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Unite and Conquer in Order to Divide and Conquer: Religion, Race, Class, and the Possibility of Solidarity in the United States Then and Now

Abstract:

Just as race is not a category that applies to human biology, racism is not a matter that is endemic to human nature. Racism was invented and has been perpetuated in various encounters of North and South and in particular economies and religious traditions. In this presentation, the history of racism in the United States will be compared to current developments. While divide-and-conquer methods are frequently discussed, reflecting on "unite-and-conquer" strategies deepens an understanding of the complexity of the problems and points towards possible responses.

Bio:

Prof. Dr. Joerg Rieger is Distinguished Professor of Theology, Cal Turner Chancellor's Chair of Wesleyan Studies, and the Founding Director of the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice at Vanderbilt University. Author and editor of 27 books and over 200 academic articles, his monographs include *Theology in the Capitalocene: Ecology, Identity, Class, and Solidarity* (2022), *Jesus vs. Caesar: For People Tired of Serving the Wrong God* (2018), *Unified We Are a Force: How Faith and Labor Can Overcome America's Inequalities* (2016), and *No Rising Tide: Theology, Economics, and the Future* (2009). His works have been translated into Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Croatian, German, Malayalam, Korean, and Chinese.