

BLACK MARKET

#2/1865-2021

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FREE

Understanding...

JUNETEENTH

FREE-ISH



SINCE 1865





This Publishers Page by far has been the most difficult to write. I struggled for months to even remotely construct a reasonably positive introduction. There is literally no redeeming value that can be afforded a country that has never ever truly come to grips with it's past. A history that to this day — a large portion of this country still refuses to admit it's vile, degenerate, disgusting inhumane treatment of a people.

There is no conversation, explanation, reasoning or rationalization for...

And I mean, NOT ONE SINGLE, SOLITARY, PERSONAL, ECONOMIC, FINIANCIAL, GOVERMENTAL, RELIGIOUS, SCIENTIFIC, BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, EDUCATIONAL, reason for any one of the of the hundreds of thousands of TRANGRESSIONS that have been perpetrated against people of color since before and during the inception of this country. A country, a government, a people that would proudly protect a dog before it will a Black person.

A country that has thrived single handedly off the scarred, whipped, broken backs of a people who have given even their first born, second and third and more to a system that found pleasure and profit in its pilfering and plundering.

Even today, America is at odds with itself. It still can't pass a comprehensive voting rights bill...

It still can't unanimously agree on whether the truth should be taught or at least at a bare minimum, make the truth available.

Holidays, are nice. They will continue to provide a revenue stream for people to benefit from a foundation that still systemically precludes the very people that built it. Fourth of July, President's Day, Columbus Day, the southern states celebration of confederates, and any combination of men and their vices that have aided & abetted their achievements and profits.

America will find a way to fold JUNTEENTH into it's schedule, eventually it will be accepted like optional, paid time off and paired with a fried chicken and collard green lunch for those who opt to show up.

It will continue not because of what Black people may or may not be doing ...but because of the guilty, guile and gutter white imagination that has defined, detained and attempted to destroy our BLACK.

I will not buy a ticket to FREEDOM, denied, delayed, discounted and diminished. I will continue on the Underground Railroad until the tunnel meets the light... WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Alan S Hill

The U.S. government is catching up with Black people who have been commemorating the end of slavery in the United States for generations with a day called “Juneteenth.”

President Joe Biden signed a bill that was passed by Congress to set aside Juneteenth, or June 19th, as a federal holiday. “I hope this is the beginning of a change in the way we deal with one another,” he said.

The Senate approved the bill unanimously; only 14 House Republicans — many representing states that were part of the slave-holding Confederacy in the 19th century — opposed the measure.

And here is where we are now.... **Understanding...**

A year after protests for racial justice swept the nation, propelling conversations on how to improve conditions for Black lives, the non Black country is now somewhat ready to celebrate the 156th anniversary of one of its earliest liberation moments: Juneteenth.

Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when a group of enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, finally learned that they were free from the institution of slavery. But woefully, this was almost two-and-a-half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. As much as Juneteenth represents freedom, it also represents how emancipation was tragically delayed for enslaved people in the deepest reaches of the Confederacy.

The first Juneteenth in 1866 was celebrated with food, singing, and the reading of spirituals — and it commemorated newly freed Black people taking pride in their progress. Today, Juneteenth celebrations just like the Black Lives Matter movement span the world, with the global diaspora adopting the day as one to recognize emancipation at large.

After being largely ignored in schools, history books or even by mainstream media. Recognition of the day has also grown in recent years, a recent Gallop poll found that most Americans now know about Juneteenth. Black Market Magazine vehemently disputes this and contends Americans may be familiar with the name but not the meaning. Even though the Senate unanimously passed a bill to make Juneteenth a national holiday, its origin and meaning carries about the same reverence among non- Blacks celebrating Martin Luther King Jr, Day. Basically being used as a optional vacation day or paid time off...

The Civil War began in 1861 between northern and southern states over slavery and economic power. A year into the war, the US Congress passed the Confiscation Act of 1862, which authorized Union troops to seize Confederate property, including enslaved people. (The act also allowed the Union army to recruit Black soldiers.) Months later, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln affirmed the aims of the act by issuing the final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. The document declared that “all persons held as slaves ... are, and henceforth, shall be free.”



While the proclamation legally liberated millions of enslaved people in the Confederacy, it exempted those in the Union-loyal border states of Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky. These states held Confederate sympathies and could have seceded; Lincoln exempted them from the proclamation to prevent this. A year later, in April 1864, the Senate attempted to close this loophole by passing the 13th Amendment, prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude in all states, Union and Confederate. But the amendment wouldn't be enacted by ratification until December 1865. In other words, it took two years for the emancipation of enslaved people to materialize legally, socially and realistically ... WE ARE STILL WAITING.

