Overview

*Slavery by Another Name* (2012) is a documentary based on the book by the same title authored by Douglas A. Blackmon in 2008. Both the book and the documentary give voice to a largely hidden piece of American history. The development of convict labor, largely in the southern states between approximately 1865 and 1945, led to 1000s of African Americans being subjected to “another form of enslavement” via an array of dubious “entrapment-criminalization laws” that lasted for more than 80 years to the origin of the modern Civil Rights Movement (1950s-1970s).

If we consider Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010), Douglas Blackmon’s *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* is a foundation read for her book that speaks to the contemporary US prison system being a modern form of segregated oppression based on “race” and racism in the criminal justice system.

Indeed, even though what we consider tonight via this documentary and discussion an evil historical chapter in American history, we can also view this as a continuum of institutionalized oppression toward African Americans who can trace their heritage and ancestors back to the antebellum south.

- For the students of AAS-HIU 330, The Civil Rights Movement, the session tonight takes us back to the period before the modern Civil Rights Movement. If you recall, I started the course with a historical context that touched on the Dredd Scott Supreme Court decision of 1857 (which effectively denied African Americans citizenship); along with the abolition of formal enslavement in America, and the subsequent 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution that were, in brief, to give:
  - 13th – The abolition of Slavery – 1865
  - 14th – Protection for Citizenship – 1868
  - 15th – Protection for Voting – 1870

But… then came Plessey vs Ferguson – 1896- establishing social segregation for over 60s years in law -

Let us therefore consider the documentary *Slavery By Another Name* (2012) within the context of mainstream American and specifically African American history. Moreover, we must join the dots of historical memory so that we alive in contemporary times can pursue the truth that uncovers such inhumane brutality encountered by this extraordinarily enduring social-cultural group; in order for it never to occur again we have to be aware that it happened. Without proper education, without honest discussion, without meaningful contemplation of the past, and without collective determination among all good peoples, history can be repeated, re-molded, and re-done to fit new times. That stated, is *The New Jim Crow* the newer *Slavery By Another Name?* Panel discussion commences…