



# Challenging Neutrality: A Closer Look at Confederate Memorialization



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APDU Webinar

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**ORIENTATION**

*What is the origin of the data and how is that represented in the central perspective of the map?*

**ORIENTATION**

*How are my own experiences and values influencing the decisions I am making in the mapping process?*

**ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS**



**FORMATION AND ACTION**



**TRANSLATION**

*What visual language is relevant to the problem and enhances my understanding of the data? What do I need to standardize to see patterns and insight?*

**TRANSLATION**

*What is the map saying and how is it affecting the decisions being made as a result of its construction?*

**ORGANIZATION**

*What information needs emphasis and visual connection to enhance my understanding? What additional information might I overlay to test my current assumptions?*

**ORGANIZATION**

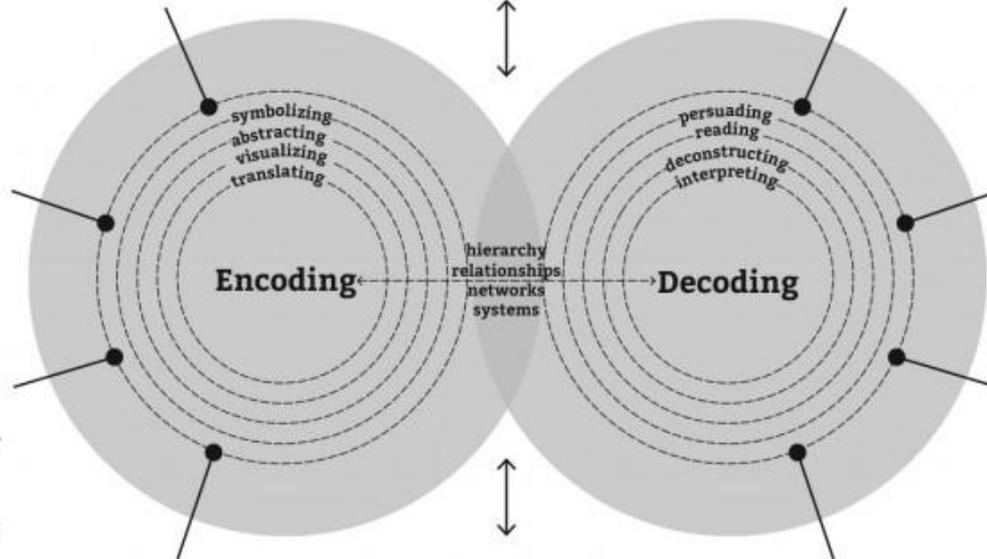
*What has been excluded from the map and how is it affecting the decisions made as a result of that blank space?*

**DIMENSIONS**

*Is the scale appropriate to the data and the problem itself? Are there additional measures that would affect what the data is revealing?*

**DIMENSIONS**

*What assumptions of context, space, place, and/or culture is the map relying upon? How is the scale affecting my overall understanding and the actions I might take as a result?*





# HUMAN-CENTERED DATA SCIENCE

An Introduction

CECILIA ARAGON  
SHION GUHA  
MARINA KOGAN  
MICHAEL MULLER  
GINA NEFF

# OPPRESSIVE INFRASTRUCTURES

A Colloquium Examining Systems of Inequity in/through/by Data

Spring 2023



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Teaching Associate Professor / Director of Digital Literacy and Communications Lab



