

How not to repair America

文章导读: 据美国《国会山报》5月4日报道,本周末,“加州赔偿特别工作组”(The California Reparations Task Force)将对一系列提案进行投票,这些提案可能会使居住在该州的黑人奴隶后代每人获得高达120万美元的赔偿。在5月1日公布的一系列文件中,特别工作组表示,它将于6日投票建议加州正式为种族主义和奴隶制道歉,并向符合条件的黑人居民提供不同数额的“首付”。该工作组是加州州长纽森2020年10月签署法案成立的,也是美国第一个研究和建议对奴隶制进行赔偿的工作组。2022年,该工作组发布了一份500页的报告,详细描述了奴隶制和系统性歧视在全国和该州的影响。除了解决警察系统和监禁中的种族歧视问题外,该报告还呼吁“为非洲裔美国人制定详细的赔偿计划”,并要求联邦政府成立赔偿委员会。



【1】 California's **reparations**¹ scheme is bad policy and worse politics

【1】 加州的赔偿计划是糟糕的政策和更糟糕的政治

一、重点词汇

1. **Reparations** /reɪpə'reɪʃənz/ n. (战败国的)赔款;赔偿;弥补;补偿

二、积累表达

1. 表达“赔偿、补偿”

除了使用 "compensation", 还有一些其他表达方式可以表示 "赔偿"。

(1) Restitution

The company agreed to make full **restitution** to the affected customers.

(该公司同意对受影响的客户进行全额赔偿。)

(2) Damages

The court awarded him substantial **damages** for the injuries he suffered.

(法院判给他大量赔偿金以补偿他所遭受的伤害。)

(3) Indemnification

The insurance policy provides **indemnification** for any property damage.

(该保险单提供对任何财产损失的赔偿。)

(4) Reimbursement

The company will **reimburse** you for any expenses incurred during the business trip.

(公司将对您在出差期间发生的任何费用进行报销。)

(5) Redress

The organization aims to provide **redress** to victims of injustice.

(该组织旨在为受到不公正对待的受害者提供补偿。)

(6) "战后赔偿"可用 "post-war reparations"表达。

The country demanded **post-war reparations** from the aggressor nation. (该国要求侵略国进行战后赔偿。)

【2】Since at least 1865, when Congress voted to set up the Freedmen's Bureau, Americans have debated how and whether to compensate former slaves. In 2020, when Donald Trump had **reawoken**¹ the left and George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man, was murdered by a policeman, the idea of reparations—paying money to the descendants of slaves—became almost mainstream. Some Democratic politicians, under pressure from activists and eager to be on the right side of history, agreed to set up commissions to study the idea. A few years later, those commissions are coming back with recommendations.

【2】至少自 1865 年国会投票成立自由民局以来，美国人就一直在争论如何以及是否补偿前奴隶。2020 年，当唐纳德·特朗普唤醒左派，手无寸铁的非裔美国人乔治·弗洛伊德被一名警察谋杀时，向奴隶后代支付赔偿金的想法几乎成为主流。一些民主党政客在活动人士的压力下，渴望站在历史的正确一边，同意成立委员会来研究这一想法。几年后，这些委员会再次提出建议。

一、重点词汇

1. **Reawaken** /ˌriːəˈweɪkən/ vt. 勾起，唤起，再次引发(感情、回忆等)

【3】Cash reparations for slavery are not popular (see United States section). Only 30% of Americans support the policy. Most of those alive today played no role in Jim Crow; none can reasonably be blamed for slavery. Nor are black Americans the only disadvantaged group: try telling an unemployed Appalachian **coalminer**¹ why **finite**² tax dollars should go on reparations rather than, say, better schools or public health. Still, unpopular policies are

【3】对奴隶制的现金赔偿并不受欢迎(见美国部分)。只有 30% 的美国人支持这项政策。今天活着的大多数人都没有在美国历史上扮演任何角色；任何人都不能被合理地归咎于奴隶制。美国黑人也不是唯一的弱势群体：试着告诉一个失业的阿巴拉契亚煤矿工人，为什么有限的税款应该用于赔偿，而不是更好的学校或公共卫生。尽管如此，不受欢迎的政策有时是正确的。对非裔美国人的现金赔偿就是这样一个案例吗？

sometimes right. Are cash reparations for African-Americans one such case?

