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| **Q: What does racism have to do with municipal bonds?** |

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| *Destin Jenkins’s book, “The Bonds of Inequality: Debt and the Making of the American City,” shows how municipal bonds have*[*contributed to racial inequality*](https://10point.cmail19.com/t/d-l-elhtdty-jidrkykrhd-yh/)*in U.S. cities. WSJ bond reporter****Heather Gillers****looks at how the assistant history professor at Stanford University is working with Wall Street to undo the damage.* |

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| **A:** Jenkins has spent a decade studying how white residents have benefited the most from projects funded by citywide taxes. The head of the muni market’s self-regulatory organization hosted a “fireside chat” with Jenkins. A virtual conversation with him organized by two finance trade publications attracted more than 100 money managers, bankers, analysts, government finance officials and others.Among the uncomfortable truths Jenkins’s research has unearthed: Jackson, Miss., refused to desegregate hiring at its airport in 1963 even though it meant turning down federal aid for the facility. Muni investors provided financing instead. A few years later, the winning entry in a 1966 Investment Bankers Association of America essay contest argued that the racial composition of a city should be factored into its bond rating.Jenkins envisions a muni market where bondholders seek out projects planned by and for Black communities. He recently secured a grant to teach people in traditionally overlooked neighborhoods how bonds work.  |

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