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CGS Team D

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### Photo Essay

*Please note: I spoke with Professor Rhodes and, at his request, I added this blurb explaining the situation: the second statue I selected was taken down from the Boston area. Therefore, since it doesn't exist anymore in Boston, I was given permission by Professor Rhodes to include a picture from the New York Times. Thank you*

For this assignment, I selected two statues from the Boston area that are linked with racism and reforming racism in America. The first statue was discussed at length during the Back Bay Walking Tour led by CGS Team D faculty and was Boston's Fifty Fourth Regiment Memorial. According to the walking tour, the memorial is a bronze depiction of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw leading the Fifty Fourth Infantry down Beacon Street. The Fifty Fourth Regiment was the first all-black regiment during the Civil War. It was commanded by a white colonel, since Blacks were still not able to lead a regiment. While the memorial represents the reforms that have occurred in the United States in terms of racism, the memorial still has racist implications. For example, according to the walking tour, Colonel Shaw is depicted as more prominent than the black soldiers, indicating a racial hierarchy. On a similar note, the second item I selected was a statue referred to as Emancipation by the local Boston community. The statue reflects Abraham Lincoln, who

emancipated the slaves, with a slave at his feet. It has been widely criticized for not giving enough credit to the several African Americans who fought for their own liberation. As a result, it has been taken down from the Boston area.

Both the monuments connect greatly to the eventual reform of racism that has occurred in America. On one hand, the memorial for Colonel Shaw and the Fifty Fourth Regiment represents the eventual allowing of African Americans into the military. However, despite great strides for equality, the monument focuses almost exclusively on the white Colonel of the military. On the other hand, the Emancipation Monument represents the emancipation of the African American slaves in the United States. However, while the monument represents great strides in freedom for African Americans, it still highlights the racist ideology that African Americans were not involved in their own salvation. In summary, both statues represent the reform of racism in America, and the long way that we, as a society, have to go.



<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/06/20/metro/lincoln-emancipation-statue-triggers-debate-how-black-experience-should-be-commemorated/>



Walking Tour