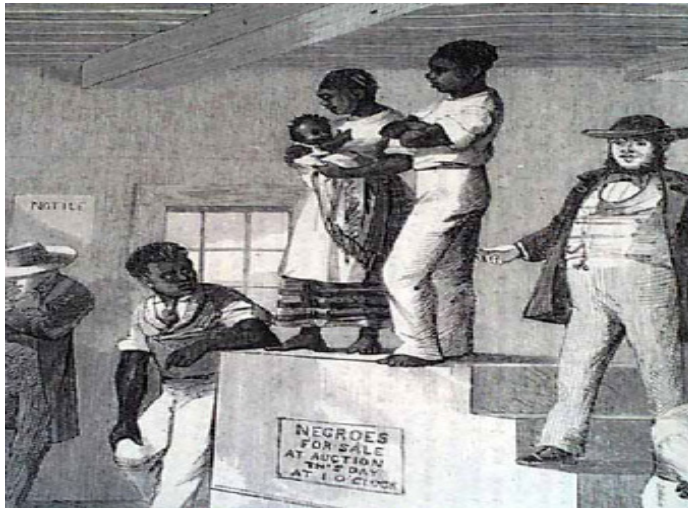


REP Education Sheet

Universities Consider Reparations



Academic institutions across the country, like Georgetown University and Harvard University, with intense pressure from students and activists, are brainstorming ways to make amends for participating in and profiting from the inhumane system of chattel slavery and the trafficking of enslaved Africans.

- Georgetown students voted “yes” to tax themselves to create a reparations fund for the descendants of 272 enslaved Africans the university sold in 1838 to save the university from bankruptcy
- Harvard University pledged \$100m to address the educational, social and economic legacies of slavery and racism
- Virtually all the antebellum colleges were active participants in chattel slavery
- As the MIT historian Craig Steven Wilder writes in *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America’s Universities*, “Higher education “never stood apart from American slavery—in fact, it stood beside church and state as the third pillar of a civilization built on bondage.”

Sources:

- <https://www.georgetown.edu/slavery/>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/04/why-are-georgetown-students-paying-reparations/587443/>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/26/harvard-acknowledges-slavery-ties-sets-up-100m-reparations-fund>
- <https://www.aclu.org/news/racial-justice/georgetown-students-demonstrate-how-reparations-can-be-made-to-african-american-students>
- <https://www.gu272.net/>