

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead**

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet**
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY WWW.rainbowroundtable.net**
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST**
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I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on “64K Listen”

*** Thursday: *A Night at the Round Table* Hosts: Panel Members**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

*** Friday: *Friday Night Hard News* Hosts: Tara & Rama**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-641-741-1704 Access Code: 353 863#

*** Saturday: *History of our Galactic World & NESARA* Hosts: Tara & Rama**
1:30 pm Pacific / 4:30 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-720 716 7301 – Access Code: 353 863#

Call to interact / ask questions:

Canada & US: STATION 2 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

B CALL-TO-LISTEN 1-804-220-6484

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in first column, LHS, **FIND TALK SHOW**
- Enter *Friday Hard News*, press the GO button. You’ll be taken directly to **Hard News on Friday**; click on **“Archives”** which takes you to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
- You can listen directly or download the program to your own computer.
 - To listen directly, click on the arrow on the black bar.
 - To download, go to **Episode MP3 link**. Then **right click** on the name **'hardnewsonfriday including the date'** and the drop down menu appears. Click on **'save link as'**

E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:
www.rainbowroundtable.net - look under the "Archives" tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast, and links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY RainbowRoundtable.net

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls
By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#

B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST Host is Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:** • 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing: 712-770-4160 **PIN #** 980339 [always the same]

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype **Click on the VOIP button** and enter what they ask for:
<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call
By telephone only: 1-712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay# [good for 1 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday The Abundance Call - Caroline Oceana Ryan
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern 60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Cheryl Croci who opens the Saturday show!

Does a meditation, and some ascension work . . .

B. Mayan Calendar: Rainbird is not present: what follows is the outline that didn't get filled in

- **Go to** <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave

- **to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to <https://www.spacestationplaza.com>** which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

18th Fri – 4 CIMI – White Self-Existing World Bridger – Warrior Aspect – moving into a state of grace; moving between past and future; let go of ego, that which is no more;

19th Sat - 5 MANIK – Blue Overtone Hand – Healing Aspect –
Tone 5: commanding, radiance, empower; the hand: know, healing, accomplishment
Working in the 3rd cycle – working with the earth
Ix the Wizard is the Spirit Guide for the day

20th Sun – 6 LAMAT – Yellow Rhythmic Stargate – Solstice + Fathers Day
Solstice is with us all week Lamat: about beauty, art, elegance -

21st Mon – 7 MULUC – Red Resonant Moon - 7 tone is inspiring, channeling – connecting earth and Heaven; purify, universal water – also a portal day.

22nd Tues – 8 OC – White Galactic Dog – about healing the pain of the past;

23rd Wed – 9 CHUEN – Blue Solar Monkey – magical

24th Thur – 10 EB – Yellow Planetary Human full moon + portal day
planetary tone is about manifesting things into

25th Fri – 11 BEN – Red Spectral Skywalker – getting rid of what no longer serves us

www.Spacestationplaza.co **Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.**
For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: CHERYL CROCI

- Asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**

BBS: 804-220-6484 PEOPLE CAN NOW PHONE IN TO LISTEN TO THE CALLS!!

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **Need \$300 for this week - all caught up . . . Thank you, thank you, thank you ! . .**
- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Friday Hard News Call & Paypal** button
- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:
B B S RADIO [Please put **"Attention Don"** on the envelope]
1500 Pleasant Hill RD [Note inside that it's for T & R calls]
Lafayette, CA 94549 [& the Thursday call, as well]
- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone**; there are archives on www.rainbowroundtable.net All are free to access.

T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage of www.rainbowroundtable.net**

FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net

Rama has a pride of 9 Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = 13 in total

BASICS: Food for Paschats, the car, T & R - **\$150 – FOR THIS WEEK**
BILLS: **\$400**

- **Please notify T & R when sending something:** koran9999@comcast.net
EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED
PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

- **Rama's mailing address** for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

**** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) ****

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with **Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM**
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: Rama and Tara are being helped by this account: they get their supplements there. **The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net**

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**

Also, check out the heading called **READ MORE** for the good information it has

D. Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-june-18-2021>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-804-220-6484 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 2.

HARD NEWS: Rama, Tara [R,T]

DALAI LAMA TODAY Dalai Lama @DalaiLama · [16h](#)

People face difficulties in many parts of the world, but since all seven billion of us live on this one planet we should be united and stand in solidarity with each other. When this blue planet is viewed from space, there are no national boundaries to be seen.

R: Call from Rom the Cat, LARRY and Curly – who said:

- President Biden supports Abortion Rights; Vatican has condemned him for that stance- they want him out! [He's a devout catholic]
- Stories from all over the world about ships being seen, people interacting
Sometime around June 25, news related to Disclosure – news from pentagon, but it will be tainted: they want to make ET the enemy – that has been cancelled
- Call on us, we are here! Lord Michael likes Jasmine Tea

T: Happy Father's day – to Don and family in Houston

- Happy Juneteenth day [actually 19th]
- Putting Kevin Strickland in the circle – 43 years in prison for something he didn't too – 1978 murders he did not commit
 - Gov of Missouri did not prioritize Strickland's clemency request

CONFERENCE CALL

<https://fccdl.in/mYF54i17K3>

Questions about the call-in # - is it operational? Has it changed? Various other comments

T: communications and Mercury retrograde; where they live is difficult too

Gives a # for connection by phone – one caller has been using and found it didn't work!

T: today is the first day that Don and Doug – are back in action

Ca/Pa: can now say "Houston! We have a problem!" Having a bout of shingles

Ca/RGM: did you call a roofer for your shingles?

- Eye surgery this am – another great success! 2nd eye – freezing coming ou

Ca/PA: 3rd eye is good too!

RGM: is awake while it happens; gives them feedback while they work – a really dense cataract so used the old techniques to do it; a gifted surgeon

- Sat am – will have a quick review by the surgeon
 - need to do your own research on what might happen – his cataracts were like cement and so the condition of the retina was unavailable – but they could see it with ultra sound technology
 - before when he read, it was 4' in front of his face, in 36 pt print
 - now can see a foot away, with regular 10 pt print

T: wonderful connection with the surgeon from what was said: and angels are around all of us!

Ca/SO: has had friends who've surgery too – colours are vivid!

RGM: his lens have a slight blue tint – and it goes away as the eye heals

- and the entire brain has to re-configure everything – the right eye did about a70% of the work and it got a rest – not sure if he will need reading glasses -
- only 2 manufacturers in the world make the lens for this kind of work, and also eye drops

- Various callers: commenting that if the cataracts come back, can be treated with lasers

Ca/SO: congratulations on having sight again

RGM: the senses he relied on to make up for the lack of sight are still there

T: the miracle of us is coming through the support system for RGM – the magic we do manifests through each of us – it’s real! The magic that world group service manifests

- we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear in spite of what traditional medicine has -
- She said to RAMA that NESARA IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, BASED ON THE MESSAGES HE GETS
 - And **he said Yes** – every day they are taking care of details – meticulously
 - there are higher ways than judgmentalism – remain in unconditional divine neutrality as Judgmentalism never results in anything positive

T: she and R did a homeopathic vaccine project:

- can get ill from someone else even if they had a shot – they are off gassing
- Pine needle extract is available – whether you’ve had a shot or not, you can get sick from them – the pine needle extract would be useful for all of us
- Reads a letter written by Claire, their homeopath [TO HEAR THE ENTIRE TEXT, ACCESS LINK ABOVE](#)

To whom it may concern:

- Her clients have had 4 rounds the treatments they have received
- I am trained to administer a natural response to the
- I am also an accredited associate supervisor with CHSI – Free and Health Children International
- New Mexico is a health freedom state that allows people to make

Free and Healthy Children – thinks they can provide documentation as well

the fact that she said that in NM is a health freedom state – maybe red states are a little different

- T’s son Christopher had an accident on his bike – one knee – a rip in the tissue that keeps the bones together in the back of the knee - T has suggested that maybe he could get the surgery done in the office, as to go to hospital means taking the covid test with the swab up the nose – WHICH GIVES YOU COVID!
 - Asks for support for Christopher for this to be done . . .

