

#ShutDownSTEM #ShutDownAcademia Day of Reflection, June 10th, 2020

A Brief History of Racism in (the) America(s)

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Understanding history as *our* story

Understanding History

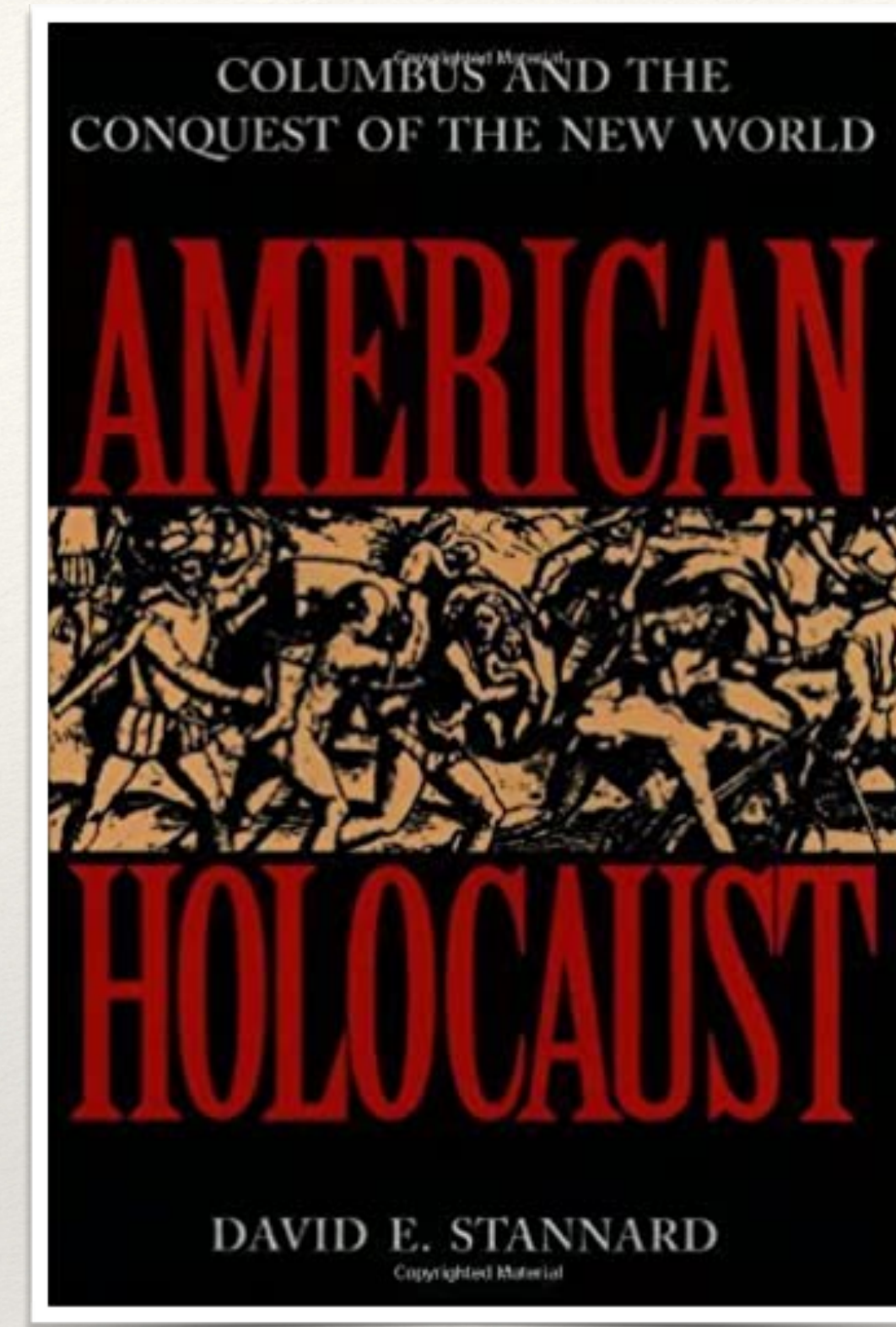
- ❖ What race(ism) is
- ❖ Origins of racism
- ❖ Racism & the American Colonies
- ❖ Racism and the early United States
(No time here for the Jim Crow Era following the Civil War)

