaneous expansion of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase and the demise of France in the western hemisphere. The only successful slave rebellion in history that took control of a nation, Haiti will be punished for over 200 years by the white world for its successful rebellion against French enslavement.

- 1814: The Tenth Article of the Treaty of Ghent which ends the War of 1812 states, "... the traffic in slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and justice."

- 1815: Paul Cuffe (Back-To-Africa) Spent \$5000 to transport Africans in

America, ranging in ages six months to sixty years, from the U.S. to Sierra Leone on his brig, *The Traveller*. He made history, as it was the first time Africans in America willingly returned to Africa. • 1822: Denmark Vessey's slave revolt

- 1825: Haiti begins paying reparations for land French slave owners "lost" during the Haitian Revolution. Total reparations paid: \$20 billion.

- 1829: David Walker's, *An Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World*, a call for unity and self-determination (self-help) to combat injustice and oppression

- 1831: Nat Turner's slave revolt

- 1841: Sengbe Pieh, aka "Joseph Cinque," wins the right to return to his homeland of Sierre Leone from the U. S. Supreme Court after successfully commandeering the *Amistad*, which frees himself and his compatriots from enslavement.

- 1842: President John Tyler on December 6, 1842, in his second State of the Union address quotes from the Tenth Article of the Treaty of Ghent, signed by the United States and Great Britain in 1814.

- 1852: Martin R. Delany's, *The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States*

- 1865: On January 16th General W. T. Sherman issues Field Order No. 15 that promises "40 acres" to ex-enslaved Africans in portions of the Carolinas and Florida. Over

the next few months, some 400,000 acres are distributed to the freedmen.

- In this same year, President Andrew Johnson reversed the "40 acres and a mule" provision ordering the Freedman's Bureau to return the land to the pardoned confederate land holders.

- 1867: A bill introduced by Congressman Thaddeus Stevens in the 40th Congress calls for confiscating land from the former Confederate States and redistributing it to the freedmen. HR29 Slave Reparations Bill

STAGE II EXPANSION

1870-1914 The National Ex-Slave Mutual Relief Bounty and Pension Association: Sister Callie House

- 1884-1885: For three months in Berlin, the European powers carve up Africa with total disregard for ethnic, linguistic and cultural differences in order to avoid European internecine warfare in the scramble for Africa.

- 1890: Callie House creates the Ex-Slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association which petitions the United States government for "pensions" (reparations) for the millions of ex-enslaved Africans. On trumped up charges of "mail fraud," she will spend one year in federal prison. A brilliant organizer and Mother of the modern reparations movement, she gathers 600,000 signatures for redress against American enslavement.

- 1898: Bishop Henry McNeal Turner's Reparations Statement

STAGE III IMMERSION

1914-1955 Repatriation/Reparations: UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association), Marcus Mosiah Garvey's Demand for Land of German Colonies

- 1914: Marcus Garvey establishes the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and advocates not only a "do for self" ethic but a "right of return" to Africa by Africans in the *Maafa*. Garvey is considered one of the four great American African organizers of the 20th century, the others being Callie House, Elijah Muhammad and Martin Luther King.

- 1920s: Founding of Rastafarianism in Jamaica which provides a theological connection between Africans in the *Maafa* and the African continent. The religion will become global and has as its core theology the end of white rule ("Babylon") and the reestablishment of an African world. It will stress repatriation to Africa by Africans in the *Maafa*.

- 1930: Founding of Nation of Islam, by Elijah Poole, aka Elijah Muhammad and W. D. Fard encases a Black Nationalist theology in the religion of Islam. The faith will produce Malcolm X who with Muhammad calls for a "repair" of the Black mind because of the damage done by white supremacy.

STAGE IV RE-EMERGENCE

1955-1987 Reemergence of grassroots organizing around the demand for Reparations

- 1950: Nation of Islam begins to voice their demands for reparations

- 1960: Nation of Islam's demand for reparations is disseminated in their publication *Muhammad Speaks*.

- Malcolm X: Civil Rights to Human Rights – Genocide Charge OAU and United Nations

- 1962: Queen Mother Moore Formed the Reparations Committee of the Descendants of United States Slaves, Inc., along with Dara Abubakari. They delivered a communiqué to the United Nations demanding the United States be made to pay reparations

- 1963: Queen Mother Audley Moore presents a one-million signature petition to President John F. Kennedy calling for reparations on the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

- 1966, 1967, 1968: Black Power Conferences Reparations issues emerge in discussions.

- Robert Brock from California labored in the Reparations Movement for over forty years

- 1968: Founding of Republic of New Afrika (RNA) whose constitution calls for five states - Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina-to be ceded to American Africans for the establishment of the RNA. Its founder Imari Obadele will be imprisoned and ultimately released as a result of the COINTELPRO of the FBI.

- 1968:RNA Demand Reparations: The Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika collected thousands of signatures on petitions demanding \$10,000

per person and five states for an independent New Afrikan Nation/State

- 1969: James Forman, a former executive secretary of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), received national attention when he interrupted the Sunday Service at Riverside Church in New York announcing his Black Manifesto and demands \$500 million as reparations for Africans in America from White churches.