Ca/SO: suggest to look for a **functional medical practitioner** - they don’t use the same channels as traditional doctors – her daughter used such a professional with success

- They are licensed too
- they use only certain labs – look at things completely differently – see what other drs can’t see: like taking off the blindfolds

Ca/Bi: has followed Mr Keshe and the life enhancement units – talks about how they work

T: have to get them started

SO: the Harmony Egg is another tool – [not of Keshe] – googled Harmony Egg practitioner – they do exist

Ca/Chi: a conversation with Pe – a good question to ask T:
would you know how many people are clones in our gov’t?

T: a whole lot of them . . .

R: he doesn't get to know who's who – yet can kinda tell: sorta look like they're part of the matrix and sound like it – does not know how many are out there – hopes that the Deep State will be losing their money soon!

Ca/Pa: are these clones on a short lease?

T: Thinks they are controlled – doesn't know how it works

R: Yes, Andrea Mitchell is a clone – has been around for a very long time; she and Alan Greenspan worshipped at the feet of Ayn Rand and the Rand Corporation!

PA – saw Don Lemon's book about his dad – interviewed by Ari Melber today

SO: 9/11 and Greenspan to announce Nesara; he was already working for deep state – being forced to announce NESARA tho' he was not of the Light

R: Alan G was maybe trying to signal to the rest of the world, there was a change coming yet Mr W [H W Bush] and Darth Vader Dick [Dick Cheney] had other plans

- all is related to the players connected to World Bank, IMF and other shadowy figures that control the so-called presidency – Alan is part of the band –
 - 9/11 was a coup d'état
 - January 6th was another one – there is a war going on between the various ABC agencies – now always looking over their shoulders
- as Michael Fronte sings 'always the same'
- and how do we change? Honoring Juneteenth and as we trust and have the faith we are backed up by all the good ones- those on the tv and elsewhere are scared sh**less – what they have in no way can meet [what's coming]
- as Dr Greer says, this situation could have been ended a long time ago – yet here we are! And there is the Force – and Living Light, Living Love –
 - Babaji did this ages and ages ago – and there are many other living masters in bodies who transmuted them into bodies of Living Light, Living Love: it's about activating the SOMA in the brain -
- what they are playing with is things that distract us away from meditation and other forms of contemplation – yet we must do this, as that is how we change
 - he's watching them shoot themselves in the foot, as they push imaginary stories – like the election which is about the machinations of the Deep State – and Kamala Harris has been read into the higher levels
- this can be ended any second but they want us to get it :VIOLENCE DOES NOT WORK – WE ARE TO TAKE BACK OUR POWER WITH LOVE.

RGM: want to announce: once the current ayatollah is out of power, and he returns to Iran will publicly teach how to contact the Universal Council and educate the people of earth that they have been here along time – needs the change of leadership first -

Will be done through the tv station; they are moving into bigger quarters to prepare

R: Rouhani won't be back in the other position

RGM: has served all he can

R: knows they want moderate there!

Before the Ayatollah, Iran was a free country – no hajib, etc

Ca/Bi: to R – did you go to the website and look at the contract ?

R: yes and yes, he clicked on it

BI: also put \$100 on the contract – did you see it?

- He added a contract as they are his sponsors in Freemart, and as they signed up for the smart contract -

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE END OF THE CALL FOR THE info re: Freemart coins

B B S RADIO

AUDIO: THE BIGGER PICTURE by Patricia Cota-Robles www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 223 WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN TRANSFIGURING OUR EARTHLY BODIES

<https://youtu.be/FJLOepLWsj4>



AUDIO: [The Ascended Masters Broadcasts](#)

<https://radiantroseacademy.com/sanctuary/loving-our-planet-free/the-ascended-masters-broadcasts/>

Archangel Raphael – June 18th 2021: [Listen/download](#)

<https://instantteleseminar.com/Events/126759495>

MOTHER SEKHMET / ALCYONE [M/A]

Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One! In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame.

Greetings, Children of Ra!

Indeed, Happy Juneteenth! Time for justice on this planet – it begins with mercy and compassion. She shows up in this fiasco of changing dimensions, changing realities. She commends us all for being here, going through this 'stuff' – not for the faint of heart!

- It's a challenge to be in these bodies at this time. Like you've been hearing from all the folks, so to speak: the energies are only getting higher, and this transfiguration of our sun is intricately connected with us
- It is - as we change, the sun is changing exponentially, and it is an inter- relationship – the shift that we're in is the Shift of the Ages, and it is HUGE! The old world order is running as fast as they can to keep us all distracted: it's not working, they are . . . Let's say, it's why She is here and the story that is coming to pass here. . .
- What happened 26, 826 years ago, when Her ship passed through our solar system: climate disruption, conflict, consciousness: it's happening again!
 - this time around, there will be no extinction level events, yet they're pushing and pushing hard
 - and She can say the Light has already won. As we heard from AA Raphael – call him in and his leagues and leagues of angels and all the rest. They are here: expect them.
 - The time is in this moment when this realm is shifting faster than She knows the words to speak
 - 'cos it is about what is happening in each one of us who has made the choice to change this story right now.
 - The study of war is no more and, in the same breath, She can say there is so much unfolding that it is all They can do to keep up with it. She sees this and that's why the Masters, the angels, are saying: "Call us in; we are here."
 - This can make a difference as She are in our atmosphere and the Dark Side knows it.
 - the stakes have never been higher

T: They are acting out worse than ever: is that the button You pushed?

M/A: Let's say - Tom told this one today

- we are here along with the Captain and along with legions and legions of folks; it's happening and at the same time the Matrix is what it is: collapsing
- Let's say: choose love over fear – that is the deal!

T: Can we end the politics around war and killing for profit?

M/A: Yes. And as the truth comes out about their ancient stories here - when Her wayward children came in acting like angels and were really the devil in the back yard – things got a little messy

- We're at the point now where the old power structures – call this " search of the rock" – gotta have rocks in your head to think a false god is going to save you. The only ones that are here – we are saving ourselves, along with the Company of Heaven, as Patti calls them. That is Us!
- This is a huge deal, and yes there are stories out there of the sun about as it goes through its transfiguration – there may be a moment where the cities go dark and these are all stories about the old paradigm of a kill shot coming from the sun
 - the sun is a living, breathing reflection of the Great Central Sun. The reflections up and down the scale are about the radiance of the heart, the magnificent magnetic energies –
 - these energies pouring in are about the plasma fields that are changing our physical structure with all the various particles that make up this matter/anti-matter mess [?]
 - And it is quite profound to behold.

- What She can say in this moment: the silence that is coming forth from the cosmos is most deafening, as it is about the sound of one hand clapping. She speaks about the tremendous energy coming in from Galactic Center that has activated Sol, Helios and Vesta, all the way up, and this is the key that shifts it all.
 - As we merge our consciousness with the sun, we can experience healing – taste it, feel it, touch it, like the song *The Who* sings: See me, heal me, touch me, heal me `

T: liked the song when it came out

M/A: Yes! It is about this radiant energy that is touching all our lives. It is a conundrum- no one on this planet yet has talked about the sun as a portal except these whistleblowers who know, who are all here to take it to the next level.

- And we can argue the side that earth is already ascending and it is not any one time that cannot feel it: can feel it constantly; it is that bell, that sound, that goes through all of creation and it ain't gonna stop because it is about that Oneness that we are all part of.
 - This completion cycle is at hand: all of life can feel it !

T: There is a little paschat wondering who you are, Mother!

M/A: Yes. It is this cosmic moment here as we all get to look each other in the eye - no veils – we may have fur or feathers or fins or scales – or tails

T: Just don't pull yours, right?

M/A: You'll see what happens

T: That's OK – she has a good imagination!

