



**The World
Transformed**

Racial Capitalism

Overview:

'Racial capitalism is not merely a type of capitalism ... there is no such thing as non-racial capitalism.' Robin D.G. Kelley

Racialism lies at the heart of capitalism, and the latter was shaped from its inception by racial hierarchies.

The path breaking work of Cedric Robinson shows that racialism existed in Europe prior to the creation of capitalism – rather than breaking with the old order and generating a universal proletariat, capitalism subsumed previously existing racial logics to dispossess and colonise at a global scale.

The resources below demonstrate the historical link between capitalism and racial expropriation. They highlight the ongoing impact of racial capitalism and explore how this understanding can better inform activism today.

Have a look at LBC's guide to organising your own reading group to find out how to do your own

Questions for your discussion:

- What does 'racial capitalism' mean?
- What are the historical and contemporary manifestations of racial capitalism?
- Why is it significant that racial hierarchies existed in Europe before the emergence of capitalism, and what does this mean for our understanding of racial capitalism?
- What do the terms 'expropriation' and 'exploitation' mean, and how do they relate to racial capitalism?



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Key Resources to discuss:

'What is Racial Capitalism and Why Does It Matter?' by Robin D.G. Kelley (Lecture):

<https://bit.ly/2oAe4Gf>

'Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition' by Cedric J. Robinson (Book): Focus on the Foreward and Introduction.

'Minority Report: Race and Class in post-Brexit Britain' by Runnymede (Report): Focus on 3 and 5: <https://bit.ly/2IFU8k1>

Optional:

'Women, Race and Class' by Angela Davis (Book)

'Rethinking Racial Capitalism: Questions of Reproduction and Survival' by Gargi Bhattacharyya (Book)

'Racial Capitalism' by Jodi Melamed (Journal Article): <https://bit.ly/2IHDS24>

'Race and Capitalism' by Mayra Cotta (Note): <https://bit.ly/2kEMiXL> AND 'Expropriation, Exploitation and the Neoliberal Racial Order' by Michael Dawson and Nancy Fraser (Podcast): <https://bit.ly/2kvgG70>

'Capitalism and Slavery' by Eric Williams (Book)

'The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution' by CLR James (Book)

'Black Reconstruction' by W.E.B. Du Bois (Book)