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Annual Reparations Breakdown 2025 for Black Communities

REPARATIONS REPORT:
SLAVERY (1619–1865)



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READ

Slavery in America was not just a moral failure—it was a calculated, organized, and highly profitable business.

It wasn't about ignorance or tradition. It was about wealth. Power. And control.

By the mid-1800s, the Southern states had become economic powerhouses, but that wealth wasn't built by the plantation owners—it was built by the people they enslaved.

In 1860, just before the Civil War, enslaved Black people made up nearly 4 million of the population.

They weren't seen as human beings, but as property, assets, and generators of profit.



America's Largest Investment

Enslaved Africans were the engine of America's economy. Slavery wasn't a side hustle—it was the foundation.

To understand the scale of slavery, consider this:

- In 1860, the total value of enslaved people in the U.S. was estimated at over \$3 billion.
- Adjusted for inflation, that's more than \$100 billion today—just in human "capital."

But that's just part of the picture. Slavery powered entire industries:

Cotton was America's most valuable export—Black people picked 100% of it.

Banks made loans to buy and insure enslaved people.

Insurance companies profited by insuring slave lives.

Railroads, textile mills, shipping companies, universities, and ports all grew because of the trade, transport, and product of Black labor.

The North Wasn't Innocent

Although slavery was concentrated in the South, the North was far from innocent:

Northern textile mills processed the cotton picked by enslaved hands.

Wall Street banks, including JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America's predecessors, financed slavery.

Ivy League schools like Harvard, Yale, and Brown were funded by donors whose wealth came from slavery.

The entire country had its hand in the profits, but only one group paid the cost—Black people.



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Free Labor = Maximum Profit

What made slavery so profitable was simple: No wages. No benefits. No freedom. Just labor.

For nearly 250 years, Black people were forced to work from sunrise to sunset, harvesting cotton, building cities, raising children they didn't birth, and producing wealth they'd never see.

Every dollar of profit made from slavery was a dollar stolen from Black people.

It built white wealth, funded American growth, and became the foundation of generational prosperity for others.



What's the Price of That?

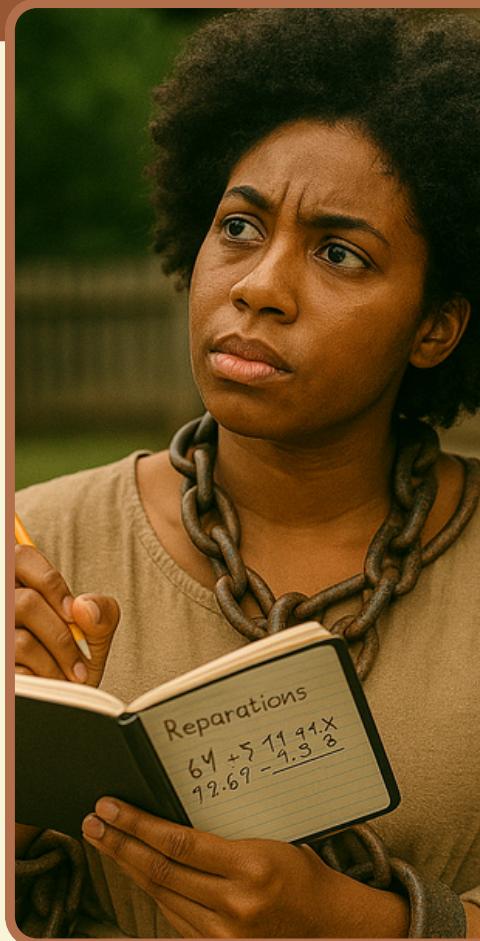
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When people ask, "Why do Black people deserve reparations?" the answer is clear:

Because they were never paid.

Not a dime. Not an acre.
Not a choice.

And the businesses, families, and institutions that got rich off slavery?
Many of them are still around today.

