

# Truth and Reconciliation

*True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality*

(1:28:00 – 1:31:35)



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## 1. Explain the main idea of “truth and reconciliation”.

The German translations of the two terms are: “Wahrheit” and Reconciliation

The Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in the US can be considered as educational and memorial movements which want to remember the past suffering of people. By commemorating injustices suffered in the past, the commissions try to educate people towards a better and more equal future.

Here in Germany, we have the “Erinnerungskultur”. I think this is similar.

## 2. Outline the “narrative battle” and explain who has won it this far.

It is about who is right when telling history. In this context, it is about the story of the African American people and their place in society.

For example, Stevenson said that the South told a story of inequality between blacks and whites. The South is full of elements, e.g., memorials, that represent this story or narrative. Here, the narrative is still not changed to offer a balanced assessment of history.

## 3. Reflect about necessary changes in American society to bring forward a process of truth and reconciliation with its own past.

People need to be educated. The society must learn about all the bad things that happened. You could construct new museums and memorials and maybe destroy the old ones. The dominant culture in the South which glorified people who were involved in a battle for slavery and oppression must be challenged.