

Stamped Parts I & 2 Source Notes

Section I (Chapters I-4)

Summary (1 sentence for each chapter)

- **Chapter 1** - Reynolds frames this as a "present book" while stating the origins of anti-Black racist ideas, which was Zurara's defense of Portuguese slave trading
- **Chapter 2** - European writers push climate and curse theories while John Cotton and Richard Mather, who were Puritans, baked Aristotle's ideology into Harvard, all while slavery takes root in Virginia.
- **Chapter 3** - Writers like Baxter and Vanini escalate to polygenesis while early antiracists respond (w/ the 1688 Germantown petition), and elites create the idea of "White privileges" after Bacon's rebellion.
- **Chapter 4** - Cotton Mather's witch panic and the Black devil imagery associated criminality to being Black and accompanies new racist laws in the colonies.

Direct Quotes of Interest (3)

1. "Segregationists. Assimilationists. Antiracists."
2. "Zurara's book became an anthem"
3. "They made it so that Greek and Latin texts could not be disputed"

Interesting Ideas (3)

- Racist stories end up sticking because people repeat them until they feel normal
- When schools teach hierarchy as truth, it locks racism into the system
- After Bacon's rebellion, leaders used divide-and-rule politics to build loyalty to "whiteness" by creating the idea of white-only privileges.
 - *Normalization*

Rhetorical Choices

- Reynolds prepares the reader for a charged topic w/ breathing cues, but is also direct about it. He doesn't dance around the idea. "Inhale. Hold it. Exhale and breathe out: RACE."
- Humorous/self-aware asides which keep readers engaged and while still delivering the hard truth
- Pop culture metaphor to show how ideas spread ("like a pop song.")

- Vivid theft imagery for describing conquest

Miscellaneous Notes

- "Mission from God" is used to dress up the idea of racism as being a "hero"
 - The Puritan influence starts w/ Harvard
 - Aristotle's hierarchy is treated as *truth*.
 - Salem testimony combines and plants the idea of "devil" and "Black" in the public's imagination
 - "a black thing of a considerable bigness"
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Section 2 (Ch. 5-10)

Summary (1 sentence for each chapter)

- **Chapter 5** - Franklin's American Philosophical Society praised white reason while Phillis Wheatley did the opposite, highlighting Black intellect.
- **Chapter 6** - A seven-point recap going through the era's rotating justifications for racism.
- **Chapter 7** - Reynolds states the counter-claim very plainly: "Africans are not savages"
- **Chapter 8** - Jefferson claims liberty ("All men are created equal") while *denying it to people*, then publishes racial "Notes on the State of Virginia" where he does the complete opposite once again, calling Black people inferior.
- **Chapter 9** - Abolitionists push uplift suasion (respectability "checklist") as a pathway to freedom.
- **Chapter 10** - After Prosser's failed revolt, colonization gets backing (ACS), the 1807 ban barely slows the trade, domestic trafficking and forced "breeding" grow, and the Missouri Compromise makes an attempt to balance power

Direct Quotes of Interest (3)

1. "All men are created equal."
2. "This strategy was called uplift suasion."
3. "Tractors with heartbeats. Backhoes that bleed."

Interesting Ideas (3)

- The "test" of Wheatley exposes gatekeeping around intellect and humanity
- Haiti redefines the global symbol of freedom, which terrifies US slaveholders

- Colonization reframes displacement as "help," while many Black Americans reject this and view the US as home

Rhetorical Choices

- "Sound effects" to flag flawed arguments like the record scratch
- Repetition is used to emphasise contradiction
- Imperative/second-person lists to dramatize respectability's demand
- A conversational style of writing is used
 - "Not, like, literally under a microscope."
- Reynolds uses irony is used to frame Jefferson's legacy against his words
 - "He knew that *all men are created equal*. He wrote it."

Miscellaneous Notes

- Franklin is imagined as an important figure in the Enlightenment era
 - "Mr. One-Hundred-Dollar Bill himself -- Benjamin Franklin."
- Constitutional math
 - "Every five slaves equaled three humans."