Noting the resiliency of Racism

- ❖ In labor relations
- ❖ In power relations
- ❖ In capital accumulation
- ❖ Institutionally, Culturally,
Psychologically

“In short, elimination refers to more than the summary liquidation of Indigenous people, though it includes that. In its positive aspect, the logic of elimination marks a return whereby the native repressed continues to structure settler-colonial society. It is both as complex social formation and as continuity through time that I term settler colonization a structure rather than an event, and it is on this basis that I shall consider its relationship to genocide.” (390)

-Patrick Wolfe, 2006. “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native.” *Journal of Genocide Research* 8 (4): 387-409



Recommended Book for a general introduction to colonization of the Americas: Stannard, David E. 1993. *American Holocaust*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Racism & Colonialism

There is no biological basis for race as a human classification system. The only race is the human race.

Human race divisions and racism are insidious, *real*, social, facts.

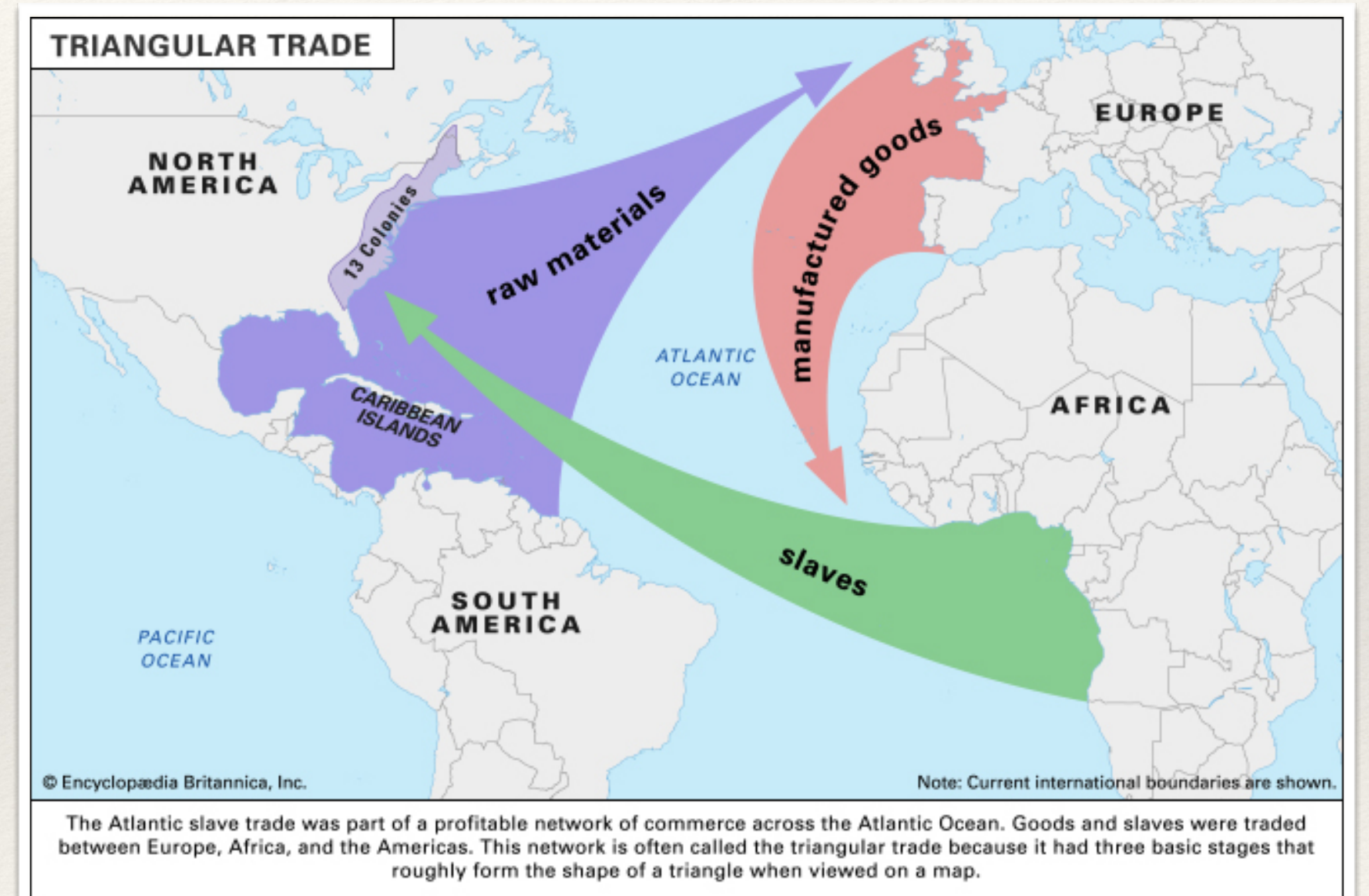
Colonialism & Mercantilism

Conquest

- ❖ Elimination or Expulsion of the Native

The Triangle Trade

- ❖ Planters / plantation owners (sugar, cotton)
- ❖ Labor shortage
- ❖ European criminalization, Indentured Servitude
- ❖ African Slaves
- ❖ Rebellion
- ❖ “Whiteness” and its first privileges