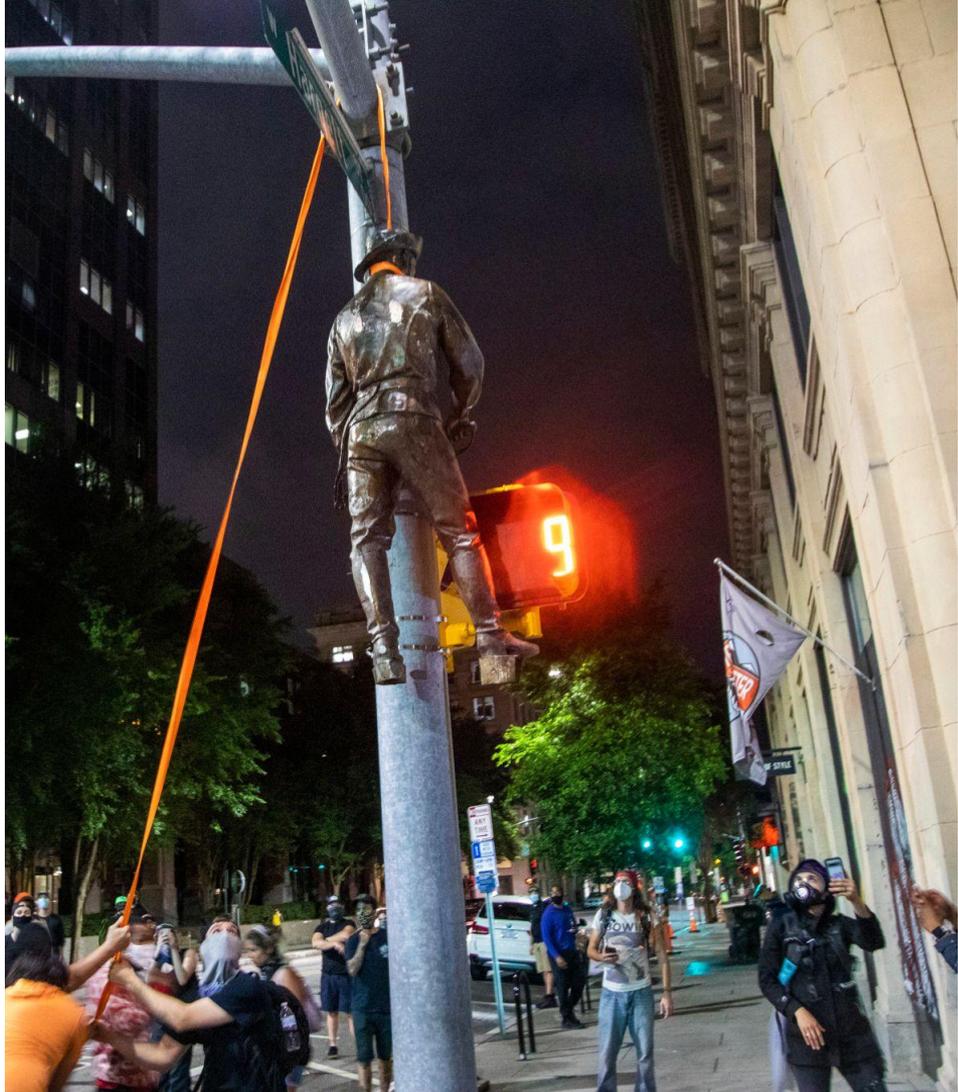
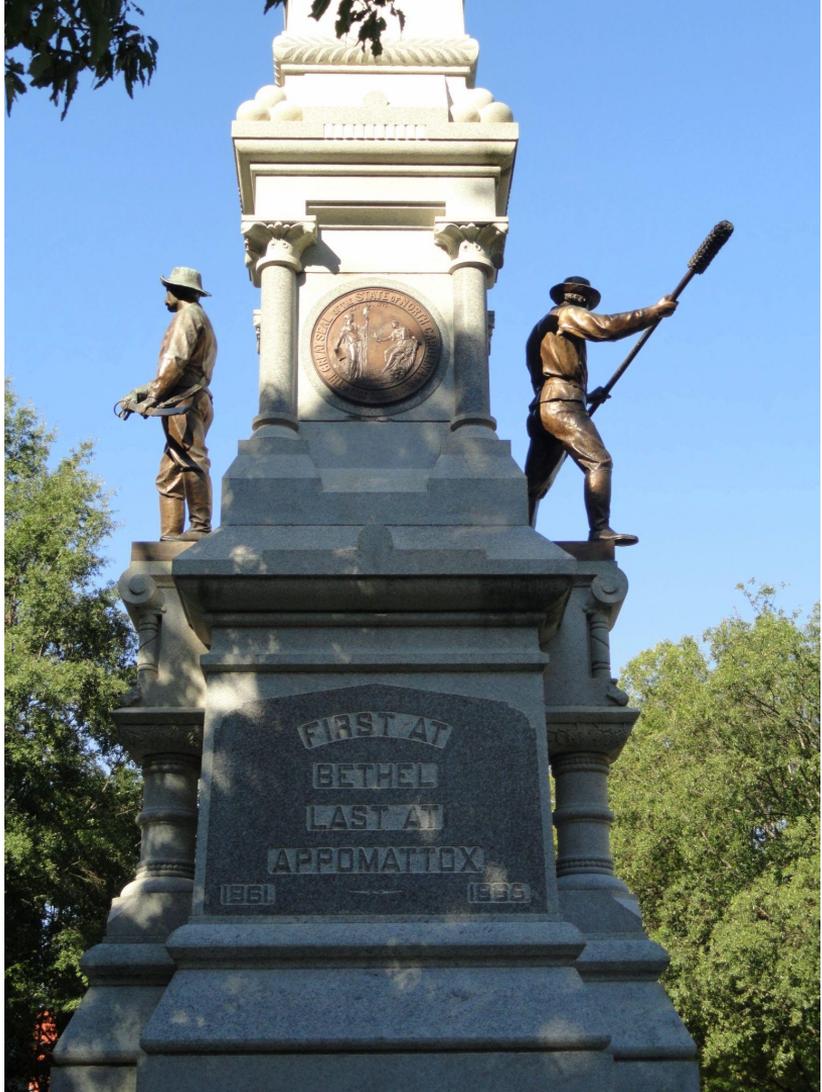
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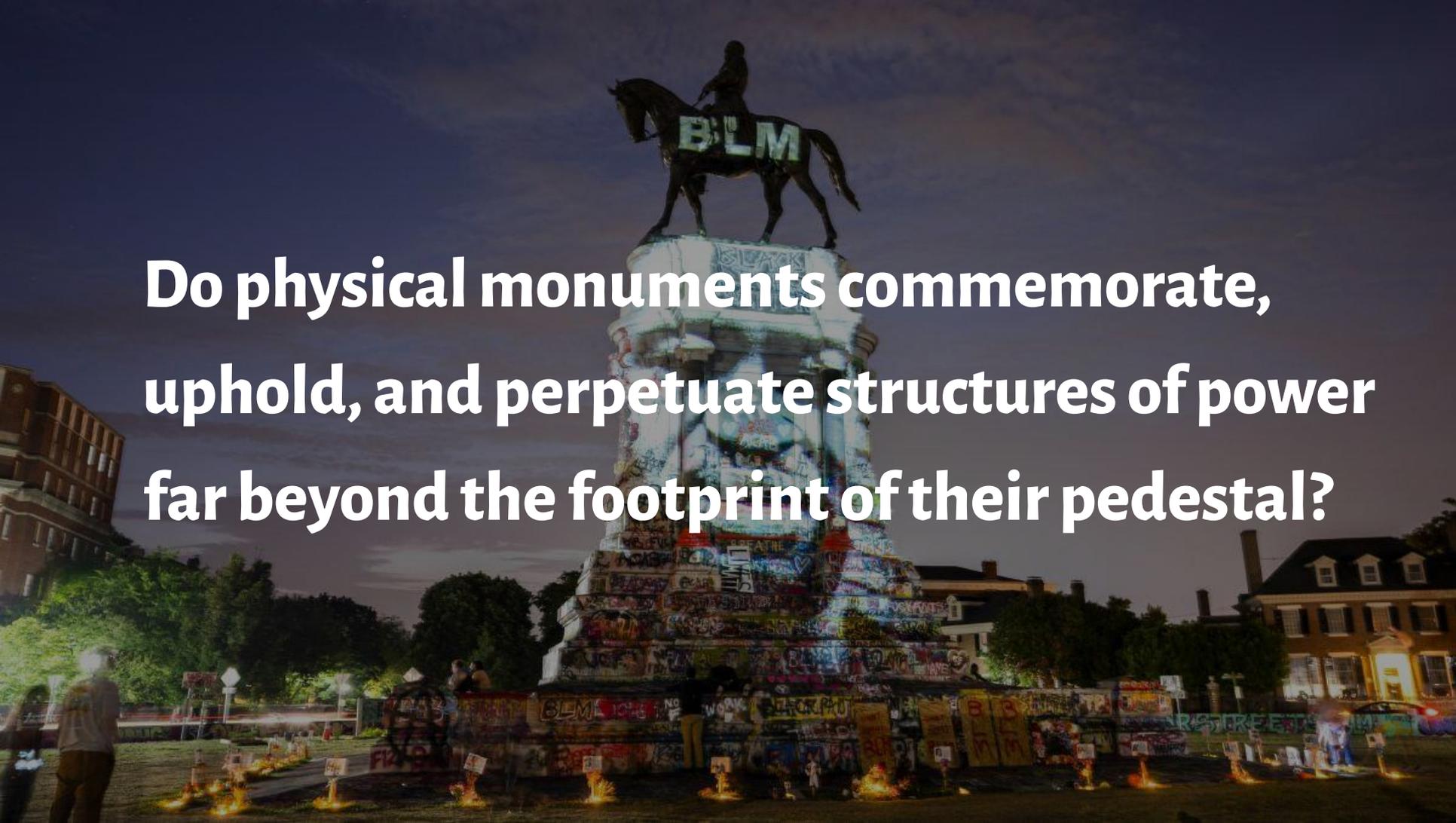
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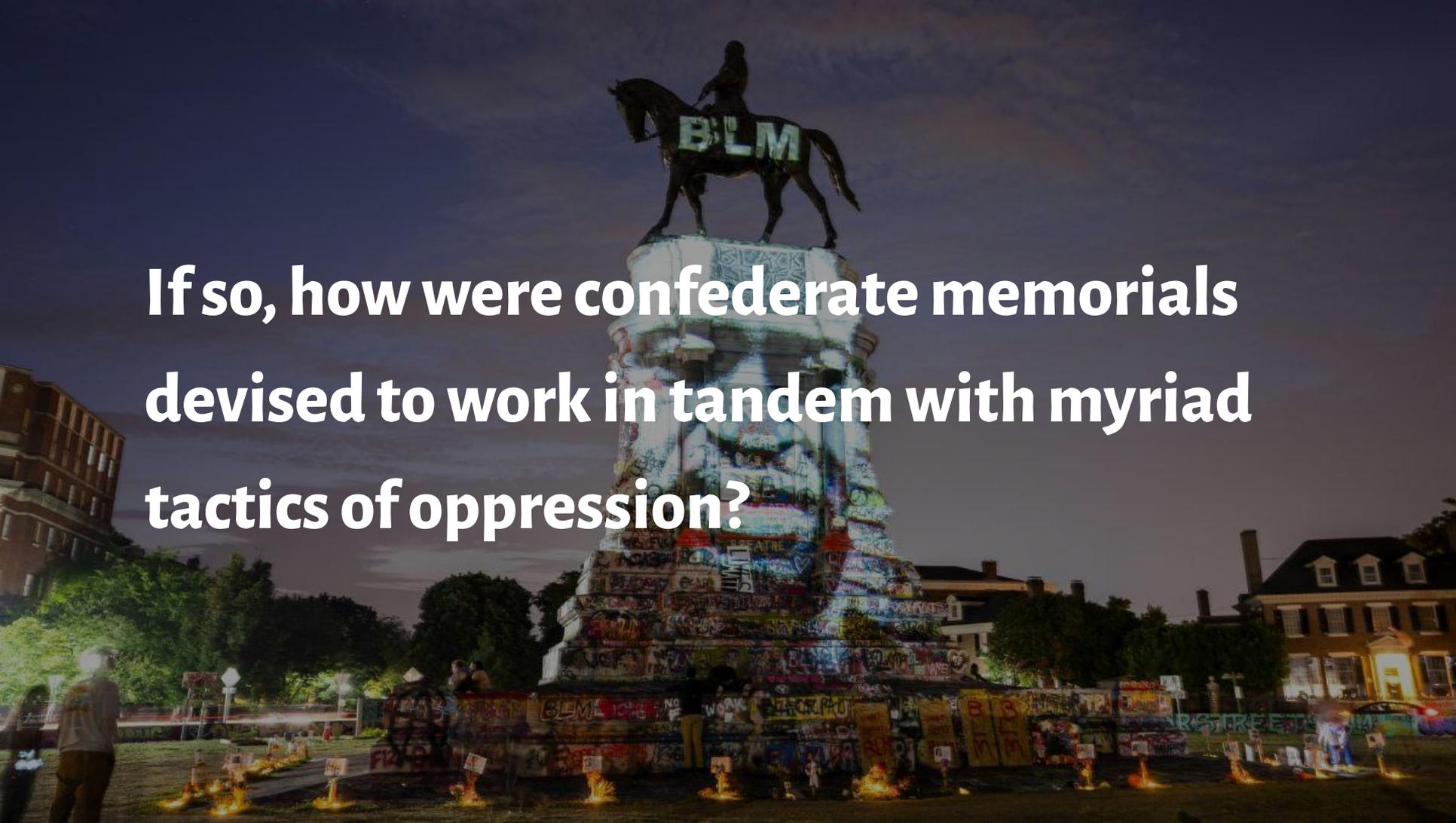




A photograph of a statue of a man on a horse, likely a Confederate general, at night. The horse is painted with the letters 'BLM' in green. The statue's pedestal is heavily covered in graffiti and protest signs, including 'BLM', 'NO LIMITS', and 'BLACK PANTHER PARTY'. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and the glow of the graffiti, with people visible in the background.