一、重点词汇

1. **Coalminer** /'kəʊlmaɪnə/ n. 煤矿工人

【4】Not long after slavery ended, the Freedmen's Bureau collapsed. Few freedmen received compensation and many ended up working as **sharecroppers**¹ for their former masters in something close to **indentured**² servitude. **Emancipation**³ was followed by the creation of a two-tier version of citizenship that lasted for a century. Until the 1960s, many black Americans lived in fear of terrorism, were shut out of many neighbourhoods and could not vote. Many were also excluded from supposedly universal programmes like the GI Bill. Plenty of the people who suffered directly from this system are still alive today. And in many cases their children and grandchildren have inherited disadvantages that have their roots in state-sanctioned discrimination. How much present racial inequality is due to that inheritance is impossible to quantify. But it is not zero and it is not 100%.

【4】奴隶制结束后不久，自由民局就垮台了。很少有自由人得到补偿，许多人最终成为前主人的佃农，从事类似契约奴役的工作。解放之后出现了持续了一个世纪的两层公民身份。直到 20 世纪 60 年代，许多美国黑人一直生活在对恐怖主义的恐惧中，被许多社区拒之门外，无法投票。许多人还被排除在《退伍军人法案》等所谓的普遍计划之外。许多直接从这个体系中受益的人今天仍然活着。在许多情况下，他们的子孙后代继承了不利条件，这些不利条件源于国家批准的歧视。目前的种族不平等在多大程度上是由于这种遗传造成的，无法量化。但它不是零，也不是 100%。

一、重点词汇

1. **Sharecroppers** /'ʃɛr,kɹəpərz/ n. 佃农
2. **Indentured** /ɪn'dentʃəd/ adj. 签订契约的
3. **Emancipation** /ɪ,mænsə'peɪʃən/ n. 解放；释放；脱离；自立

【5】The moral **sentiment**¹ about reparations rests on these centuries of unfairness. Yet the **cruelty**² of history is not the main argument. If the past were the same but there were no present-day racial gaps in income or life expectancy, the case for reparations would be weak. The main policy question, then, is how to help those who have been left behind. California shows how, in practice, it is

【5】关于赔偿的道德情感建立在几个世纪以来的不公平之上。然而，历史的残酷并不是主要的论据。如果过去是一样的，但现在在收入或预期寿命方面没有种族差距，那么赔偿的理由就不充分了。因此，主要的政策问题是如何帮助那些被落在后面的人。加利福尼亚州表明，在实践中，不可能创建一个不公正的精算表，以确定欠了多少现金以及欠了谁。

impossible to create an **actuarial**¹ table of injustice that can be consulted to determine how much cash is owed and to whom.

一、重点词汇

1. **Sentiment** /'sentɪmənt/ 情绪;(失之过度或不恰当的)伤感, 柔情, 哀伤
2. **Cruelty** /'kru:əlti/ 残忍;虐待;(尤指蓄意的)残酷;残暴;残暴的行为;
3. **Actuarial** /,æktʃu'eriəl/ adj.精算的;保险计算的

【6】California **outlawed**¹ slavery when it joined the union in 1850, so its commission concentrated on making amends for current **racial disparities**². These are considerable, as they are nationwide. African-Americans die four years earlier than white Americans on average. (Perhaps less noticed is that black Americans have enjoyed the fastest gains in life expectancy over the past 20 years.) For the purpose of its calculations, the commission assumed that a life is worth \$10m and, **speciously**³, that all racial disparities in outcomes are due to racism, current or historical. It then calculated how much African- American Californians are owed. The maximum payout per person came to \$1.2m. San Francisco, naturally, created its own commission, which put the figure higher, at \$5m.

【6】加利福尼亚州在 1850 年加入联邦时宣布奴隶制为非法, 因此其委员会专注于弥补当前的种族差异。这是相当可观的, 因为它们是全国性的。非裔美国人的平均死亡时间比白人美国人早四年。(也许不太引人注意的是, 在过去 20 年里, 美国黑人的预期寿命增长最快。) 为了进行计算, 委员会假设一个人的生命价值 1000 万美元, 而且, 似是而非的是, 所有种族差异的结果都是由种族主义造成的, 无论是当前的还是历史的。然后, 它计算出了欠非裔美国加州人多少钱。人均最高支出为 120 万美元。旧金山自然而然地设立了自己的佣金, 这使得该数字更高, 达到 500 万美元。