- 1970: Congress of African People meets in Atlanta, Georgia

- 1972: National Black Political Convention Reparations Resolution 10,000 people adopted this resolution, March in Gary, Indiana. Reparations Resolution Passed

- 1972: May, African Liberations Day Washington, D.C. attended by some 60,000 people, issue of reparations raised

- 1980s: Throughout the 1980s the African Peoples Socialist Party and the African National Reparations Organization sponsored nationwide hearings

- 1980s: Reparations Activist Ray Jenkins, raised the question of reparations to the present from its local base in Detroit, Michigan

STAGE V RE-EXPANSION

1987-2000 Grassroots organizing around the demand for reparations is elevated under the leadership of N'COBRA (National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America): Descendants of Callie House

- 1987: National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) founded. It becomes the premiere reparations organization in the United States. Descendants of Callie House and Mass Strategy

- Dorothy Lewis Benton of N'COBRA, Co-Chair and founder of the Black Reparations Commission and has published two informative books on Reparations

- 1988: Massachusetts State Senator Bill Owens filed a Reparations Resolution with the State Legislature of Massachusetts

- 1989: Congressman John Conyers' Reparations Study Bill now HR40

- 1993: The First Pan-African Conference on Reparations held in Abuja, Nigeria, April 27-29th attended by an Africans in America delegation

- 1994: Lost and Found Nation of Islam / Silas Muhammad Petition for hearings at the United Nations on Reparations

- 1995: Reparations Settlement in Rosewood, Florida

- CATO Decision, California courts ruled against reparations lawsuit

- 1996-1997: National Black United Front (NBUF) Genocide Campaign: Holocaust, Genocide – Reparations

- 1998: Africa Group Resolution that the Transatlantic Slave Trade was a Crime Against Humanity

- 1999: Tulsa Race Riot Commission

established

STAGE VI CONSOLIDATION & LITIGATION

2000-Present United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Durban, South Africa, August – September 2001

- 2000: Legal Strategist/Attorney, Deadria Farmer-Paellmann launches campaign to expose corporate complicity in slavery; secures an apology from Aetna, Inc.

- The December 12th Movement's role in following Malcolm X's idea of exposing the plight of African people before world bodies. They have played a leading role in organizing around the Transatlantic Slave Trade was a Crime Against Humanity as an NGO to participate in the United Nations World Conference Against Racism – 15 years

- Local municipalities adopt resolutions in support of HR40 most publicized Chicago Alderman Dorothy Tillman Hearing

- Adjoa Aiyetoro, N'COBRA Lawsuit

- RNA Reparations Lawsuit filed

- Reparations/Assessment Discussion of Lawsuit: Cochran, Pires, Ogletree, Gary, etc.

- Mass discussion of reparations and variety of strategies unfold

- Lawsuits
- Trust funds/education
- Land set aside
- International laws
- Release of political prisoners and other prisoners

- Economic development funds

- 2001: The United Nations World Conference Against Racism declares the Transatlantic Slave Trade a "Crime Against Humanity" and further opens the doors for legal redress to enslavement, colonialism and white supremacy.

- 2001: Pan African Unity on the Question of Reparations

- 2001: The Durban 400 and the African and African Descendants Caucus and Pan-African Unity on the Question of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, Colonialism, and Apartheid being Crimes Against Humanity and that Reparations are owed to African people worldwide

- 2001: Publication of Randall Robinson's *The Debt*, which presents a powerful argument for reparations for the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

- 2002: Attorney Deadria Farmer-Paellmann sues more than twenty U. S. corporations for their predecessor companies profiting from the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

- Millions for Reparations Rally Called by the Durban 400 on August 17th in Washington, D.C. Attended by some 50,000 people, viewed by millions as it was televised on C-SPAN

- 2002-2003: Reparations Lawsuits
 - The addition of corporate entities to target groups for reparations lawsuits

- Reparations Corporate Lawsuit filed on March 26, 2002 in Brooklyn, New York
- Tulsa Riot Reparations Lawsuit filed February 24, 2003 in Tulsa, Oklahoma

- 2003: Dr. Raymond Winbush's book on the reparations question, *Should America Pay?*

- 2003: Creation of the *Ndaba* Movement by Dr. Conrad Worrill, National Chair of the National Black United Front. Over a period of one year, five cities in the United States-Chicago, Illinois, Jackson, Mississippi, Houston Texas, Baltimore, Maryland and Atlanta Georgia-will host mass meetings with Minister Louis Farrakhan and Worrill educating thousands of American Africans about reparations.

- 2005: Millions More Movement organized by Minister Louis Farrakhan endorses Reparations for the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

- 2006: Wilmington Race Riot Report published in North Carolina calling for reparations for the 1898 Wilmington Massacre

EVENTS / ACTIONS AFTER THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

- 2001: September 7th Original conclusion of the United Nations Conference Against Racism, Durban, South Africa

- September 8th Durban Declaration finalized (conference extended an extra day due to the battle over language declaring

slavery, slave trade, and colonialism as crimes against humanity), Durban, S. A.

