

## Critical Race Theory Further Divides Our Country

On the face of it, Critical Race Theory seems like a progressive name for examining everything we see through a more equivalent lens. It truly sounds like something we can all get behind. I mean, who would not want to be less racist, right? But Critical Race Theory is not as simple as just being less racist and critically examining each action, both historical and present. It is more insidious than that. Adherents of Critical Race Theory accept, as fact, that white privilege and inherent systemic racism has affected every action throughout history in order for white people to retain economic and political power over people of color. They assume motivations that are not necessarily based on facts in evidence and apply them to history to create narratives to accompany that history. Without truly knowing what was in one's heart, Critical Race Theory can weave out of whole cloth a completely different background or perspective about an entire figure, event, or life and change a hero to a villain simply by uttering the word racist. Those who disavow Critical Race Theory are then also decried as racist. It is the easiest and most damaging charge to make in today's volatile culture. You think that the self-proclaimed Marxist leader of BLM having multiple homes seems inauthentic and her actions are not truly representative of her words? You must be racist. You think Lawrence Sullivan Ross should be judged on the content of his entire life's actions and not only on his time in the confederacy? Racist. You support the Corps of Cadets? Warmongering Racist. And do not get me started if you actually think law enforcement provide service to others, risking their lives, black, brown, and white. It cannot be, that like any other profession, there are sometimes a few terrible people who commit terrible actions, and they are difficult to eliminate because of unions. It must all simply be racism. There is no room in Critical Race Theory for gray area or disagreement and dialogue. Motivations are already predetermined.

In classrooms today, both at Texas A&M and other schools, students are being taught to identify themselves based on their skin tone and then, if a person of color, instructed to feel slighted and entitled because they received less or, if light, self-flagellate for the supposed privileges they have received that have been denied to another with darker or different skin tone. We have worked for years to try to unite and eliminate segregation, but we are now seeing it rear its hideous head in a misguided and misnamed process called Critical Race Theory. It is impossible to make amends through the arrogance of assuming there is any way any human could ever comprehend or make up for those who endured slavery. It is overzealous, overly antiracist, and it is ridiculously ignorant. Sacrificing one race at the altar of bigotry and

racism does not create equality and equity, it creates divisiveness, hate and increased division between races.

Imagine a dogma with millions of liberal adherents who believe it is progress to train fourth graders that they are racist and privileged during their school day. These same students learn about only black astronauts and the achievements of only black inventors but cannot learn any longer about Thomas Edison because he was white. After comparing their skin to a color palette, children are forced to determine whether they are oppressed victims or the privileged oppressor. They are corrected and grades are at stake if they refuse participation or speak out. Students are inherently evil, according to this curriculum, simply for being born white. Holiday celebrations in the classroom have been eliminated and there is no talk of Columbus Day, only the end of Ramadan. Letters circulate freely among the school community comparing the white children to depraved killer cops with no ramifications for the writers. Students are also instructed that nobody, but white people are racist because racism only occurs as a result of prejudice plus power, not because of preconceived prejudices about a particular race. Reverse racism is completely denied, and Asians are simply ignored, regardless of injustices they have faced, because they are no longer in the minority and they score too well on tests to be considered disadvantaged. In fact, Asians are actually denied access to certain high ranking and achievement programs because their achievements allow too many to disproportionately be admitted based on merit alone. They are accused of white culture subserviency integration and white supremacy principles for their own cultural views on success, education, and achievement by not only teachers, but school board members in open op-eds. This has, in fact, occurred and is the reality in New York, California and across the United States for children attending schools that have adopted curriculum based on Critical Race Theory, which teaches that the U.S. legal, governance and historical systems are inherently racist and retain economic and political power for whites by oppressing people of color. Proponents say the curriculum must be vehemently antiracist, dismantling other race structures and cultures, rather than simply not racist. If this behavior were targeted at any child by another child, we would not tolerate such bullying. It is abuse disguised as education and tolerance. It is wrong and serves to improve nothing except pitting us as pawns against one another for political gains by increasing our divides.

There has been talk of segregated housing at Texas A&M. Is that really who we want to be? A school who needs to be divided to feel safe? A return to Jim Crow and "Separate but Equal"? We are better than that and we can do better. Find what is common, not what is different. As Dr. Martin Luther King said, "We may have all come

on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." We need to begin identifying as humans first and remember we are all the human race. Leave the race baiting to the pundits and think for yourself.

Some want to sow hate and divisiveness, but do not fall for their rhetoric. Ignorance prevents us from thinking critically and makes us easily believe in the group mentality where we find community, even if it is a community of discontent. That is why each group spends millions to market and spin their platform into a message that appeals. When we allow someone else's hate to fill us, we do not have to think for ourselves. There is absolutely nothing to gain except misery and false anger. Identity politics only serves politicians and no one else. Everyone is welcome at Aggieland into the 12<sup>th</sup> Man. We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we. All Aggies and Americans need to stand against race division, collective guilt, and neo-segregation.

"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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