Description: Intense struggles over race, memory and belonging have long simmered beneath the surface in the U.S. and boiled over the top in 2020. “Reckoning and Reconciliation” makes the case for the importance of a place-based “history of the present” approach that engages in intensive social and historical examination of local sites in particular places to make sense of our complex pasts. These local sites are “lieux de souvenir”—places whose histories have been forgotten, submerged, or only very partially remembered. Their examination provides an opportunity for public conversation and engagement of contentious pasts.

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