- September 8th the Durban 400 return to their various homes from the United Nations Conference Against Racism

- September 11th NBUF Press Conference to update the Black press on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference Against Racism at the Center for Inner City Studies in Chicago, IL (Press conference was overshadowed by the reported terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City)

- August 17th Millions for Reparations Rally Called by the Durban 400 in Washington, D.C. Attended by some 50,000 people, viewed by millions as it was televised on C-SPAN

- 2002: October 2nd Chicago Slave Era Disclosure Act- Corporations must disclose their ties to slavery prior to conducting business with the city

- March 21st Queen Mother Moore Reparations Bill introduced by Councilman Charles Barron (New York) recognizing the Transatlantic Slave Trade as a Crime Against Humanity

- March 26th Attorney Deadria Farmer-Paellmann files lawsuit against various U. S. for their roles in the Transatlantic Slave Trade in New York City

- 2002: Spring – Summer: Reparations lawsuits filed in New Jersey, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas

- 2002: Fall: Deadria Farmer-Paellmann Lawsuit and other Reparations lawsuits

consolidated into the courtroom of Judge Charles Norgle in Chicago, IL

- 2002-2004: New NBUF Chapters and Affiliates formed in Minnesota, Florida, Indianapolis, Fresno, Baltimore, and Atlanta

- 2003: Tulsa Riot Reparations Lawsuit filed on February 24th in Tulsa, Oklahoma

- February 26th First Hearing of the Consolidated Class Action Corporate Lawsuit (lead attorneys were key Durban 400 organizers Lionel Jean-Baptiste and Roger Wareham) in Chicago, IL

- Coalition formed (Millions for Reparations) to organize the masses to hold rallies outside of the courthouse and to fill the courtroom at each hearing in Chicago, IL

- May 7th Second Hearing of the Consolidated Class Action Corporate Lawsuit in Chicago, IL

- July 21st Third Hearing of the Consolidated Class Action Corporate Lawsuit in Chicago, IL

- 2003: NDABA I – The Great Sit-Down: Meeting of the leadership in the Reparations Movement in Chicago, IL on July 26th

- September 13th United Nations National Reparations Rally in New York City

- October 4th : NDABA II – The Great Sit-Down: Meeting of the leadership in the Reparations Movement is held in Jackson, Mississippi

- 2003-2004: Other City council Resolutions (following the Chicago model) require corporations to disclose their ties to

slavery prior to being allowed to conduct business with their cities; Los Angeles, Detroit, Philadelphia, Dallas, Cleveland, and Atlanta

- 2004: January 8th Reparations Lawsuit filed by Bob Brown in Chicago, IL

- March 20th : NDABA III – The Great Sit-Down: Meeting of the leadership in the Reparations Movement in Houston, TX

- March 20th Phase IV of the NBUF Petition Campaign, worldwide

- March 20th Nationwide NBUF Elected Official Reparations Survey Scorecard Campaign

- October 29th : NDABA I V– The Great Sit-Down: Meeting of the leadership in the Reparations Movement in Baltimore, MD

- 2005: October 15th marked the 10th Anniversary of the Million man March (Millions More Movement) – Durban 400 members lobbied for reparations to be a key platform issue in Washington, D.C.

- 2006: State of Illinois – Illinois Slave Trade Commission Study published

- May 12th Second Reparations Lawsuit filed by Bob Brown in Chicago, IL

CONRAD W. WORRILL, PH.D.

Dr. Worrill is internationally acclaimed scholar, educator, organizer, and activist, was appointed director of the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies of Northeastern Illinois University in 2004. In this position, he serves as academic program coordinator and professor of Inner City Studies in the department of Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in political history and social theory and has been a member of the CCICS faculty since 1976.



For over five decades, his activism has been defined by his leadership in organizations and activities that have been in the forefront of the struggle for racial and social justice, African-centered education, African liberation, and self-determination for people of African descent. As Chairman of the National Black United Front, Special Consultant of Field Operations for the Million Man March, an Economic Development Commissioner for the Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, or a street organizer for Harold Washington's mayoral campaign, he has advanced causes such as educational restructuring, human rights, reparations, and political empowerment for the Black community.

Dr. Worrill's weekly column, *Worrill's World*, continues to be a powerful voice for social change. His life's work demonstrates his commitment to doing what proverbial African wisdom characterizes as "Good Speech"— "speaking truly and doing right."

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Dr. Winbush is the Director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Oakwood College in Alabama and received a fellowship to attend the University of Chicago, where he earned both his master's degree and Ph.D. in psychology. He has taught at Oakwood College, Alabama A & M, Vanderbilt University, and Fisk University.

Dr. Raymond Winbush is the recipient of numerous grants, including one from the Kellogg Foundation to establish a "National Dialogue on Race." Dr. Winbush is the author of *The Warrior Method: A Parent's Guide to Rearing Healthy Black Boys*, the former treasurer and executive board member of the National Council of Black Studies, and is currently on the editorial board of the *Journal of Black Studies*. He currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland.

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