Rewriting History: The Case for Harriet Tubman on the $20 Bill

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Case Summary: Ten years ago, the federal government initiated a plan to replace Pres. Andrew Jackson’s image on the face of the $20 bill with that of Harriet Tubman. Tubman was a courageous former slave who helped numerous slaves find freedom and did dangerous scouting and spy work for the Union Army during the Civil War. Unfortunately, Pres. Trump’s administration has put this long overdue improvement on hold. This plan enacts a bill currently pending in Congress to require the change from Jackson to Tubman, to honor her brave stand for freedom and stop honoring a President whose legacy most of us would disavow if we really understood it.

Rewriting History: The Case For Harriet Tubman on the $20 Bill 3

Observation 1: DEFINITIONS 3

The Federal Reserve Act defines US monetary policy 3

OBSERVATION 2. BACKGROUND 3

FACT 1. Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill 3

Pres. Andrew Jackson is currently on the $20 bill, but no one knows why 3

FACT 2. Change and then Delay 3

Harriet Tubman was supposed to replace Jackson in 2020, but it’s been delayed by Treasury Secretary Mnuchin 3

FACT 3. Quantification 4

8 billion $20 bills in circulation 4

OBSERVATION 3. The simple PLAN to be implemented by Congress and the President. 4

OBSERVATION 4. The ADVANTAGES. 4

ADVANTAGE 1. Honor the Tubman Legacy 4

A. Harriet Tubman was a genuine American hero and deserves recognition 4

B. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell agrees: The $20 bill will be a great way to honor her 4

ADVANTAGE 2. Better than Jackson 5

Andrew Jackson’s legacy was something none of us should celebrate 5

ADVANTAGE 3. Social healing as we take a stand against racism and misogyny 5

A. Reversing the Tubman delay helps us oppose racism and misogyny 5

B. Reconciling with history can help us overcome bigotry and move forward together 5

ADVANTAGE 4. Renounce the legacy of slavery 6

Putting Tubman on the 20 helps us celebrate freedom and renounce the shameful legacy of slavery 6

2A Evidence: Harriet Tubman 7

BACKGROUND / DEFINITIONS 7

Entire text of the bill 7

INHERENCY 7

Delay: Status Quo won’t have Tubman in circulation until 2028 7

Tubman on the 20 is stalled by opposition from Trump 7

Delay is pretty serious: Treasury Department took Tubman information off its website. It’s all politics 7

Reason for the Tubman Delay: Politics 8

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY 8

No excuse for delay, we need to pass the Harriet Tubman Tribute Act now 8

A/T “Only a delay, will happen eventually” – The delay itself is bad. It’s unjustified and sends bad message to women, girls, and communities of color 8

A/T “Need more time to get the $20 bill ready” – Strange, they were able to get the $50 and $100 ready in the same time 8

ADVANTAGES 9

Tubman Worthy 9

Tubman is a true American hero 9

Jackson Unworthy 9

Jackson oppressed the Cherokee Indians with the Indian Removal Act of 1830 9

A/T “Lots of people had slaves, they didn’t know better back then” – Jackson was especially cruel. 9

Native American Indians are still suffering the legacy of Andrew Jackson’s cruelty 9

A/T “Lots of people mistreated the American Indians” – Jackson was especially cruel, killing women and children 10

Social Legacy 10

Putting Tubman on the 20 is desperately needed to reflect the diversity of America 10

Even without considering gender or race, Tubman would still deserve to be on the 20 because of her achievements 10

DISADVANTAGE RESPONSES 10

A/T “Dishonors Andrew Jackson” – Turn: Having him on the $20 bill dishonors him. He would have opposed it 10

A/T “Security concerns” – Technology already exists. It’s not credible to believe the $20 can’t be done by now. More likely it’s politics 11

Works Cited 12

Rewriting History: The Case For Harriet Tubman on the $20 Bill

The $20 bill has had Pres. Andrew Jackson’s picture on it since 1928, but no one knows why. His legacy is one no one today would celebrate if they knew all the facts about it. And an under-recognized shining hero of American history is ready to take his place, if only we will let her. Please join us in affirming that: The United States Federal Government should substantially reform its banking, finance, and/or monetary policy

Observation 1: DEFINITIONS

The Federal Reserve Act defines US monetary policy

James Chen 2019. (Director of Trading & Investing content at Investopedia. Former head of research at Gain Capital. Two decades of experience in the financial markets as a trader, investor, author, investment adviser, and global market strategist) INVESTOPEDIA last updated 14 May 2019 “1913 Federal Reserve Act” <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/1913-federal-reserve-act.asp>

The 1913 Federal Reserve Act is U.S. legislation that created the current [Federal Reserve System](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/federalreservesystem.asp). Congress developed the Federal Reserve Act to establish economic stability in the United States by introducing a [central bank](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/centralbank.asp) to oversee monetary policy.

