



Photo Credit- Mark Clennon

The communist phrase “ We Have Nothing to Lose but Our Chains” is representative of the two major struggles black people have and continue to face in the United States. Apart from being literally chained, or handcuffed in modern days, the only black men and women who were deemed “ valuable” were chained for the economic gain of the white man. The legacy of the black man has been reduced to their struggle to live in a society that constantly portrays them as less than.

These images are also ironic. Black men expected to fight for their own lives in a nation that boasts life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all. Men who’ve spent over 150 years fighting for equality in the very nation that denies them such a basic human right. The men of the 54th Infantry, along with many others, had hoped that the end of slavery would mark the end of suffering for black people. However, the men on the right are fighting the same fight fought by their ancestors. Black men of today are continuing the fight that their ancestors started, continuing the legacy of their ancestors. A legacy that should have ended over 150 years ago.