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## REPARATIONS

By Steve Bakke  June 29, 2019



Before calculating slavery reparations, let's ask some questions. These aren't silly or absurd questions because they will become part of the debate, and we should anticipate them:

- Will a slice of the pie be saved for descendants of hundreds of thousands of white union soldiers who died fighting to eliminate slavery?
- Will reparations accrue to future black generations?
- Will democrats pay most of the cost since virtually no republicans owned slaves?
- African American Professor Walter E. Williams reminds us: "Blacks as well as whites live on land taken, sometimes brutally, from American Indians. Do blacks and whites owe American Indians anything?"
- Over \$17 trillion is a common estimate of the cost. Virtually everyone agrees that amount could never be financed. Considering that reality, is just having the debate worth the inevitable result, i.e. increased division and racial bitterness rising to ever-higher levels?

We must ask ourselves: "What result do we expect? Are we being realistic? And are we being smart?"