

# Reckoning with History

*Confederate Monuments in American Cities*



**John C. Calhoun Monument and steeple of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina**

**June 23, 2020**

Photo by Andrew J. Whitaker



**John C. Calhoun Monument in Marion Square, 1892 and c.1907**

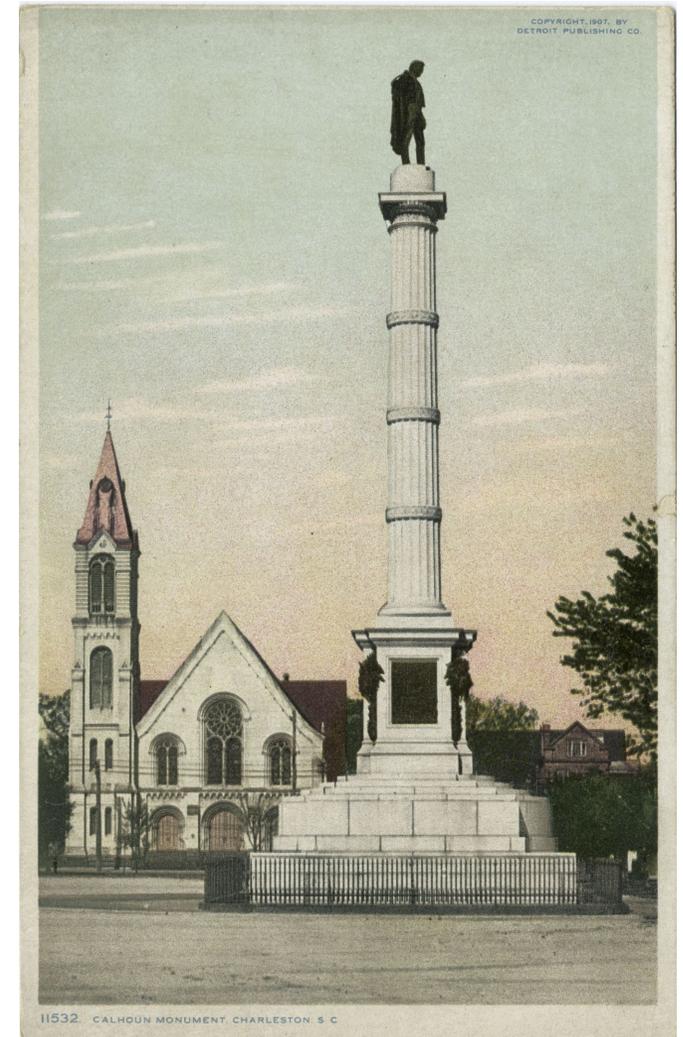


