

Everything You Don't Know is Intentional

Quick history run.

The first slave ship docked on Virginia shores in 1619. For over two centuries, America's economic model was just treating actual human beings like line items on an Excel spreadsheet but let's be more blunt about what the history books try to soften: Slavery was the first money-printing machine in American history. Trillions of dollars went into the global economy while the people generating that wealth weren't allowed to keep a dime. When it comes to how this wealth was built, **everything you don't know is intentional**.

Take Juneteenth for instance.

Our textbooks love to frame **June 19th, 1865**, as the exact moment freedom was neatly wrapped up and handed over. Except it was never a gift, What most people are missing is that Juneteenth was the day America was forced to admit that its "founded on freedom" campaign was merely a terrible slogan hiding a demonic economic structure. And that structure didn't just vanish overnight, it dragged its feet. Even when the end of slavery officially arrived on paper, the reality on the ground was basically the 19th-century version of leaving people on read. It took nearly two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation for the news to actually hit Texas.

(**Side note:** The crazy part is Lincoln didn't end slavery out of the goodness of his heart. He did it because it was a solid and calculated business move for the free market. A capitalist system thrives on wage-earning consumers who can actually buy goods. The North looked at the South and realized a flaw in their business model. How do you maximize profits if a massive percentage of the population isn't allowed to spend money?)

That delay ended when Union Major General Gordon Granger marched into Galveston, Texas, with federal troops. He wasn't there to ask nicely, he was there to enforce General Order No. 3, finally declaring that all slaves were free. But while Granger's announcement felt like the end of a long misery, it was really just the opening chapter of a new hardship.

The end of slavery didn't come with an invitation to the table. In fact, on the exact day Black Americans were thrust into "freedom," the Union army essentially provided the barest necessities and left them to navigate a hostile society built entirely on a white dominant complex. They were forced to physically fight their way into integrated schools and public spaces, starting from absolute zero against a society with a 250-year economic head start.

How insane is the design when you actually look at it? The framework was basically: "Hey, let's free millions of traumatized people, give them zero compensation, and force them to live side-by-side with the literal descendants of the people who just owned them like property." Yet, we treat this piece of history like optional trivia.

Look at your own circle. If you grew up white in America with little to no Black friends, confronting this history is uncomfortable. It forces you to question how you were raised, or at least, it really should. To actually break that wall down, you have to stop looking at things superficially and ask the raw questions: How many Black friends do you actually have? How many do your parents have? How many did your grandparents have? If that number shrinks closer to zero the further back you look, the disconnect becomes glaring. To put it in perspective, if your grandparents are in their early 70s, they were born into an America where legal lynching, employment barriers, and redlining weren't ancient history, they were the norm.

But staying historically illiterate brings comfort, and comfort requires active forgetting. They say ignorance is bliss for a reason. The ripples of Juneteenth are vibrating all around us, but it is always easier to look away when the truth is simply too damning.

We like to pretend our blind spots are just accidental gaps in memory, but that's the ultimate delusion. Because at the end of the day, **everything you don't know is intentional.**