

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

### ***No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice by Karen L. Cox***

***No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice*** provides readers with a historical overview of the monuments that have long been at the center of public debates. The book engages the cultural, political, and racial issues that underlie these debates to provide a broader understanding of why these objects have caused such division. In order to fully benefit from the book's lessons, the following discussion questions offer a guide for both classroom and community conversations.

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What is meant by the book's main title *No Common Ground*?

What is the Lost Cause and how did it contribute to white southerners understanding of the Civil War, slavery, and Confederate leaders?

How did Confederate monuments shift from being placed in cemeteries to erected on courthouse lawns, and what did that shift signify?

What do monument unveiling rituals and speeches tell us about the meaning of Confederate monuments?

What role have southern white women played in building Confederate monuments?

What kinds of rituals are associated with Confederate monument unveilings and what do they say about the South?

The majority of monuments were built between 1890 and 1920. What is historically significant about this period of time that offers context to the building of Confederate monuments?

What role did Confederate monuments play in the middle of the 20thc? How were they viewed by civil rights activists?

After the Voting Rights Act of 1965, more African Americans were elected to public office. How did they respond to the issue of Confederate symbols in their communities?

What are the various ways that African Americans have protested Confederate monuments over time?

What is meant by the term neo-Confederate? How do neo-Confederates perpetuate Lost Cause myths?

When do Confederate monuments first emerge as a regional political issue? How have regional politicians made Confederate monuments part of their “culture war?”

What event(s) are responsible for making Confederate monuments a national political issue and why?

What role have monument laws or “heritage protection acts” played in debates over Confederate monuments?

Why are Confederate monuments considered a racial justice issue?

Is history “erased” when a monument is removed from public spaces like courthouses or a main street?

If a monument is removed in your community, what options are available for its future placement? How will your community address the racial justice issues raised by the monument once it is removed?

If a monument cannot be removed, how can your community address the divisiveness it causes?