OBSERVATION 2. BACKGROUND

FACT 1. Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill

Pres. Andrew Jackson is currently on the $20 bill, but no one knows why

WASHINGTON POST 2016 (journalist Abby Ohlheiser) 20 Apr 2016 (ethical note about the date: Washington Post originally published this in March 2015, but then re-published it again in 2016 and put a new date on it. That’s why the URL still says 2015.) “Why was Andrew Jackson put on the $20 bill? The answer may be lost to history.” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/03/06/why-is-andrew-jackson-on-the-20-bill-the-answer-may-be-lost-to-history/>

Historians have some ideas as to why putting Jackson on the $20 seemed like a good idea in 1928, when his face was selected to replace Grover Cleveland's. But as it turns out, nobody seems to know for sure why a Treasury Department committee assigned Old Hickory's portrait to the bill. No really, we checked. The Treasury Department, which has the authority to determine who appears on what bills (so long as that individual is already dead), [says on its Web site](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/faqs/Currency/Pages/edu_faq_currency_portraits.aspx) that its own historical records "do not suggest" why certain presidents ended up on certain bills during a blitz of portrait selections in 1928.

FACT 2. Change and then Delay

Harriet Tubman was supposed to replace Jackson in 2020, but it’s been delayed by Treasury Secretary Mnuchin

NEW YORK TIMES 2019. (journalist Alan Rappeport) “Harriet Tubman $20 Bill Is Delayed Until Trump Leaves Office, Mnuchin Says” 22 May 2019 <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/us/harriet-tubman-bill.html>

Harriet Tubman — former slave, abolitionist, “conductor” on the Underground Railroad — will not become the face of the $20 bill until after President Trump leaves office, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Wednesday. Plans to unveil the Tubman bill in 2020, [an Obama administration initiative](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/21/us/women-currency-treasury-harriet-tubman.html?module=inline), would be postponed until at least 2026, Mr. Mnuchin said, and the bill itself would not likely be in circulation until 2028.

FACT 3. Quantification

8 billion $20 bills in circulation

WASHINGTON POST 2016 (journalist Abby Ohlheiser) 20 Apr 2016 (ethical note about the date: Washington Post originally published this in March 2015, but then re-published it again in 2016 and put a new date on it. That’s why the URL still says 2015.) “Why was Andrew Jackson put on the $20 bill? The answer may be lost to history.” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/03/06/why-is-andrew-jackson-on-the-20-bill-the-answer-may-be-lost-to-history/>

There are more $20 bills in circulation than there are people on Earth, according to [Federal Reserve data](http://www.federalreserve.gov/paymentsystems/coin_currcircvolume.htm) — about 8.1 billion in all. Only the $1 and the $100 exist in larger quantities.

OBSERVATION 3. The simple PLAN to be implemented by Congress and the President.

Congress amends section 16 of the Federal Reserve Act by passing HR 1083, the “Harriet Tubman Tribute Act of 2019.” It mandates that the Treasury Department must put the likeness of Harriet Tubman on the face of all $20 bills printed after Dec 31, 2020.  
Funding from general federal revenues and all Affirmative speeches may clarify.

OBSERVATION 4. The ADVANTAGES.