Photo by A. Witteman; Postcard from New York Public Library Digital Collection



**Paying respects at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, June 2015**

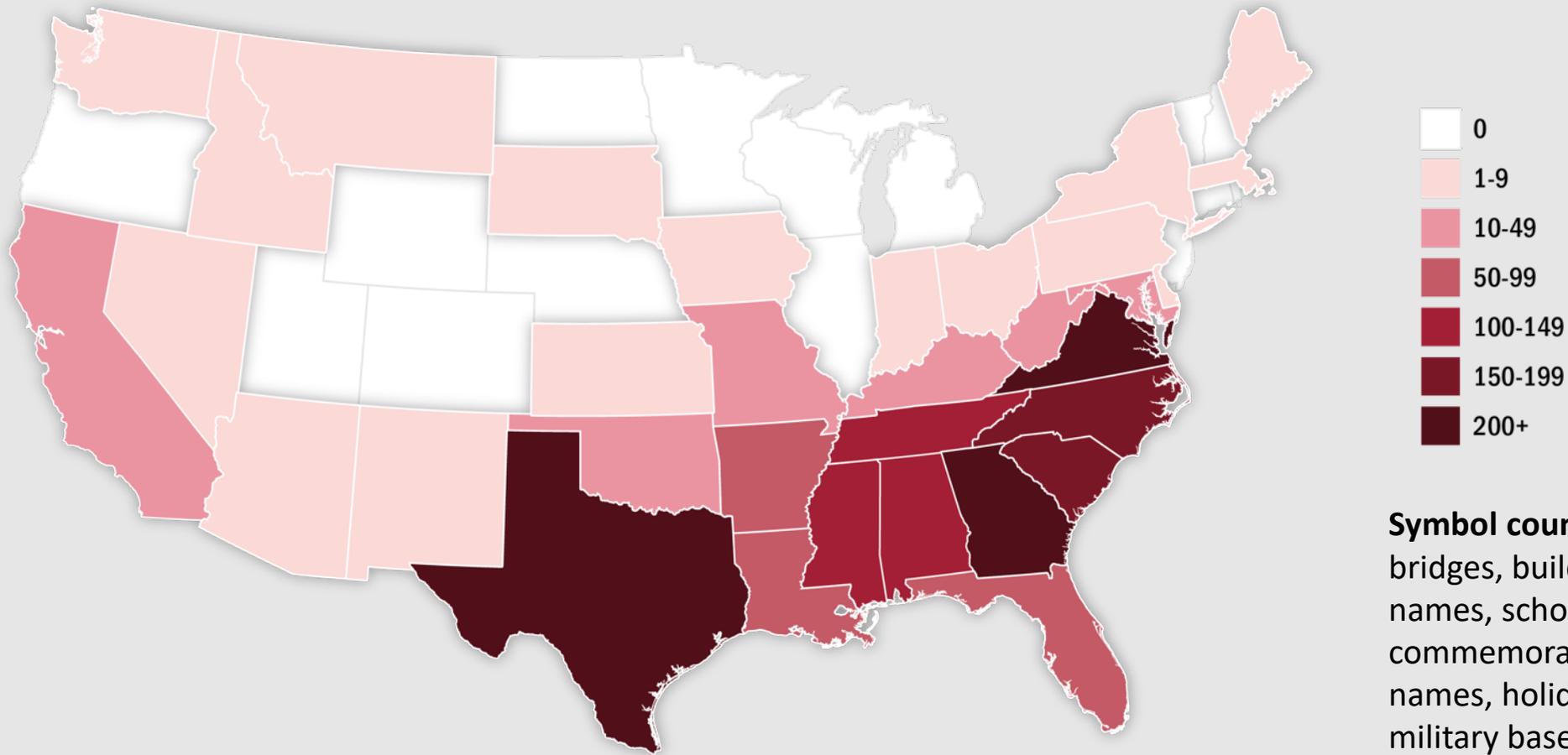
Photo by Richard Ellis



Renderings of planned memorial to “Charleston Nine” at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Renderings by DBOX for Handel Architects

