



paulbeard @paulbeard

11 Jul · 9 tweets · [paulbeard/status/1282042110250643456](https://twitter.com/paulbeard/status/1282042110250643456)



Came to the slow resolution that buying a house (w land) would be like an abolitionist buying slaves back in the day...

Land ownership as a means of keeping housing expensive/out of reach at the intersection of capitalism and white supremacy... 1/

Why own land? The majority of a home purchase (in Seattle, anyway) goes to buy the land which you don't need/can't really use *except* as a wealth store/scarcity token. Privately-held land divides/dilutes civic power and blocks progressive land use policy. 2/

Picture no SFHs on major arterials (25th/35th/15th in the NE) with that land zoned/taxed into dense mixed-used (commercial at the ground, residential above, superblocks/courtyards where possible). But you can't do with every parcel in private hands... 3/

...just as Lincoln could never have bought out every slave-owner. Look up "spite house" and see what would happen. (The value of enslaved bodies was greater than any other asset in the USA, in the 1850s: no one could have financed that buyout.) 4/

And as I was reminded in a video I saw yesterday, it's not just that rents are siphoned out by rentiers (1/5 of Seattle's SFHs are rentals)...but when city employees are forced to live outside the city they serve, their tax-funded wages leave the city, never to return. 5/

All of this is rooted in private land ownership (What Proudhon was referring to as theft...he wasn't wrong) and how it is used to enforce the social and racial inequities that are so deeply ingrained, most of us don't see them for what they are or how they work. 6/

As the memed sign reads, "Sorry I'm late, I had a lot to learn." This realization has been too long in coming.

7/F

This has the video I refer to above...



King Bach 
@KingBach





4:01 AM · Jul 9, 2020 from Los Angeles, CA



242.6K

93.3K people are Tweeting about this

Meant to tag [@KCEquityNow](#) on this thread but didn't know their handle.

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