ADVANTAGE 1. Honor the Tubman Legacy

A. Harriet Tubman was a genuine American hero and deserves recognition

Prof. Catherine Clinton 2018. (Professor of American History at Univ. of Texas at San Antonio. ) MILITARY TIMES 7 Feb 2018 “‘General Tubman’: Female abolitionist was also a secret military weapon” <https://www.militarytimes.com/military-honor/black-military-history/2018/02/07/general-tubman-female-abolitionist-was-also-a-secret-military-weapon/>

When the Civil War began, [Harriet Tubman](http://www.historynet.com/harriet-tubman) had already been a freedom fighter for more than a decade. As a renowned abolitionist and intrepid Underground Railroad conductor who went into slave territory to lead refugees to safety in the North and Canada, she had undertaken numerous clandestine and dangerous rescues. Tubman wasn’t afraid of assisting her escaped brothers and sisters either. In 1860 she helped liberate runaway slave Charles Nalle from a slave catcher in Troy, N.Y. Shortly after Abraham Lincoln’s call to arms in April 1861, Tubman realized that joining forces with the Federal military would increase her effectiveness in the fight against slavery, and she volunteered for duty. She enrolled first as a nurse, and then expanded her efforts to serve as a scout and spy for the Union in occupied South Carolina. Her role as an American patriot is undisputed, but her service as a war hero was challenged at the time. Over the years scholars and schoolchildren have begun to recognize her significant contributions to guaranteeing Union victory in the Civil War.

B. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell agrees: The $20 bill will be a great way to honor her

USA TODAY 2017. (journalist Nicole Gaudiano) 10 Jan 2017 “National park honoring Underground Railroad heroine Harriet Tubman made official” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/01/10/national-park-honoring-underground-railroad-heroine-harriet-tubman-made-official/96394704/>

Her legacy has received greater attention in recent years. In April, the U.S. Treasury Department announced a plan for Tubman to replace Andrew Jackson as the portrait on the $20 bill. Jewell said she can “hardly wait” to go to the ATM and find Tubman’s likeness on a $20. “The country is taking steps, slowly but surely,” she said. Yvonne Baskerville, a lay leader in the A.M.E. Zion Church, said Tubman’s recognition is “long overdue.”

ADVANTAGE 2. Better than Jackson

Andrew Jackson’s legacy was something none of us should celebrate

Sheneese Thompson and Prof. Franco Barchiesi 2018 (Thompson – PhD candidate at Ohio State Univ. Barchiesi - Associate Professor, Dept. of African American and African Studies, Ohio State Univ.) “Harriet Tubman and Andrew Jackson on the Twenty-Dollar Bill: A Monstrous Intimacy” OPEN CULTURAL STUDIES <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329241389_Harriet_Tubman_and_Andrew_Jackson_on_the_Twenty-Dollar_Bill_A_Monstrous_Intimacy/link/5bfe8f0ba6fdcc1b8d487673/download>

Having served as a soldier in the American Revolution and a general in the War of 1812, America’s seventh president was the founder of the Democratic Party, a major slave owner, and one of America’s most fervent advocates for manifest destiny and Native American removal. Indigenous genocide and Black enslavement are the structural forces, as distinct from the mere ideological or policy agendas, that made the Jacksonian Era. In the time span between the Battle of New Orleans (1815), which gave Jackson enduring fame, and his death (1845), the slave population of the United States more than doubled, to 2.5 million (it was less than half a million at Jackson’s birth.) He deployed the full strength of the federal armed forces to violently displace the Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, and Seminoles, opening the way for the Southern plantation economy structuring the very white society that, ironically, would later appeal to states’ rights against federal encroachment on slaveowners’ power (Gudmestad.) His brutality toward those he personally owned is well documented, even by sympathetic historians.

ADVANTAGE 3. Social healing as we take a stand against racism and misogyny

A. Reversing the Tubman delay helps us oppose racism and misogyny

Karen Baynes-Dunning 2019 (interim President of the Southern Poverty Law Center) 29 May 2019 “Delay of Harriet Tubman $20 bill undergirded by racism, misogyny” <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2019/05/29/delay-harriet-tubman-20-bill-undergirded-racism-misogyny>

Last week, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin announced that the Trump administration is [delaying the release of the new](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/05/28/steve-mnuchins-delay-20-harriet-tubman-bill-design-explained/1227638001/) $20 bill featuring Tubman. Originally, it was scheduled for release in 2020 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. Mnuchin now indicates it will not be in circulation until 2028, long after Trump has left office. He claimed the delay was based on a more immediate need to focus on anti-counterfeiting features of currency, beginning with the $10 and $50 bills. But this decision – like so many of Trump’s statements, decisions, and policies – clearly seems [undergirded by racism](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/06/trump-racism-comments/588067/) and misogyny. It is not lost on the American public that candidate Trump opposed putting Tubman on the $20 bill in 2016, calling the move “pure political correctness.”

