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Reparations

It's hard to believe that some people are still talking about reparations for slavery. Anybody with any common sense realizes that all former slaves in this country have long since passed away. Slavery ended in the United States with the passage of the thirteenth Amendment in 1865. It is also apparent that all former slave owners similarly are no longer around. Slavery certainly is a stain on the history of this great nation, but to our credit as a nation, we ended this practice long ago.

Had our nation offered reparations / restitution after the civil war to all former slaves it would have been the right thing to do. It would have meant monies being paid to all former slaves, which would have been predominately of African descent. However, there also were some native-American slaves and white slaves. In fact some free blacks were also slave owners as were some native-Americans. After so many years though, the individuals treated so inhumanely can't be compensated and those who mistreated them can't be punished.

In addition to not being able to compensate those affected by this practice, how would we even put a price tag on this if we had to? How would we know who was really a descendant of a slave and not a later immigrant? Would compensating former slaves descendants then mean we should compensate native-Americans whose lands we stole? The only way to do that would be to give back the entire country to the remaining American Indians. This is of course all nonsense and we just need to put this behind us once and for all.

We have apologized as a nation for this practice and ended it in all areas of our country. We also have worked to end this practice around the globe and continue to do so through foreign policy and trade agreements. I hope that we can all learn to appreciate each others rich cultures and yet still bond together in this great melting pot; the United States of America.

Eric Deaton