

The Unveiling
Our Little known History



**The Tulsa Race Massacre
100 Years Later**

Today marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre. We've been seeing it in the headlines for weeks. Though it's perhaps the most destructive racial violence episode since slavery, most of us hardly knew of it until recently. This horrific story has been actively suppressed from our history books and our national narrative about equality and the opportunity for success when you're willing to work.

Tulsa's Greenwood neighborhood, sometimes known as "Black Wall Street," is said to have been the wealthiest Black community in this country, with people traveling great distances to move there. Yet, because of one rumor about a Black man accused of molesting a white woman (which was later proven false) whites rose up in huge numbers to lynch him. When the Greenwood community tried to protect their citizen against this injustice, Tulsa law enforcement and the Oklahoma National Guard responded in force using machine guns and dropping bombs from World War 2 planes onto the Black neighborhood, leaving more than 300 dead, 800 wounded, more than 1,200 homes, at least 60 businesses, dozens of churches, a school, a hospital, and a public library all burned to the ground, according to a report issued by Human Rights Watch. All of the wealth and stability the Black community had worked for was wiped out. To this day, no whites have taken responsibility and no Black people have been repaid for their losses. For most of the past century, the story was largely unknown due to fear — Black families too afraid of a repeat event and what Vox News calls "a conspiracy of silence as white perpetrators covered up their deeds so quickly that, 100 years later, many officials and historians believe some of the bodies of buried victims still haven't been found."

It's shocking. It's terrifying. But it fits a pattern. Many times in our history, when

Black people have begun to make progress, there has been a swift and harsh response to push them back. Most recently we are seeing it in legislation. In 2020, Black voters (urged on by Black strategists) came out in droves and Georgia ended up with a Black senator. White lawmakers have responded by writing hundreds of laws to suppress their votes. The American narrative has been and still is untrue when it comes to Black people. There is so much work to be done.

Read more here:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/tuls-a-race-massacre-100-years-later-why-it-happened-why-n1268877>