Discussion Guide

Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership
by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

Resources:

- Review and summary of each chapter: [https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/race-for-profit-review](https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/race-for-profit-review)
- Democracy Now interview with the author (transcript and recording): [https://www.democracynow.org/2019/10/22/keeanga_yamahtta_taylor_race_for_profit](https://www.democracynow.org/2019/10/22/keeanga_yamahtta_taylor_race_for_profit)

Data Resources for Context:

- Vermont Housing Data (community profiles and town/county/state data on population, household, income, employment, homeownership, rental housing, housing needs, and more): [https://www.housingdata.org/](https://www.housingdata.org/)

Discussion Questions:

- Before reading this title, what did you know about the subject?
- How did the “unintended consequences” (or the non-explicitly stated intentions) of governmental policies contribute to the main issues addressed in the book?
- How did private industry influence governmental policies to further these “unintended consequences/non-explicitly stated intentions”?
- What discomfort are you sitting with after reading this book?
- Which of your previously held beliefs are being challenged by this book?
- What does history teach us about the oppression of underrepresented groups?
- What have you uncovered with respect to your personal biases?
- What are the implications for the future? Are there long- or short-term consequences to the issues raised in the book? Are they positive or negative? Affirming or frightening?
- What solutions does the author propose? Are the author's recommendations concrete, sensible, doable? Who would implement those solutions?
- How controversial are the issues raised in the book? Who is aligned on which sides of the issues? Where do you fall in that line-up?
- Talk about specific passages that struck you as significant—or interesting, profound, amusing, illuminating, disturbing, sad? What was memorable?
- What questions do you still have? What did you “Google” while reading the book? What questions remained unanswered by the book?

Questions for community housing discussions

*Use these as part of your book discussion, or to frame other housing conversations.*

- How inclusive is your community?
• What types of housing are in your community? Single-family homes, multi-family homes, mobile home parks, senior housing, group homes etc.? Are the majority rented or owner-occupied?
• Does your community have enough housing that is affordable, accessible, and right-sized?
• What groups of people are struggling and how does not having a safe, stable home impact their lives? Some groups that people may not immediately think of as having housing issues: college students, veterans, families with children, fully employed, seniors.
• What are the barriers to accessing safe and affordable housing in your community?
• How do you think local and state zoning policies have affected who lives in your community and where they live?
• Who participates in local decision-making about housing issues? Who is left out?
• Does your community have a local housing committee, housing trust fund, or community land trust? How do/could these structures help increase access to quality affordable homes for people who are traditionally marginalized and discriminated against?
• How can you get involved in addressing the housing issues in your community?