



202-262-5053
tcfreaj@gmail.com

“No African Americans take to the streets in protest to demand Whites to love us more. We demand a behavior change!” Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

November 2023

DC’s Extreme Black-White Unemployment Gap is Worst in the Nation

By Caitlin C. Schnur and Erica Williams • July 26, 2023 • Inclusive Economy / Income & Poverty / Jobs & Training

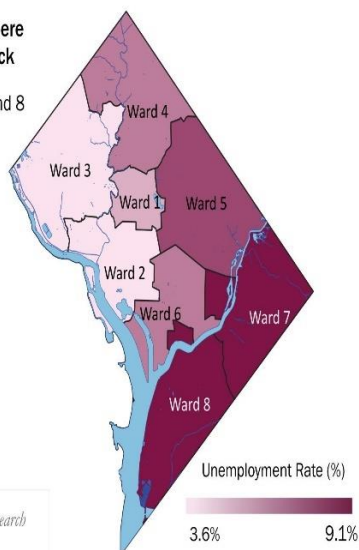
Everyone who wants to work should be able to find a job. While DC’s average unemployment of 4.6 percent in 2022 is down from 7.9 percent in 2020, the peak during the pandemic, the average unemployment rate masks extreme racial inequity.^[1] A look at unemployment rates by race shows that Black workers in DC experience chronically higher levels of unemployment and are much more likely to be underemployed than white workers, and nearly half of unemployed Black workers experience it for long periods of time. These glaring racial disparities point to structural barriers to work for Black residents and call for focused policy interventions.

Black unemployment in DC is nearly 7 times higher than white unemployment and geographically concentrated. In 2022, average Black unemployment was 9.6 percent, compared to only 1.4 percent among DC’s white workers, a ratio of nearly 7 to 1, the worst in the nation. The District’s outsized Black-white unemployment gap cannot be attributed to differences in education or skills-training alone and reveals a deeply inequitable economy in which far too many Black residents are struggling to connect to work. Unemployment in DC is also geographically concentrated, following—and likely reinforcing—patterns of racial segregation. In May 2023, the unemployment rate in Wards 7 and 8 was 7.2 percent and 9.1 percent, respectively, Department of Employment Services (DOES) data show (Figure 1). By comparison, the unemployment rate in predominantly white Ward 3 was lowest at 3.6 percent.

Unemployment Concentrated Where Residents are Predominantly Black

Unemployment Highest in Wards 7 and 8

Ward	Unemployment Rate %
1	4
2	3.7
3	3.6
4	4.7
5	6
6	4.3
7	7.2
8	9.1



Source: DOES - Office of Labor Market Research and Information, seasonally adjusted

Figure 1

Nearly half (47.7 percent) of all unemployed Black workers in 2022 were out of work for six months or more. (Sample sizes of white workers among the long-term unemployed are too small to report data.) Long-term unemployed workers are often stigmatized, making it harder to find employment, and research shows that long-term unemployment tends to result in lower future earnings, poorer health, and worse academic outcomes for the children of unemployed workers. Communities with a higher share of long-term unemployed workers may also experience higher rates of violence, resulting in ongoing trauma and harm.

Black workers are more than five times as likely to be underemployed than white workers (15 percent versus 2.7 percent). Underemployment measures the share of the labor force that is either unemployed, forced into part-time work because it is what is available, or

“marginally attached” to the labor market, meaning people who want to and are available to work but have recently stopped job hunting for reasons including believing no jobs are available to them. These workers may face barriers to employment such as lack of child care or transportation, a chronic health condition, unstable housing, or having a criminal record. The proliferation of low-wage jobs that do not offer stable work hours or schedules may also contribute to underemployment.

Glaring inequities between Black and white workers are longstanding, across good and bad economic times. Between 2000 and 2022, annual average Black unemployment in DC never dipped below 8.3 percent and peaked at 19.4 percent in 2011. For white workers over that same period, the average unemployment rate is currently the lowest it’s been since at least 2000 at 1.4 percent and was never higher than 4.1 percent over that timeframe.

Recommendations for Supporting Black Workers

Recommendations for Supporting Black Workers

The District’s deep history of exploitation and discrimination against Black workers—including stolen labor when DC was a hub for slavery, restrictions of free Black workers to the lowest-paid jobs, federal government job discrimination through much of the 20th century, and exclusion of many Black workers from New Deal labor laws—led to present-day racial disparities in employment levels, occupations, wages, benefits, and opportunities to grow wealth. Transformative change is necessary to address the deep, longstanding structural issues that continue to harm Black workers. Policy solutions include:

- **Continuing to provide economic supports for workers and families.** To find and keep employment, workers need basic economic stability, which District leaders can support through food and housing assistance, cash supports, and the timely disbursement of Unemployment Insurance benefits. Emergency supports should be robustly funded while unemployment for Black workers and for workers in Wards 7 and 8 remains high. DC should also expand guaranteed income pilots into permanent programs and adopt a local Child Tax Credit not predicated on work. Providing people economic supports also increases worker power, by giving workers the economic cushion to leave an exploitative job or to say no to a job that doesn't meet their needs and goals.



- **Investing at scale in low-barrier employment and training programs.** Earn-and-learn employment programs, such as transitional jobs, are a proven strategy for connecting jobseekers facing structural barriers to employment with immediate earned income, supportive services, and educational opportunities. DOES' transitional jobs program is

a good start, but only serves about 700 District residents each year. DC should also create a guaranteed jobs program that can facilitate meaningful connections to good jobs and circumvent racial bias and discrimination.