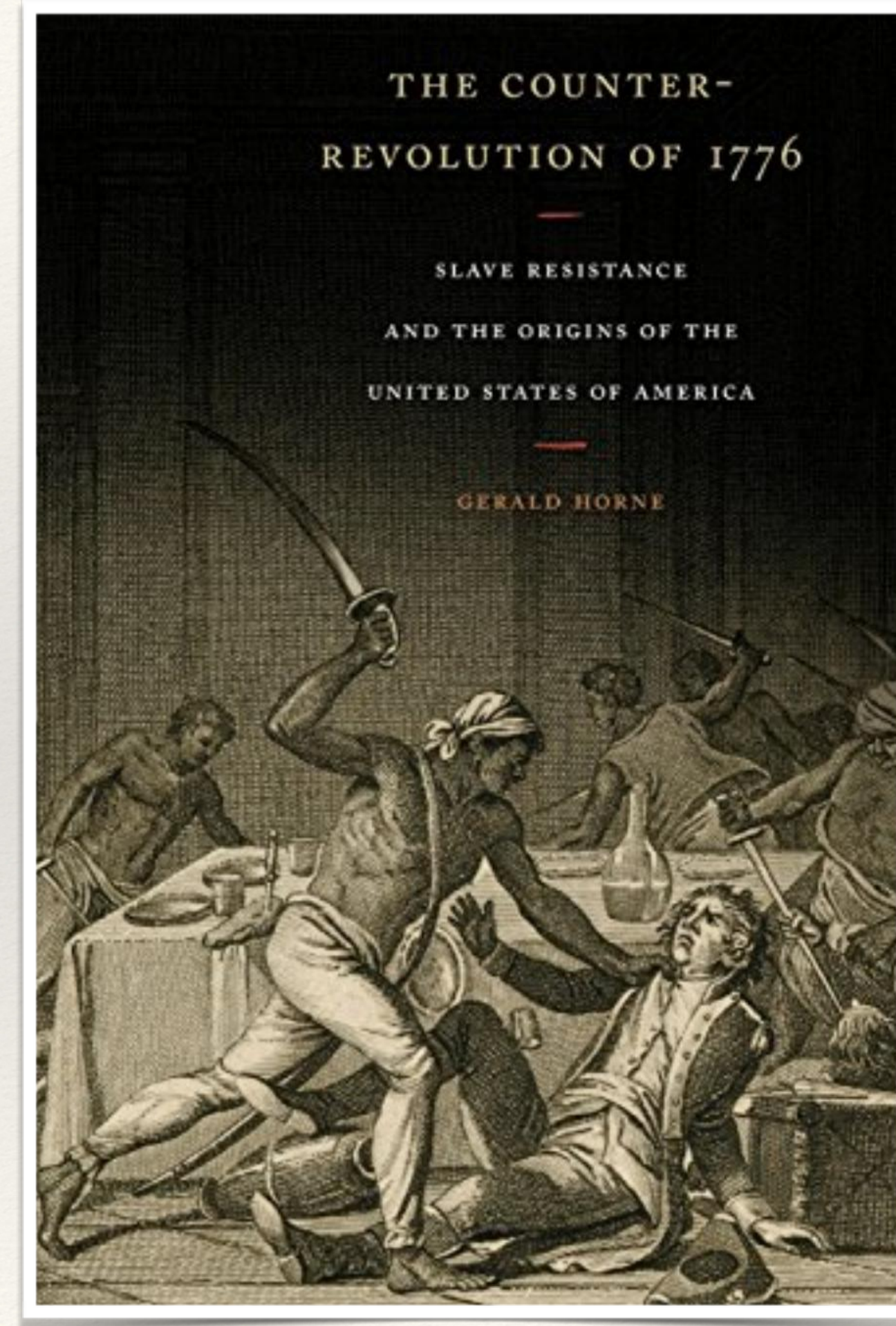
The Mainland Colonies

- ❖ Migration of planters from the West Indies
- ❖ Insatiable lust for Indigenous land
- ❖ Insatiable lust for African slave profits
- ❖ Fall of empires
- ❖ African English conscripts
- ❖ Materialism: Slavery entailing Capitalism entailing abolition
