

## Desmond's Capitalism Discussion Prep Document

Excerpt of "Capitalism," *The 1619 Project* and Questions [\[.pdf\]](#) [\[.docx\]](#)

1. Focus Question(s) To Consider:

- a. "Those searching for reasons that the American economy is uniquely severe and unbridled have found answers in many places (religion, politics, culture). But recently, historians have pointed persuasively to the gnatty fields of Georgia and Alabama, to the cotton houses and slave auction blocks, as the birthplace of America's low-road approach to capitalism."
  - i. To what extent did slavery in the US contribute to the development of the global financial industry? To the American financial system?

2. Preparation:

- a. Spend 20 minutes reading & annotating the document. Once you have done that, type the most significant paragraph for you in the passage in the organizer.
- b. Spend 20 minutes writing 6-8 sentences explaining why you chose that quote—what it means to you, what does it remind you of, how does it connect to the unit, and how does it help you answer the focus question(s)?

Type the Passage (or picture)	
Write 6-8 sentences explaining why you chose that quote—what it means to you, what does it remind you of, how does it connect to the unit, and how does it help you answer the focus question(s)?	
Notes on what you hear in the discussion (Type the presenter name and share key points they make).	

**American Institutions**

Unit by U.S. History Teachers in Chicago Public Schools, part of the 2021 cohort of *The 1619 Project* Education Network

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