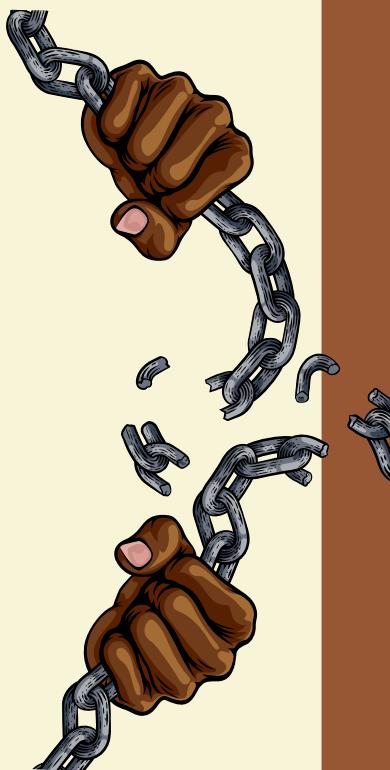


From the moment the first enslaved Africans were brought to the shores of Virginia in 1619 until the day the last plantation released its captives in 1865, Black people in America worked under the whip, not the wage.

This chapter isn't about the suffering—though it was endless. It's about the economic theft.

For 246 years, Black labor powered a booming economy and received zero compensation.

Every hour worked, every dollar made, went into the pockets of white plantation owners, industrialists, bankers, and politicians.



The Numbers Don't Lie

On average, enslaved Black Americans worked 10 to 16 hours a day, 6 days a week. 7 day off still Work

No holidays. No sick leave. No weekends.

Estimated 100 billion hours of free labor were stolen over 246 years.

In today's economy, even if we calculated that labor at \$15/hour minimum wage, that's \$1.5 trillion per year—before adding interest or inflation.



Pt.2 The Numbers Don't Lie

Now multiply that by 246 years:

$$\$1.5 \text{ trillion} \times 246 \text{ years} = \$369 \text{ trillion.}$$

Even conservative estimates reduce that to \$20–97 trillion—with a midpoint around \$50 trillion.

And that's just for labor. That doesn't account for:

- The wealth created from selling people (slave auctions).
- The land they built, the roads they paved, the homes they constructed.
- The generational compounding of wealth that Black families were cut off from.



Built for Profit, Maintained by Violence

Every system around slavery existed to extract as much labor as possible:

The whip, iron collars, chains, and branding weren't random cruelty—they were tools of economic control.

Black people weren't just abused—they were monetized. They were assets on financial ledgers, sold for profit, insured against loss.

This was capitalism in its rawest, most evil form.



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No Pay. No Retirement. No Inheritance.

Enslaved people died poor—but their labor made others rich.

Plantation owners passed down land and wealth to their descendants.

Banks grew into corporations.

The U.S. became a global economic power.

But Black Americans inherited poverty, trauma, and systemic barriers—not the land, money, or equity their ancestors earned.



What Could That Labor Have Done?

Imagine if that \$50 trillion in labor had been paid to Black people:

Entire communities would have owned land, homes, and businesses.

Generations of wealth would have been created.

There would be no racial wealth gap today.

Instead, we were cut off from every avenue of prosperity, and the lie of freedom began with empty hands.



We Are the Descendants of Unpaid Workers—And That Bill Is Still Open

No paycheck. No reparations. Not even an apology.

Every generation since 1619 has added interest to a debt the United States refuses to pay. But we remember. And we're keeping the receipts.

Instead, we were cut off from every avenue of prosperity, and the lie of freedom began with empty hands.

Some people will say "\$50 trillion in reparations for slavery is unrealistic." But the truth is—it's not just realistic, it's conservative.

This chapter explains how economists, historians, and justice advocates arrived at that number—and why it might even be too low.

To calculate how much is owed strictly for slavery, we break it down into 4 core pieces:

How many people were enslaved?

How many hours did they work?

What's the wage equivalent in today's money?