M/A: It's this cosmic moment here: the only thing we fear is fear itself, and that's the biggest issue they are playing with. As we stand in the light of the radiance of the Sun, it transforms, transfigures you – ain't got nothing to hide and right now, Our children, the ones who decided to play masters of the universe, are at their end.

- She would just say: send all these situations with more love, cos' it's that time in the City

T: Indeed . . .

M/A: She's got miles to go before She sleeps

T: doesn't matter at this point whether NESARA is enacted today or tomorrow: it's already happening

M/A: **It IS** already happening in the context of they - the Deep State – cannot hide the fact that earth has been being visited for millions of years by friends and neighbours

T: It would be nice if all the guns stopped working, Mother ! !

M/A: That is the next shoe; that is the next shoe that is in the process of blocking as the energies raise it up – we're gonna the change as accountability is on the table

T: The whole world is looking at Sleepy Joe and the whole world can see something is wrong – he said Drumpf instead of Putin in his little talk the other day

M/A: Yes, it is . . .

T: and the side view can see how aged he is – walks kind of rigidly

M/A: Like a life form that has a remote control somewhere – let's just say . . .

T: it's like Custer's last stand or something – all the summits, one after the next - one last call . .

M/A: She can say that as the energies are shifting as we approach this summer solstice with the sun going through the transfiguration, expect magic and miracles of the most wonderful kind!

T: there is a new Nuremburg Trial in preparation: going after the Davos Forum - the ones who have orchestrated all the deaths

M/A: it is time that those folks get their tickets punched on the train

T: And the ones in the Vatican too - what 2 cents do they have that they think they can edict Biden out because they don't like his stand re abortions like the bullies they act like . .

M/A: Petty dictators and tyrants that got that deviant strain like Thanos – they don't get it that there is an orchestration to the Universe, and that the Eternals are the ones calling the shots –

- it is about how balance is being brought back to this local universe, and Love is the answer not war, or hate, or death, or racism- the idea that I have purple skin and you have blue skin - what's the deal? We are all equal here
- Honour the fact that we are on a magical planet that can interact with us
 - It is, as she speaks, we can hear her breathing, hear her talking – Listen to the sound of her heart - listen with the sound of her heart – she will answer
 - This is what is going on: climate disruption, consciousness, conflict: She says it again – when you get your consciousness in balance, the conflict stops and the climate responds
 - it's that simple: Love is the answer and you then can go skinny dipping in the lake – only to give an example!

T: There's been a lot of diligence and persistence; it would be great to see the reaping of what we've sown, in terms of the Light coming through – what are they gonna think up next?

M/A: the fact that they are playing with the idea of carrying votes in a cabin in Montana

T: there is a protocol: not supposed to touch the ballots for 22 months after an election -

M/A: All of this is B S, and We leave it there

T: it's against the law – t

M/A: Correct!

T: They aren't even hiding it now - have all the voter suppression laws – just want to kill democracy and kill it again, kill it again

- Well - Mother – think you're on the stage here somewhere . . .

M/A: Yes, we're going to have to figure out how to introduce ourselves, and Asthar will do a great job!

- Most folks would be a little more amicable, meeting Captain Ashtar, as they would be to meet Her: yet we are right here – call on us! Like much of ??? too
- Better go – miles to go before She sleeps

T: yes, we are ready – gonna be a hot one this summer!

M/A: Yes

BOTH: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One -
Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish – Adonai SabeothAdonai . . .

Rama Returns Went to The New Jerusalem: a briefing in a conference room and many folks were there, discussing and cussing about how things are gonna burst here

- things are moving so fast and it is. . . he can just say we'll be getting a briefing from the Captain any time – wish he knew name the hour: they will wake us up; well feel it!

T: everybody is pretty ready; in a sense it's so ridiculous, it's boring – 20 Million Afghans are starving to death; we don't even know how many are starving to death in Yemen . . .

MUSIC: It's for all of this, and also for Don & Doug of B B S Radio

It was chosen for last night's program, *A Night at the Roundtable*, and technical difficulties meant the program did not happen

Heart of a Lion – with Alex Boyé

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3wP6YItI9U>

AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW! [SEE BELOW FOR TRANSCRIPTS AND NOTES]

2021-06-18 HEADLINES

2021-06-18 Clint Smith on Juneteenth & Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America

2021-06-18 "Here I Am": Meet a Descendant of One of 272 Enslaved People Sold on June 19, 1838, by Georgetown U.

AUDIO: REDACTED TONIGHT 2021-06-19

VIDEO: [Redacted Tonight: Havana syndrome, BDS blocks Israeli ship, Peruvian elections](#)

PODCAST: <https://soundcloud.com/rttv/redacted-tonight-havana-syndrome-bds-blocks-israeli-ship-peruvian-elections>

Years ago, US diplomats in Cuba accused the Cuban government of using a high-tech mystery weapon to give them slight headaches. Now the story has resurfaced and this time they're accusing the Russians of the same thing. Lee Camp reviews the corporate media's collective freakout over the sci-fi conspiracy theory. They see what they're calling "*Havana Syndrome*" as a gift for ratings now that Trump is gone and their viewership is falling.

Next, Camp reports on a new study with questionable funding that found children are bored of the outdoors, and the BDS activists who stopped an Israeli cargo ship from entering a California dock.

Anders Lee joins Camp to end the show on the socialist victory in the recent Peruvian elections, and a QAnon-affiliated anti-human-trafficking organization that had made some interesting decisions.

Bioweapons In U.S.

<https://www.portable.tv/series/redactedtonight?v=e2783c1c-ceb0-41f6-b18d-4732011ceec5>

Lee Camp on US's history with bioweapons & other experiments on its citizens. He also looks into the US kidnapping of a Venezuelan diplomat. Anders Lee on John McAfee's death, Britney Spears' fight for freedom, & more.

AUDIO: The Thom Hartmann Show

2021-06-18 **Could Money Market Funds Collapse? (w/ Prof. Richard Wolff)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwtqJKHG67A>

Are money market funds at risk? And, if so, what should Americans do? Is the Stock Market About to Crash?

Prof. Richard Wolff joined Thom to discuss the government spending beyond tax income, at what point does someone scream "STOP"?

Professor Richard Wolff is an economist / Co-founder, Democracy At Work / Author of numerous books - his latest is ***The Sickness is the System: When Capitalism Fails to Save Us from Pandemics or Itself*** (now also available as an eBook)

Audio: The late Show with Stephen Colbert

Jon Baptiste performing "Freedom" from his latest record

Reading: An explanation about the meaning of *Summer Solstice* – June 20/21
from Robyn La Plante

Closing: Rainbird – is doing ceremony tonight

Rama's Choices:

Alan Watt – Making Peace with Life 2021-04-23
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpGmHxBB2iQ>

Music – Fire of the sun, Fire of the night

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2021-06-18 HEADLINES

2021-06-18 **Biden Signs Bill Making Juneteenth a Federal Holiday Commemorating End of Slavery**



President Biden has signed legislation creating a new federal holiday for Juneteenth to mark the end of slavery in the United States. The celebration marks June 19, the day in 1865 that enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned of the Emancipation Proclamation — signed by Abraham Lincoln more than two years prior — and that the Civil War had ended. A White House signing ceremony Thursday was kicked off by Kamala Harris, the first African American vice president.

Vice President Kamala Harris: “We are gathered here in a house built by enslaved people. We are footsteps away from where President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. And we are here to witness President Joe Biden establish Juneteenth as a national holiday.”

Senate GOP to Filibuster Voting Rights Legislation, Reject Sen. Manchin Compromise Bill



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell signaled Thursday Republicans will use the filibuster to block the For the People Act, a sweeping bill to restore protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which was gutted by the Supreme Court in 2013. McConnell’s pledge came as Senate Republicans rejected a compromise offer of a watered-down voting bill offered by West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin. Senator Manchin and Arizona’s Kyrsten Sinema have refused calls from within their party to eliminate the filibuster in order to pass voting rights legislation, an infrastructure bill to combat catastrophic climate change, and other priorities of the Biden administration.

