

Making Whole

What Has Been Smashed

On Reparations Politics

John Torpey



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DESCRIPTION

Making Whole What Has Been Smashed explores the spread in recent years of political efforts to rectify injustices handed down from the past. Although it recognizes that campaigns for reparations may lead to an improvement in the well-being of victims of mistreatment by states and to reconciliation among former antagonists, this timely book, featuring a new and updated preface, examines the extent to which the concern with the past may represent a departure from the traditionally future-oriented stance of progressive politics.

Viewing the search for “coming to terms with the past” as a form of politics, John Torpey argues that there are major differences between reparations for the living victims of past wrongdoing and reparations for the descendants of such victims. More fundamentally, he argues that claims for reparations comprise a relatively novel kind of politics that involves a quest for symbolic recognition and material compensation for those seeking them—through the idiom of the past rather than the present. This reissue is the first paperback edition and contains a new preface by the author.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

JOHN TORPEY is Presidential Professor of Sociology and History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the Graduate Center. He is the author or coauthor of eight books, including *The Three Axial Ages: Moral, Material, Mental* (Rutgers University Press).

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