



THE RISE AND DEFEAT OF (RADICAL RECONSTRUCTION

Racism, Slavery, and Police



Social justice activists reach to try to understand and explain the nature of police. Are they all bad?
Is that even the fundamental question?

Maybe people know something about the history of slave catchers, but it's kind of a fragmented reference



They want to be able to explain what white supremacy is, but often only have identity or moral tools at their disposal.



But there is an
UNDERSTANDABLE
and **EXPLAINABLE**
history behind all this



Broad strokes

There are plenty of fancy terms out there. My goal is to break things down as much as possible in a few slides. I surely cannot give this topic it's due justice. But here is my attempt.



Racism is an institutional problem. It is bound to the system itself AND all its institutions **on a molecular level.**



Racism was a tool used to justify
slavery

the dominant production method used by a
wing of wealthy landowners in the U.S South
from the mid 1700 to the mid 1800s.



More specifically **RACISM** was used to differentiate between non Black and Black rural slaves. **When Blacks and whites were both enslaved together, numerous cases began developing with unified uprisings.**

Examples to look up: Bacon's Rebellion (1676), The Gloucester County Conspiracy (September 1663),



The ideological advance of RACISM and the division it created opened the door for the super exploitation, rape and other atrocities that befell Blacks.



Poor, white rural toilers under slavery still held the short end of the stick in comparison to the large farmers, but they were duped or forced into accepting slightly better conditions and an ideological notion of superiority.



Slavery was used here for the same reasons as other parts of the world...out of the needs of those in power for cheap labor. This was an expanding agricultural economy in the beginning and landowners wanted the land tilled cheap. Cotton became a staple crop

Racism was used to justify the enslavement and ownership of its cheap labor pool -- Black people -- deeming them subhuman



Police in the South -- in part -- were formed from hired mercenary 'slave catchers' contracted out by rich southern slave owners to recover "their property."



These slave catchers of the time, were also victimized in a sense and made into fodder for the slavocracy.



Many of them were conscripted. Forced to leave their tiny farms against their will to become these enforcers.

Many of their farms fell into ruin. Some lost their land and their families suffered extreme hardships due to the conscription.



But who gives a F\$% about
those slave catchers?

Why is this history important?



Because it is part of the resentment this system bred
into this layer of society..

Separated from their land and their family to keep Black
slaves in line, they were bound to take frustrations out
doubly on who they caught. Doing that reinforced their
reactionary ideas and perceptions. Further separated
them from any notion of solidarity.



Were there slave catchers chomping at the bit to kill Black folks? **Of course.** Were there some that really didn't have the stomach for it and did just enough to get by? **Of course.**

But the NATURE of their task in the slavocracy – forced or not – is what made each one of them an enemy to justice and part of the problem.



Meanwhile in that same era of the early 1800s, a growing phenomena was happening with the industrial revolution.

Manufacturing plants were drawing more and workers into concentrated areas in the North. Some American born, but many Irish, German, Scandinavian and Italian immigrants



This Industrial Revolution and new form of wage labor created high concentrations of workers -- in rising cities. Rich families wanted a buffer between these "filthy" workers and themselves, both socially and for early labor disputes.



When workers of the time decided to protest and riot for better working and living conditions, the Owners needed a force to quell any activity that threatened their profits. So was born one species of modern police.



So police came into existence as a result of the birth of the modern working class in the 1800s and slave unrest in that period. They began as a creation to protect and defend the interests of the wealthy with force and brutality if necessary.



Police were created to keep “order” for the rich. But “disorder” was and is mostly just regular people joining forces to demand a better life. But this threatens the position and stability of the powers that be.



After the end of slavery, no substantial revamping of police purpose took place. No major firings or restructuring took place. Their fundamental purpose since they began remains unchanged.



Even the actual people -- cops, sheriffs, etc -- by and large didn't change through any of this history around slavery and Reconstruction, lest they died or were replaced for normal reasons.