Not to mention, the ratification happened after the Civil War had already ended — in April 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia. Enslaved people in Texas, meanwhile, didn't learn about their freedom until three months later. On June 19, 1865, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger of the Union army arrived in Galveston and issued General Order No. 3 that secured the Union army's authority over Texas.

Still, even under Order No. 3, as historian Henry Louis Gates Jr. noted, freedom wasn't automatic for Texas's 250,000 enslaved people. "On plantations, masters had to decide when and how to announce the news — or wait for a government agent to arrive — and it was not uncommon for them to delay until after the harvest," he wrote.

Emancipation came gradually for many enslaved people, the culmination of a century of American abolition efforts, North and South. And even still, the formerly enslaved were viewed as chattel that merely existed to work and produce.

ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

The first Juneteenth celebration took place in 1866 in Texas with community gatherings, including sporting events, cookouts, prayers, dances, parades, and the singing of spirituals like "Many Thousands Gone" and "Go Down Moses." Some events even featured fireworks, which involved filling trees with gunpowder and setting them on fire.

At the core of the celebrations was a desire to record group gains since emancipation, "an occasion for gathering lost family members, measuring progress against freedom and inculcating rising generations with the values of self-improvement and racial uplift,"

Communities would read the Emancipation Proclamation as part of the tradition, which was especially significant during Reconstruction, when the holiday reinforced hope. Reconstruction (1863-1890) was a time to rebuild the Southern economy and society through the ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments — which gave Black people freedom, due process, and the right to vote — Black-run Southern governments, and the work of the Freedmen's Bureau, among other efforts.

The goals of Reconstruction were consistently countered by white supremacists. For example, Democratic Congress members awarded Republican Rutherford B. Hayes the 1876 presidential election in exchange for the withdrawal of Union troops from the South, according to historian Richard M. Valelly's *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle for Black Enfranchisement*. After Hayes's win, leaders at the state and local levels "weakened black voting in the South by means of gerrymandering, violence, and intimidation," Valelly wrote.

In 1890, Mississippians drafted a white supremacist state constitution to disenfranchise local Black people; it included provisions that required people to be able to read and understand all parts of the state constitution in order to vote. This barred thousands of illiterate Black people from voting in the 1890s. This signaled the end of Reconstruction and the beginning of Jim Crow. "Once black southerners were disenfranchised by the early 1900s, the stage was set for a systematic entrenchment of white supremacist norms and public policies. Most that still exist today.

On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became a Texas state holiday after state Rep. Al Edwards put forth legislation. Since that move, 48 states and Washington, DC, now commemorate the day as a holiday or observance.

For more than a decade, Texas Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee has introduced a resolution to recognize the historical significance of Juneteenth.

In 2020, Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) singlehandedly blocked it on the grounds that America could not afford another day off for federal workers.

At press time...The celebration that marks the end of slavery is recognized by almost all US states. Hawaii, North Dakota, and South Dakota, are the states that have not yet established the day as a holiday.

In 2020, corporations pledged to be anti-racist and many recognized Juneteenth as a company holiday. Many city governments also took steps to specifically recognize Juneteenth at the municipal level. Another obstacle that remains for Juneteenth is the pervasive idea that it's a "Black thing," much like Kwanzaa. It is seen as a holiday that is just observed by African Americans and is poorly understood outside of the African American community. It is perceived as being part of black culture and not 'American culture,'

JUNETEENTH

Now, the meaning of Juneteenth is being seized more broadly by activists as an opportunity for the United States to come to terms with how slavery continues to affect the lives of all Americans today — it is something for everyone, of every race, to engage in. Stereotypes about Black people as being subhuman and lacking rationality are rooted in slavery. These harmful notions still rear themselves today as police officers disproportionately kill Black people and the health care system fails to adequately care for Black bodies. Advocates argue that the national holiday obviously wouldn't put an end to racism but would rather help foster dialogue about the trauma that has resulted from the enslavement of 4 million people for more than 250 years.

One reason Juneteenth's history has remained widely misunderstood, or even unknown, until recently is because it's not often taught in schools. Karlos Hill, an author and University of Oklahoma professor of African and African American studies, told Vox in 2018 that "Juneteenth as a moment in African-American history is not, to my knowledge, taught." As for history textbooks that already tend to whitewash history, "I would be willing to guess that there are few, if any, mentions of this holiday," Hill said.