B. Reconciling with history can help us overcome bigotry and move forward together

Karen Baynes-Dunning 2019 (interim President of the Southern Poverty Law Center) 29 May 2019 “Delay of Harriet Tubman $20 bill undergirded by racism, misogyny” <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2019/05/29/delay-harriet-tubman-20-bill-undergirded-racism-misogyny>

These policies are the result of the bigotry and hate toward women and people of color that has seeped into mainstream thinking and policy development. We are in a battle for the soul of our nation. The fight for material justice is even more important now than ever before. Placing Harriet Tubman on the new $20 bill will not stop Trump from implementing extremist policies. But it will begin the process of reconciling our nation’s true history, so that we can move forward, together.

ADVANTAGE 4. Renounce the legacy of slavery

Putting Tubman on the 20 helps us celebrate freedom and renounce the shameful legacy of slavery

NEXSTAR news service 2019. “Lawmakers reviving efforts to get Harriet Tubman on $20 bill” 14 May 2019 <https://www.wkrn.com/news/lawmakers-reviving-efforts-to-get-harriet-tubman-on-20-bill/>

Lisa Page, the interim Director of Africana Studies at George Washington University, says the move is not without controversy. “I think Americans are still ashamed of the legacy of slavery and will continue to be ashamed of slavery,” Page said. If the bill were to become a reality, according to Page, it would be a fitting tribute to a trailblazer for freedom and a patriotic American heroine. “She was called Moses for all of her work in abolition,” Page added. “She was a spy for the Union army, she did all kinds of things to liberate blacks in America.”

2A Evidence: Harriet Tubman

BACKGROUND / DEFINITIONS

Entire text of the bill

Congress.gov, official website of Congress 2019. Text of HR1083 introduced 7 Feb 2019 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1083/text>

A BILL  
To require the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign $20 Federal reserve notes so as to include a likeness of Harriet Tubman, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,  
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.  
This Act may be cited as the “Harriet Tubman Tribute Act of 2019”.  
SEC. 2. LIKENESS OF HARRIET TUBMAN REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED ON THE FACE OF $20 FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES.  
The 8th undesignated paragraph of section 16 of the Federal Reserve Act ([12 U.S.C. 418](http://uscode.house.gov/quicksearch/get.plx?title=12&section=418)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that the face of all $20 Federal reserve notes printed after December 31, 2020, shall bear the likeness of Harriet Tubman.”.

INHERENCY

Delay: Status Quo won’t have Tubman in circulation until 2028

Karen Baynes-Dunning 2019 (interim President of the Southern Poverty Law Center) 29 May 2019 “Delay of Harriet Tubman $20 bill undergirded by racism, misogyny” <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2019/05/29/delay-harriet-tubman-20-bill-undergirded-racism-misogyny>

Last week, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin announced that the Trump administration is [delaying the release of the new](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/05/28/steve-mnuchins-delay-20-harriet-tubman-bill-design-explained/1227638001/) $20 bill featuring Tubman. Originally, it was scheduled for release in 2020 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. Mnuchin now indicates it will not be in circulation until 2028, long after Trump has left office.

Tubman on the 20 is stalled by opposition from Trump

NEXSTAR news service 2019. “Lawmakers reviving efforts to get Harriet Tubman on $20 bill” 14 May 2019 <https://www.wkrn.com/news/lawmakers-reviving-efforts-to-get-harriet-tubman-on-20-bill/>

Back in 2016, President Barack Obama’s Treasury Secretary Jack Lew announced the proposal to swap former President Andrew Jackson with Harriet Tubman. Tubman would be the first African-American woman to appear on U.S. currency and the first woman in 100 years. The idea was to honor the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. The plan has since stalled. President Donald Trump is a fan of Andrew Jackson and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said as far as he’s concerned, Jackson will remain on the $20 bill, but some in Congress think otherwise.

