Twitter Thread by Holly



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“If you can inherit generational wealth, you can inherit generational debt” is really a statement worthy of serious consideration when it comes to the issue of reparations. The article did a good job of making the case for the Bruce family #ManhattanBeach

Do we inherit debt incurred by the cruel practices of our forefathers? Some might try to argue no. Our legal system would not generally recognize the notion of inherited debt...but really think about it. If inherited WEALTH derives from abuse of others, does a DEBT not attach?

“The effect on the wealth and economic standing of Black Americans of generations of enslavement—and the structural racism following emancipation—has never been fully mitigated and exists to this day” https://t.co/p743pjfCTa

How do we begin to answer for this grievous wrong inflicted upon Black Americans? We can start by looking at the 13th Amendment & the “badges & incidents of slavery” https://t.co/xi0doDnl27

In the above excerpt from “Section 1 of the Thirteenth Amendment and the Badges and Incidents of Slavery” UCLA Law Review, Vol. 65, Issue 2 (March 2018), pp. 426-487, Professor Pope argued that we should revert to the original, more broad reading of Section 1

In this Article, I have presented evidence from history and jurisprudence tending to support a broader reading of Section 1, namely that it prohibits not only core incidents of slavery, like chattelization and physically or legally forced labor, but also a set of others including--at a minimum--denials of the rights enumerated in the Civil Rights Act of 1866. To accept this reading would be to restart the process, commenced by the Thirty-Ninth Congress in 1865 but derailed in Plessy and Hodges, of identifying and protecting Thirteenth Amendment rights. Whether this process is led by judges, legislators, or social movements, it is long overdue.

Willa & Charles Bruce in the LA Times article:
The city used eminent domain to condemn their property (1924) because of an “urgent” need for a public park (false).
Because the Bruces were Black, they were denied the right to keep their property & were not paid fair market value

Per Professor Pope’s analysis, the City’s use of eminent domain against the Bruces violated the Thirteenth Amendment, Section 1. The badges & incidents of slavery include state interference with the ability of Black Americans to own property