



# RACIAL FAIRNESS AMERICA

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## Is the Racial Fairness Project the same as “Reparations”?

The simple answer is: No. There are many intriguing ideas and even specific plans about how the U.S. (and other countries) could express remorse, provide restitution, or otherwise make up for the sins against our minority populations over the years, decades, and centuries. These discussions are ongoing and vigorous. This is not an attempt to summarize them, or supplant them.

A common element, though, is that they’re ambitious. Even if they focus only on one population (most often Black, Indigenous, or Asian-American, and recently, women), so many tens of millions of people are or have been involved, and so many have been injured or killed purely for racist motives or in a vicious way, the level of harm varies so greatly, and ways to measure and compensate for it are tricky at best.

Similar quandaries arise on the issues of who should pay and who should receive. Should only the oppressors pay? Only descendants of the oppressors? Only institutions and families who clearly benefited from the oppression and still exist? Everyone who shares the race of the oppressors? What about people who just got here, or got here 10 years ago, or who themselves arrived as refugees from oppression elsewhere? And should the beneficiaries include only descendants of slaves, for example; but what if most of their other ancestors were white? Here, too, should people who just got here receive reparations? Why, and how much?

These and many other related issues are way too big for us, and we do not dare try to resolve them. We hope that someday methods and formulas can be worked out that not only are fair pretty much across the board, but are almost universally perceived as fair.

### Reparations in another and smaller form?

Our own business is wheedling money and other good stuff out of white communities so it can be distributed to People of Color in ways determined by People of Color. We do it because of the unfair advantages white people have received for many generations. So we are coming from a similar place and have similar intent as compared to the proponents of large-scale Reparation concepts.

But we are working on a local scale (or rather, a lot of local scales, if we succeed as well as we intend), asking for voluntary contributions, and distributing them in smaller bits based on how local discriminated-against communities at each moment perceive fairness.

So is this the same as Reparations or not? We say: not really, but we’re related.