Delay is pretty serious: Treasury Department took Tubman information off its website. It’s all politics

Samantha House 2019 (journalist) 4 July 2019 “Syracuse mayor, Onondaga county executive on Harriet Tubman $20 bill: No reason for delay” <https://www.syracuse.com/news/2019/07/syracuse-mayor-onondaga-county-executive-on-harriet-tubman-20-bill-no-reason-for-delay.html>

This May, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said the [new bills wouldn’t be printed until at least 2028](https://www.syracuse.com/us-news/2019/05/treasury-secretary-mnuchin-harriet-tubman-20-bill-put-on-hold.html). The Treasury Department also removed mention of the Tubman $20 from its website. Mnuchin cited the need to take extra anti-counterfeiting measures as the reason for the delay, but the New York Times reported that Mnuchin wanted to [stall the change until after Trump’s presidency](https://www.syracuse.com/us-news/2019/05/harriet-tubman-is-already-appearing-on-20-bills-whether-trump-officials-like-it-or-not.html) to avoid controversy with the president.

Reason for the Tubman Delay: Politics

NEW YORK TIMES 2019. (journalist Alan Rappeport) “Harriet Tubman $20 Bill Is Delayed Until Trump Leaves Office, Mnuchin Says” 22 May 2019 <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/us/harriet-tubman-bill.html>

Mr. Mnuchin, concerned that the president might create an uproar by canceling the new bill altogether, was eager to [delay its redesign until Mr. Trump was out of office](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/14/us/politics/harriet-tubman-bill.html?module=inline), some senior Treasury Department officials have said. As a presidential candidate in 2016, Mr. Trump criticized the Obama administration’s plans for the bill.

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY

No excuse for delay, we need to pass the Harriet Tubman Tribute Act now

Keith Demko 2019 (journalist) Salisbury Daily Times 11 June 2019 Larry Hogan: Put Harriet Tubman on $20 bill in 2020 “<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/2019/06/11/larry-hogan-put-harriet-tubman-20-bill-2020/1418698001/>

"There is no excuse for the administration’s failure to make this redesign a priority," said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H. "The needless foot-dragging on this important effort is unacceptable. Our currency tells our country’s story and it is past time to honor the contributions of Harriet Tubman." In March, Shaheen re-introduced the Harriet Tubman Tribute Act, which would direct Mnuchin to have all $20 bills printed Dec. 31, 2020 featuring Tubman's likeness. "We are very concerned that the administration is stalling this historic effort," Shaheen, said in a May 7 joint statement with Reps. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., and John Kato, D-N.Y., who introduced House versions of the legislation in 2015, 2017 and in February. "In lieu of progress by the Treasury Department, we hope Congress will pass the Harriet Tubman Tribute Act of 2019 to make it clear in statute that the redesign of the twenty must honor Harriet Tubman and in a timely fashion."

A/T “Only a delay, will happen eventually” – The delay itself is bad. It’s unjustified and sends bad message to women, girls, and communities of color

NEW YORK TIMES 2019. (journalist Alan Rappeport) “Harriet Tubman $20 Bill Is Delayed Until Trump Leaves Office, Mnuchin Says” 22 May 2019 <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/us/harriet-tubman-bill.html>

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat of New Hampshire, recently introduced the [Harriet Tubman Tribute Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1083/titles) and called on the Treasury Department to offer clarity on the status of the $20 bill. The legislation, if passed, would direct the department to place the likeness of Tubman on $20 Federal Reserve notes printed after Dec. 31, 2020. “There is no excuse for the administration’s failure to make this redesign a priority,” Ms. Shaheen said. “Sadly, this delay sends an unmistakable message to women and girls, and communities of color, who were promised they’d see Harriet Tubman on the $20 bill.”

A/T “Need more time to get the $20 bill ready” – Strange, they were able to get the $50 and $100 ready in the same time

Jason Nichols 2019 (MSNBC news analyst) “Jason Nichols: Harriet Tubman belongs on $20 bill – Congress should make Trump put her there in 2020” 11 June 2019 <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/jason-nichols-harriet-tubman-belongs-on-20-bill-congress-should-make-trump-put-her-there-in-2020>

Plans called for the Treasury Department to begin printing $20 bills with Tubman’s likeness in 2020. The timing was designed to honor the enactment of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote. In addition to fighting for the preservation of the United States, the abolition of slavery and equal rights for African-Americans, Tubman worked to help women gain voting rights. All seemed to be going well with plans to integrate our currency until Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced May 22 that the new bill featuring Tubman likely wouldn’t be printed until 2028. Mnuchin said the delay was necessary to give designers time to put new security features into the redesigned $20. Speed, apparently, is not one of the strengths of the designers. Somehow, Mnuchin announced that redesigned $50 and $100 bills would come out beforehand.