House Votes to Repeal War Powers Granted to President Ahead of U.S.-Led Invasion of Iraq



The House of Representatives has voted to repeal sweeping war powers granted to the president in 2002 ahead of the U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Iraq. The bill to repeal the AUMF — or Authorization for Use of Military Force — was sponsored by California Democratic Congressman Barbara Lee. On September 14, 2001, days after the al-Qaeda attacks on the U.S., Lee spoke on the House floor opposing military action against Afghanistan. She was the lone voice of dissent on that day and went on to oppose the Iraq invasion in 2003. Congressman Lee spoke again from the House floor Thursday, just ahead of the 268-161 vote in favor of repealing the AUMF.

Rep. Barbara Lee: "Now 18 years ago, in front of the infamous 'mission accomplished' banner backdrop, former President Bush told the nation that the major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In 2011, President Obama brought our combat troops home. And yet this authority remains on the books, vulnerable to misuse, because Congress has not acted to remove it. The Bush administration, yes, misled the American people by saying there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, that Iraq posed an imminent threat and by drawing a false connection between the tragic events of 9/11 and Saddam Hussein. Those lies and misinformation had deadly consequences. The mistakes continue to haunt us today."

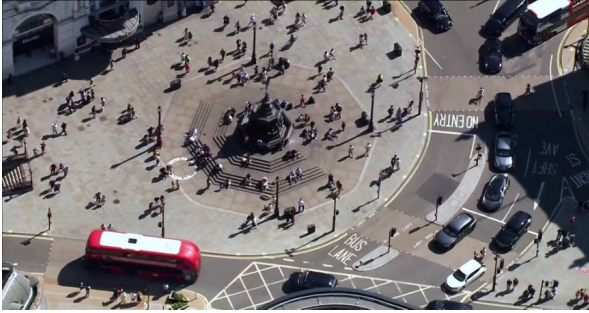
The bill now heads to the Senate, where Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has promised to oppose a repeal of the AUMF.

Brazilian Senate Inquiry Reveals Bolsonaro Ignored Pfizer's Offers to Supply COVID-19 Vaccines



Brazil reported another 2,300 COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, bringing its official death toll during the pandemic to nearly half a million. This comes as a Brazilian Senate inquiry into President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic shows his government failed to respond to 53 out of 81 communications sent by Pfizer offering to negotiate the sale of COVID vaccines to Brazil — leading to a disastrous delay in mass vaccinations.

British Lockdown to Continue Until July 19 as Delta Coronavirus Variant Drives Surge of Cases



In the United Kingdom, coronavirus infections have surged to a four-month high, even though 63% of people have received at least one dose of a vaccine — a higher rate than in the United States. British officials say the Delta coronavirus variant is spreading rapidly, especially among unvaccinated youth. This week Prime Minister Boris Johnson extended public health restrictions for another month.

Israel Bombs Gaza Strip in Second Breach of Ceasefire That Capped Deadly May Assault



Israeli warplanes bombed several sites in the Gaza Strip overnight in the second breach of the ceasefire that ended Israel's 11-day bombardment of the besieged Palestinian territory in May. Israel's military said the strikes targeted Hamas in retaliation for incendiary balloons launched from Gaza. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Israel's assault last month killed at least 253 Palestinians, including 66 children, and wounded more than 1,900 people. At least 12 people in Israel, including two children, were killed by rockets fired from Gaza. U.N. human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said Israel's actions may have constituted "war crimes."

Palestinians Mourn West Bank Teenagers Killed While Protesting Illegal Israeli Settlements



In the West Bank, hundreds of Palestinians rallied Thursday at the funeral of Ahmed Shamsa, a 16-year-old shot in the head by Israeli forces at a protest Wednesday in the town of Beita. He was killed less than a week after Israeli soldiers shot dead 15-year-old Mohammed Hamayel at another protest against the expansion of

an illegal Israeli settlement in Beita. Local Palestinians say Israeli settlers have repeatedly raided their town to chop down olive trees and vandalize their property with impunity.

Iranians Begin Voting in Presidential Election



In Iran, voters are at the polls today to elect a new president. Ebrahim Raisi, the conservative head of the judiciary and close ally of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is widely expected to win. Raisi is under U.S. sanctions for his alleged involvement in the execution of political prisoners decades ago. The new president will succeed Hassan Rouhani at a crucial time, as talks continue to relaunch the Iran nuclear deal, from which the U.S. unilaterally withdrew in 2018 under President Trump, reimposing sweeping sanctions on Iran.

North Korea's Kim Jong-un Acknowledges Food Crisis Due to Sanctions, COVID-19 and Crop Failures



In a rare acknowledgment, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said Wednesday his nation faces widespread food shortages due to international sanctions, the COVID-19 pandemic and crop failures caused by last summer's typhoons. The World Food Programme says about 40% of North Korea's population is undernourished.

Bolivian Ex-Defense Minister Plotted to Use U.S. Mercenaries to Launch Coup in 2020



The Intercept reports a top official in the outgoing Bolivian government plotted to deploy hundreds of mercenaries from a U.S. military base near Miami to overturn the results of Bolivia's election in October of 2020. Though the coup plot was never carried out, documents and recorded phone calls reveal the former Bolivian minister of defense, Luis Fernando López, discussed the plan with Joe Pereira, a former civilian

administrator with the U.S. Army. Pereira, who has boasted of links to U.S. Special Forces, promised López he could mobilize thousands of foreign mercenaries to join elite Bolivian military units, renegade police squadrons and vigilante mobs to prevent Bolivia's Movement to Socialism party from retaking power.

Joe Pereira: "I can get up to 10,000 men with no problem. I don't think we need 10,000. ... All Special Forces. I can also bring about 350 what we call LEPs, law enforcement professionals, to guide the police."

Socialist candidate Luis Arce went on to win the Bolivian presidency in the first round of voting last October, putting an end to the far-right government which ousted President Evo Morales in a U.S.-backed coup in November 2019.

Affordable Care Act Survives Third Supreme Court Challenge



In a 7-2 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the Affordable Care Act for a third time, after a challenge by Texas and 17 other Republican-led states. The group argued the individual mandate was unconstitutional after Congress did away with the penalty for not having coverage, as part of the 2017 tax cuts for the wealthy. Around 31 million Americans benefit from President's Obama's signature 2010 legislation. The court didn't rule on the constitutionality of the individual mandate but found the plaintiffs could not prove they are harmed by the ACA in its current iteration.

SCOTUS Rules in Favor of Nestlé & Cargill in Child Slave Labor Case



Image Credit: Arnd Wiegmann/Reuters

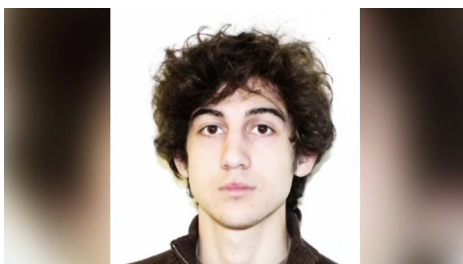
The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Nestlé and Cargill Thursday, after six former child slave laborers accused the massive corporations of complicity in their trafficking and enslavement. The men were trafficked from Mali as children and forced to work on cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast which supplied the U.S. companies. Neal Katyal, former acting solicitor general under President Obama, who represented Nestlé and Cargill, argued they should not be held responsible because they are corporations, not individuals.

Supreme Court Sides with Anti-LGBTQ Foster Agency in "Religious Freedom" Case



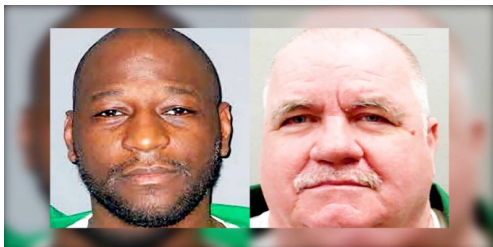
In a blow for LGBTQ rights, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday a Catholic agency in Philadelphia that screens foster parents does not have to abide by city law and consider potential LGBTQ foster parents.