- **Fully funding the Birth to Three Law and free buses.** For many workers, child care and transportation are significant barriers to employment. Fully funding affordable child care for all families and investing in free public transportation are important steps for supporting workers.
- **Funding and enforcing labor protections.** The District has taken several steps to protect workers, including through paid family leave, paid sick leave, and the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. However, more must be done to address ongoing barriers to employment. Black people continue to face discrimination in the labor market, including when it comes to hiring, salary, and job loss during economic downturns, as is documented by national research. Combatting racial discrimination in the labor market can include advancing policies to bolster organized labor and worker power, targeting enforcement toward lower-wage industries that are especially likely to violate existing laws, and ensuring employers are held accountable for workplace discrimination.

The historically white heist: How America illegally looted HBCUs

The Biden administration recently acknowledged that states have stolen billions from HBCUs to fund white prosperity. But how will America fix it?

Michael Harriot Nov 1, 2023



Crime: (noun): an illegal act for which someone can be punished by the government

2: a grave offense especially against morality

Law (noun) – 1. a rule of conduct or action prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority.

a. The control brought about by the existence or enforcement of such law

b. The actions of laws considered as a means of redressing wrongs.

— Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary

On Sept. 18, the Biden administration notified America of its part in a \$13 billion heist. In joint letters to Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina,

Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack demanded that governors of their respective states fix a multi-billion-dollar funding disparity between land-grant Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and predominately white counterparts. “Using readily available data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Survey (IPEDS) that ranges from 1987 to 2020, we calculated the amount that these institutions would have received if their state funding per student were equal to that of 1862 institutions,” explained letters to 16 governors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The letters added that states were required by law to “provide an equitable distribution of funds” between historically Black institutions and the formally segregated white universities. But America is not a nation of laws. Laws are more than words scrawled on parchment. Laws are enforced. Laws redress wrongs and punish criminal activity. And when it comes to the great white heist that handicapped historically Black colleges and universities, the crimes have gone unpunished. The laws have never been enforced.

The Heist of the Centuries

In 1862, the Morrill Act stole 10.7 million acres from 245 Native American tribal nations, breaking dozens of formally recognized treaties that were enforced and controlled by the federal government. When the Second Morrill Act extended the strong-armed robbery in 1890 to the states that lost a

white supremacist insurrection, Congress specified that the land-grant institutions would provide higher education for all races.

Even though the Supreme Court would not create the “separate but equal” doctrine for another six years, the federal government gave the former confederate states the authority to commit an illegal act by creating separate institutions of higher education for Black Americans. The “law” dictated that state budgets would fund these 19 historically Black “land-grant” colleges.

That never happened.

Instead, states used these federal and state funds to create and maintain predominately white public institutions. In some years, the historically Black colleges received no money from the states. And, in every single case, there is not a single historically Black land-grant college that has received legally prescribed funding.

The tax dollars paid by disproportionately Black Southern populations were used to fund the opportunities and generational wealth-building for white citizens. For instance, Alabama didn’t just underfund predominately Black Alabama A&M University. Since 1987, the 27% Black state essentially transferred more than \$527 million to Auburn University, a school that’s only 7% Black. Georgia (33% Black) gave more than \$603 million to the University of Georgia (10.6% Black), which rightfully belonged to Fort Valley State. Louisiana State University’s student population is 13% Black. The state is 33% Black. Southern University’s post-1987 funding disparity is \$1.1 billion.

In the past 35 years alone, the larceny amounts to a whopping \$13,055,622,325 — an average of nearly \$816 million per institution. Even worse, the USDA figures do not factor in the present-day dollar value of the illegally misappropriated funds. As the joint letter notes, a century and a half of illegal activity “disadvantages the students, faculty, and community that the institution serves” and is a large reason why HBCUs have not “been able to advance on par” with their white counterparts. This theft did not just handicap Black institutions; it benefitted every white family. Even the white families that did not attend these colleges paid lower taxes. They had jobs, lived in neighborhoods and sent their children to school where their neighbors, bosses and children reaped the harvests of education funded by Black taxpayers. They cheered for the football teams and enjoyed the economic benefits of an educated populace. More importantly, they had opportunities that Black taxpayers could not avail themselves of. They were the recipients of stolen goods.

All the smoke

John Sylvanus Wilson Jr. calls it a “crime.” A 1979 graduate of Morehouse College, Wilson served as the Obama administration’s executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs before he eventually became the 11th president of his alma mater. In his new book, “Hope and Healing: Black Colleges and the Future of American Democracy,” Wilson contextualizes the multigenerational hostility against Black educational institutions as part of “the general climate of hatred and violence” that paralleled the origin story of HBCUs. And while numerous studies show that HBCUs

outperform their white counterparts in financial stability, graduation rates and social mobility, Wilson contends that the need for HBCUs to “punch above their weight” is by design. “It is structural because from the start, the states sustained the race base and equitable institutional funding, and the federal government stood idly by for well over a century.” “You know, this is this is a long-standing crime,” Wilson told theGrio. “There have been generations of African-Americans who have pointed to this. It’s good that it’s finally acknowledged by the federal government, but this same letter could have gone to the states back in 1891, so this confession is not really a confession. So I’m not gonna over celebrate, because it’s long overdue.”

