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### **“Don’t Be Took, Bamboozled, or Hoodwinked”**

Increasingly, “reparations” is entering discussions of the day and is becoming an important policy issue for the US 2020 presidential campaign.

Black economic scholars continue to push the issue forward with estimates concerning how much Black Americans should receive in reparations.

Primarily, these scholars are restricting the conversation to the US Government extending reparations to Black Americans mainly in the form of cash dollars to right the wrongs that have been imposed upon Black Americans for four hundred years.

Let’s be clear about what reparations should do. Repair! What Black America should recognize is that we cannot be repaired in America because its people have shown incessantly that they have no intention of allowing Black Americans to achieve freedom or equality—by any definition. Admittedly, certain Black Americans have been, and are, able to filter up the hierarchy (i.e., the so-called “ten percent rule”). However, definitive analyses show that the entire integration process has simply resulted in the superimposition of Whites superiority over Blacks in the country—integration has not been an enabler of equality.

Don’t we want “Freedom?” Are we afraid of “Freedom?” If we want “Freedom” and an opportunity to truly aid our own rise, and not continued suppression under a US White supremacist system, then we must seek to use reparations to attain “Freedom.”

We have concluded that reparations purely or mainly in the form of a cash payout to individual Black Americans is problematic for several reasons:

- Within a short period of time, cash reparation proceeds will end up in the hands of Whites, which will, in the short- and long-run, bolster the American economy, and not benefit Black Americans.<sup>1</sup>
- If expended on education, cash reparations will benefit mainly White universities and the American economy. Besides, Black Americans train persistently in fields that are not very relevant for the future American economy.

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<sup>1</sup> For those old enough to remember, recall how seemingly sizeable payouts from the US military to families of veterans killed in Vietnam and more recent wars evaporated quickly.

- If expended on housing, cash reparations will benefit White construction, real estate, and finance firms and the American economy, but will not likely increase property values in Black American areas of influence.
- If expended to attempt to initiate small Black businesses, cash reparations will evaporate because too many small businesses fail; and small businesses that survive in the US are not very successful in generating significant income. America is the home of large monopolistic, duopolistic, or oligopolistic corporations.
- If invested in the stock market, cash reparations will simply inflate the share market and mainly benefit Whites who have more experience and greater skill than Black Americans “playing the stock market.” “Noise traders” seldom outwit well-informed institutional investors. Besides, most Black Americans are cash constrained, will use cash reparations for consumption purposes, and will not invest in the stock market.
- If cash reparations are given in the form of “Baby Bonds,” we have already addressed the innocuous affects of this approach [here](#).
- Importantly, the value of the cash dollars extended through reparations can depreciate significantly and swiftly. Ultimately the perceived risk and the inflation caused by US debt (\$21 trillion plus) and the related debt service payments will cause the dollar to depreciate. Also, China’s economic rise, which is already partially displacing the US as the central influential factors in the global economy, will cause the US dollar to depreciate.

One can liken Black Americans’ sojourn in America to that of an abused spouse. Our best advice to ourselves should be to get out of the house. How do we achieve this? By requesting reparations mainly in the form of US Federal Government Lands (see Essay 3 “Zero Point Nation Formation” in [Chosen: Black America’s Calling](#).)

If Black Americans are extended reparations mainly in the form of land, then there will be many advantages:

- We will be forced to organize ourselves effectively into a nation.
- The US Government is much more likely to obtain national agreement to extend reparations in the form of unused US Federal Government Lands, than to pay trillions in cash dollars to Black Americans, which will have severe tax implications for those who remain in America.
- By forming a nation, Black Americans will have our own economy and currency with which to create jobs and opportunities for ourselves: We can design and create an economy that is favorable for us, including establishing over the long-term legal, commercial, educational, health, cultural, social, and political systems that reflect our needs and values. We can control the speed of technological innovation, and only adopt innovations that prove to be beneficial—not job destroying.
- We will be mainly free of the hatred, racism, and discrimination that have been imposed on us for 400 years.
- Income and wealth inequality can be managed and minimized/optimized in the new nation.
- We can guarantee our perpetual and endless control of the land by ensuring that only Black Americans can be citizens in our nation and can enjoy ownership of the land.
- We can, with finality, claim living freedom and attachment to each other, and develop real pride in our nation—something that we have never been able to do in the US.

Extending reparations in the form of cash dollars could be favorable for the US Government, but it is bad news and very unfavorable for Black Americans. As we know from the past, America has exploited us in so many ways historically, and it always identifies ways to ensure that White America benefits at our expense. From our fighting in US wars; to our being guinea pigs in scientific research; to Blacks serving as a major consuming block that drives economic growth; to Blacks training to become entertainers (cultural or sports, in the absence of other opportunities) who are chewed up and spit out at an alarming rate—often times with little to show for it; to Blacks being the fodder for educational and criminal justice systems that provide little real education and little real justice, but that create millions of jobs mainly for Whites.

It is short-sighted to accept reparations in the form of cash. The money will come and go, leaving us with little to show for it in just a short period of time. However, reparations mainly in the form of US Federal Government Lands will give us real hope and an opportunity to build a real and solid future for ourselves and our endless generations to come.

Let us grab “Freedom,” and fight for reparations mainly in the form of Land!

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