

While there may not be a solution that is completely fair regarding reparation obligations, considering the varying moral character of individuals, emphasized with the concept of moral individualism, and the fact that we aren't our predecessors, and there isn't proof of where each of us would stand in regards to the monumental racial injustices done in the past, there nevertheless exists a necessary accountability as white, American individuals to relay understanding and strongly oppositional and negative feelings toward the disgusting racism and oppression that has plagued our country's past. Should those with the power to take intentional measures of reparation on a financial, public, or educational level do so ? The Egalitarian Liberalism, and Utilitarian theories of justice align with, and provide solid reasoning in favor of this.

Egalitarian Liberalism holds the belief that every person should get to experience a life of individual freedom and the increased happiness that this freedom of individual choice brings, but also acknowledges that individuals' ability to do so varies greatly from person to person due to disadvantages that hold people back from doing or achieving things that they wish to do. Egalitarians believe that we should give each person the help they need in order to succeed. And so, in regards to reparations, individuals who are disadvantaged due in part or full to past or present racial injustices should be supported accordingly, whether that be through affirmative action policies to ensure diversity and thus a better college community and learning atmosphere, and/or safeguard against potential remaining biases of authorities who make admission decisions, increased financial aid to compensate for remaining inequality in school resources and quality of

education available to black communities or remaining income injustices due to housing or employment inequalities based on discrimination or past wrongs, unsettled feelings in regards to white views of black people etc..

Utilitarianism focuses solely on trying to achieve the utmost utility; weighing costs versus benefits, or the sum of overall pleasure and pain resulting from an action, arrangement or decision. While the theory can be questionable in terms of human rights, in the case of reparations, I think that Utilitarianism could be well applied and justify reparations on the basis of this cost vs. benefit weighing. Morals of the situation aside, the benefit received by African American individuals from apology and intentional work by school and college systems and financial management may well outweigh the burden it would cause Americans with a historical superiorist identity to have to show or give these intentional reparations. Again, leaving moral goodness and flaw aside, some with racist views may be against moving toward a more equality driven, humanitarian-for-all society in the U.S. But does their pain from having to agree to this commitment despite their opposition and prejudice or superiorist desires really outweigh the pain experienced by African Americans if these efforts are not made, and the injustices and inequality remains? Does their pain outweigh the good that would be experienced by African Americans if these efforts are made ?

A common and notable rebut from opponents of reparations such as affirmative action in admission decisions, or financial reparations is that we should be focusing on class, not on race as an isolated trait. The important issue with this claim or mindset is that it overlooks lingering and significant housing or living community inequality, which black families still are targets of

as a result of discrimination and societal inequality not yet fully repaired. This could mean that black students and families who do still struggle from this would have a more difficult financial situation, even with the same annual income on paper as another family. Or they may have to work more just to pay the bills and consequently not be able to provide their kids with the same kinds of extracurriculars/opportunities and experiences that would look good on a college resume.

Reparations allow us as a population with a racist past to work all the way up toward fixing what was broken, and achieving the full equality and community for black individuals and families that is deserved, and long overdue.