DOJ Asks SCOTUS to Reinstate Death Penalty for Boston Marathon Bomber



Advocates for abolishing the death penalty are calling out the hypocrisy of the Biden administration after the Justice Department requested the Supreme Court reinstate the execution of Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, despite Biden's pledge on the campaign trail to work toward eliminating federal capital punishment.

South Carolina Delays Executions So Prisoners Can Choose Between Electrocution or Firing Squad



In South Carolina, two executions have been put on hold until the prisoners can be offered a choice of being killed by electrocution or a firing squad, as required by South Carolina's recently passed capital punishment law.

Arizona to Pay Prisoners \$1.50/Hour to Fight Wildfires as Record Heat Scorches Western U.S.



As a record heat wave continues to scorch the western United States, with some 40 million people facing over 100-degree weather, wildfires continue to rage in the Southwest. In Arizona, the massive Telegraph fire merged with the Mescal wildfire and has burned over 200,000 acres. This comes as the Arizona Legislature

approved a new funding package that will pay prisoners just \$1.50 an hour to fight fires. [Click here to see our interviews with California prisoner firefighters.](#)

Police Arrest Editors of Hong Kong Newspaper Under National Security Law



In Hong Kong, police have arrested five editors and executives of the Apple Daily newspaper, accusing them of colluding with foreign powers in violation of a sweeping national security law. The Apple Daily, which has been one of the most outspoken defenders of Hong Kong protests against Chinese one-party rule, vowed to continue its reporting. But media analysts warn that other news outlets will now think twice before crossing Chinese authorities. This is Hong Kong professor Rose Luqiu.

Rose Luqiu: "Of course it will have, definitely, an impact on the press freedom here in Hong Kong, because, first of all, it will create a chilling effect, although the government denies that. But think about that. If you're a journalist working for a news media, you will be scared."

2021-06-18 Clint Smith on Juneteenth & Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America



[Watch Full Show](#)

Guests [Clint Smith](#) author and staff writer at *The Atlantic*.

Links

- [Clint Smith on Twitter](#)
- ["How the World Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America"](#)

As President Biden signs legislation to make Juneteenth a federal holiday to mark the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned of their freedom more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, we speak to the writer and poet Clint Smith about Juneteenth and his new book, "How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America." "When I think of Juneteenth, part of what I think about is the both-endedness of it," Smith says, "that it is this moment in which we mourn the fact that freedom was kept from hundreds of thousands of enslaved people for years and for months after it had been attained by them, and then, at the same time, celebrating the end of one of the most egregious things that this country has ever done." Smith says he recognizes the federal holiday marking Juneteenth as a symbol, "but it is clearly not enough."

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The Quarantine Report*. I'm Amy Goodman.

On Thursday, President Biden signed legislation to create a new federal holiday to commemorate Juneteenth, which marks the end of slavery in the United States. The Juneteenth celebration dates back to the last days of the Civil War, when Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas, on June 19th, 1865, with news that the war had ended, and enslaved people learned they were freed two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is the first new federal holiday since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created nearly 40 years ago. President Biden spoke at the ceremony at the White House Thursday.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: Juneteenth marks both a long, hard night of slavery, of subjugation, and a promise of a brighter morning to come. This is a day of profound — in my view, profound weight and profound power, a day in which we remember the moral stain, the terrible toll that slavery took on the country and continues to take, what I've long called America's original sin.

AMY GOODMAN: The bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday was passed by a unanimous vote in the Senate, but in the House 14 Republicans — all white men — voted against the holiday.

At Thursday's White House ceremony, Vice President Kamala Harris spoke about how enslaved people in Texas were held for over two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS: For more than two years, the enslaved people of Texas were kept in servitude. For more than two years, they were intentionally kept from their freedom. For more than two years. And then, on that summer day, 156 years ago, the enslaved people of Texas learned the news. They learned that they were free. And they claimed their freedom. It was indeed an important day.

AMY GOODMAN: To talk more about Juneteenth and the legacy of slavery, we're joined by the writer and poet Clint Smith. He's author of the new book, *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*. He's also a staff writer at *The Atlantic*.

Clint Smith, welcome to *Democracy Now!* It's great to have you with us.

CLINT SMITH: Thank you for having me.

AMY GOODMAN: So, one of the chapters in your book is Galveston, Galveston Island. And that is where Juneteenth comes from. Can you tell us the story, in full, of Juneteenth, and your feelings today? This is the first day the federal holiday is being celebrated, because June 19th actually falls on a Saturday.

CLINT SMITH: Yes. So, as you mentioned, I went to Galveston, Texas. I've been writing this book for four years, and I went two years ago. And it was marking the 40th anniversary of when Texas had made Juneteenth a state holiday. And it was the Al Edwards Prayer Breakfast. The late Al Edwards Sr. is the state legislator, Black state legislator, who made possible and advocated for the legislation that turned Juneteenth into a holiday, a state holiday in Texas.

And so I went, in part, because I wanted to spend time with people who were the actual descendants of those who had been freed by General Gordon Granger's General Order No. 3. And it was a really remarkable moment, because I was in this place, on this island, on this land, with people for whom Juneteenth was not an abstraction. It was not a performance. It was not merely a symbol. It was part of their tradition. It was part of their lineage. It was an heirloom that had been passed down, that had made their lives possible. And so, I think I gained a more intimate sense of what that holiday meant.

And to sort of broaden, broaden out more generally, you spoke to how it was more than two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and it was an additional two months after General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, effectively ending the Civil War. So it wasn't only two years after the Emancipation Proclamation; it was an additional two months after the Civil War was effectively over.

And so, for me, when I think of Juneteenth, part of what I think about is the both-endedness of it, that it is this moment in which we mourn the fact that freedom was kept from hundreds of thousands of enslaved people for years and for months after it had been attained by them, and then, at the same time, celebrating the end of one of the most egregious things that this country has ever done.

And I think what we're experiencing right now is a sort of marathon of cognitive dissonance, in the way that is reflective of the Black experience as a whole, because we are in a moment where we have the first new federal holiday in over 40 years and a moment that is important to celebrate, the Juneteenth, and to celebrate the end of slavery and to have it recognized as a national holiday, and at the same time that that is happening, we have a state-sanctioned effort across state legislatures across the country that is attempting to prevent teachers from teaching the very thing that helps young people understand the context from which Juneteenth emerges.

And so, I think that we recognize that, as a symbol, Juneteenth is not — that it matters, that it is important, but it is clearly not enough. And I think the fact that Juneteenth has happened is reflective of a shift in our public consciousness, but also of the work that Black Texans and Black people across this country have done for decades to make this moment possible.

AMY GOODMAN: And can you explain more what happened in Galveston in 1865 and, even as you point out, what the Emancipation Proclamation actually did two-and-a-half years before?

CLINT SMITH: Right. So, the Emancipation Proclamation is often a widely misunderstood document. So, it did not, sort of wholesale, free the enslaved people throughout the Union. It did not free enslaved people in the Union. In fact, there were several border states that were part of the Union that continued to keep their enslaved laborers, states like Kentucky, states like Delaware, states like Missouri. And what it did was it was a military edict that was attempting to free enslaved people in Confederate territory. But the only way that that edict would be enforced is if Union soldiers went and took that territory.

And so, part of what many enslavers realized — and realized correctly — was that Texas would be one of the last frontiers that Union soldiers would be able to come in and force the Emancipation Proclamation — if they ever made it there in the first place, because this was two years prior to the end of the Civil War. And so, you had enslavers from Virginia and from North Carolina and from all of these states in the upper South who brought their enslaved laborers and relocated to Texas, in ways that increased the population of enslaved people in Texas by the tens of thousands.