But, instead of theft, Wilson equated America’s multigenerational anti-HBCU criminal conspiracy to a fire. “I think the confession of a [\$13 billion] crime is a good thing,” Wilson said. But no one should mistake this for the larger crime that has been committed. It would be like focusing on the fire and ignoring the generations of smoke damage from the fire. The inequitable funding was the original fire. But the smoke damage is in the welfare implications of it, the health implications of that, the life expectancy, the poverty rate, the size of the alumni body and the scale of alumni giving at these institutions are implications of that original crime.”

When asked about the specific consequences, Wilson identified seven distinct areas impacted by the burgling of Black wealth.

- **Generational debt:** How many scholarships might the \$13 billion

have provided to families, thereby setting them on a new trajectory? How many families mortgaged their financial security to provide an education to their loved ones?

- **Generational impact:** We know that college-educated families are more likely to produce college graduates. How many first-generation students would have actually been fourth or fifth-generation students had it not been for the discipline to allegiance to white supremacy maintained by Southern governors?
- **Wealth gap:** How much narrower would the gap between Black and white wealth be had it not been for these inequities, which ultimately stunted the ability of African-American families to emerge from impoverished conditions?
- **Community impact:** What about the other gaps in health and longevity and Black community infrastructures? Black community infrastructures?
- **Alumni giving:** Think about the disparities in HBCU endowments. How much larger alumni bodies would these institutions have if not for this crime?
- **Black scholarship:** If funded equally, these institutions would not just be able to serve more students, they would hire more faculty, employ more scholars and produce more research for the community they served

- **Infrastructure and maintenance:** When you see run-down facilities and [students protesting dorm conditions](#), the deferred maintenance is a direct result of this theft.

According to Wilson, these inequities are compounded by current practices, including legacy admissions, the Supreme Court’s irrational decision to end affirmative action and the conservative belief in colorblind policies. Noting that the acknowledgment of a \$13 billion shortfall “does not capture the scale of the crime,” Wilson said that some form of reparations, not race neutrality, is the only possible fix.

“Once we arrive at a place that is widely understood and recognized as equity, then you can be colorblind,” he explained. “But this very acknowledgment is evidence that Lady Justice has never been blindfolded. This is not the time to be colorblind. It’s OK to be colorblind after we realize an equitable world. But before we do, you have to see who you’re trying to heal. You have to heal who you’ve injured. So, colorblindness is premature.”

Wilson’s book opens by explaining that “[b]arberism was the weather” that birth HBCUs. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, white supremacist terrorists murdered more than 2,000 Black people between 1865 and 1876. However, in the book “A is for Arson: A History of Vandalism in American Education,” Campbell F. Scribner provides a more enlightening statistic to aptly describe this nation’s “grave offense against morality.”

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

ZELLE:
**THE CENTER FOR RACIAL EQUITY
 AND JUSTICE** or tcfreaj@gmail.com



NOTHING IS TOO SMALL!!!

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas thinks the press has too much freedom

As Thomas again urges the Supreme Court to reconsider its 1964 ruling in New York Times v. Sullivan, Vera Eielman of the ACLU says "breathing space for people to exercise their First Amendment rights" is necessary



Ashlee Banks | Oct 14, 2023

In the New York Times v. Sullivan case, the court ruled that in a defamation lawsuit, where a media outlet publishes a

defamatory statement about a public official, the public official would have to prove “actual malice.” This means that the public official would have to show that the media outlet knew that the published statement was false or the media outlet acted recklessly when it decided to publish inaccurate information. Earlier this week, Thomas revived his argument that the “actual malice” standard gives members of the press immunity to publish whatever they want because proving the standard is the hardest element to overcome in a defamation case. The Supreme Court should consider the standard, established in 1964, when brought “in an appropriate case,” Thomas wrote. “I continue to adhere to my view that we should reconsider the actual-malice standard,” he said. John Hasnas, a Georgetown University law Professor, agrees with Thomas and told theGrio, “I think that the New York Times v. Sullivan case should be re-examined.” “New York Times v. Sullivan is a constitutional tort reform measure that says you can print things in the press, even if you don’t use reasonable care. You just can’t recklessly disregard the truth,” he said.

Re-examining the ruling would help eliminate the existence of “irresponsible press” like the National Enquirer, a

magazine tabloid magazine known for publishing explosive content, Hasnas said. However, Vera Eielman, the senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union Speech, Privacy & Technology Project, told theGrio that it is very important to keep the “actual malice” standard in place to protect the press and everyday Americans. “It’s really about the freedom of everyone, of any member of the public to speak out and to make their opinions known, including about powerful actors in society,” she said. “I think that it’s also important to recognize that there are any number of meritless defamation lawsuits filed regularly across the country in an attempt to silence people who are trying to speak out,” she continued.

Some speculate that Thomas wants to re-examine the ruling in *New York Times v. Sullivan* in light of recent ProPublica reports that have raised questions about ethics as a Supreme Court justice over the years. According to ProPublica, Thomas engaged in dealings with the Koch Brothers, who have had business before the court. The outlet also reported that Thomas took luxury trips and accepted lavish gifts from Harlan Crow, a billionaire Republican donor. Hasnas said, he does not believe Thomas is trying to silence the press in light of the ProPublica reports.

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Timeline

“Thomas has advocated [reviewing *New York Times v. Sullivan*] for a long time,” he added. Hasnas also emphasized to theGrio, “The *New York Times v. Sullivan* case is irrelevant to what’s going on with him right now because the statements that were published about Thomas [in *ProPublica*] are true, which means they can’t be defamatory.”