**Do physical monuments commemorate, uphold, and perpetuate structures of power far beyond the footprint of their pedestal?**

**If so, how were confederate memorials  
devised to work in tandem with myriad  
tactics of oppression?**



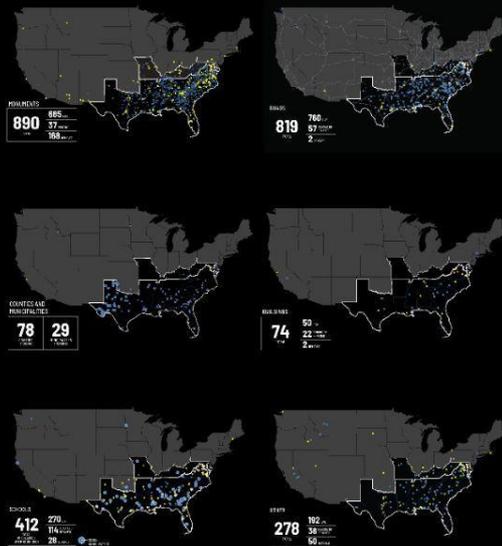
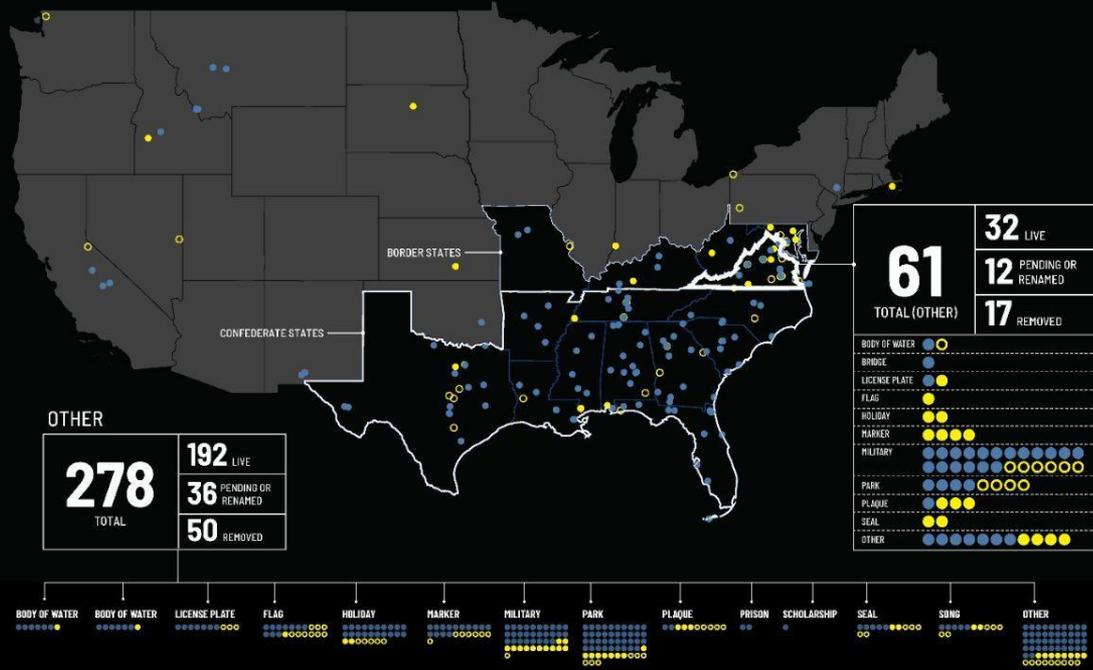


# VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE MEMORIALIZATION

## EMBLEMS OF THE CONFEDERACY

Memorials to the Confederacy are ubiquitous across the South and range from overt towering monuments delineating civic spaces to (re)usable symbols embedded in holidays and state mottos. In this larger map on the left, we see not only the distribution of these visible memorials but also their variety and primary audience, from prisoners to school children. Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, has the largest total amount of these types of memorials with 31, followed by Texas with 28 and Georgia with 16. Together, these three states account for a most 43% of the total number of memorials categorized as "other" in the Southern Poverty Law Center dataset. Items within this category range from like clocks to park benches to murals to heritage months. Not dissimilar to other types of memorials, the majority of these are still live.

The distribution and status of memorials sorted by type (on the right) reveals which types are most prolific. Memorials and roads have which types have been removed at greater rates (monuments and buildings). These differences speak in part to what is easiest to remove or rename (a building is much simpler to rename than a town), but also speaks to which types of memorials are potentially more durable, and which ones have received the most pressure for removal. The six types of memorials shown on the right have specific locations in the built environment, but as is evident in the map on the left, other types of memorialization such as state mottos, license plates, school mascots, and police uniform emblems are much more subtle and pervasive imprinting almost all aspects of life in the South.

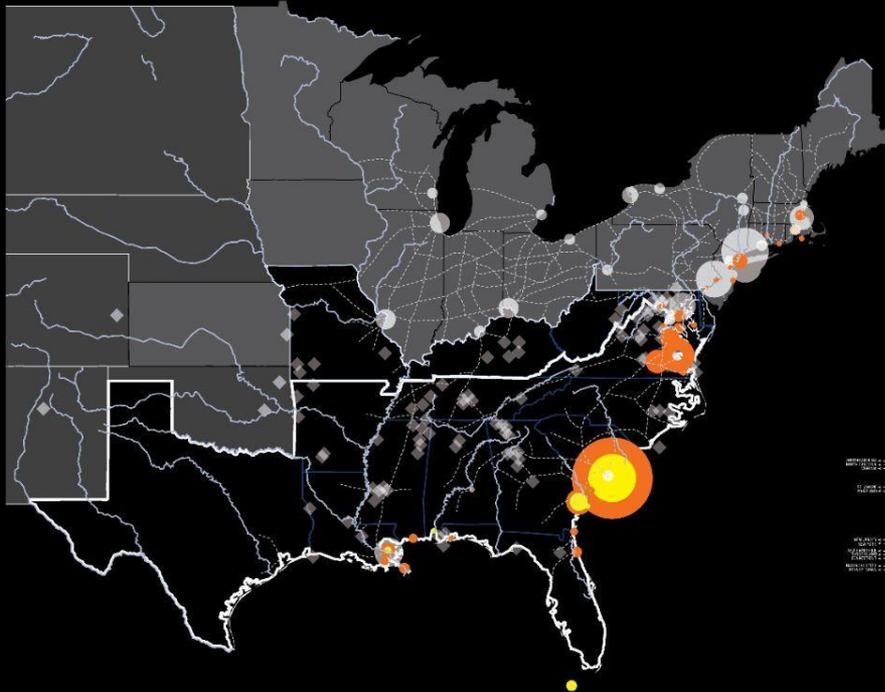


# AT THE ROOTS OF CONFEDERATE MEMORIALIZATION

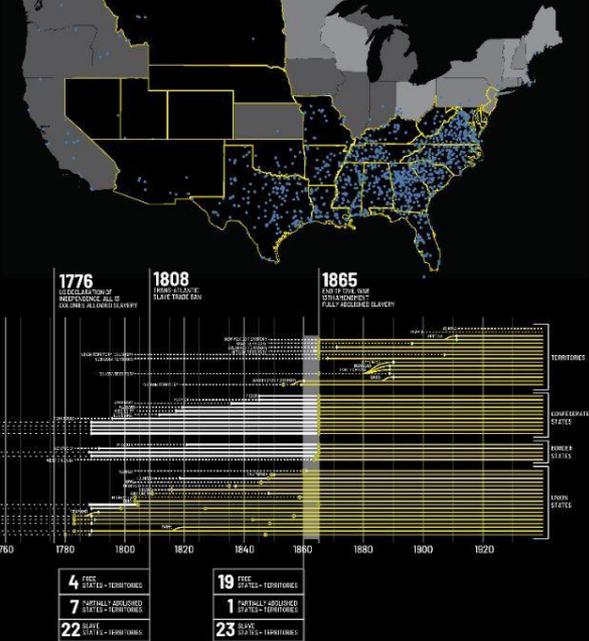
## SLAVERY, ABOLITION, THE CIVIL WAR, AND SYMBOLS OF TERROR

At the founding of the US in 1776, all thirteen British colonies had participated in and economically benefited from slave trade for over 150 years. The large map on the left highlights slave ports closed by the number of enslaved peoples disembarked from 1800-1830. It is estimated that around 300,000 enslaved Africans were brought directly to North America, which accounts for only a small percentage of the millions of enslaved peoples brought to the Americas. In 1808, trans-Atlantic slave trade was banned in the US, and although the practice largely continued in southern port cities until 1865, it was greatly reduced from its peak in the 1700s.

