

Podcast Discussion Guide - Episode 1

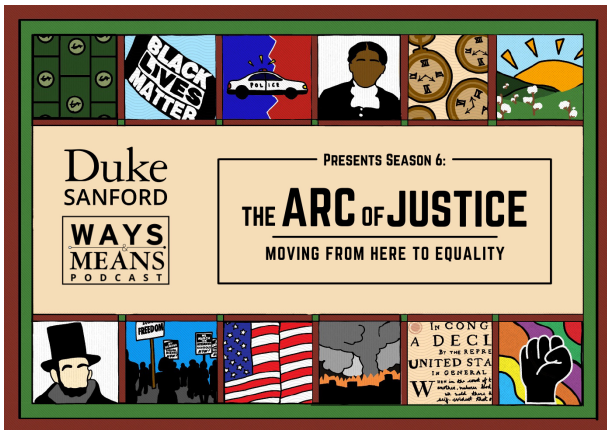
Not So Long Ago: One Nation Under Slavery

The Ways & Means podcast series *The Arc of Justice* is produced in partnership with Duke Professor William A. "Sandy" Darity Jr. and folklorist and arts consultant A. Kirsten Mullen based on their book *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century*. Darity is the Samuel DuBois Cook Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University.

Over six episodes, the podcast series explores how economic opportunities were different for African Americans and white Americans throughout history – describing what could have been different at different points in history, and possible transformations that could still be implemented in the future.

This series is produced by the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy, and the team from the award-winning Ways & Means podcast. The series is hosted by journalist Lindsay Foster Thomas and will be broadcast on North Carolina Public Radio WUNC in 2021. Season 6 (*The Arc of Justice*) of Ways & Means is made possible through support from the Duke Office for Faculty Advancement thanks to funding from The Duke Endowment, and also support from North Carolina Public Radio and the Sanford School. The series is part of Duke's Forever Learning Institute as part of the America Today theme.

We invite you to listen to the episodes, and to use this guide for additional resources and dialogue.



“Slavery is decisive in building the wealth of America. It’s central to the way in which the entire economy was organized, and it becomes the fount from which all other wealth tends to flow in the country.”
- William A. Darity Jr.

Tips as You Listen:

1. Open your ears and heart.
2. Get comfortable in your discomfort.
3. Continue to do your own research.

Key Terms to Learn:

*ARC – Acknowledgement, Redress and Closure

Dismemory - organized and systematic efforts to manipulate and distort the nation’s history

Resources to Read:

1. [From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century](#), William A. Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen (UNC Press, 2020)
2. [The Women’s Fight: The Civil War’s Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation](#), Thavolia Glymph (UNC Press, 2020)
3. [Denmark Vesey’s Garden, Slavery and Memory in the Cradle of the Confederacy](#), Ethan J. Kytle and Blain Roberts (The New Press, 2018)
4. Combat dismemory of Duke’s history with [resource](#)
5. [Alumni perspective](#) on Duke's anti-racism work
6. Read this [essay](#) written by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Listen to Episode 1: waysandmeansshow.org

Questions to Discuss:

1. How have you been involved in the nation’s dismemory? What history have you learned that you either knew or found out later was whitewashed?
2. Thinking about how plantations have been rebranded into wedding venues, what other spaces do you know of that have violent histories but have been rebranded? How do you think these spaces should be used?
3. What is the significance of not talking about slavery or minimizing the horrors of slavery? Who benefits from this? Why?
4. Why do people refuse to acknowledge how awful slavery was? What systems uphold this dismemory and how could this change?
5. How can you combat dismemory? What is the benefit of teaching correct history even if it’s ugly?

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