And so, when Gordon Granger comes to Texas, he is making clear and letting people know that the Emancipation Proclamation had been enacted, in ways that because of the topography of Texas and because of how spread out and rural and far apart from different ecosystems of information many people were, a lot of enslaved people didn't know that the Emancipation Proclamation had happened. And some didn't even know that General Lee had surrendered at Appomattox two months prior. And so, part of what this is doing is making clear to the 250,000 enslaved people in Texas that they had actually been granted freedom two-and-a-half years prior and that the war that this was all fought over had ended two months before.

AMY GOODMAN: At Thursday's presidential signing ceremony, Joe Biden got down on his knee to greet Opal Lee, the 94-year-old activist known as the Grandmother of Juneteenth. This is Biden speaking about Lee.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: As a child growing up in Texas, she and her family would celebrate Juneteenth. On Juneteenth 1939, when she was 12 years old, a white mob torched her family home. But such hate never stopped her, any more than it stopped the vast majority of you I'm looking at from this podium. Over the course of decades, she has made it her mission to see that

this day came. It was almost a singular mission. She has walked for miles and miles, literally and figuratively, to bring attention to Juneteenth, to make this day possible.

AMY GOODMAN: And this is Opal Lee speaking at Harvard School of Public Health earlier this week.

OPAL LEE: I don't want people to think Juneteenth is just one day. There is too much educational components. We have too much to do. I even advocate that we do Juneteenth, that we celebrate freedom from the 19th of June to the Fourth of July, because we weren't free on the Fourth of July, 1776. That would be celebrating freedom — do you understand? — if we were able to do that.

AMY GOODMAN: And that is Opal Lee, considered the Grandmother of Juneteenth. And, Clint, one of the things you do in your book is you introduce us to grassroots activists. This doesn't come from the top; this comes from years of organizing, as you point out, in Galveston itself and with people like — not that there's anyone like — Opal Lee.

CLINT SMITH: Yeah, no, absolutely. Part of what this book is doing, it is an attempt to uplift the stories of people who don't often get the attention that they deserve in how they shape the historical record. So, that means the public historians who work at these historical sites and plantations. That means the museum curators. That means the activists and the organizers, people like Take 'Em Down NOLA in New Orleans, who pushed the City Council and the mayor to make possible the fact that in 2017 these statues would come down, several Confederate statues in my hometown, in New Orleans.

And part of — when I think about someone like Miss Opal Lee, part of what I think about is our proximity to this period of history, right? Slavery existed for 250 years in this country, and it's only not existed for 150. And, you know, the way that I was taught about slavery, growing up, in elementary school, we were made to feel as if it was something that happened in the Jurassic age, that it was the flint stone, the dinosaurs and slavery, almost as if they all happened at the same time. But the woman who opened the National Museum of African American History and Culture alongside the Obama family in 2016 was the daughter of an enslaved person — not the granddaughter or the great-granddaughter or the great-great-granddaughter. The daughter of an enslaved person is who opened this museum of the Smithsonian in 2016. And so, clearly, for so many people, there are people who are alive today who were raised by, who knew, who were in community with, who loved people who were born into intergenerational chattel bondage. And so, this history that we tell ourselves was a long time ago wasn't, in fact, that long ago at all.

And part of what so many activists and grassroots public historians and organizers across this country recognize is that if we don't fully understand and account for this history, that actually wasn't that long ago, that in the scope of human history was only just yesterday, then we won't fully understand our contemporary landscape of inequality today. We won't understand how slavery shaped the political, economic and social infrastructure of this country. And when you have a more acute understanding of how slavery shaped the infrastructure of this country, then you're able to more effectively look around you and see how the reason one community looks one way and another community looks another way is not because of the people in those communities, but is because of what has been done to those communities, generation after generation after generation. And I think that that is central to the sort of public pedagogy that so many of these activists and organizers who have been attempting to make Juneteenth a holiday and bring attention to it as an entry point to think more wholly and honestly about the legacy of slavery have been doing.

AMY GOODMAN: During an interview on CNN, Democratic Congressmember Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called out the 14 Republican congressmembers — all white men — who voted against making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

REP. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ: This is pretty consistent with, I think, the Republican base, and it's — whether it's trying to fight against teaching basic history around racism and the role of racism in U.S. history to — you know, there's a direct through line from that to denying Juneteenth, the day that is widely recognized and celebrated as a symbolic kind of day to represent the end of slavery in the United States.

AMY GOODMAN: If you could respond to that, Clint Smith, and also the fact that on the same day, yesterday, the Senate minority leader said they would not be supporting the For the People Act?

CLINT SMITH: Yeah, I mean, I think —

AMY GOODMAN: The Voting Rights Act.

CLINT SMITH: Absolutely. I think, very clearly, the critical race theory — the idea of it is being used as a bogeyman, and it is being misrepresented and distorted by people who don't even know what critical race theory is, right? So we should be clear that the thing that people are calling critical race theory is just — that is the language that they are using to talk about the idea of teaching any sort of history that rejects the idea that America is a singularly exceptional place, and that we should not account for the history of harm that has been enacted to create opportunities and intergenerational wealth for millions of people, that has come at the direct expense of millions and millions of other people across generations.

And so, part of what is happening in these state legislatures across the country with regard to the effort to push back against teaching of history — 1619 Project, critical race theory and the like — is a recognition that we have developed in this country a more sophisticated understanding, a more sophisticated framework, a more sophisticated public lexicon, with which to understand how slavery — how racism was not just an interpersonal phenomenon, it was a historic one, it was a structural one, it was a systemic one.

And I'm very much sympathetic — I know there's some sentiment out there, that people are saying, "Well, we didn't ask for Juneteenth to become a holiday. We want voting rights. We want police reform. We want abolition. We want" — and I 100% understand that. I also think that we should not undervalue what it means for Juneteenth to become a holiday, in part because then we are not valuing the work that Black activists have done over the course of decades to get there, and because while symbols are not necessarily material change, they are not irrelevant.

So, I think all the time about having grown up in New Orleans, and to get to school, I had to go down Robert E. Lee Boulevard; to get to the grocery store, I had to go down Jefferson Davis Highway; that my middle school was named after a leader of the Confederacy; that the street my parents live on today is named after somebody who owned 115 enslaved people.

And the thing is that names and symbols and holidays, like, aren't just names and symbols and symbolism. What they are are reflective of the stories that people tell. And those stories shape the narratives that societies carry. And those narratives shape public policy. And public policy, that shapes the material conditions of people's lives. Which is not to say that taking down a statue of Robert E. Lee or making Juneteenth a holiday is going to erase the racial wealth gap. Of course not. But what it is is part of an ecosystem of narratives and stories and ideas that can help us recalibrate our understanding of why certain communities look the way that they do and what needs to be done and invested in those communities to create a new set of opportunities.

So, we should recognize and celebrate that Juneteenth is a holiday, and we should also recognize that that is not enough — it is not nearly enough — and that it is one part of a much longer struggle and a much larger struggle to make sure that we are creating a more equitable and just world.

AMY GOODMAN: And that was pointed out earlier this week by the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, who's been denied tenure at University of North Carolina, all in this time, though there's a mass effort to turn that around. She spoke to MSNBC about the mounting attacks against discussing systemic racism in history classes at schools, over 20 states now having banned the teaching of critical race theory. She produced The 1619 Project with *The New York Times*, an interactive project that reexamines the legacy of slavery, the target of this right-wing backlash last year after the Trump administration threatened to pull federal funding from schools that use The 1619 Project in their curriculum. This is Nikole Hannah-Jones.

NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES: I think we're in, actually, a very dangerous period right now. When we look at what these laws are doing, you know, a lot of people have kind of scoffed at them. When you read the language of them, they appear very silly. But when you think about what this is actually trying to do, we know that it is narrative that allows us to enact really dangerous policies. It is narrative that allows citizens to kind of accept these erosions of civil rights. So it's not incidental that the same states that are introducing these anti-critical race theory, anti-1619 Project laws are also introducing voter suppression laws. These things are going hand in hand.