The map and timeline on the right highlight how gradual and complex the abolition of slavery was across the US. Beginning in 1830 with the ratification of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Ban, domestic slave trade replaced an estimated 835,000 enslaved people who were sourced from the mid-Atlantic to the lower south to facilitate agricultural production. Additionally as northern states began partial abolition, most enslaved peoples were sold to cotton plantations in the lower south rather than being freed. Northern states incrementally began abolishing slavery starting in the 1790s. Pennsylvania was the first to partially abolish in 1780 and Massachusetts was first to fully abolish in 1783. One northern state (New Jersey), all border states, and most territories did not fully abolish slavery until the Confederate States did with the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865.

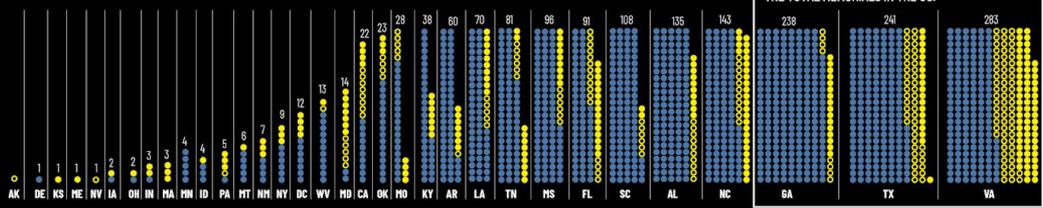
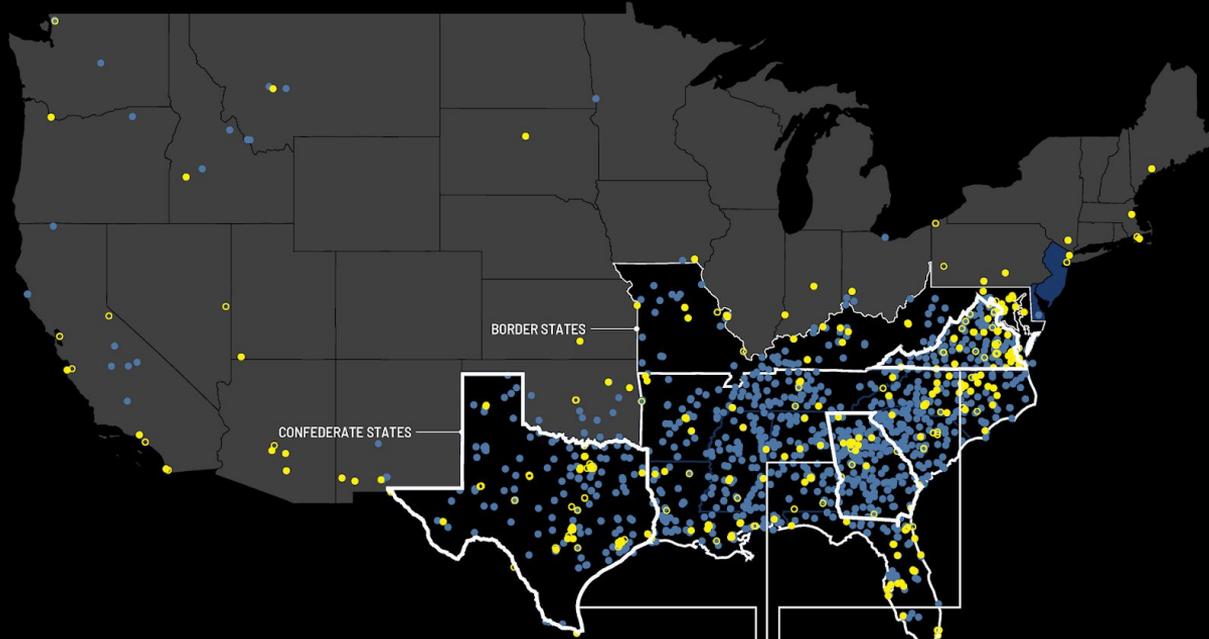


## THE GRADUAL ABOLITION OF SLAVERY





# CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL STATUS AS OF 2023



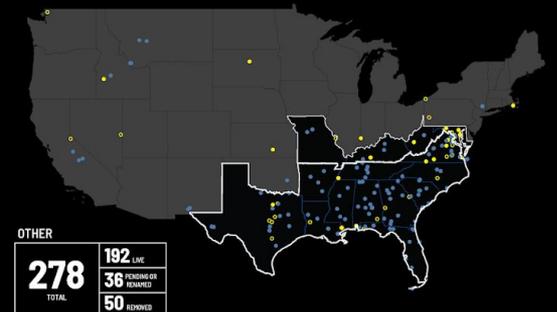
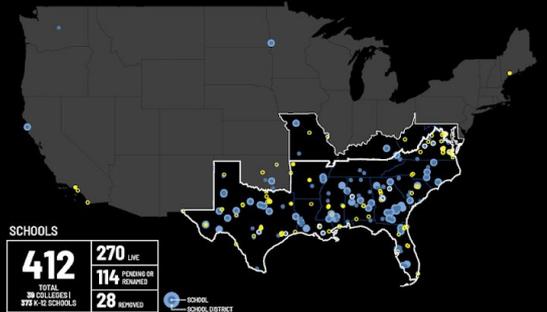
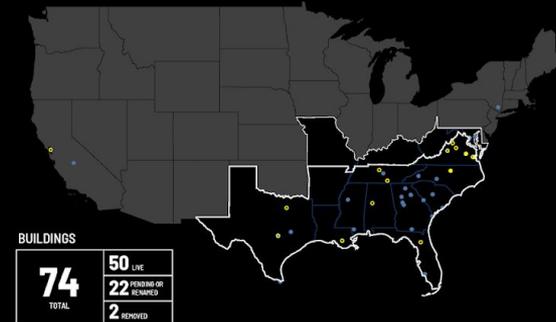
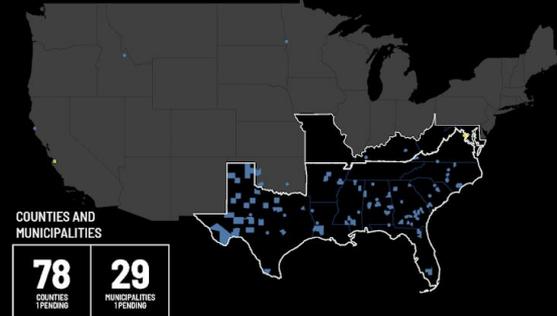
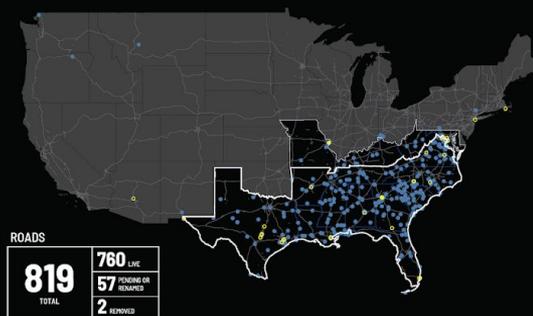
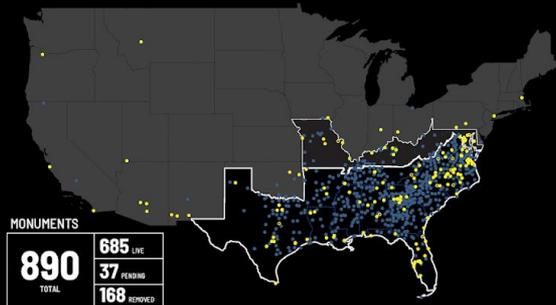
GEORGIA, TEXAS AND VIRGINIA ARE HOME TO 1/3 OF THE TOTAL MEMORIALS IN THE US.

