

HOUSING AND THE LAW: LESSON 8: KEY TERMS**KEY TERMS***Introduction*

- **reparations:** making amends for the wrong one has done, by paying money to or by otherwise helping those who have been wronged
- **redlining:** the practice of refusing a loan or insurance to someone because they live in what is considered a financially risky area.
- **poll tax:** a tax levied in mostly former Confederate states that was meant to restrict Black Americans from voting.
- **amenities:** desirable or useful features or facilities
- **subsidize:** to aid based on financial need
- **systemic:** exists throughout a whole system, not just one part

Coates, Part I

- **kleptocracy:** a government where people in power exploit groups of people and the land in order to profit
- **peonage:** debt slavery; when someone makes a person work in order to pay off a debt. This was outlawed by Congress 1867, but sharecropping, which worked in the same way, was practiced in the parts of the Deep South through the mid-twentieth century.
- **vagrancy laws:** laws that made it a crime for someone to be homeless or jobless. These laws were passed shortly after the end of the Civil War and emancipation in order to keep freedmen under the control of white planters.
- **impartial:** unbiased, not leaning one way or another
- **regime:** a government that is ruled by one person or a group in power and is authoritarian in nature
- **tyranny:** oppression by a government
- **nefarious:** wicked or evil
- **speculator:** someone who invests in property with the purpose of making a profit
- **Nuremberg Laws:** anti-Semitic and racist laws created by Nazi Germany
- **thirteenth amendment:** The thirteenth amendment states that slavery and involuntary servitude cannot exist in the United States, unless it was used as a punishment for a crime in which a person has been convicted.
- **fourteenth amendment:** an 1868 amendment to the Constitution that granted citizenship and equal civil and legal rights to African Americans and the formerly enslaved who had been emancipated after the Civil War.

Coates, Part II

- **halcyon:** a period of time in the past that was peaceful
- **affluent:** having great wealth or money
- **calamity:** a distressing event or disaster
- **precipitous:** 1. Dangerous; 2. An action done without careful consideration
- **cultural pathology:** a stereotype that describes a group's culture as being responsible for long-term problems and inequality. This stereotype can lead to discrimination and racism.
- **progressive:** favoring social reform or new, liberal ideas
- **affirmative action:** the policy or practice of considering race, gender, religion, etc. in order to improve opportunities for a group who has been disadvantaged in the past.
- **upward mobility:** the capacity to rise to an higher social or economic position

Coates, Part III

- **beseech:** to ask urgently
- **servitude:** the state of being a slave or subject to someone more powerful
- **patrimony:** property inherited from an ancestor

Coates, Part IV-V

- **plunder:** to steal from someone by using force, especially during a time of war or disorder
- **indispensable:** absolutely necessary
- **heretics:** people holding opinions different from what is accepted by society
- **omnibus act:** a bill passed into law that encompasses several programs or measures into one package
- **Levittowns:** the "first" modern American suburbs that were carefully planned and available to only white World War II veterans
- **acquiescence:** the reluctant acceptance of something without protesting
- **fealty:** loyalty

Coates, Part VI-VII

- **assiduous:** very careful
- **white supremacy:** belief that white people are superior to other races and should control and dominate society
- **restrictive covenant:** property agreements or contracts created to restrict certain actions
- **racial covenant:** property agreements or contracts created to exclude people of certain races from owning or living on/in a property
- **virulent:** very hostile or severe
- **terrorism:** unlawful use of violence and intimidation

- **redlining:** the practice of refusing a loan or insurance to someone because they live in what is considered a financially risky area.
- **speculator:** a person who invests in stocks or property in order to make a profit
- **restitution:** the restoration of something that has been lost or stolen to its owner
- **remuneration:** pay or compensation

Coates, Part VIII

- **affirmative action:** the policy or practice of considering race, gender, religion, etc. in order to improve opportunities for a group who has been disadvantaged in the past.
- **white supremacy:** belief that white people are superior to other races and should control and dominate society
- **capitalism:** economic/political system in which trade and industry are controlled for profit by private actors rather than by the state

Coates, Part VIII

- **synonymous:** having the same or similar meaning to something else
- **white supremacy:** belief that white people are superior to other races and should control and dominate society
- **restitution:** the restoration of something that has been lost or stolen to its owner