The Case for Reparations

“Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.”


1. What are the policies and practices that Coates uses to make the case for reparations? Does it all depend on the injustices of slavery? Why or why not?

2. What sort of reparations is Coates asking for?

3. What is his argument for reparations?

4. What can and/or should be done?