

## How to handle racists' statues

In 1895 the burghers of Bristol in south-west England, swept up by the Victorian **fervor** for celebrating city fathers, were casting about for a big historical cheese of their own. They settled on Edward Colston, a 17th-century merchant who had **endowed** charities that have lifted innumerable **indigent** Bristolians out of poverty and educated hordes of its young citizens over the centuries.

fervor 热情; 热烈

endow 赋予; 捐赠

indigent 贫穷的

chuck 丢弃; 驱逐

But, by modern standards, they picked the wrong guy: Colston made his money largely through the Royal African Company, which shipped slaves from Africa to the West Indies. On June 7th protesters **chucked** his statue into the city's harbour.

Statues become flashpoints at times of social change because they honour the values of the times in which they were erected. Yet statues also provide a record of a country's past, and the desire to respect and understand that history of commemoration argues against **dismantling** them.

dismantle 拆除; 取消

Great figures should have a place in public spaces, even when their record is **tarnished**. As a rule, someone whose failings were subordinate to their claim to greatness should stay, whereas someone whose main contribution to history was **baleful** should go.

tarnish 玷污; 使失去光泽

baleful 恶意的; 有害的

America honours many people who happened to be slave owners — and so it should, in the case of such as Washington and Jefferson, known chiefly for their contribution to their country.

Colston has no claim to remain. He has now been **dredged** out of the river, and the council is planning to put him in a museum.

dredge 打捞; 挖掘