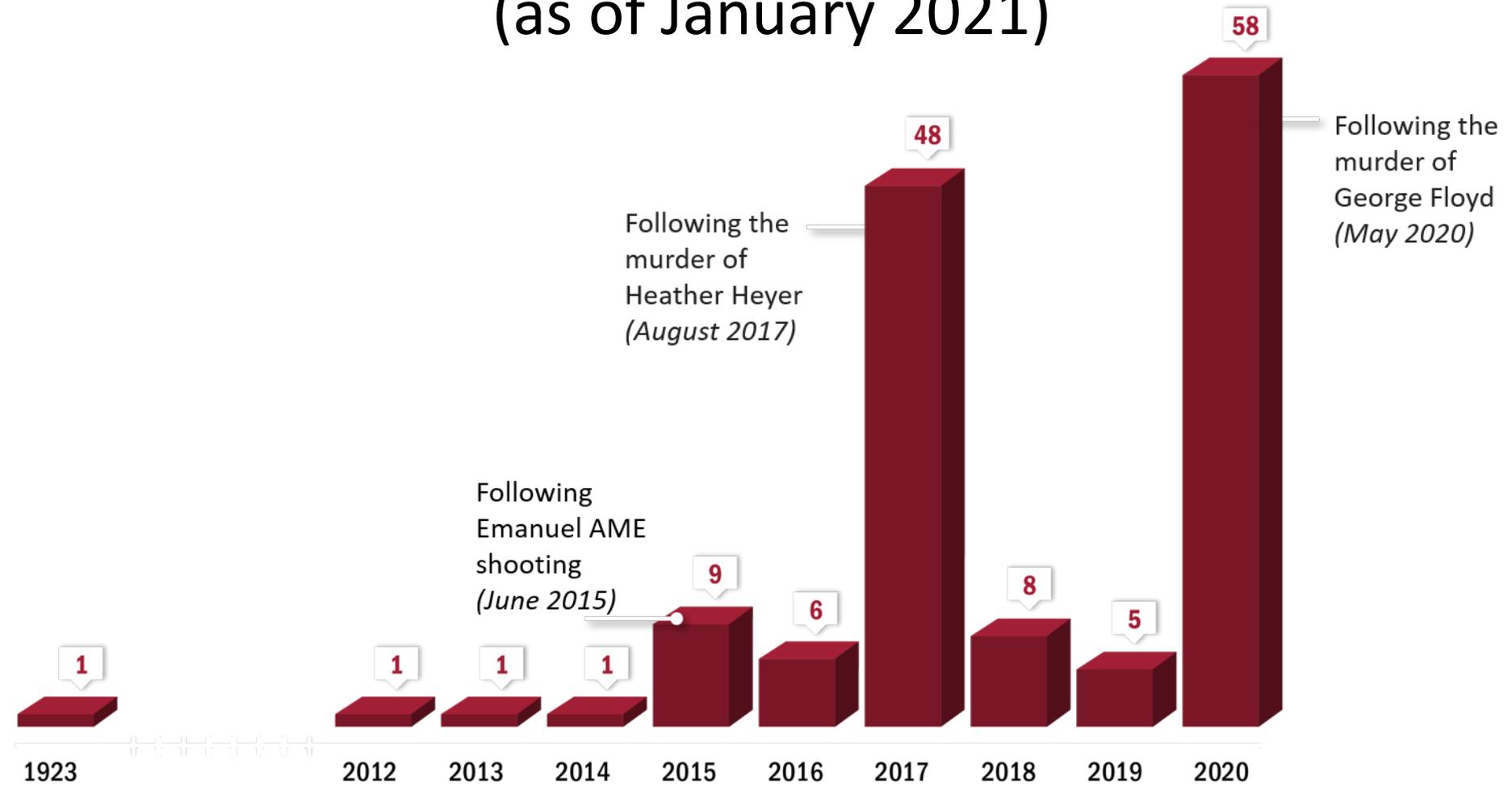
# Confederate symbols in each state



**Symbol counts include:** bodies of water, bridges, buildings, city/county/municipality names, schools and colleges, commemorative license plates, flags, road names, holidays, plaques and markers, military bases, monuments and statues, parks, scholarships, seals, and official songs.

Data Source: Southern Poverty Law Center

# Confederate symbol removals per year (as of January 2021)



Data Source: Southern Poverty Law Center



Black Lives Matter protesters at the base of the Calhoun Monument in Charleston, June 17, 2020

Photo by Richard Ellis



**Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg announces plan to remove Calhoun Monument, June 17, 2020**

Photo by Andrew Whitaker

# Mayor Tecklenburg's Remarks on Resolution to Remove Calhoun Monument June 17, 2020

“We are taking this action only after careful consideration of the facts of Mr. Calhoun’s life, the explicit duty of care that our city assumed when it formally accepted ownership of the statue in July of 1898, and the state law known as the Heritage Act, which forbids the removal of war-related markers in South Carolina...

We are confident that, because the statue belongs to the city and rests on ground owned by a private entity, our council has full authority to order its relocation to a setting where it can be placed in its full historic context. We are also confident that it is simply the right thing to do.”