一、重点词汇

1. **Outlaw** /'aʊtlɔ:/ 宣布...不合法;使...成为非法;(旧时)剥夺(某人的)法律权益
2. **Racial disparities** 种族差异
3. **Specious** /'spi:fəs/ adj. 似是而非的;貌似有理的

【7】The bill for the statewide scheme could exceed \$800bn, though the commission deems even that sum to be merely a **down payment**¹. This comes as California faces a

【7】全州计划的账单可能超过 8000 亿美元, 尽管委员会认为即使是这笔钱也只是首付款。与此同时, 加州在 3000 亿美元的年度总预算中面临 320 亿美元的预算缺口。然后是确定谁

<p>\$32bn budget shortfall on an overall annual budget of \$300bn. Then there is the difficulty of determining who is eligible for reparations. America, happily, is more racially fluid than when the Jim Crow era ended, which makes that hard. The commission's answer is to set up another body to determine individual claims, which is just to pose the question again.</p>	<p>有资格获得赔偿的难题。令人高兴的是，美国比吉姆·克劳时代结束时更具种族流动性，这让这变得很困难。委员会的答案是成立另一个机构来确定个人索赔，这只是再次提出这个问题。</p>
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一、重点词汇

1. **down payment** 首付

二、积累表达

除了常用的 "down payment", 以下几种地道的英文表达方式来表示 "首付"。

(1) Initial payment

They require an **initial payment** of 30% of the total cost.

(他们要求支付总费用的 30% 作为首付。)

(2) Front-end payment

The **front-end payment** for the property is due at the signing of the contract.

(购房合同签署时需支付房屋的首付款。)

(3) Deposit

They requested a **deposit** of \$10,000 to secure the purchase.

(他们要求支付一笔 1 万美元的定金以确保购买。)

(4) Advance payment

The **advance payment** is non-refundable if the buyer cancels the order.

(如果买方取消订单，预付款不可退还。)

(5) Initial installment

The **initial installment** for the car loan is due within 30 days of the purchase.

(购车贷款的首付款需在购车后的 30 天内支付。)

<p>【8】 If the aim of the policy is to ease disadvantage, that can be done with race-neutral antipoverty programmes. The expanded child-tax credit, which was part of Congress's response to covid-19, cut child poverty nationwide. It did the most for African-American children, narrowing</p>	<p>【8】 如果该政策的目的是缓解劣势，那么可以通过种族中立的反贫困计划来实现。扩大儿童税收抵免是国会对新冠肺炎-19 法案的回应之一，它在全国范围内减少了儿童贫困。它对非裔美国儿童的帮助最大，缩小了差距，而且很受欢迎。这是一条可以实现的通往同一目的的道路。</p>
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disparities, and was popular. This is a route to the same end that is achievable.	
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<p>【9】 For Democrats, whose task is to build as big a coalition¹ as possible to defeat Mr Trump's movement, it is hard to think of a policy better designed to set different groups of supporters against each other than cash reparations. Or one easier to lampoon² in attack ads: "Californian liberals vote to give Hollywood star \$1m!" Gavin Newsom, the governor, appears to be looking for ways to quietly ignore the state commission. London Breed, San Francisco's mayor, has not endorsed³ the city council's proposal. Both should say clearly that they oppose cash reparations, and then propose policies to narrow disparities which most Americans would happily support.</p>	<p>【9】 对于民主党人来说，他们的任务是建立一个尽可能大的联盟来击败特朗普的运动，很难想象有什么政策比现金赔偿更能让不同的支持者群体相互对立。或者在攻击广告中更容易讽刺的一个：“加州自由派投票给好莱坞明星100 万美元！”州长加文·纽瑟姆似乎在寻找悄悄无视州委员会的方法。旧金山市长伦敦布里德（London Breed）尚未支持市议会的提议。双方都应该明确表示反对现金赔偿，然后提出缩小差距的政策，大多数美国人都会欣然支持。</p>
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一、重点词汇

1. **Coalition** /ˌkouəˈliʃn/ n. (两党或多党)联合政府;(尤指多个政治团体的)联合体;联合;
2. **Lampoon** /læmˈpu:n/ vt. 讽刺;嘲讽;讥讽 n. 讽刺文章;幽默讽刺作品
3. **Endorse** /ɪnˈdɔ:rs/ 背书;(公开)赞同;支持;认可;