<b>2580</b>	<b>2062</b> LIVE
	<b>268</b> PENDING
	<b>250</b> REMOVED
TOTAL	

**LEGEND**

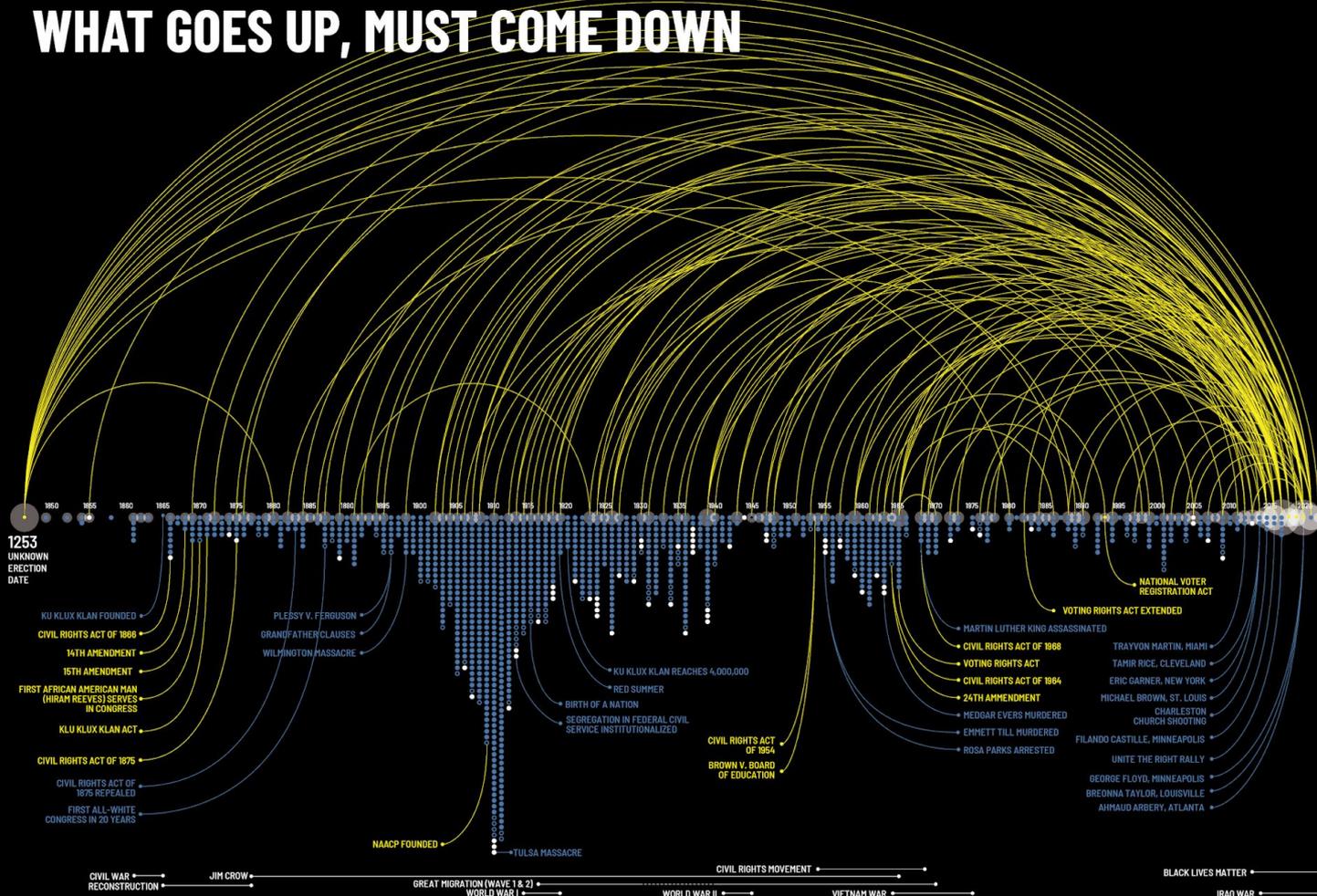
- LIVE
- PENDING (includes removed but potential remains, relocations, and removal)
- REMOVED (includes relocated)
- NON-CONFEDERATE STATE
- BORDER STATE
- CONFEDERATE STATE

# MEMORIALIZATION BY TYPE





# WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN



1253  
UNKNOWN  
ERECTOR  
DATE

- KU KLUX KLAN FOUNDED
- CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1866
- 14TH AMENDMENT
- 15TH AMENDMENT
- FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN (HIRAM REEVES) SERVES IN CONGRESS
- KLU KLUX KLAN ACT
- CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1875
- CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1875 REPEALED
- FIRST ALL-WHITE CONGRESS IN 20 YEARS

- PLESSY V. FERGUSON
- GRANDFATHER CLAUSES
- WILMINGTON MASSACRE

- KU KLUX KLAN REACHES 4,000,000
- RED SUMMER
- BIRTH OF A NATION
- SEGREGATION IN FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE INSTITUTIONALIZED

- CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1954
- BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

- NAACP FOUNDED
- TULSA MASSACRE

- MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATED
- CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968
- VOTING RIGHTS ACT
- CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964
- 24TH AMMENDMENT
- MEDGAR EVERS MURDERED
- EMMETT TILL MURDERED
- ROSA PARKS ARRESTED

- NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT
- VOTING RIGHTS ACT EXTENDED

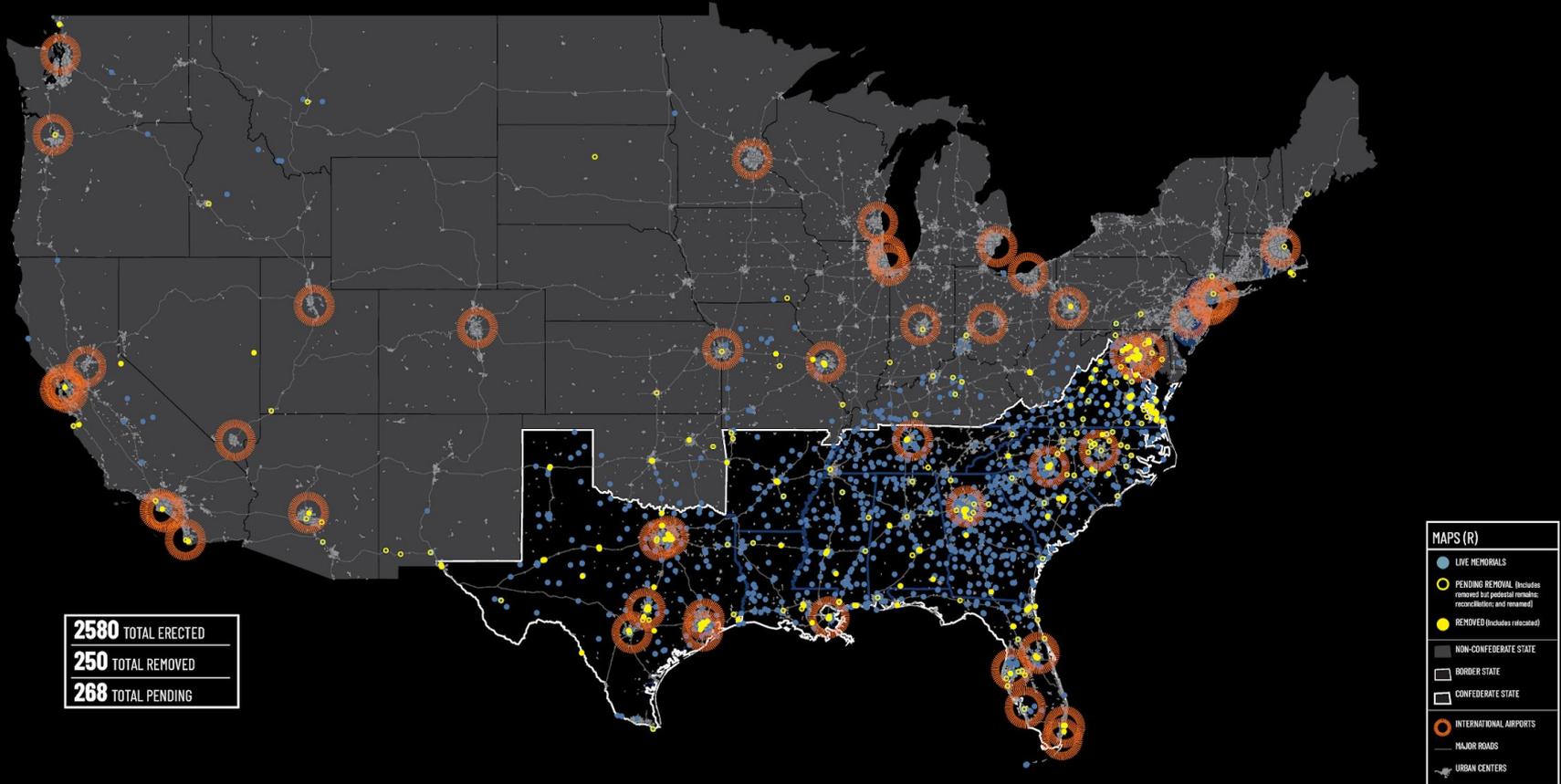
- TRAYVON MARTIN, MIAMI
- TAMIR RICE, CLEVELAND
- ERIC GARNER, NEW YORK
- MICHAEL BROWN, ST. LOUIS
- CHARLESTON CHURCH SHOOTING
- FILANDO CASTILLE, MINNEAPOLIS
- UNITE THE RIGHT RALLY
- GEORGE FLOYD, MINNEAPOLIS
- BRODNNA TAYLOR, LOUISVILLE
- AHMAUD ARBERY, ATLANTA