However, Eielman told theGrio if the “actual malice” element were removed, media outlets like *ProPublica* could face defamation lawsuits against public figures like Thomas, even if what they publish is “absolutely true.” “It’s very important for there to be breathing space for people to exercise their First Amendment rights, including people who are making absolutely true statements and people who are simply sharing their opinions,” she said.



Explore the history and important events behind the long-standing Middle East conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians from 1947 to today.

*Last Updated
October 11, 2023*

The conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians reflects a long-standing struggle in the region encompassing the land between the Jordan River to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the west. That conflict has deep historical roots, shaped by statehood claims from the Israelis and the Palestinians that have been supported by various international agendas and activities over time. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back more than a century, with flashpoints building from the United Nations’ 1947 initial UN Partition Plan to the 1973 Yom Kippur War, to the recent Israel-Hamas war sparked in October 2023. Despite continued efforts at brokering peace—including the 1979 Camp David Accords, the Oslo Accords of the 1990s, and the 2020 Abraham Accords—conflict has persisted.

This timeline explores some of the pivotal moments in the conflict from 1947 to today.

Nov 29, 1947

UN Partition Plan

The UN General Assembly passes Resolution 181 calling for the partition of the Palestinian territories into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. The resolution also envisions an international, UN-run body to administer Jerusalem. The Palestinian territories had been under the military and administrative control of the United Kingdom (known as a mandate) since the 1917 defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I. Civil strife and violence between the Jewish and Arab communities of the Palestinian territories intensifies.

May 14, 1948

Israel Declares Independence

Israel declares its independence as the British rule ends. Sparked by Israel's declaration of independence, the first Arab-Israeli War begins. Egypt (supported by Saudi Arabian, Sudanese, and Yemeni troops), Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria invade Israel. The fighting continues until 1949, when Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria sign armistice agreements.

Dec 11, 1948

UN Addresses Palestinian Displacement

Over the course of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, at least seven hundred thousand Palestinian [refugees](#) flee their homes in an exodus known to Palestinians as the *nakba* (Arabic for "catastrophe"). Israel wins

the war, retaining the territory provided to it by the United Nations and capturing some of the areas designated for the imagined future Palestinian state. Israel gains control of West Jerusalem, Egypt gains the Gaza Strip, and Jordan gains the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including the Old City and its historic Jewish quarter. In 1948, the UN General Assembly passes Resolution 194, which calls for the [repatriation](#) of Palestinian [refugees](#). The Palestinians will later point to Resolution 194 as having established a "right of return" for Palestinian refugees and their descendants. The specific parameters of that return are debated in the decades that follow, including among many descendants from the 1948 refugees and the three hundred thousand Palestinians who will flee their homes during the June 1967 war.

The Six-Day War

Israel and several of its Arab neighbors fight the Six-Day War. Israel wins a decisive victory: it suffers seven hundred casualties; its adversaries suffer nearly twenty thousand. Israel emerges with control of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—areas inhabited primarily by Palestinians—as well as all of East Jerusalem. Israel also takes control of Syria's Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula, which is part of Egypt. Israel will stay in the Sinai Peninsula until April 1982.

Nov 22, 1967

UN Security Council Resolution Calls for Israeli Withdrawal

The UN Security Council passes Resolution 242 calling for Israeli "withdrawal ... from territories occupied in the recent conflict" and for the termination of "states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the [sovereignty](#), territorial integrity, and political

independence of every state in the area and the right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.” The resolution establishes the concept of *land for peace*.

Oct 3, 1973

The Yom Kippur War

Another Arab-Israeli war, known variously as the Yom Kippur War, the Ramadan War, and the October War, is fought when Egypt and Syria attempt to retake the Israeli-occupied Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights. Cold War tensions spike as the Soviet Union aids Egypt and Syria and the United States aids Israel. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries begins an oil embargo on countries that support Israel, and the price of oil skyrockets. The fighting ends after a UN-sponsored cease-fire (negotiated by the United States and the Soviet Union) takes hold. The UN Security Council passes Resolution 338, which calls for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Sep 1, 1978

The Camp David Accords

Israel and Egypt sign the Camp David Accords, which establish a basis for a peace treaty between the two countries. The accords also commit the Israeli and Egyptian governments, along with other parties, to negotiate the disposition of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mar 26, 1979

Israel Withdraws From the Sinai Peninsula

Egypt and Israel sign a peace treaty, the first between Israel and one of its Arab neighbors. The treaty commits Israel to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula and evacuate its settlements

there. The termination of the state of war between Egypt and Israel leads to the normalization of diplomatic and commercial relations between the two countries. Israel’s prime minister and Egypt’s president exchange letters reaffirming their commitment—outlined in the Camp David Accords—to negotiate the disposition of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dec 1, 1987

First Intifada

An Israeli driver kills four Palestinians in a car accident that sparks the first intifada, or uprising, against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. The image of Palestinians throwing rocks at Israeli tanks becomes the enduring image of the intifada. Over the next six years, roughly 200 Israelis and 1,300 Palestinians are killed.

A Palestinian cleric named Sheikh Ahmed Yassin establishes the militant group Hamas as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas endorses ijihad as a way to regain territory for Muslims; the United States designates Hamas a foreign terrorist organization in 1997.