ADVANTAGES

Tubman Worthy

Tubman is a true American hero

USA TODAY 2017. (journalist Nicole Gaudiano) 10 Jan 2017 “National park honoring Underground Railroad heroine Harriet Tubman made official” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/01/10/national-park-honoring-underground-railroad-heroine-harriet-tubman-made-official/96394704/>

“She’s a true American hero because she didn’t just secure the blessings of liberty for herself, she risked her life to secure it for others and passionately fought to change her country to secure it for everyone,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., during the ceremony with other New York lawmakers, community and church members.

Jackson Unworthy

Jackson oppressed the Cherokee Indians with the Indian Removal Act of 1830

Jason Nichols 2019 (MSNBC news analyst) “Jason Nichols: Harriet Tubman belongs on $20 bill – Congress should make Trump put her there in 2020” 11 June 2019 <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/jason-nichols-harriet-tubman-belongs-on-20-bill-congress-should-make-trump-put-her-there-in-2020>

Jackson is also infamous for signing the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which precipitated the Trail of Tears and led to the widespread division of families. Over 4,000 of 15,000 Cherokees who were forced off their land east of the Mississippi River died as they were required to march to Oklahoma and endured hunger, disease and exhaustion.

A/T “Lots of people had slaves, they didn’t know better back then” – Jackson was especially cruel.

Erin Blakemore 2018 (journalist) “Why Andrew Jackson’s Legacy Is So Controversial” 29 Aug 2018 <https://www.history.com/news/andrew-jackson-presidency-controversial-legacy>

Records show he beat his slaves, including [doling out](https://books.google.com/books?id=77u4CwAAQBAJ&lpg=PA117&dq=andrew%2520jackson%2520%2522putting%2520on%2520airs%2522&pg=PA117#v=onepage&q=andrew%2520jackson%2520%2522putting%2520on%2520airs%2522&f=false) a brutal public whipping to a woman he felt had been “putting on airs.” And when slaves ran away, he pursued them, putting them in [chains](https://books.google.com/books?id=7aw-AAAAQBAJ&lpg=PT161&dq=andrew%2520jackson%2520300%2520slaves&pg=PT162#v=onepage&q=chained&f=false) when they were recovered. In a newspaper advertisement for a runaway slave, he [offered](https://books.google.com/books?id=SyvADgAAQBAJ&lpg=PT304&dq=andrew%2520jackson%2520%2522runaway%2520slave%2522%2520advertisement&pg=PT137#v=onepage&q=advertisement&f=false) an extra $10 for every 100 lashes doled out to Tom, a 30-year-old slave who ran away in 1804.

Native American Indians are still suffering the legacy of Andrew Jackson’s cruelty

Erin Blakemore 2018 (journalist) “Why Andrew Jackson’s Legacy Is So Controversial” 29 Aug 2018 <https://www.history.com/news/andrew-jackson-presidency-controversial-legacy>

African-Americans weren’t the only people Jackson felt should be subservient to wealthy white men. His presidency is perhaps best remembered for his cruelty to Native Americans. A proponent of “Indian removal,” Jackson wanted to clear newly acquired territories of the Native Americans who lived there so that white settlers could claim the land as their own. Jackson’s [Indian Removal Act](https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Indian.html) resulted in the forced [displacement](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2959.html) of nearly 50,000 Native Americans and opened up 25 million acres of Native American land to white settlement. He insisted it was for the best; the Native Americans whom he saw as savages and [referred](https://www.loc.gov/resource/maj.01075_0394_0397/?st=gallery) to as “my red children,” he felt, were merely collateral damage in a grand push to achieve progress for White Americans. Meanwhile, the policies disrupted and destroyed Native American lives. Tens of thousands died during forced removals like the [Trail of Tears](https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/trail-of-tears) in what is now Oklahoma; languages died out as Native Americans were forced to assimilate; and Native Americans who were forcefully displaced still struggle with poverty and intergenerational [trauma](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3457652/).

