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## When history and statues come tumbling down

Steve Bakke  February 3, 2021



Rioters burned hundreds of buildings in neighborhoods around the 3rd Police Precinct Station in Minneapolis on June 4, 2020.  
(Photo: Andrew Lichtenstein/Corbis/Getty Images)



Statues of Frederick Douglas, former slave and abolitionist, along with dozens of other historical figures, were destroyed or defaced in hundreds of locations in the United States.

Several societal and historical ideologies that have been bandied about recently leave me confused. I'm referring to "Critical Race Theory," the "Antiracist" movement, and "The 1619 Project." There's something valuable to be learned about how these popular ideas impact these troublesome times. Here's a brief look at these theories and ideologies.

**Critical Race Theory** (CRT) teaches us that all of history is analyzed and explained through a prism of racial conflict. We frequently hear about school classrooms and adult seminars that call on participants to "deconstruct" (whatever that means) their white identity, condemn that identity, and apologize for their whiteness. That's CRT's teaching style.

CRT teaches us that societal norms and our form of government are disposable. The Marxist theory of "oppressor and oppressed" comes through loud and clear. And where subjugation is the topic, you can bet there's lots of talk of punishment and retribution. Identity politics and extreme intolerance, particularly intolerance of those who don't agree with the theory, are major themes of this ideology.

President Trump discontinued this training for federal employees, but President Biden is already rushing it back into our federal employee training curriculum.

**"Antiracism"** is a concept recently created in Ibram X. Kendi's book, "How to be an Antiracist." Its theme isn't just one of being opposed to racism. Rather, its essence is that all white people are racist – automatically, and no matter what. Sincerely declaring one's opposition to racism is an example "no matter what" racism. This theory states that the story behind different outcomes can be attributed to racism, and racism alone. If you see inequality, look behind the door labeled "skin color." An antiracist is taught to tear down these cultural systems, and most likely will decide that discrimination against white people

is the only solution. In summary, “racist” is bad; “antiracist” is good; and “non-racist” as a concept simply doesn’t exist.

**The 1619 Project** was completed in 2019 and won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary. Under the auspices of the New York Times, it was authored by Nikole Hannah-Jones. The project’s conclusion is that America was fraudulently created in 1776. Our core national narrative, i.e. our history and traditions, is totally false. Those studying this theory settle into the habit, not of learning, but of judging historic persons and events on the basis of current standards. That’s totally consistent with Critical Race Theory, as previously described.

The official “1619 report” declares that the history of our country starts in 1619, the year slaves were first brought to North America. The traditional birth of our country in 1776, and the resulting Revolutionary War, merely served the purpose of preserving America’s tradition of slavery. America’s assumptions and underpinnings, such as history books and the United States Constitution, must be disregarded – cancelled. Our best choice is to start anew.

**A study by The Heritage Foundation** suggests that the violence and destruction in 2020 are less the result of sheer hatred than they are of the philosophical mindset created by these ideologies. Those convinced of the veracity of the 1619 “tale,” and the other interpretations of race in the U.S., come to a very simply conclusion: “We know better than those old guys with statues. The best way is to simply start over.” And that’s when statues come tumbling down. A history they consider false is of no value to these anarchists. Sadly, those radical emotions became more violent and destructive when a “lit fuse” was provided by the death of George Floyd in May 2020.

**The riot in Washington D.C.** on January 6 had no such historical or ideological explanation or excuse, so that event was deemed by the left as insurrection rather than being an extension of what they consider the healthy, even admirable, social justice activity of the 2020 anarchists. Be assured, those events of January 6 should never be justified on any basis. The point I want to make here is that only the well indoctrinated, or the politically blinded, could come up with the good vs. evil distinction that was used in the comparison of 2020’s violence to the tragedy of January 6.

I believe that the lack of reaction to the lawlessness of 2020 came from the indoctrination of too many Americans into the 1619 and CRT mindset. The relative silence among the left and even traditional liberals regarding the lawless urban violence in 2020 reflects the destructive collective guilt felt by many who’ve been “so carefully taught” in our schools, in seminars, and by the press.

The violent events of 2020 seem to have been underwritten using many concepts of CRT and “Antiracist” ideologies, and fueled by the historical justification provided by The 1619 Project. The best solution is for responsible citizens to demonstrate, through wise words and exemplary deeds, how dangerous these radical modern ideologies are to the United States of America.