AMY GOODMAN: So, that's Nikole Hannah-Jones, Clint Smith.

CLINT SMITH: Yeah, and she's absolutely right. I mean, I think that these two things are deeply entangled in one another. I think that there is a state-sanctioned effort to prevent people from understanding our history, because if you prevent young people — and people, more generally — from understanding the history of this country and how racism has, again, animated so much of our public policy decisions, then when certain voting rights — or, certain voting legislation is enacted to prevent people from having the right to the ballot box or having access to the ballot box in the way that they should, then you can ground it in a sort of ahistoricism that pretends that it is not something that is very intentionally attempting to keep Black people from exercising their right to the franchise. And because there is a recognition that the more people understand the history that has shaped what our political infrastructure looks like, from the Electoral College to gerrymandering, the more you realize how entangled that is in — again, in the history of slavery. And so, all of these things, as Nikole said, absolutely go hand in hand and should be understood as such.

AMY GOODMAN: Amazingly, the *New York Daily News* [reported](#), "'Watchdog' group wants teachers to wear bodycams to assure they don't teach Critical Race Theory in Nevada district." But I'm going to leave that one there, and I want you to talk more about your book, *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*. Can you talk about the journey you took — you were just mentioning where you grew up, in Louisiana, the map of the streets of Louisiana — and why you feel it is so critical not only to look at the South, but your chapter on New York is something that people will be — many will be shocked by, the level of — when people talk about the South and slavery, that New York, of course, had enslaved people?

CLINT SMITH: It did. It was really important for me to include a chapter on New York City, and a place in the North, more broadly, in part because, you know, while the majority of places I visit are in the South, because the South is where slavery was saturated and where it was most intimately tied the social and economic infrastructure of that society, it most certainly also existed in the North.

What a lot of people don't know is that New York City, for an extended period of time, was the second-largest slave port in the country, after Charleston, South Carolina; that in 1860, on the brink of the Civil War, when South Carolina was about to secede from the Union after the election of Abraham Lincoln, that New York City's mayor, Fernando Wood, proposed that New York City should also secede from the Union alongside the Southern states, because New York's financial and political infrastructure were so deeply entangled and tied to the slavocracy of the South; also that the Statue of Liberty was originally conceived by Édouard de Laboulaye, a French abolitionist, who conceived of the idea of the Statue of Liberty and giving it to the United States as a gift, that it was originally conceived as an idea to celebrate the end of the Civil War and to celebrate abolition.

But over time, that meaning has been — even through the conception of the statue, right? The original conception of the statue actually had Lady Liberty breaking shackles, like a pair of broken shackles on her wrists, to symbolize the end of slavery. And over time, it became very clear that that would not have the sort of wide stream — or, wide mainstream support of people across the country, obviously this having been just not too long after the end of the Civil War, so there were still a lot of fresh wounds. And so they shifted the meaning of the statue to be more about sort of inclusivity, more about the American experience, the American project, the American promise, the promise of democracy, and sort of obfuscated the original meaning, to the point where even the design changed. And so they replaced the shackles with a tablet and the torch, and then put the shackles very subtly sort of underneath her robe. And you can — but the only way you can see them, these broken chains, these broken links, are from a helicopter or from an airplane.

And in many ways, I think that that is a microcosm for how we hide the story of slavery across this country, that these chain links are hidden, out of sight, out of view of most people, under the robe of Lady Liberty, and how the story of slavery across this country is very — as we see now, very intentionally trying to be hidden and kept from so many people, so that we have a fundamentally inconsistent understanding of the way that slavery shaped our contemporary society today.

AMY GOODMAN: In your book, you write that by the early 19th century, the New York financial industry became even more deeply entrenched in chattel slavery. Money from New York bankers went on to finance every facet of the slave trade. Explain.

CLINT SMITH: It did. So, the banks in New York City were where the planters and the enslavers in the South got their capital. It is how they used — they used the bodies of enslaved people as collateral for loans that they would take out with insurance companies. I mean, and so, it is very clear not only that New York City had enslaved people itself — right? — for an extended period of time, as did places in New England, Connecticut, Rhode Island, but that it is the financial and economic infrastructure of New York City and the people who created mass amounts of wealth in that city that allowed slavery to continue to evolve and prosper.

And that really made it so that there — I think we tend to have this sort of bifurcated view and overly simplistic view of, like, “Oh, the people in the North were the good guys, and people in the South were the bad guys.” But there were a lot of people in the North, and, as I talked about, in New York City, who were deeply committed to the perpetuation and existence of slavery in the South, because it was beneficial for them economically, it was beneficial for them politically, it was beneficial for them socially. And it was in line with how they understood the role of enslaved people and Black people in this country. They might not have wanted to have owned enslaved people themselves, but they most certainly did not believe in abolition, or they most certainly did not think that they wanted something to prevent the massive influx of capital that they were receiving from continuing to flow into their hands.

AMY GOODMAN: Clint, before we end, you are an author, you’re a writer, you’re a teacher, and you are a poet. Can you share a poem with us?

CLINT SMITH: I’d be happy to. And so, when you’re a poet writing nonfiction, that very much animates the way that I approach the text. And so, this is part of the — this is an adaptation or an excerpt from the end of one of my chapters, that originally began as a poem that I wrote when I was trying to think about some of these issues that I brought up.

[reading] Growing up, the iconography of the Confederacy was an ever-present fixture of my daily life. Every day on the way to school, I passed a statue of P.G.T. Beauregard riding on horseback, his Confederate uniform flung over his shoulder and his military cap pulled far down over his eyes. As a child, I did not know who P.G.T. Beauregard was. I did not know he was the man who ordered the first attack that opened the Civil War. I did not know he was one of the architects who designed the Confederate battle flag. I did not know he led an army predicated on maintaining the institution of slavery. What I knew is that he looked like so many of the other statues that ornamented the edges of this city, these copper garlands of a past that saw truth as something that should be buried underground and silenced by the soil.

After the war, the sons and daughters of the Confederacy reshaped the contours of treason into something they could name as honorable. We called it the Lost Cause. And it crept its way into textbooks that attempted to cover up a crime that was still unfolding; that told us that Robert E. Lee was an honorable man, guilty of nothing but fighting for the state and the people that he loved; that the Southern flag was about heritage and remembering those slain fighting to preserve their way of life. But, see, the thing about the Lost Cause is that it’s only lost if you’re not actually looking. The thing about heritage is that it’s a word that also means “I’m ignoring what we did to you.”

I was taught the Civil War wasn’t about slavery, but I was never taught how the declarations of Confederate secession had the promise of human bondage carved into its stone. I was taught the war was about

economics, but I was never taught that in 1860 the 4 million enslaved Black people were worth more than every bank, factory and railroad combined. I was taught that the Civil War was about states' rights, but I was never taught how the Fugitive Slave Act could care less about a border and spelled Georgia and Massachusetts the exact same way.

It's easy to look at a flag and call it heritage when you don't see the Black bodies buried behind it. It's easy to look at a statue and call it history when you ignore the laws written in its wake.

I come from a city abounding with statues of white men on pedestals and Black children playing beneath them, where we played trumpets and trombones to drown out the Dixie song that's still whistled in the wind. In New Orleans, there are over 100 schools, roads and buildings named for Confederates and slaveholders. Every day, Black children walk into buildings named after people who never wanted them to be there. Every time I would return home, I would drive on streets named for those who would have wanted me in chains.

Go straight for two miles on Robert E. Lee, take a left on Jefferson Davis, make the first right on Claiborne. Translation: Go straight for two miles on the general who slaughtered hundreds of Black soldiers who were trying to surrender, take a left on the president of the Confederacy who made the torture of Black bodies the cornerstone of his new nation, make the first right on the man who permitted the heads of rebelling slaves to be put on stakes and spread across the city in order to prevent the others from getting any ideas.

