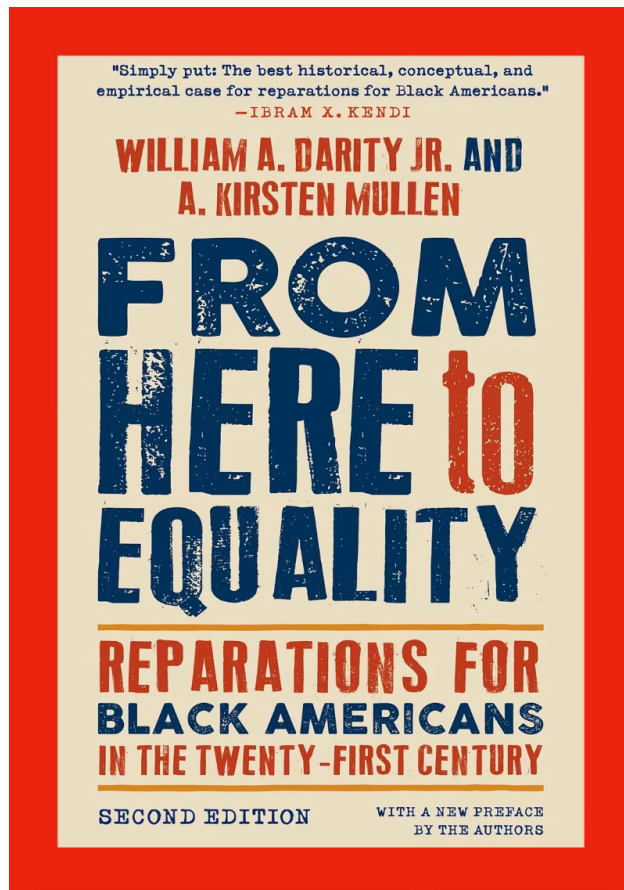
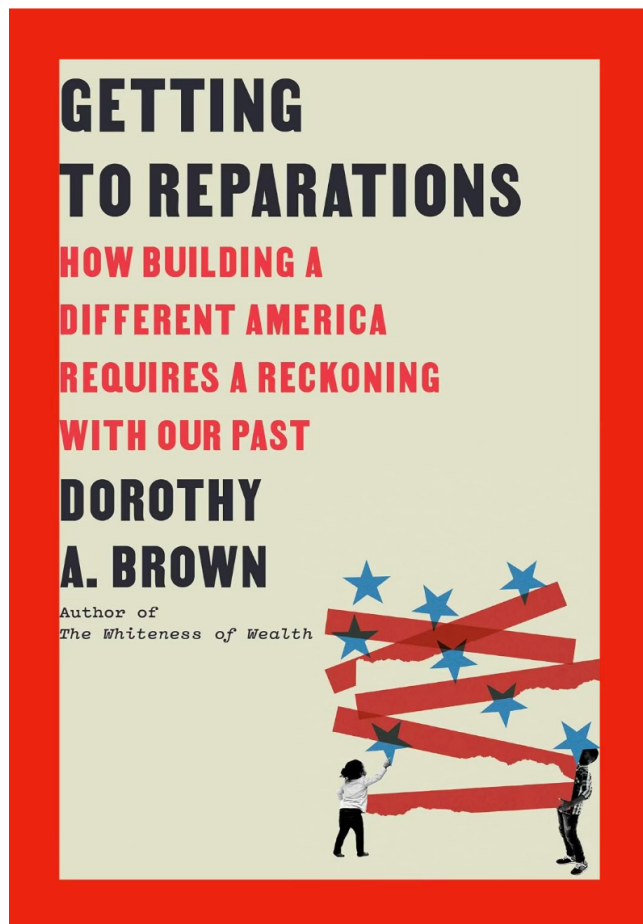


# Recommended Reading for WA: Reparations



William A. Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen's *From Here to Equality* is a comprehensive, evidence-based case for economic reparations to U.S. descendants of enslaved Africans, linking historical injustices to present-day racial wealth gaps and proposing a federal program for acknowledgment, redress, and closure.