- ❖ A population under siege

“The Counter-Revolution of 1776”*

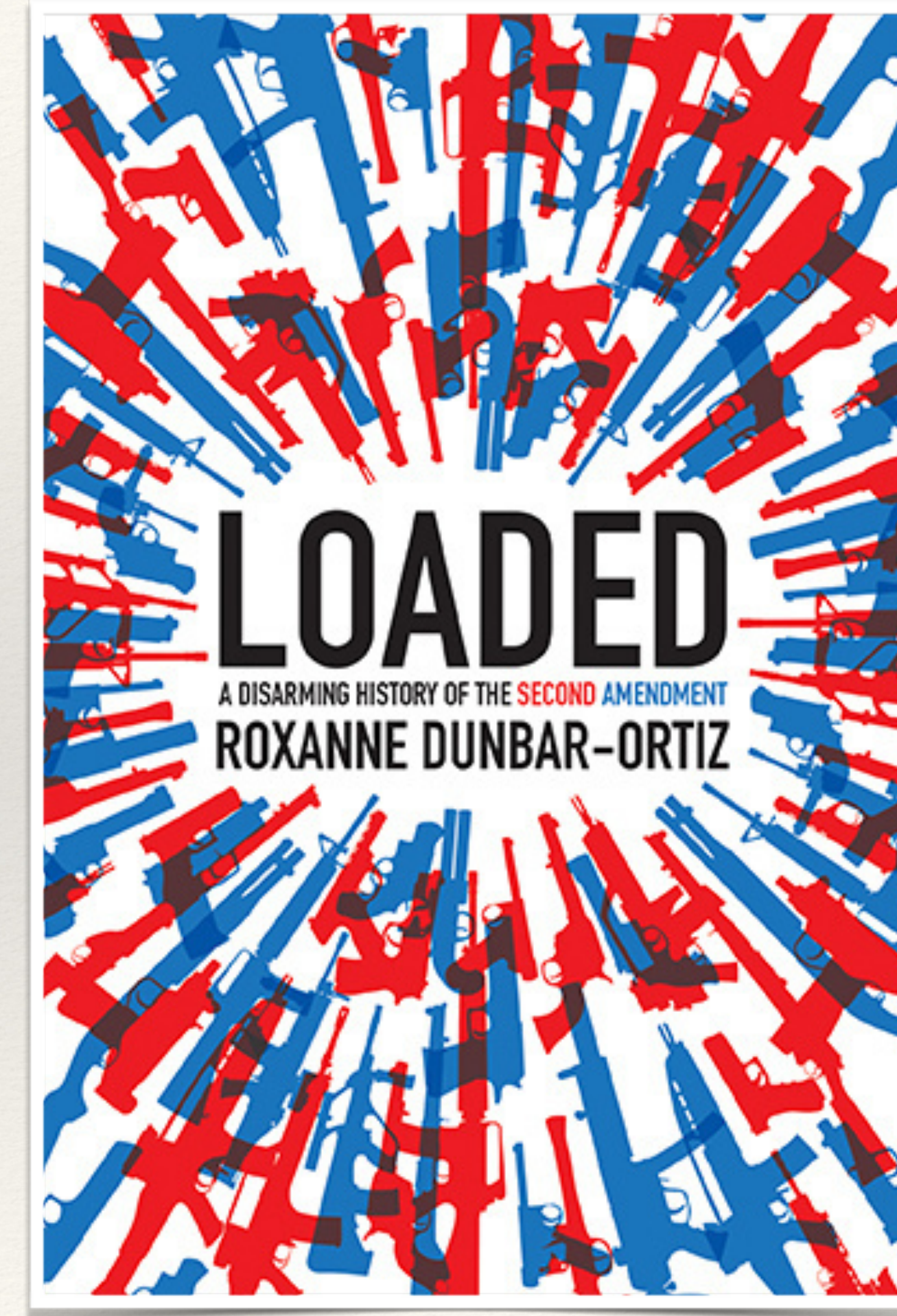
- ❖ The revolution lost
- ❖ The United States, its White Supremacist founders, and White Nationalism
- ❖ Local elites & commerce rights
- ❖ Maintaining slavery
- ❖ Continuing genocide
- ❖ The Second Amendment