Jul 31, 1988

Jordan Surrenders Claims on the West Bank and East Jerusalem

King Hussein of Jordan relinquishes his country’s claims to the West Bank and East Jerusalem in favor of the claims of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In December of the same year, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat denounces violence, recognizes Israel’s right to exist, and acknowledges UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the concept of land for peace. The United States

responds to Arafat's announcement by beginning direct talks with him, though it suspends the talks following a Palestinian terrorist attack against Israel.

Oct 30, 1991

Conference

The Madrid Peace Conference begins, sponsored jointly by the United States and the Soviet Union. Israeli, Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian delegates attend the first negotiations among those parties. The talks proceed along bilateral tracks between Israel and its neighbors, though the Lebanese join the Syrian delegation and the Jordanian team includes Palestinian representatives. A multilateral track includes the wider Arab world and addresses regional issues. The talks last for two years without any breakthroughs.

Sep 13, 1993

The Oslo Accords

Secret negotiations in Norway result in the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, also known as the Oslo Accords. Before the accords are signed, Israel and the PLO recognize each other in an exchange of letters. Israel and the PLO agree to the creation of the Palestinian Authority to temporarily administer the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Israel also agrees to begin withdrawing from parts of the West Bank, though large swaths of land and Israeli settlements remain under the Israeli military's exclusive control. The Oslo Accords envision a peace agreement by 1999. Palestinian leader Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 for their efforts on the Oslo Accords.

May 4, 1994

The Gaza-Jericho Agreement

The Israelis and the Palestinians sign the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, which begins implementation of the Oslo Accords. The agreement provides for an Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, a town in the West Bank, and for a transfer of authority from Israeli administration to the newly formed Palestinian Authority. The agreement also establishes the structure and composition of the Palestinian Authority, its jurisdiction and legislative powers, a Palestinian police force, and relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Arafat returns to the Gaza Strip after a long absence.

Oct 26, 1994

Israel and Jordan Sign a Peace Treaty

Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty, settling their territorial dispute and agreeing to future cooperation in sectors such as trade and tourism. This is Israel's second peace treaty with an Arab state. It accords special administrative responsibilities for Jerusalem's Muslim holy places to Jordan.

Sep 28, 1995

Oslo II Accord

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators sign the Interim Agreement, sometimes called Oslo II. It gives the Palestinians control over additional areas of the West Bank and defines the security, electoral, public administration, and economic arrangements that will govern those areas until a final peace agreement is reached in 1999.

Jul 11, 2000 - Jul 25, 2000

Camp David Summit

President Bill Clinton hosts Israeli and Palestinian leaders for talks at Camp David. Reports indicate that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is prepared to accept, among other things, Palestinian sovereignty over some 91 percent of the West Bank and certain parts of Jerusalem. The deal would include a land swap in which some Israeli land would go to the Palestinians in compensation for the remaining 9 percent of the West Bank, which would go to Israel. Two weeks of intensive discussion, however, fails to produce an agreement. President Clinton blames Arafat for the failure. Before leaving office several months later, Clinton lays out proposals for both sides. Talks between them continue, but without success.

Sep 28, 2000

The Second Intifada

Israeli politicians, including Ariel Sharon, a controversial retired Israeli general, visit the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif. The Palestinians view the visit as an effort to change the status quo at the holy site. The ensuing demonstrations turn violent, marking the beginning of a second intifada. It will last until 2005 and be markedly more violent than the first intifada. Four thousand Palestinians and one thousand Israelis die.

Mar 27, 2002

The Passover Massacre

A terrorist attack kills thirty people at a Passover celebration at a hotel in the Israeli city of Netanya. As a result, the Israeli military reoccupies portions of the West Bank, including the city of Ramallah, where the Palestinian Authority is located and where Arafat has his West Bank headquarters.

Jun 23, 2002

Israeli West Bank Barrier-Building Begins

Israel begins building a security barrier in the West Bank to protect Israeli cities and towns from terrorist attacks. The barrier, which is a wall in some stretches and a fence in others, is controversial because in places it cuts deep into West Bank territory to protect settlements. The Palestinians are cut off from Jerusalem, some Palestinian villages are sliced in half, and some Palestinians are unable to get to work or school as a result of the security barrier's path. Israel's Supreme Court forces changes in the barrier's route, but the barrier continues to impede Palestinian movement and commerce in certain areas.

Apr 30, 2003

Road Map for Peace

The Quartet, an informal group created to pursue Middle East peace comprising the United States, Russia, the United Nations, and the European Union, puts forth a Road Map for Peace based on the outline President George W. Bush offered in his 2002 speech. The road map lays out a plan for peace based on Palestinian reforms and a cessation of terrorism in return for an end to Israeli settlements and a new Palestinian state.

Aug 15, 2005

Israeli Disengagement With Gaza

Israel begins a unilateral withdrawal of settlers and military forces from the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military remains in control of Gaza's borders (except the Gaza-Egypt border, which is controlled by Egypt), airspace, and coastline. After Israel's withdrawal, Hamas, Palestinian

Islamic Jihad, and other smaller militant groups fire rockets from Gaza into southern Israel.

Jan 29, 2006

Hamas Expands Power in Gaza

Hamas defeats Fatah, a Palestinian political faction founded in 1950s which was a long-dominant faction within the PLO, in Palestinian elections. The United States and other countries suspend their aid to the Palestinian Authority because they consider Hamas to be a terrorist organization. Fatah and Hamas make a deal to govern the West Bank and Gaza Strip together. The deal quickly fails, and Hamas takes over the Gaza Strip in 2007.