**Protesters and counter-protesters separated by a fence in Marion Square, June 22, 2020**

Photo by Hunter Musi



Protesters and counter-protesters rally in Marion Square, June 22, 2020

Photos by Hunter Musi





**Police confront and arrest protesters and counter-protesters in Marion Square, June 22, 2020**

Photos by Hunter Musi



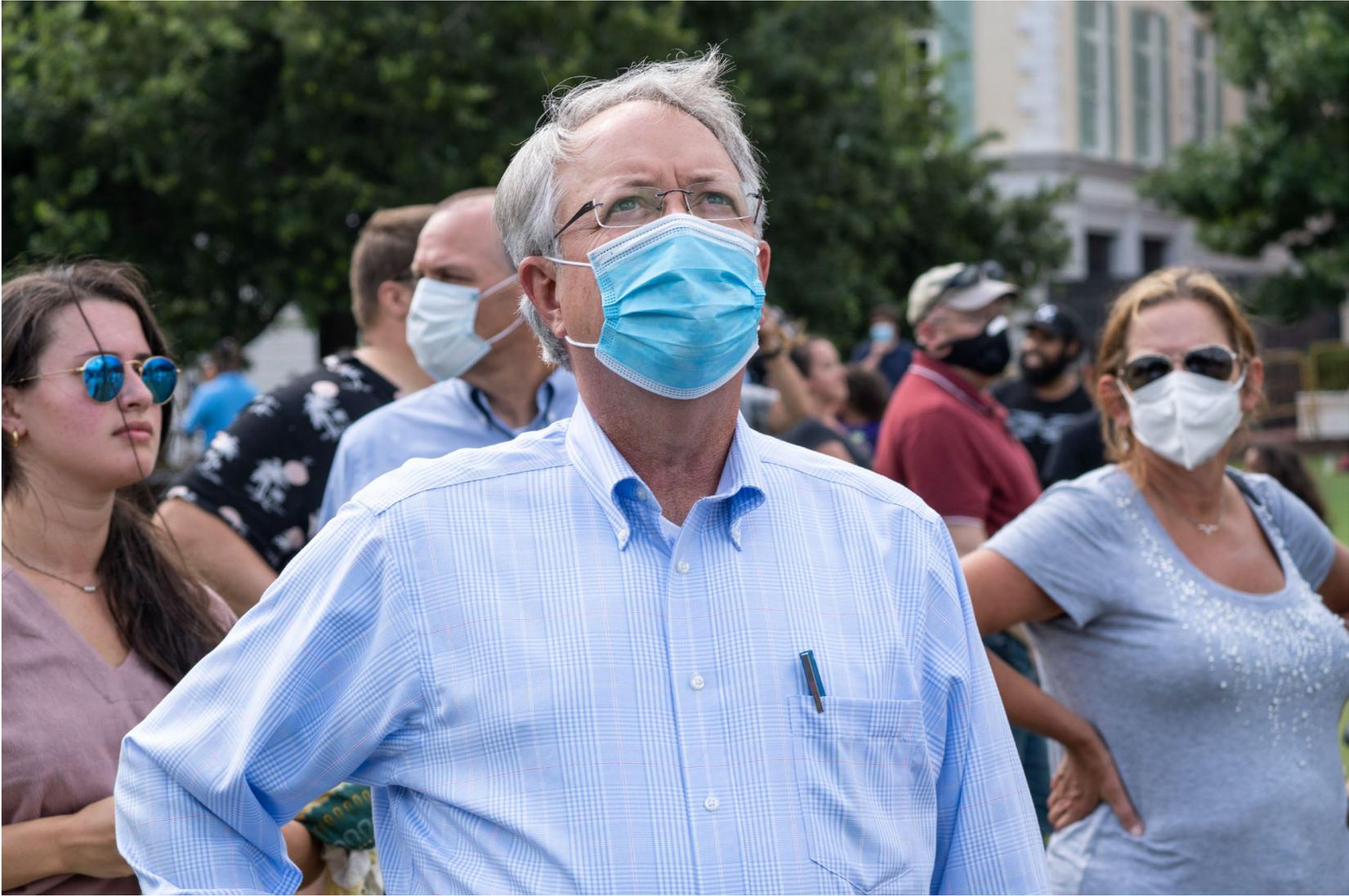
City Council votes unanimously to remove Calhoun Monument, June 23, 2020

Photo by Gaylen Moore



**Workers use a stone saw to dismantle the monument, June 24, 2020**

Photo by Richard Ellis



**Mayor Tecklenburg watches progress of monument removal, June 24, 2020**

Photo by Richard Ellis



**Calhoun statue removed from pedestal, June 24, 2020**

Photo by Richard Ellis

# Image Sources

**Slide 2:** Andrew J. Whitaker for *Post and Courier*, June 23, 2020, accessed January 5, 2021, [https://www.postandcourier.com/news/crews-arrive-to-remove-calhoun-monument-from-marion-square-after-unanimous-council-vote/article\\_c6970914-b56a-11ea-9236-575797cb7631.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/news/crews-arrive-to-remove-calhoun-monument-from-marion-square-after-unanimous-council-vote/article_c6970914-b56a-11ea-9236-575797cb7631.html).

