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“A Memorial Day ‘Then What?’”

Black America is now engaged in a relatively intense stage of our over four-hundred-year war with White America for “freedom, justice, and equality.” We have arrived at a point of demanding Reparations.

Although the trillions of dollars in Reparations that are being demanded may never come, let us imagine that well-deserved Reparations dollars will ultimately flow to Black America.

Then what?

What will Black America do with Reparations dollars?

What will be White America’s attitude toward Black America once Reparations are paid?

Does Black America expect that we can “live happily ever after” with White America after Reparations are paid? Once masters pay slaves, should not slaves leave—move on?

On what basis can Black America ever forgive White America for the over 400-year war in which we have engaged? Consider the hate, strife, and murders that stand between us!

How can White America ever agree to live with its former slaves as equals?

What efforts will Black America make with Reparations resources to generate an equal status/footing with White America?

After over 400 years of White Supremacy in America, how long will it take for all Black Americans to think, live, and act as equals with Whites? How long will it take for Whites to accept Blacks as equals?

Are Black and White Americans willing to engage in another elongated transition period from Black and White material equality to equality in every respect? What will be the duration of this transition period?

Will Black Americans be materially equal, but socially separate and unequal from White Americans?

After Reparations, will not White America be perpetually apprehensive about being indentured by materially equal or superior Black Americans?

After Reparations, will not Black America be perpetually apprehensive about being reindentured by Whites because that is what transpired after the Civil War?

Can “sinners” and “the sinned against” ever be reconciled?

Are Black and White America failing to awaken to the reality that American History includes a story line that makes a race neutral America realistically untenable—impossible?

Should not Black and White America awaken and plan for a feasible and realistically tenable future?

Do Black Americans fear leaving America as we know it today?

Should Black America envision a separate nation of our own?

While used traditionally to honor the dead due to America’s Civil and external wars, Black America should consider using this Memorial Day to honor the innumerable Black Americans who have died in this 400-year domestic war against White America. As we think about our future in America and the prospect of Reparations, we should ask a very important question: “Then What?”

B.B. Robinson
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