How much interest and generational loss has compounded since then?

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Over time, about 10–12 million Africans were taken from the continent and brought to the Americas.

In the U.S., about 500,000–600,000 were brought in directly.

Due to natural increase, by 1860 there were almost 4 million enslaved people in America.

For this estimate, we use an average of 2 million enslaved workers per year over 246 years (1619–1865).

Most enslaved people worked 12–16 hours a day, 6 days a week.

That's roughly 72 to 96 hours per week.

Averaging 84 hours a week \times 52 weeks \times 246 years
= over 1 billion total labor hours across all enslaved people.

Step 3: Applying a Modern-Day Wage

Let's say enslaved people were paid the federal minimum wage of \$15 per hour (many argue they deserve more):

$\$15/\text{hour} \times 1 \text{ billion+ hours} = \$15 \text{ trillion in direct unpaid wages}$

But that's in today's dollars, without interest.

Many scholars apply an interest rate of 5–7% annually, compounded over centuries, plus inflation, lost investment value, and generational theft.

After adjustments, \$15 trillion becomes \$50+ trillion.

Step 4: Real-World Examples of Wealth Built Off Slavery

Cotton exports generated over \$200 million per year in the 1800s (billions today).

The value of all enslaved people by 1860: over \$3 billion (equivalent to \$100 billion+ today).

Major banks, railroads, and companies made fortunes from enslaved labor.

All of this was built on stolen time.

Why \$50 Trillion Is Reasonable (Even Modest)

Doesn't include emotional trauma or human suffering.

Doesn't factor in land stolen, children sold, or lives destroyed.

Doesn't factor in the missed economic growth from having no wealth passed down.

When all is considered, \$50 trillion is just the beginning.

Bottom Line:

If enslaved people were paid a fair wage for their labor and that money was passed down over generations, Black Americans would be among the wealthiest groups in this country today.

Instead, we were left with nothing but pain—and the fight to collect what's owed.

Chapter 4: How Much Each Black Descendant is Owed (for Slavery Alone)

Now that we've broken down the numbers behind slavery's stolen labor, the next question is: What does that mean for you—for us—as descendants of enslaved people?

Let's make it clear: If the U.S. government paid what's owed just for slavery, each Black American descendant would receive approximately \$1.67 million.

This number doesn't cover Jim Crow, mass incarceration, redlining, or any form of modern oppression—just slavery.

The Breakdown

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Total Reparations for Slavery Alone: \$50 trillion

Estimated Eligible Recipients: 30 million Black Americans who descend from enslaved people in the U.S.

Calculation: $\$50,000,000,000,000 \div 30,000,000$
= \$1,666,667 per person

That's a debt that could transform lives overnight:

Pay off all debts

Buy a home and land

Launch a business

Invest for generational wealth

Educate children debt-free

Live without economic stress

Why This Is Justice —Not a Handout

People say, "That's too much money." But let's ask this:

Was 246 years of unpaid labor not too much?

Was being bought, sold, raped, whipped, and worked to death not too much?

Was building a country with nothing to pass down not too much?

This is not a favor.

This is a receipt.

What If Reparations Had Been Paid in 1865?

If formerly enslaved families had received even half of what they were owed:

Their children would have had land, homes, and money.

Their communities would have built schools, businesses, and hospitals.

Their wealth would have compounded, just like white American wealth did.

Instead, we got nothing.

No land. No wages. No justice.

Just trauma, broken families, and the ongoing fight for equality.

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What \$1.67 Million Means Today

It's not just money—it's freedom:

Freedom to heal

Freedom to grow

Freedom to leave survival mode

Freedom to live like we built this country—
because we did.

This Is Only the Beginning

We still have to talk about:

Reparations for Jim Crow segregation

Land loss and redlining

Mass incarceration and prison labor

Medical experimentation and stolen legacies

But first, we collect what's due from the very beginning.

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