



Banished
Resource Page¹

One of the US's darkest secrets may be the expulsion of African Americans from communities across America during the Reconstruction period following the Civil War and continuing through the Great Depression. Carried out by angry white mobs, the violent banishments expelled thousands of African Americans from their homes. As a result, many African Americans lost their lives and others were unable to sell their homes and/or land, resulting in a significant loss of assets. Many of these communities remain virtually all white to this day.

Banished tells the story of three such communities: Forsyth County, Georgia; Pierce City, Missouri; and Harrison, Arkansas. The film provides a glimpse into these communities as they confront their pasts and encourage healing in the community. How can the African American descendants be adequately compensated for the crimes of the past? Should those who were privileged by the banishments be held responsible for the actions of their ancestors? Is reconciliation between the races possible without meaningful reparations for the human rights abuses suffered, then and now, by African American citizens?

To learn more about the film and the issues it covers, please visit the following websites:

PBS's Website on the movie: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/banished/>

For more information about the banishments:

<http://www.journal-news.com/news/content/news/stories/2006/07/09/hjn070906Expulsions.html>

Representative John Conyers explains H.R. 40, a bill that calls for reparations:

<http://www.johnconyers.com/issues/reparations>

Associated Press article on the reparations movement in the US: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13785355/>

Center for the Healing of Racism: <http://www.centerhealingracism.org/>

National Conference for Community Justice: <http://www.nccj.org/>

National Coalition Building Institute: <http://ncbi.org/>

National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America: <http://www.ncobra.com/>

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