**Horne, Gerald. 2014. The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America.*



The Revolution Catches Up

- ❖ Emancipation & the beginning of Jim Crow
- ❖ Making Slavery Legal Again
 - ❖ Legislation
 - ❖ Law Enforcement
 - ❖ Police “Patrols” on “The Beat”
 - ❖ The Second Amendment
- ❖ Institutions, Culture, Psychology

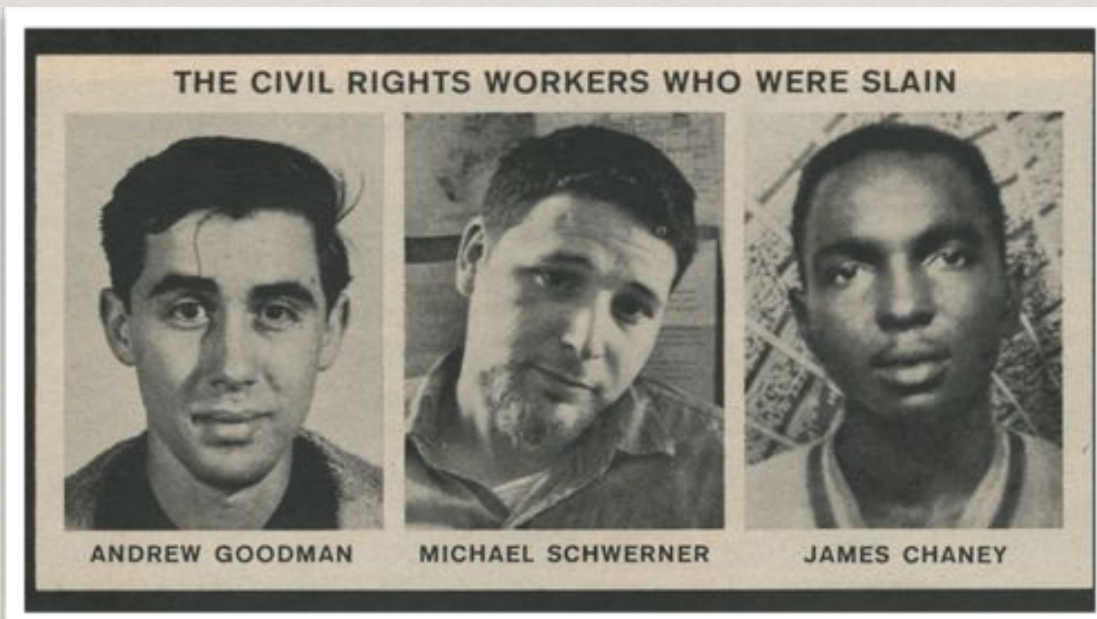