Dorothy A. Brown's *Getting to Reparations* argues that the U.S. government has a historical precedent for paying reparations, and that Black Americans deserve compensation for the enduring harms of slavery, racism, and systemic inequality.

Highly recommended by [AboutReparations.org](https://AboutReparations.org)

### **The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks by Randall Robinson**

Both an unflinching indictment of past wrongs and an impassioned call to America to educate its citizens about the history of Africa and its people, *The Debt* says in no uncertain terms what white America owes blacks—and what blacks owe themselves.

## **Should America Pay?: Slavery and the Raging Debate on Reparations by Dr. Raymond Winbush**

This comprehensive collection — the only of its kind — gathers together the seminal essays and key participants in the debate. Pro-reparations essays, including contributions by Congressman John Conyers Jr., Christopher Hitchens, and Professor Molefi Asante, are countered with arguments by Shelby Steele, Armstrong Williams, and John McWhorter, among others. Also featured are important documents, such as the First Congressional Reparations Bill of 1867 and the Dakar Declaration of 2001, as well as a new chapter on the current status and future direction of the movement.

## **The Case for Black Reparations by Boris Bittker**

Originally published in 1972, Boris Bittker's riveting study of America's debt to African-Americans was well ahead of its time. Bittker was a white professor of law at Yale University who had long been ambivalent about the idea of reparations. Through his research into the history and theory of reparations—namely the development and enforcement of law designed to compensate groups for injustices imposed on them—he found that it wasn't a crazy, far-fetched idea.' In fact, beginning with post-Civil War demands for forty acres and a mule, African-American thinkers have long made the case that compensatory measures are justified not only for the injury of slavery but for the further setbacks of almost a century of Jim Crow laws and forced school and job segregation, measures that effectively blocked African-Americans from enjoying the privileges of citizenship.

## **My Face Is Black Is True: Callie House and the Struggle for Ex-Slave Reparations by Mary Frances Berry**

Acclaimed historian Mary Frances Berry resurrects the remarkable story of ex-slave Callie House who, seventy years before the civil-rights movement, demanded reparations for ex-slaves. A widowed Nashville washerwoman and mother of five, House (1861-1928) went on to fight for African American pensions based on those offered to Union soldiers, brilliantly targeting \$68 million in taxes on seized rebel cotton and demanding it as repayment for centuries of unpaid labor. Here is the fascinating story of a forgotten civil rights crusader: a woman who

emerges as a courageous pioneering activist, a forerunner of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation After the Genome by Alondra Nelson**

In *The Social Life of DNA*, Alondra Nelson takes us on an unprecedented journey into how the double helix has wound its way into the heart of the most urgent contemporary social issues around race. Weaving together keenly observed interactions with root-seekers alongside historical details and revealing personal narrative, she shows that genetic genealogy is a new tool for addressing old and enduring issues. Nelson explains how these cutting-edge DNA-based techniques are being used in myriad ways, including grappling with the unfinished business of slavery: to foster reconciliation, to establish ties with African ancestral homelands, to rethink and sometimes alter citizenship, and to make legal claims for slavery reparations specifically based on ancestry.

## **Want to Get More Involved?**

### **SAARC - Seattle King County African American Reparations Committee**

Established in 2021, SAARC is comprised of 42 Black-led organizations in Seattle - King County. Its members are unswervingly dedicated to reversing the harms to African Americans from systemic racism in Seattle - King County. SAARC has three goals: (1) identify the harms to African-Americans in Seattle-King County and calculate the cost of those harms; (2) develop a Reparations proposal for Seattle-King County to reverse those harms; and (3) build community support for the Reparations proposal. For more information or to get involved, please email [info@saarcpnw.org](mailto:info@saarcpnw.org). We welcome Black-led organizations and pro-Black allies dedicated to driving change.