**Slide 3:** (Left to right) A. Witteman, Wikimedia Commons, Accessed November 28, 2022. <https://www.whatitmeanstobeamerican.org/places/the-south-carolina-monument-that-symbolizes-clashing-memories-of-slavery/>; The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. "Calhoun Monument, Charleston, S.C." New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed November 28, 2022. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-36f8-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.

**Slide 4:** Richard Ellis, June 17, 2015, accessed November 28, 2022, <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-residents-continue-to-bring-flowers-and-pay-their-respects-at-a-makeshift-84482456.html>

**Slide 8:** Richard Ellis, June 17, 2020, accessed November 28, 2022, <https://www.alamy.com/charleston-united-states-17th-june-2020-black-lives-matter-protesters-hang-signs-on-the-massive-john-calhoun-statue-in-marion-square-on-the-5th-anniversary-of-the-mass-shooting-at-mother-emanuel-ame-church-june-17-2020-in-charleston-south-carolina-nine-members-of-the-historic-african-american-church-were-gunned-down-by-a-white-supremacist-during-bible-study-on-june-17-2015-credit-richard-ellisalamy-live-news-image363064076.html>.

**Slide 9:** Andrew Whitaker for *Post and Courier*, June 17, 2020, accessed January 5, 2021, [https://www.postandcourier.com/news/take-it-down-calhoun-monument-will-be-moved-from-marion-square-charleston-mayor-says/article\\_e091943a-afdc-11ea-9ff0-a7abea2a3199.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/news/take-it-down-calhoun-monument-will-be-moved-from-marion-square-charleston-mayor-says/article_e091943a-afdc-11ea-9ff0-a7abea2a3199.html).

**Slides 11-13:** Hunter Musi for *Tribal Tribune*, June 23, 2020, accessed January 5, 2021, <https://tribaltribune.org/gallery-calhoun-statue-removal-protest/>.

**Slide 15:** Richard Ellis, June 24, 2020, accessed November 28, 2022, <https://www.alamy.com/charleston-united-states-24th-june-2020-workers-operate-a-stone-saw-to-cut-loose-the-massive-statue-of-former-vice-president-john-calhoun-for-removal-following-a-vote-by-the-city-council-to-remove-the-monument-to-the-pro-slavery-politician-in-marion-square-june-24-2020-in-charleston-south-carolina-the-statue-has-stood-in-place-since-1896-credit-richard-ellisalamy-live-news-image364053424.html>.

**Slide 16:** Richard Ellis, June 24, 2020, accessed November 28, 2022, <https://www.alamy.com/charleston-united-states-24th-june-2020-mayor-john-tecklenburg-center-watches-as-the-massive-statue-of-former-vice-president-john-calhoun-is-lifted-from-an-80-foot-stone-column-following-a-vote-by-the-city-council-to-remove-the-monument-to-the-pro-slavery-politician-in-marion-square-june-24-2020-in-charleston-south-carolina-the-statue-has-stood-in-place-since-1896-credit-richard-ellisalamy-live-news-image364053453.html>

**Slide 17:** Richard Ellis, June 24, 2020, accessed November 28, 2022, <https://www.alamy.com/charleston-united-states-24th-june-2020-the-massive-statue-of-former-vice-president-john-calhoun-rests-on-the-ground-after-being-cut-loose-from-the-80-foot-column-following-a-vote-by-the-city-council-to-remove-the-monument-to-the-pro-slavery-politician-in-marion-square-june-24-2020-in-charleston-south-carolina-the-statue-has-stood-in-place-since-1896-credit-richard-ellisalamy-live-news-image364053463.html>.



# BLOOMBERG HARVARD

| City  
Leadership  
Initiative