The Role of Art in Advancing Truth & Justice

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Racial Terror Lynchings

Racial terror lynchings were not limited to the South, but the Southern states had the most in the nation: over 4,000 between 1877 and 1930.
The Lasting Legacy of Confederate Monuments

Confederate monuments romanticize a society founded on white supremacy and valorize those who fought on its behalf. Nearly 2000 such monuments stand today throughout the United States.

1841

Confederate Monuments

Racial Terror 1877 1920 1950 1975 Present

Equal Justice Initiative
RACIAL TERROR LYNCHINGS

Thousands of black people were the victims of lynchings and racial violence in the United States between 1877 and 1968. During this era, racial terror lynching of African Americans functioned as a dominant form of violent resistance to emancipation and equal rights. For African Americans, lynching facilitated black people and enhanced racial hierarchies and segregation. Racial terror lynching was most prevalent in the South and was used to uphold white supremacy and reorder decades of political, racial, and economic exploitation. Lynching became the most public and notorious form of terror and subjugation. While mobs were usually permitted to engage in racial terror and brutal violence with impunity, many black people were pulled out of jail or given over to mobs by law enforcement officials who were legally required to protect them. Terror lynchings often included burning and mutilation, sometimes in front of schools, and lynched in the thousands. Many of the names of lynching victims were not recorded and will never be known, but over 1,200 documented lynchings of black people took place in Texas alone, including Mr. Linminton and Mr. Darnell Evans, who was lynched on May 21, 1906, in Shelby County.

Equal Justice Initiative 2018
FROM ENSLAVEMENT TO MASS INCARCERATION
FOR THE HANGED AND BEaten.
FOR THE SHOT, DROWNED, AND BURNED.
FOR THE TORTURED, TORMENTED, AND TERRORIZED.
FOR THOSE ABANDONED BY THE RULE OF LAW.
WE WILL REMEMBER.
WITH HOPE BECAUSE HOPELESSNESS IS THE ENEMY OF JUSTICE.
WITH COURAGE BECAUSE PEACE REQUIRES BRAVERY.
WITH PERSISTENCE BECAUSE JUSTICE IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE.
WITH FAITH BECAUSE WE SHALL OVERCOME.
Guided by Justice
Dana King
TRUE PEACE IS NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF TENSION; IT IS THE PRESENCE OF JUSTICE.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.