CIVIL WAR RECONSTRUCTION      JIM CROW      GREAT MIGRATION (WAVE 1 & 2) WORLD WAR I      WORLD WAR II      CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT      VIETNAM WAR      BLACK LIVES MATTER      IRAQ WAR

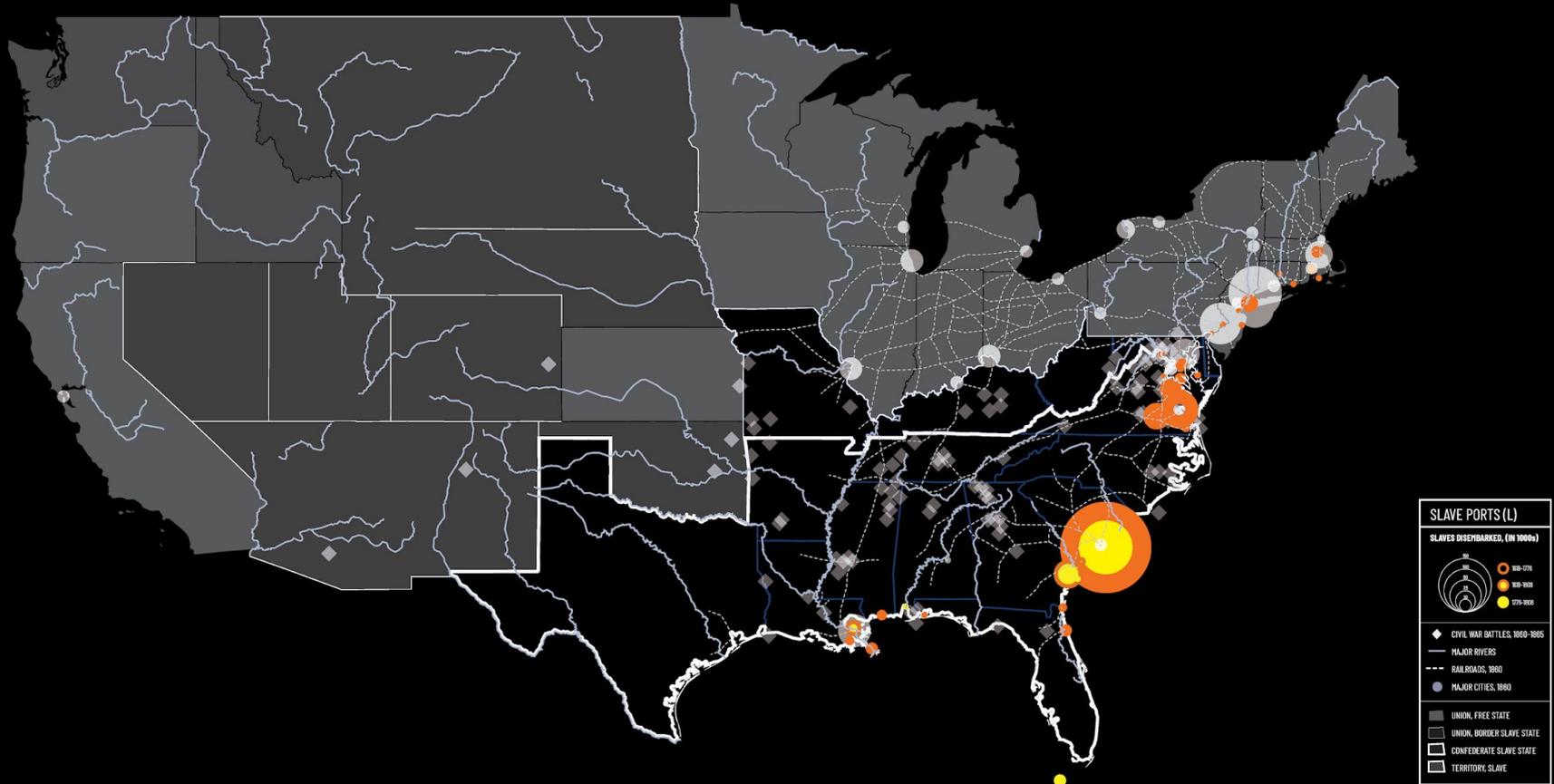
**TIMELINE (L)**

- LINKS ERECTOR TO REMOVAL
- NON-CONFEDERATE STATE
- BORDER STATE
- CONFEDERATE STATE
- BUBBLE SIZE IS SCALED TO TOTAL NUMBER OF ERECTED MONUMENTS IN THAT YEAR
- TIMELINE TEXT IN BLUE ARE TACTICS OF OPPRESSION INSTITUTED IN THE SAME YEAR OF MEMORIAL ERECTOR. TEXT IN YELLOW ARE EVENTS RELATED TO CIVIL RIGHTS.

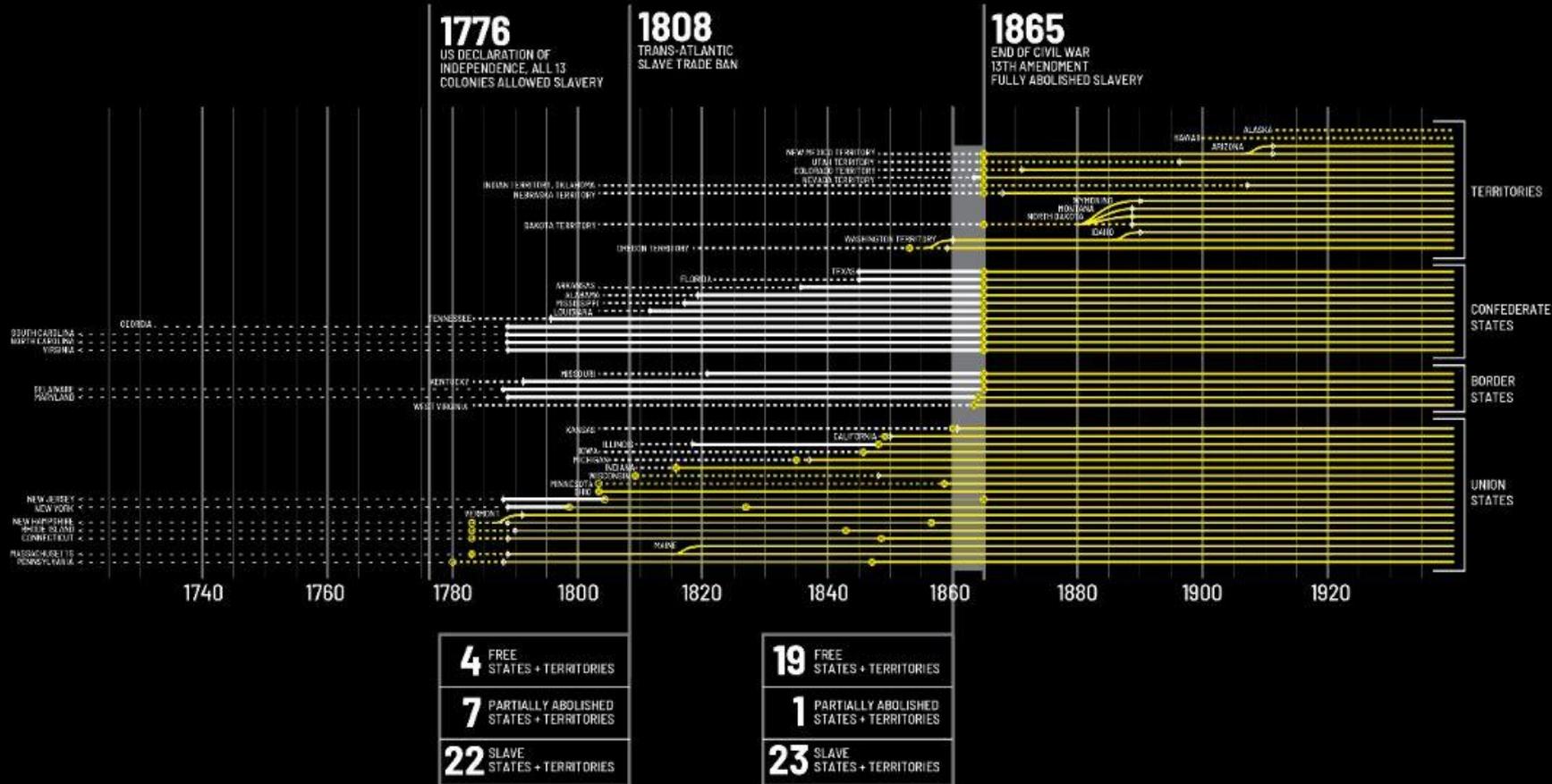
# CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL STATUS AND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE



# AT THE ROOTS OF CONFEDERATE MEMORIALIZATION

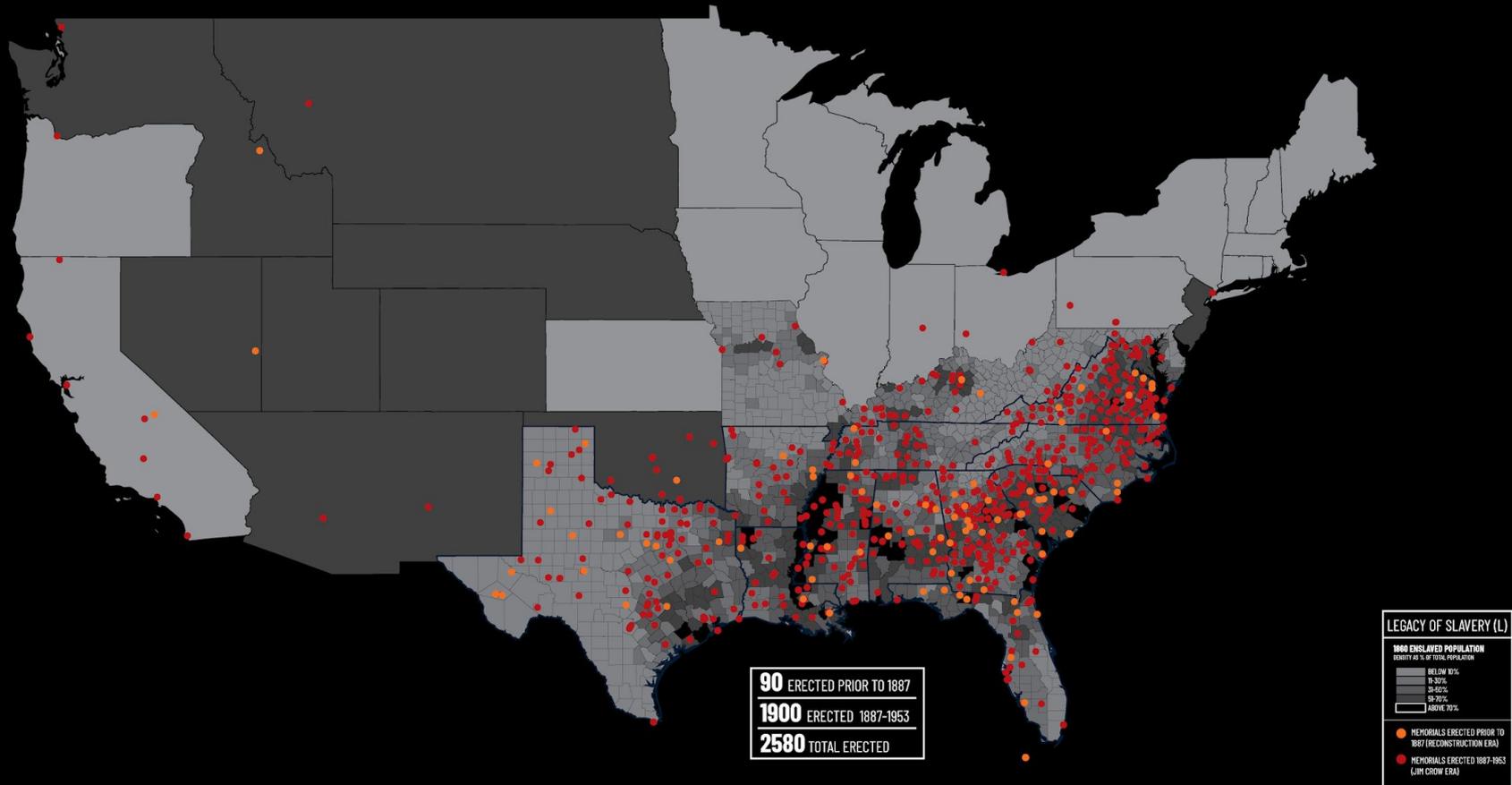


# GRADUAL ABOLITION

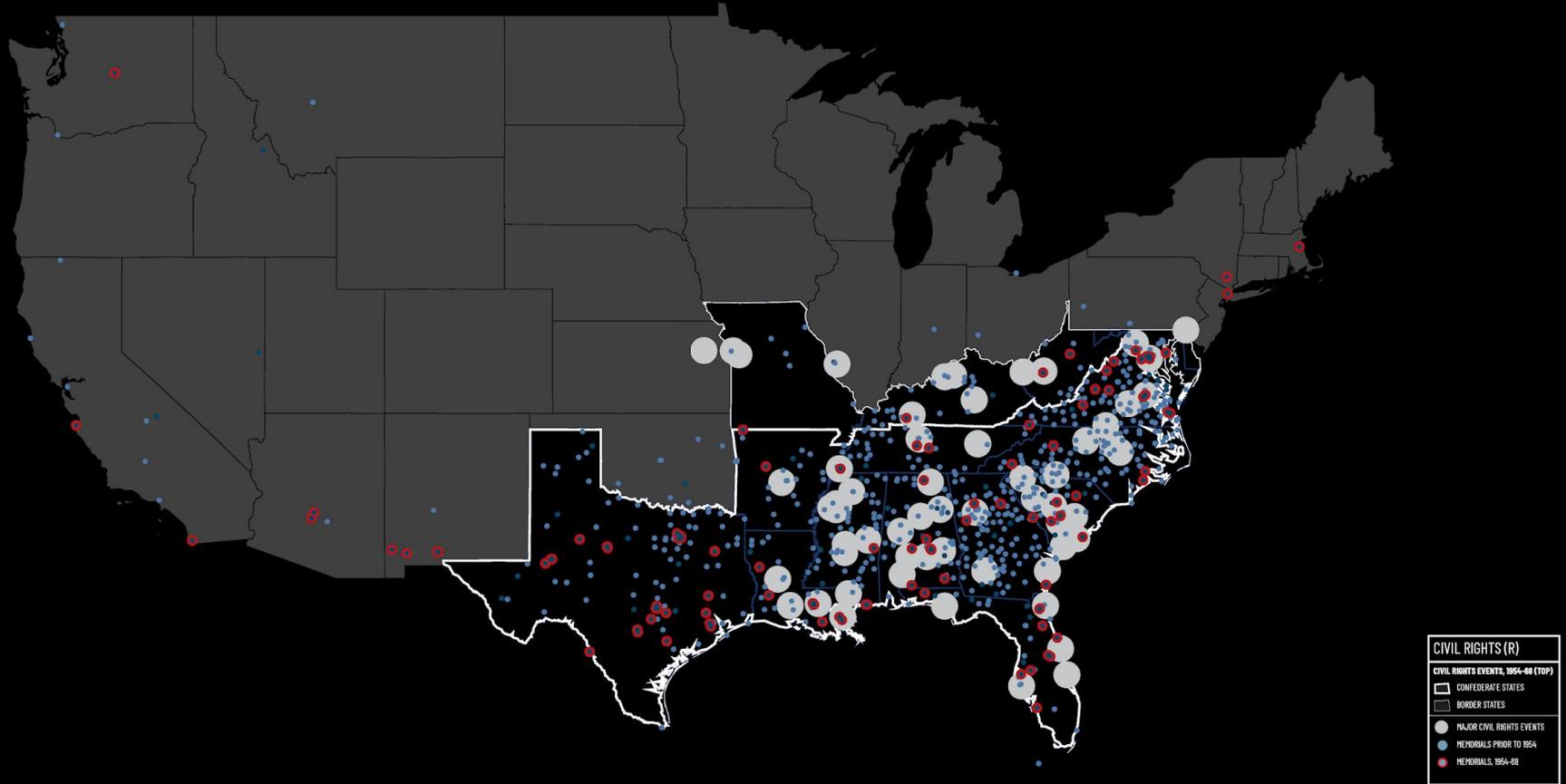




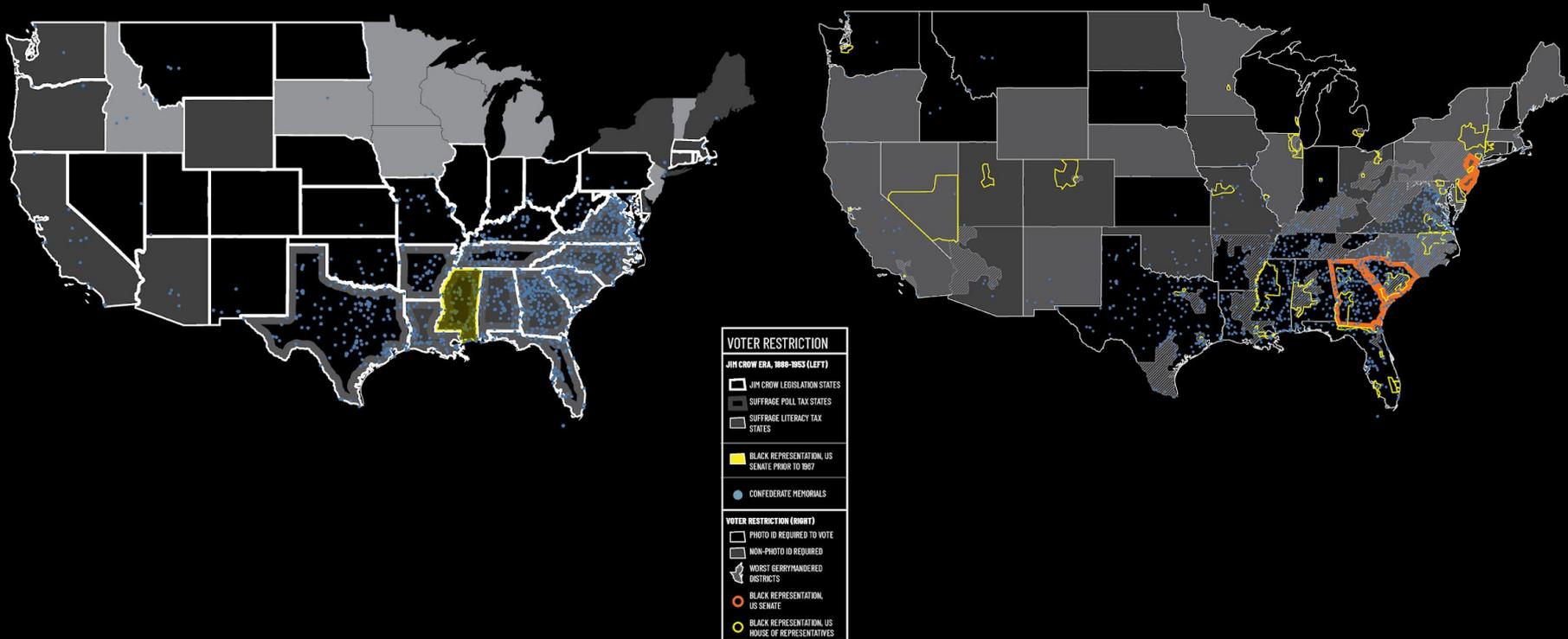
# THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY



# CIVIL RIGHTS EVENTS