Jun 25, 2006

Gilad Shalit Taken Hostage

Hamas operatives kidnap an Israeli soldier named Gilad Shalit on Israeli soil near the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military tries and fails to free him. He is held captive in Gaza until Israel—with the help of Egypt and the United States—negotiates his release in 2012.

Dec 27, 2008

Israel Attacks the Gaza Strip

Israel attacks the Gaza Strip following nearly eight hundred rocket attacks from Gaza on Israeli towns in the months of November and December. The war lasts less than a month but kills hundreds of civilians, in addition to hundreds of combatants, and sparks international criticism.

Jul 28, 2013

Negotiations Face Continued Hurdles

Secretary of State John Kerry seeks to restart final status negotiations. The process begins with the Israeli's agreement to release 104 Palestinian prisoners and the Palestinians' agreement not to use their new observer state status at the United Nations to advance the cause of statehood. Negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority collapsed in April 2014 over such issues as Israeli settlement growth, the status of a final round of prisoners, and Palestinian attempts to join several international organizations.

Apr 23, 2014

Tensions Between the PLO and Hamas

The PLO and Hamas sign an agreement to form a unity government. Tensions between the factions remain, however, and no unity government is formed. Gaza and the West Bank remain disconnected and under the control of rival Palestinian leaderships.

Jul 8, 2014 - Aug 26, 2014

Operation Protective Edge

After tit-for-tat attacks on Israeli and Palestinian civilians by extremists on both sides, Israel invades the Gaza Strip. The operation, code-named Protective Edge, lasts for fifty days, killing about two thousand Gazans, sixty-six Israeli soldiers, and five Israeli civilians. Unlike the conflicts from 2008 to 2009 and in 2012, Palestinian rocket fire targets major Israeli cities. The war ends after the United States, in consultation with Egypt, Israel, and other regional powers, brokers a cease-fire.

Dec 6, 2017

The U.S. Formally Recognizes Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel

Changing long-standing U.S. policy, U.S. President Donald Trump formally recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. He also pledges to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to that city, though the move is not set to occur immediately. Numerous foreign leaders, including those of Egypt, France, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom, along with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, criticize the policy change. It also sparks protests and violence throughout East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank, as well as in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Jordan. In January 2018, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declines to meet with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence during Pence's trip to the region.

Mar 25, 2019

The U.S. Recognizes Israeli Sovereignty Over the Golan Heights

The Trump administration recognizes Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel had formally annexed from Syria in 1981. The United States is the first country other than Israel to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the territory.

Jan 28, 2020

Trump Administration Launches Proposed Peace Plan

Trump unveils his administration's proposed Israeli-Palestinian peace plan, crafted by U.S.

and Israeli diplomats without Palestinian input. The plan calls for a two-state solution with significant economic aid to the Palestinians. Many analysts criticize the plan as being one sided, stipulating impossible requirements for Palestinian statehood and paving the way for Israeli annexation of the West Bank. Palestinian authorities reject the plan immediately. Following the plan's announcement, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announces Israel's plan to annex portions of the West Bank as outlined in Trump's proposal.

Sep 15, 2020

Relations between Some Arab Countries and Israel Normalize

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates agree to normalize diplomatic relations with Israel, becoming the first Arab countries to do so in over twenty-five years. In return, Israel announces the suspension of its plans to annex territory in the West Bank. Morocco and Sudan subsequently also sign on to the agreement and normalize relations with Israel.

2021

2021 Israel-Hamas Crisis

Evictions of Palestinians in East Jerusalem and clashes at al-Aqsa Mosque spark conflict between Israel and Hamas. Over two hundred people in Gaza and at least ten in Israel die. The Joe Biden administration helps mediate a truce and restores some U.S. aid and diplomatic contact with the Palestinians.

2022

Deadly Year in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Israel launches a counterterrorism operation in the West Bank in response to attacks by Palestinians against Jewish Israelis. The operation and resulting resurgence contribute to the deadliest year for both sides since 2005, an uptick in violence that only turned out to rise in 2023.