The following two slides contain extremely disturbing, graphic images.



Top: Photograph taken showing the body of Will Brown after being burned by a white lynch mob in the Omaha Race Riot, 28th of September 1919.

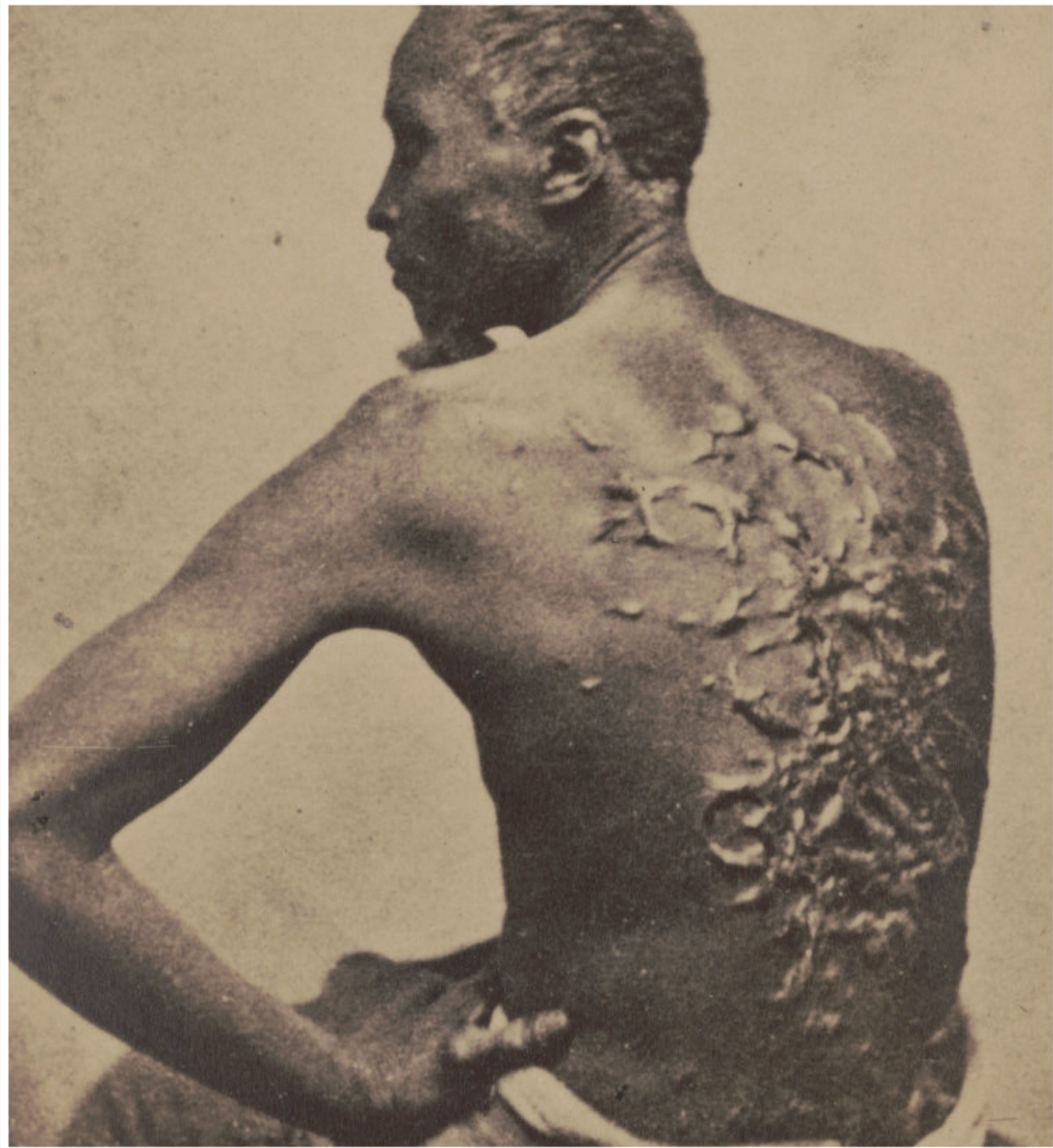
Bottom: The three SNCC / CORE volunteers slain in the Mississippi Freedom Summer, 1964, the topic of SNCC Freedom Singer Marshall Jones' *Mississippi River*.