AND CONCURRENT CONFEDERATE MEMORIALIZATION

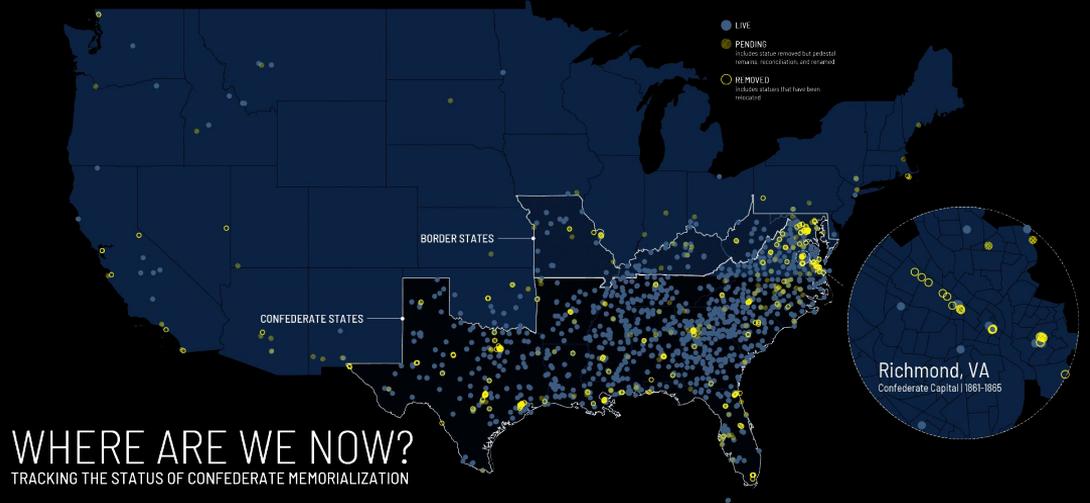
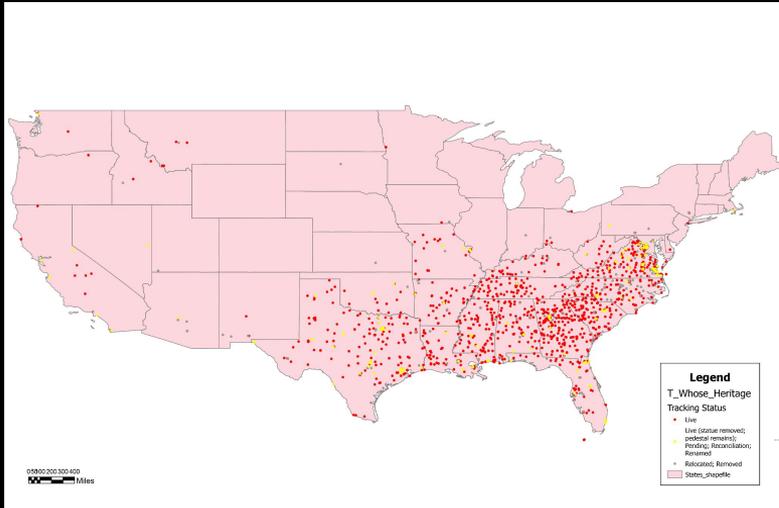


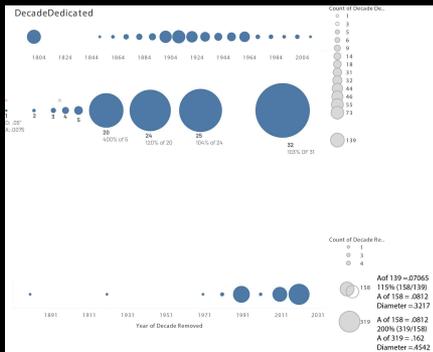
# TACTICAL DISENFRANCHISEMENT













# Thank you!



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