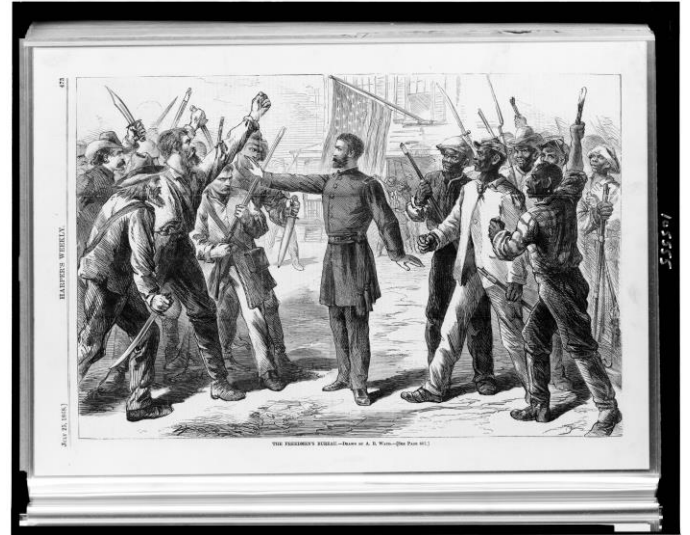
Oct 7, 2023

Hamas Launches Surprise Attack on Israel

Israel faced domestic turmoil over government moves to overhaul the judiciary, all while 2022 marked a renewed level of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The first nine months of 2023 witnessed a steady trend of clashes in the West Bank.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an unprecedented surprise attack on Israel, leading to an explosion of violence. According to Israeli media, the conflict's initial strikes led to at least 250 people killed and 1,500 injured in Israel, making it the deadliest attack in the country in decades. The Palestinian Health Ministry, in turn, reported that 232 people in the Gaza Strip were killed and 1,700 wounded in Israeli strikes. Hamas's military leader, Mohammed Deif, said the group undertook its assault because of Israel's long-running blockade of Gaza, its occupation of Palestinian lands, and its alleged crimes against Muslims, including the desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu, in turn, announced that Israel was at war with Hamas. The October 2023 war between Israel and Hamas marks the most significant escalation of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict in several decades.

The Freedmen Bureau and the Rise of Black Wall Street: Empowering Freedmen Towns in Post-Civil War America



By Donald Smither

In the aftermath of the American Civil War, the Freedmen Bureau emerged as a beacon of hope for formerly enslaved American Freedmen. This federal agency, officially known as the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, played a pivotal role in the formation of Black Wall Street and other prosperous Freedmen Towns across the United States. In this article, we will explore the significant impact of the Freedmen - Bureau on the economic empowerment of American Freedman and the rise of self-sustaining communities.

The Birth of the Freedmen Bureau
Established in 1865, the Freedmen - Bureau was designed to provide assistance to newly

emancipated American Freedmen and impoverished whites in the South. Under the leadership of Union General Oliver O. Howard, the Bureau - primary goals were to provide education, healthcare, and employment opportunities to the formerly enslaved population.

Education: A Path to Economic Empowerment

One of the most significant contributions of the Freedmen - Bureau was its commitment to education. The agency established schools, providing opportunities for American Freedmen to gain literacy and essential skills that were previously denied to them under slavery. Education became the cornerstone of economic empowerment, allowing freedmen and women to participate in the workforce and contribute to their communities.

Land Redistribution and Economic Independence

The Freedmen - Bureau was also involved in land redistribution efforts. It allocated land to formerly enslaved individuals and families, a critical step in breaking the cycle of economic dependence on white landowners. These land grants were an essential catalyst for the formation of Freedmen - Towns, where American Freedmen built their homes and established self-sustaining communities.

The Rise of Black Wall Street

One of the most well-known outcomes of the Freedmen - Bureau - efforts was the

emergence of Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This thriving community was founded by American Freedmen entrepreneurs who capitalized on the economic opportunities created by the Bureau. These entrepreneurs established successful businesses, including banks, grocery stores, and professional services, creating a self-sufficient ecosystem that allowed Black Wall Street to flourish.



Wealthy Freedmen - Towns Across the Nation

Black Wall Street was not an isolated case. Freedmen - Towns with similar success stories sprang up across the United States. These communities were characterized by a strong sense of self-sufficiency and economic independence. In places like Eatonville, Florida, and Mound Bayou, Mississippi, American Freedmen residents created thriving towns with thriving businesses and educational institutions, all thanks to the opportunities provided by the Freedmen - Bureau.

Challenges and Decline

While the Freedmen - Bureau played a crucial role in the formation of these

prosperous communities, it faced numerous challenges. White supremacy, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, and the reversal of many Reconstruction-era policies hindered the progress of Freedmen - Towns. The infamous Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921 resulted in the destruction of much of Black Wall Street, serving as a stark reminder of the hostility these communities faced. The Freedmen Bureau, despite its limitations and challenges, left an indelible mark on the formation of Black Wall Street and other wealthy Freedmen - Towns across the United States. It provided educational opportunities, land grants, and a foundation for economic independence that enabled American Freedmen to build self-sustaining communities. These towns, once thriving centers of Black economic success, serve as a testament to the resilience and determination of American Freedmen during a tumultuous period in American history. They continue to inspire and serve as a reminder of the importance of economic empowerment in the fight for racial equality.



-WORKSHOP – SEMINAR – TRAINING NEEDS

-DO YOU NEED TO SET UP A SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

-CRITICAL RACE THEORY

-WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

-RACIAL EQUITY WORKSHOPS

-POLICE DE-ESCALATION TOOLKIT

[202-262-5053](tel:202-262-5053) or tcfreak@gmail.com

A Portrait of Thanksgiving



Psalm 9

Tonight, if I gave each of you an easel, paint brushes and paint, and then asked you to create to me a portrait of Thanksgiving, I can imagine that I you would paint pictures of turkeys, families sitting around the dinner table, men watching football, mothers preparing pies and cakes and everyone having a day of sharing with the ones they love. Some of your portraits would have pictures Indians and Pilgrims. Tonight, I beg of you to adjust your thinking, to redirect your thoughts and consider that Psalm 9 provides you with the insight of what your portrait of Thanksgiving should look like and include. Fore we the Black Christian here in America must be willing to understand that historically we never needed a day to give thanks but momma and daddy, grand-momma and granddaddy taught us that every day we wake up should be a day of thanksgiving. The black family taught us that because we survived being dumped in the bottom of slave ships, survived the torture of slavery, survived the hatefulness of Jim Crow, survived the beatings and killings of our people by the hands of a demonic cops, survived the imprisonment of our strong young men and survived the tearing down of our beautiful black sisters that every day we are able to open our eyes is a day of thanksgiving. The truth about the truth is that you don't need a special day to give thanks because when you think of the Goodness of Jesus and all He has done for you, that your soul cries hallelujah and you thank God for saving you. The truth is that when we enter his gates we enter with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. We are thankful unto him and we bless his name. Why because the Lord is good and his mercy is everlasting and his truth endureth to all generation. But what does Thanksgiving look like?