This year, Juneteenth will be commemorated with protests, marches, and opportunities for healing and joy across the country. It will also be celebrated as it has been for decades, with cookouts and parades as well as church gatherings and spirituals, keeping in touch with the original tradition. In 1937, formerly enslaved man Pierce Harper recalled the first Juneteenth: "When peace come they read the 'Mancipation law to the cullud people. [The freed people] spent that night singin' and shoutin'. They wasn't slaves no more."

...not THE END! Instead it's more a continuation, a seemingly relentless struggle, often fraught with futile and minimal results. Not just from non-Blacks but our own people as well.

Our Publisher has always maintained and constantly reminds our staff...

"IF YOU KNEW BETTER... YOU'D DO BETTER"! And So we ask, are we doing better yet?



Ask anyone familiar with the traditions of Juneteenth, and they'll mention the color red. Culinary historian and writer Michael Twitty proclaims that the historical importance of red food traces back to the times of enslavement. Because many of the more common foods of the day were white, green, or brown, there was an excitement that came with the rarity of eating red colored treats. In the 19th century, this made certain vibrant delicacies worth celebrating. And in the later half of the 1800s, following the Civil War, Black Americans would even occasionally use an expensive South American dye called "cochineal," which was used to color foods red.

But what made the color even more significant was Texas's status as one of the last states to participate in the American slave trade. Twitty explains that many Africans came through Galveston, an island city on the Gulf Coast of the state, which also happens to be the birthplace of Juneteenth. "Texas was at the end of the world to the Antebellum South. There were a lot of enslaved Africans who were coming to Texas from the continent and through the Caribbean. The color red is highly associated with the cultures that would've come through the later years of the trade, which would have been Yoruba and Kongo.



"Both people—the Yoruba of Nigeria, Benin, and Togo; and the Kongo of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, and Gabon—placed great philosophical and spiritual value in the color red. Twitty explains the hue took on many meanings. It could symbolize sacrifice, transition, and power.

"I think that's why red is so potent because you had people in Texas who were born in Africa," Twitty says.

Africans brought their homeland traditions with them, which manifested itself through food and generations of Juneteenth celebrations. Think: red beverages like strawberry sodas and hibiscus tea, or red velvet cake and red beans and rice. Others, like watermelon, also had the convenience factor of being in peak season during the month of June.

Already a staple food of the South, the preparation methods that go into cooking and serving the savory proteins bring in the communal aspect of the holiday. Texas Monthly's barbecue editor, Daniel Vaughn, discovered multiple 19th century newspaper reports that all called for entire communities to gather at the local barbecue pit or grounds to prepare the food and eat together in honor of Juneteenth.



Black-Eyed peas and pork represent wealth, collard greens (or any dish using leafy vegetables) are said to bring good fortune, and corn symbolizes gold. And though not a prosperity meal, potato salad is generally seen as non-negotiable at any decent barbecue gathering.

Collard greens and sweet potatoes both offer historical context, as the foods were easy crops for the enslaved to harvest, store over the winter, and prepare themselves at meal times.

Today, fish fries, crab boils, and seasoned shrimp are also popular—dating back to coastal Southern Black communities where meals were comprised mostly of seafood.

Our Staff sincerely encourages all, to embrace, study and develop your own traditions. Our Freedom and History is not confined to one month or one day in June. It's a lifestyle a culture and more than worthy to be celebrated EVERY DAY!





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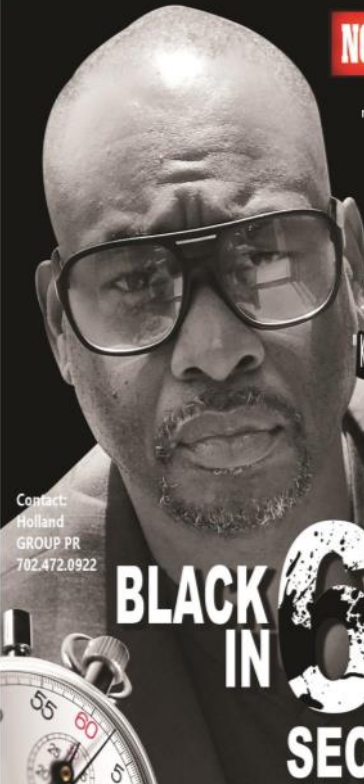
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Legend has it that the Colonel was created and reared in parts between Savannah and the Geechee Gullah Islands. However, nobody really knows.... His life filled with rich stories and experiences has led him to become a beloved legendary figure in the hearts and minds of men, women and children worldwide.



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