

**Sacred and Profane in the Rhetoric of Reparations,  
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This paper examines the sacred/religious and the profane/mundane elements of the rhetoric associated with what I call "reparations politics." Employing the perspective of the sociology of knowledge, I explore the role of various "entrepreneurs of memory" – including theologians and the religiously motivated -- who argue for the need to "come to terms with the past" in order to overcome atrocious pasts.

John Torpey is currently engaged in a project on "The Dialectic of Faith: Religious Nationalism and Social Justice in Israel/Palestine and the United States" (with Kogila Moodley and Heribert Adam). He is the author or editor of six books: *Intellectuals, Socialism, and Dissent: The East German Opposition and its Legacy* (University of Minnesota Press, 1995); *The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship, and the State* (Cambridge University Press, 2000; translated into Portuguese with a Japanese translation in process); *Documenting Individual Identity: The Development of State Practices in the Modern World* (edited with Jane Caplan; Princeton University Press, 2001); *Politics and the Past: On Repairing Historical Injustices* (editor; Rowman & Littlefield, 2003); *Old Europe, New Europe, Core Europe: Transatlantic Relations after the Iraq War* (Verso, 2005), and *Making Whole What Has Been Smashed: On Reparations Politics* (Harvard University Press, 2006). His work has appeared in *Theory and Society*, *Sociological Theory*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Genèses: Sciences sociales et histoire*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Telos*, and *New German Critique*, among others. He is the editor of the series "Politics, History, and Social Change," published by Temple University Press.