When we look our text, Psalm 9, we see through the words of this song, the Psalmist providing us with what

thanksgiving should look and sound like. This is how we as followers of Christ can begin to see a portrait of Thanksgiving, and then begin to verbalize and put into motion what we visualize as real thanksgiving. The first thing I want you to paint on this portrait that we are creating is **Wholehearted Gratitude**. Look at verse one, the text says I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart. God wants your whole heart. God wants 100% of your love. God wants no other God before Him. God is a jealous God. God wants to be your first, your last and your everything. See when you love God with your whole heart, you will know how to love your wife. When you love God with your whole heart, you will learn how to love your children. When you love God with your whole heart you will learn how to love your enemies. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. Now I must say that wholehearted gratitude is not always easy, because there is always attempting to be in competition with wholehearted gratitude. Couples never talk about being second to God, but they express that they want to be number one in their mate's life. Our children are constantly vying for our time, attention and money. Our jobs expect us to be the number one priority. We have many who have allowed the culture, and the satan approved way of life to crowd God out of taking real time to thank God with wholehearted Gratitude.

There should be a posture of thanks. There should be a need within your essence, to thank God. You should not be pressure, but you should be anxious to thank the Lord. Your hands ought to thank him. Your feet ought to thank him. Your body ought to thank him. You should have the can't help its. (). You ought to be thanking him with your whole heart. You got to give it up for the Lord. You got be a fool for the Lord. ().

And beloved, verse 2 says that your heart should connect with your mouth and you should have Words of his wonderful deeds. Your attitude, your body language and your verbal communication should all be giving the Lord Whole-Hearted Gratitude. The Bible says let the redeemed of the Lord say so. You got to open your

mouth and tell the Lord thank you. You got to open your mouth and tell the Lord what you are thankful for. Is there anybody in the house that has whole-hearted gratitude for God. Come on lift up your hands, open your mouths and bless the lord with your whole heart. Thank him for being so good. Thank him for loving a sinner like me and you. Thank him for not giving up on you. Thank him...

The second depiction I want you to paint on your Portrait of Thanksgiving is **Willful Gladness**. To have thanksgiving you must have the right attitude of gladness and having a state of joy. Verse 2 says that I will be glad and exult you. Meaning I will be delighted in God with incomparable joy. Yes, all of us has the choice whether to look at the glass half empty or the glass have full. (Feeding the Homeless on thanksgiving day outside) All of us could look at what we don't have instead of what we do have. All of us have a reason to be down, but here the Psalmist says that he WILL, He chooses, he decides that he will have joy in the Lord. He decides that he will be glad in the Lord. And I don't know what you are going through tonight, but I just want to remind you that no matter what you are going through, that we serve a God that is still a doctor in the sick room. We still serve a God that is a lawyer in the court room. We serve a God that is a bridge over troubled waters. We serve a God that is a mighty battle ax in the time of a battle. We serve a God that sits high a looks low. I don't what you are going through, but I come by to tell somebody to tonight to choose to be glad in the Lord, because he has never failed you yet. Yea, choose to have joy over the pain. Choose to praise instead of pouting. Choose to clap instead of cussing. Choose to sing instead of sobbing. Choose to dance instead of doubting. Choose to lift up your head instead of loosing your cool.

You may be asking how; can one always maintain a willful gladness while trouble seems to always be present. Well the answer is simple right there in verses 3 and 9. Verse 3 says, "says that when my enemies tried to come for me, they stumbled and died before the Lord." And Verse 9 says that God is a fortress, a refuge, security for the oppressed and those in time of trouble.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

And that is the third piece to this Portrait of Thanksgiving. The final piece to this portrait of thanksgiving is **The Warrior in God**. Yes, I said the Warrior in God. Many always want to depict God as so soft and mild, And yes, I'm thankful that he, at times provides the tender touch that we need in our desperate moments of confusion and depression. But I am equally thankful that my God is also a Warrior when I need him. You are looking at me strange, but I'm in the Bible.

- Exodus 15:3 The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.
- Isaiah 42:13 The Lord goes forth like a soldier, like a warrior he stirs up his fury; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

And I don't know about you but I'm glad that we serve a God that will fight our battles. I'm so glad that God my protector and my provider. I'm glad that God is my sword and my shield. You ought to thank him for protecting you from dangers seen and unseen. You ought to thank him for watching over you. Night and Day the angels are watching over you. No gun can do what God can do. No security team can do what God can do. No bodyguard can do what God can do. He never sleeps nor slumbers. He will be there when the going gets tough and the tough gets going. He said he will never leave you nor forsake you.

God is our fortress. He is our shelter from the rain. God is our help for hopeless situations. God is our refuge from the enemy. Has he ever covered you when you didn't what to do? Has he every stood up for you when all other had walked away? ()

And I like what verse 10 says, "And those who know your name put their trust in you,

for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you."

Look at what the Lord has done for you. Count your many blessings and see what the lord has done...























rc26.ARW











