

Staff Anti-Racism Awareness & Education (SARAE)

9th Week Fall Term Dialogue: Thursday, November 12th, 2020

Fall Term Theme: Historical context of racism in the US & at Carleton.

Media for this discussion:

[*America Wasn't a Democracy, Until Black Americans Made It One*, by Nikole Hannah-Jones](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the ways in which Nikole Hannah-Jones illustrates that Black Americans are “foundational to the idea of American freedom”?
2. Were there any historical facts you learned about in the article which you previously did not know?
3. Hannah-Jones starts the article with a story about her father and his pride for the American flag, despite having been treated poorly throughout his life. In what ways have Black people, Indigenous people, and other BIPOC folks contributed to the creation and culture of this nation (pp. 3-4*)?
4. The 15th Amendment was passed in 1870, guaranteeing the right to vote for “all men regardless of ‘race, color, or previous condition of servitude’” (p. 11*). In what ways today do we disproportionately try to suppress this vote? Did anything change in the recent election?

*Page numbers can be seen if you print the article. Otherwise, you could search some of the words to locate certain parts of the essay if you are reading it on the web.

Note: These questions are just building blocks to spur conversation. Other ideas, thoughts, and questions beyond the few listed here are more than welcome.