

Podcast Discussion Guide - Episode 3

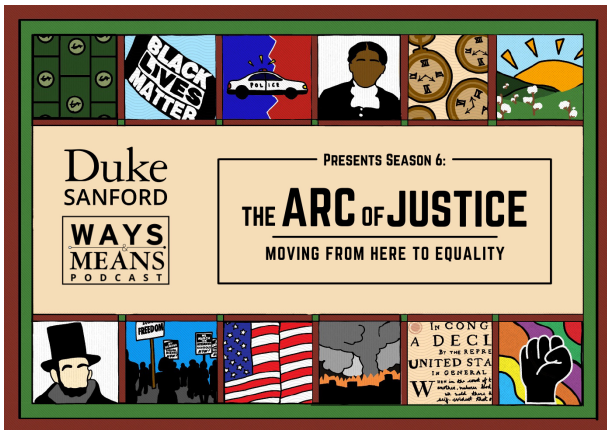
A Tale of Two Cities: How the Federal Government Promoted Housing Segregation and Thwarted African American Home Ownership

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.



“The FHA didn’t just condone housing segregation. It explicitly encouraged the denial of credit on conventional terms to potential African American homeowners, thereby denying those households the capacity to accumulate wealth”

- William A. "Sandy" Darity Jr.

Tips as You Listen:

1. Open ears and heart.
2. Get comfortable in your discomfort,
3. Continue to do your own research.
4. Talk about what you have learned with others.

Key Term to Learn:

Redlining - the literal designation in red on city maps of African American neighborhoods for the purpose of excluding their residents from access to bank loans

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. [Detroit's Birwood Wall: Hatred and Healing in the West Eight Mile Community](#), Gerald Van Dusen (2019)
3. [Beale Street Dynasty: Sex, Song, and the Struggle for the Soul of Memphis](#), Preston Lauterbach (2015)
4. [Insuring Inequality: The Role of the Federal Housing Administration in the Urban Ghettoization of African Americans](#), John Kimble (Law & Social Inquiry, 2007)

Listen to Episode 3: waysandmeansshow.org

Questions to Discuss:

1. Think about your own neighborhood and describe it. Do you live in a segregated neighborhood?
2. What do you think Detroit’s 8 Mile Wall represented when it was built? What do you think it represents now?
3. What role did the federal government play in perpetuating wealth inequality between African Americans and whites with respect to home ownership?
4. Have members of your family received benefits from the G. I. Bill, which was approved in 1944—education and training, loan guaranty for homes, farms or businesses, or unemployment pay?
5. What are some other ways the federal government promoted discrimination and African American access to credit? a pure personal choice?
6. How does housing inequality perpetuate other inequalities in the United States?

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