

# On the occasion of Black History Month:

We are presenting on these pages a selection of quotes from *BASics*, from the talks and writings of Bob Avakian that focus on the oppression of Black people and the fight against that oppression. The struggle against the oppression of Black people is a crucial part of building the movement for revolution, which is aimed at getting rid of all oppression and exploitation and transforming society and the world as a whole.

These quotes from *BASics* draw from more than 30 years of work by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. *BASics* addresses a wide range of questions on revolution and human emancipation and is a handbook for a new wave of revolutionaries.

# *BASics*

## from the talks and writings of Bob Avakian

*BASics* 1:1

**There would be no United States as we now know it today without slavery.** That is a simple and basic truth.

*BASics* 5:5

The “Bible Belt” in the U.S. is also the Lynching Belt.

*BASics* 1:12

If you want to talk about who owes whom—if you keep in mind everything the capitalists (as well as the slaveowners) have accumulated through all the labor Black people have carried out in this country and the privileges that have been passed out to people on that basis—there wouldn’t even be a U.S. imperialism as there is today if it weren’t for the exploitation of Black people under this system. Not that the exploitation of Black people is the whole of it—there has been a lot of other people exploited, both in the U.S. and internationally, by this ruling class. But there wouldn’t be a U.S. imperialism in the way there is today if it weren’t for the exploitation of Black people under slavery and then after slavery in the sharecropping system and in the plants and other workplaces in a kind of caste-like oppression in the cities.

A group of fugitive slaves in Virginia who escaped to Union lines during the Civil War, 1862