Left: Lynching of a black man, 1882. Photograph: Library of Congress/ UIG via Getty Images

Bottom: A postcard of the Duluth lynching, June 15, 1920





Left: 'Whipped Peter' was a widely-circulated image of Peter, an escaped slave who found his way to a Union army camp during the Civil War, which galvanized calls for emancipation, 1863.

Above: 'Dominated' An image currently circulating in right-wing media celebrating what they claim is the back of a Black man, shot by rubber bullets, who had been protesting George Floyd's murder at the hands of the Minneapolis Police.

Purveyors of (in)justice

- ❖ Culture & Education
 - ❖ Origin myths and nationalism
 - ❖ The intentional (erasure) telling of who's history?
 - ❖ Place-based education
 - ❖ Organizing anti-(racism)(colonialism)

“...we must study how colonization works to decivilize the colonizer, to brutalize him in the true sense of the word... proceeding towards savagery. ...at the end of the blind alley which is Europe... at the end of capitalism... at the end of formal humanism and philosophic renunciation, there is Hitler. Colonization... dehumanizes even the most civilized man... [in] seeing the other man as an animal... [the colonizer] transform[s] himself into an animal [in a] boomerang effect of civilization... [it is] a law of progressive dehumanization... that cannot but bring about the ruin of Europe itself” (35-37, 41, 68, 75).

-Aimé Césaire Discourse on Colonialism, 1950

Recommended Further Reading

- ❖ Césaire, Aimé. 2000. *Discourse on Colonialism*. New York: NYU Press.
- ❖ Deloria, Vine. 1969. *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*. University of Oklahoma Press.
- ❖ Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. 2018. *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*. San Francisco: City Lights Books.
- ❖ Estes, Nick. 2019. *Our History Is the Future*. Brooklyn, NY: Verso.
- ❖ Fischbach, Michael R. 2018. *Black Power and Palestine: Transnational Countries of Color*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- ❖ Horne, Gerald. 2014. *The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America*. New York: NYU Press.
- ❖ Holsaert, Faith S, Martha Prescod Norman Noonan, Judy Richardson, Betty Garman Robinson, Jean Smith Young, and Dorothy M Zellner. 2010. *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.
- ❖ LaDuke, Winona. 2017. *All Our Relations*. Chicago: Haymarket Books.
- ❖ Payne, Charles M. 1996. *I've Got the Light of Freedom*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- ❖ Ransby, Barbara. 2003. *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- ❖ Rushing, Fannie and Sylvia Fischer. 2020. Interview by Bradley Graupner. Chicago, IL and Austin, TX. May 3. <https://youtu.be/jxZs2QmxXVs> (accessed May 12, 2020).
- ❖ Stannard, David E. 1993. *American Holocaust*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ❖ Williams, Eric. 1994 (1944). *Capitalism and Slavery*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Thank You

A luta continua; a vitória é certa