A/T “Lots of people mistreated the American Indians” – Jackson was especially cruel, killing women and children

Ari Rabin-Havt 2014 (Deputy Chief of Staff for Sen. Bernie Sanders) 2 May 2014 “Time for Democrats to Stop Celebrating Andrew Jackson” <https://prospect.org/power/time-democrats-stop-celebrating-andrew-jackson/>

Jackson's legacy as president is unsurprising, considering that his political career was built on the bodies of the tribes he had defeated in battle or coerced, sometimes at gunpoint, off their lands. As an officer in the Tennessee militia and the U.S. Army, he developed, according to Watson, a "strong reputation as a merciless Indian fighter." At the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814, Jackson defeated the Red Sticks--Creeks who were engaged in a civil war against other members of their tribe. In the process, he slaughtered hundreds of men, women, and children and earned a promotion to major general.

Social Legacy

Putting Tubman on the 20 is desperately needed to reflect the diversity of America

Rep. Joyce Beatty 2019. (member of Congress from Ohio) Beatty Bill Would Reverse Treasury’s Inexplicable Decision to Delay Putting Harriet Tubman on the New Twenty 5 June 2019 <https://beatty.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/beatty-bill-would-reverse-treasury-s-inexplicable-decision-to-delay>

“I strongly oppose the Trump Administration’s unreasonable decision to indefinitely delay the release of the new $20 bill with no real plan of action. Over three years ago, I worked directly with the Department of Treasury to plan the release of the new $20 design featuring Harriet Tubman—coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The new $20 is desperately needed, as the last new design occurred nearly a century ago and was determined by the American people to better reflect the diversity of our great country.

Even without considering gender or race, Tubman would still deserve to be on the 20 because of her achievements

Eric Zorn 2019 (columnist for the Chicago Tribune) CHICAGO TRIBUNE 28 May 2019 “Trump won't swap Harriet Tubman for Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill, so protesters are doing the job” <https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/eric-zorn/ct-perspec-zorn-tubman-jackson-trump-mnuchin-twenty-20190528-story.html>

Setting aside gender or race, Tubman is one of the greatest figures in our history. She was born into slavery in Maryland in the 1820s, escaped in 1849 and returned at great peril more than a dozen times to lead an estimated 300 slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad. “So much of what we believe has changed for better for this country is reflected in what she struggled for,” said then-U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew in April 2016 when he announced plans to put Tubman on the front of the $20 bill as early as 2020 to mark the centennial of women’s suffrage. Hers is “a legacy of what an individual can do in a democracy,” Lew said.

DISADVANTAGE RESPONSES

A/T “Dishonors Andrew Jackson” – Turn: Having him on the $20 bill dishonors him. He would have opposed it

WASHINGTON POST 2016 (journalist Abby Ohlheiser) 20 Apr 2016 (ethical note about the date: Washington Post originally published this in March 2015, but then re-published it again in 2016 and put a new date on it. That’s why the URL still says 2015.) “Why was Andrew Jackson put on the $20 bill? The answer may be lost to history.” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/03/06/why-is-andrew-jackson-on-the-20-bill-the-answer-may-be-lost-to-history/> (Ethical note about the text: The Washington Post left off the final period after the word “bill,” but it is, in fact, the end of the sentence in the original article; nothing has been left out in this debate text citation.)

There's also Jackson's opposition to paper money in the first place (he preferred gold and silver), and his long, ultimately triumphant fight in the Bank Wars during his presidency. In other words, Jackson himself would probably hate the fact that his face is on a paper bill

A/T “Security concerns” – Technology already exists. It’s not credible to believe the $20 can’t be done by now. More likely it’s politics

NBC News quoting Sen. Chuck Schumer in 2019. (journalist Dartunorro Clark) “'It is an insult': Top Dems demand Trump admin reverse delay to Harriet Tubman $20 bi” 20 June 2019 <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/it-insult-top-dems-demand-trump-admin-reverse-delay-harriet-n1019771>

“We do not know the real reason for these decisions, but we do know that during his campaign, President Trump referred to efforts to replace President Jackson’s likeness on the front of the $20 note as ‘pure political correctness,’” the New York Democrat wrote in the letter. "Secretary Mnuchin attempted to explain the delay as necessary to accommodate anti-counterfeiting measures, but it is simply not credible that with all the resources and expertise of the U.S. Treasury and Secret Service, a decade or more could be required to produce a new $20 bill.” Schumer added, “If the Empire State Building could be completed in 13 months almost 100 years ago, the 21st century Treasury Department ought to be able to get this job done in a reasonable period of time.”

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