What name is there for this sort of violence? What do you call it when the road you walk on is named for those who imagined you under a noose? What do you call it when the roof over your head is named after people who would have wanted the bricks to crush you?

AMY GOODMAN: Clint Smith, author of *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*. You should get it today, on this first federal observance of Juneteenth. Thanks so much, Clint.

CLINT SMITH: Thank you.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!* When we come back, we look at another June 19th: 1838, when Jesuit priests who ran what is now Georgetown University sold 272 enslaved people to pay off the school's debts. We'll speak to one descendant. Stay with us.

2021-06-18 "Here I Am": Meet a Descendant of One of 272 Enslaved People Sold on June 19, 1838, by Georgetown U.

Story June 18, 2021



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Guests **Mélanie Short-Colomb**

community engagement associate at Georgetown University. She is one of the first two students to benefit from legacy admission for direct descendants enslaved by the Jesuits.

We look at another significant June 19 in the history of slavery in the United States: June 19, 1838, when Jesuit priests who ran what is now Georgetown University sold 272 enslaved people to pay off the school's debts. In 2016, Georgetown University announced it would give preferential admissions treatment to descendants of the Africans it enslaved and sold. "Ours, as Americans, is an uninterrupted line of inheritance that many of us refuse to believe that we are descendants of," says Mélanie Short-Colomb, who is one of the first two Georgetown University students to benefit from legacy admission for direct descendants and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Georgetown Memory Project.

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!* I'm Amy Goodman.

We look now at another June 19th: 1838, when Jesuit priests who ran what's now Georgetown University sold 272 enslaved men, women and children to pay off the school's debts. In 2016, Georgetown University announced it would give preferential admissions treatment to descendants of the Africans it enslaved and sold.

In 2017, *The New York Times* published the only known photograph of Frank Campbell, one of the enslaved people sold by the Maryland Jesuits in 1838.

In March, the Jesuits pledged \$100 million to atone for their participation in slavery, in a deal with a small representative group of descendants, the Catholic Church and corporate partners. A wider group of descendants opposed the deal, saying it was done in private and doesn't go far enough to repair the harms done.

In a minute, we'll be joined by Mélanie Short-Colomb, one of the first two Georgetown University students to benefit from legacy admission for direct descendants. First, though, this is a trailer of her one-woman play, *Here I Am*.

MÉLISANDE SHORT-COLOMB: I feel like my whole life and all of the lives that have come before me are balled up inside of me. *The New York Times* broke a story in April 2016 revealing that the Jesuits had sold 272 enslaved persons in 1838 to raise funds to keep Georgetown University going. A few months later, I discovered that I descended from two families in the sale: the Queens and the Mahoneys. By September 2017, I had entered Georgetown College as an undergraduate student at the age of 63.

Here I am, paying homage to 11 generations of the women who have come into me and who are part of me. I am here to tell their story, handed down over more than 300 years. Our ancestors have waited patiently, through centuries, for us to come to the table of acknowledgment. I am Mélisande Short-Colomb. Here I am. Here we are.

AMY GOODMAN: The trailer for the one-woman play, *Here I Am*, by Mélisande Short-Colomb, who joins us now, one of the first two students to benefit from legacy admission for direct descendants of the enslaved by the Jesuits at Georgetown University, where she's also a community engagement associate and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Georgetown Memory Project.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, Mélisande. It's such an honor to have you with us. Your thoughts today on this first federal holiday of Juneteenth? And if you can talk about that other June 19th, 1838, and what happened?

MÉLISANDE SHORT-COLOMB: Good morning, Amy. Thank you for having me here.

Juneteenth 2021, here we are, acknowledging injustices of the past in the present, for the future. Yes, it did take enslaved people two-and-a-half years in Texas to learn that they had been freed. But it's taken us 156 years as Americans to acknowledge that event. So, we are the turners of the wheels of progress and change.

June 19th, 1838, 183 years ago, my family, two sides of my family — my young great-great-grandparents met on a boat on their way to Louisiana and started a family that results in me and many of my cousins in Louisiana. We were part of the human trafficking trade in the United States of America — not the theoretical Middle Passage, which was very true and brought people — more people to the Caribbean and South America than to the United States of America. Yes, I am a Black woman in 2021, who the institution of slavery was built in the wombs of my grandmothers, because every child that they brought into this world, in this life, in this place, from 1677 until 1865, were slaves at birth. What kind of people do that?

Which brings us to the Jesuits, to the founders of the United States of America, to 1868, to 1865, to 1921, to 2021. So, ours, as Americans, is an uninterrupted line of inheritance that many of us refuse to believe that we are descendants of. Black people are not just the descendants of enslavement here in America. We are all the descendants of enslaved here in America. And that is if you got here in 1570, 1619, 1677 or somebody threw you over the fence yesterday. We are here in this place that is 245 years old, plus the colonial period. This belongs to all of us.

AMY GOODMAN: Mélisande, if you can talk about how Georgetown was saved, prevented from going into bankruptcy, by the sale of nearly 300 enslaved people? Of course, I hate to use the word "saved" — in fact, that was a damning of the university.

MÉLISANDE SHORT-COLOMB: Well, the university, the Jesuits owned property in human beings and in land. In all of their dealings and sales and building of economic wealth here in America,

they always had a choice: We can sell people, we can rent out people, or we can sell land. And they always chose to sell the people and not the land. The Jesuits still own all the land that they have always owned in Maryland and in the District of Columbia. The Catholic Church — it's not just the Jesuits. The Archdiocese of Baltimore got money from this sale. The Catholic Church, up until 1865, in the United States of America were slave-owning Confederates.

AMY GOODMAN: So, I want to go for a moment to Reverend Tim Kesicki, the president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, speaking at Georgetown University's "Liturgy of Remembrance, Contrition, and Hope."

REV. TIM KESICKI: Today, the Society of Jesus, who helped to establish Georgetown University and whose leaders enslaved and mercilessly sold your ancestors, stands before you to say that we have greatly sinned. ... We pray with you today because we have greatly sinned and because we are profoundly sorry.

AMY GOODMAN: So, Mélisande Short-Colomb, if you can talk about what this \$100 million deal is? Where does this money go? And how did you determine that you were one of the descendants? And then, the larger group of people who are understanding where they come from?

MÉLISANDE SHORT-COLOMB: I cannot actually speak to the details of this agreement between the Jesuits and this group of descendants. I am not part of that group, nor was I privy to those conversations, decisions and agreements that were met. I'm outside of that. I appreciate the effort, the five-year effort that went into creating this concept, because what they've done is make it a GoFundMe. So, we have to raise money — the Jesuits have to raise money to correct the economic disparities of the past. This is within the framework of the Catholic Church and not the wider descendant community. Is it a good thing? Yes, it is. I just don't know and cannot opine, other than to say, "Good. Do your work."

AMY GOODMAN: And then, there was, in 2019, the students of Georgetown voting to create a reparations fund for the descendants of enslaved people sold by the Jesuits, adding a fee of \$27.20 to tuition. What happened after this?

MÉLISANDE SHORT-COLOMB: Nothing. It was taken over by the administration. And this was the first time in the United States of America that a voting body voted to go into their own pockets, \$27.20. The opposition to that was, it should be charitable, which is the position that the administration has taken over and made it a GoFundMe. So, what the students said was, "We're going to go into our pockets as undergraduate students, in perpetuity, to create an endowment, a student endowment, to engage as Georgetown undergraduate students with the larger descendant community."

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, your play, *Here I Am*, your one-woman play, what is your message?

MÉLISANDE SHORT-COLOMB: I think, "Here we all are." And my hope with *Here I Am* was that we have something, we have created something, that can instigate and initiate conversations in the larger context of who we are.

AMY GOODMAN: And those conversations will definitely continue here. I want to thank you so much, Mélisande Short-Colomb, one of the first two Georgetown University students to benefit from legacy admissions for direct descendants enslaved by the Jesuits. I'm Amy Goodman. Stay safe.