

Critical Race Theory

Critical theory began in the 1930's with the work of men such as Wilhelm Reich, Erich Fromm and others who evolved Marxist doctrines to explain why those who they sought to liberate, the proletariat, were not flocking to the communist revolution.¹ “Critical theory, whatever form it takes, relies on the concept of false consciousness – the notion that the oppressors control society so completely that the oppressed believe their own interests are served by the status quo.” *Id.* Critical theory conveniently posits every piece of evidence that refutes it to be discounted as evidence of oppression, and every denial of an accusation to be interpreted as proof of the accusation.

Critical *race* theory divides Americans into oppressor and oppressed based on their skin color. “Critical race theory, like other critical theories – post-colonialism or queer theory, for example – is self-certifying. Its basic claims, for example, that racism is systemic or that being non-racist is impossible, are not conclusions drawn from arguments. They are axioms, and they cannot be challenged by those who do not agree with them.” *Id.* CRT cannot be criticized or questioned, and to do so is deemed as an act of racism.

Critical Race Theory as State Sanctioned Racism

All individuals are capable of engaging in demeaning behavior toward others. Racism is wrong and race-based mistreatment is wrong. If a particular law impacts one group more, even if unintentionally, there are times society can find ways to alleviate it. People should be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. In schools, we should encourage excellence, and inspire people from all racial backgrounds to achieve their potential.

Yet, CRT turns this on its head. CRT teaches people to judge others based on skin color, not character. CRT seeks to solve racism and injustice by engaging in racism and by endorsing inequality. CRT seeks to convince some kids to believe that they cannot make it in American society because of the color of their skin. It teaches falsely that this country was created by members of a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex.

CRT's effect is to encourage racism and division. Ibram X. Kendi, in his book “How to be an Anti-Racist,” says “[t]he only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.” Kendi also says, “[r]acism and capitalism are conjoined twins,” “to truly be antiracist is to be feminist,” and “we cannot be antiracist if we are homophobic or transphobic.” CRT promotes equality of outcome, which is labeled as “equity,” rather than equality of opportunity. Equal outcomes rather than equal

KEY POINTS

Public institutions should not divide Americans into oppressor and oppressed based on skin color, or force individuals to coerce them into race essentialism, or racial superiority theory.

Public institutions should not coerce individuals to affirm, adopt, or adhere to collective guilt - that any individual bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by the same race or sex.

Bills to prevent inculcating these racist concepts DO NOT prohibit schools from teaching about racism, slavery, and segregation. Instead, such bills prohibit schools from coercing and indoctrinating students into racist theories or that individuals should be treated differently on the basis of race.

¹Professor Carl R. Trueman, www.firstthings.com/article/2021/02/evangelicals-and-race-theory (Erich Fromm thought in terms of class, Ibram X. Kendi thinks in terms of race, but it's the same horse, different jockey. Critical race theory is the Marxist horse, ridden by the jockey of identity politics rather than the jockey of class warfare).

opportunity subject a person to tyranny. In order to achieve equity for one group another group has to be deprived. You cannot achieve equity without tyranny. Equity seeks equal outcomes without regard to truth.

Legislative Efforts to Prevent Compelled CRT – a sample

Laws and policies that prevent state agencies and public schools from compelling employees and students to believe or promote the key principles of critical race theory, including race essentialism, collective guilt, neo-segregation, and racial superiority serve to protect the individual's right to conscience (First Amendment), right to equal protection under the law (Fourteenth Amendment), and right against racial discrimination (Civil Rights Act of 1964).

- Pennsylvania: HB 1532 - Teaching Racial and Universal Equality²
- Idaho: HB 377 ³
- Ohio: HB 322⁴
- Georgia: Resolution of the State Board of Education, June 3, 2021⁵
- Montana: MT Attorney General Austin Knudsen has released a letter outlining how critical race theory practices violate civil rights laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964.⁶
- Trump Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping – September 22, 2020.⁷
- Reversed by Biden Executive Order– January 20, 2021.⁸

CRT in Pennsylvania

The PA School Boards Association, which most public schools in PA belong to and pay dues to, is promoting CRT in their “Equity Services Toolkit.”⁹ In it, they tell schools to avoid using the word “equality” and replace it with “equity,” avoid using “riot” and instead use “protests,” avoid using “minority student” and instead use “marginalized individuals/groups”.¹⁰ Schools are forcing teachers to be trained and to train kids in this manner. Philadelphia Public School teachers are asked to discuss the “Pyramid of Hate” with the children as young as four years old, teaching that “our society” is built on “biased attitudes,” “systemic discrimination,” and “bias-motivated violence,” which can lead to “genocide.”¹¹

Where to Report Incidents

- No Left Turn in Education - noleftturn.us
- Parents Defending Education - defendinged.org
- Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR) – fairforall.org
- ChristopherRufo.com
- Whataretheylearning.com

For more resources: including books, videos, and small group curriculum, as well as the footnote links, please visit pafamily.org/CRT.

² <https://www.legis.state.pa.us//cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20210&cosponId=35697>

³ <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20792928/h0377.pdf>

⁴ https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_134/bills/hb322/IN/00/hb322_00_IN?format=pdf

⁵ <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=1262&AID=1274907&MID=93474>

⁶ <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20794343/ago-v58-o1-52721-final.pdf>

⁷ <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-race-sex-stereotyping/>

⁸ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

⁹ <https://www.psba.org/member-services/equity-services/>

¹⁰ <https://www.psba.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Equity-Communications-Guidance.pdf>

¹¹ <https://christopherrufo.com/tragedy-as-a-political-weapon/>