



Written by [Dr. Duke Pesta](#) on June 7, 2021

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Critical Race Theory

On April 13, Andrew Gutmann pulled his daughter out of New York City's elite Brearley School for girls. Evidently \$54,000 a year does not guarantee an education free of progressive privilege, manipulation, racism, and white-shaming. On the way out, he mailed a letter to all 600 or so remaining families, urging them to speak out against the inhumane "anti-racism" initiatives that were tearing the school apart:

It cannot be stated strongly enough that Brearley's obsession with race must stop. It should be abundantly clear to any thinking parent that Brearley has completely lost its way. The administration and the Board of Trustees have displayed a cowardly and appalling lack of leadership by appeasing an anti-intellectual, illiberal mob, and then allowing the school to be captured by that same mob.



AP Images

AP Images

The letter went viral, and Gutmann understood from the overwhelming responses of other frustrated families that fighting off the imperatives of Critical Race Theory was not just a "conservative" issue anymore. He heard from liberals, conservatives, moderates, and people who considered themselves apolitical. He even received heartbreaking replies from parents who immigrated to the United States from Eastern Europe, people whose families had fled the former Soviet Union decades ago, only to find Critical Race Theory consuming the administration and faculty of Brearley and warping the curriculum with race-baiting, political purity pledges, ideological litmus tests, and purges. It was communism all over again.

Reflecting on the consequences of Brearley's anti-education betrayal of the students, Gutmann lamented:

I have received emails from parents expressing devastation that their kids, as young as five years old, are coming home from school after being taught to feel guilty solely because of the color of their skin. I have received messages from grandparents feeling hopeless that their grandchildren are being brainwashed and turned against their own families. And I have received notes from teachers brought to tears because they are being required, day after day, to teach fundamentally divisive, racist doctrines and being forced to demonize their own students.



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This is the legacy of Critical Race Theory, which has completely transformed the nation's schools into sites of Marxist conflict, pitting whites against minorities, the wealthy against the poor, and the "heteronormative" against the "gay" and transgendered. Simply put, Critical Race Theory is an offshoot of the socialist dialectic that has evolved in universities over the last 50 years or so. It employs rhetorical strategies designed to sow decisive conflict between America's inveterately "racist and capitalistic" past and its anticipated utopian socialist future. According to its progressive proponents, it is only after every aspect of our systemically racist and irredeemably white supremacist culture, history, art, economics, and politics has been rewritten or cancelled that we can move on to a benevolent socialist paradise devoid of "whiteness," a secular and materialist Eden that fully empowers minorities, women, LGBTQ, and non-Western peoples to live, govern, and rule in harmony, free from the scourge of the white supremacy that is uniquely responsible for all social evils and disparity from the beginning of time. But this definition just scratches the surface.

So, yes, everybody is talking about Critical Race Theory. That's a good thing. Unlike past attempts to hijack American public schools with left-wing ideology and anti-educational indoctrination, this time parents, activist groups, and educational watchdog organizations are fighting before it's too late. When Common Core was covertly slipped into the schools a little more than a decade ago, no one was prepared for it, let alone aware of it, or even sure who created it. Forty-six states adopted the standards because the Obama administration offered them billions of dollars in grants. The only serious stipulation was that to get the cash, they had to adopt Common Core *sight unseen*, and in some cases even before the standards were even completed.

Critical Race Theory is the next step in the collectivization of the American public-school system. As my cover story to this Special Report makes clear, Common Core helped establish a direct pipeline between local schools and the federal government and guaranteed that the federal tax money that flowed from Washington through the states and ultimately to the district schools was dependent not only on *what* the schools were teaching, but *how* they were teaching it. For the first time in American history, the federal government had a controlling interest in forcing all public schools to align and standardize curriculum, and to regularize (and politicize) pedagogy. This is the "common" in Common Core.

Once this pipeline was delivering the equivalent of educational petrodollars directly from D.C. to schools across the nation, the wheels were greased. The entire extensive system of public schools — elementary, middle, and high schools — could now be further "unified" and controlled by a not-so-new pedagogy and curriculum whose primary purpose was to subordinate achievement and academic success to ideological conformity and collectivist reprogramming. Education that once aspired to produce individualistic and patriotic students and make them the best they can be through study and hard work is now effectively dead.

In its place comes a form of education — indoctrination, really — that treats your children not as individuals but as cogs in a collectivist machine designed to manipulate entire generations of American students. This new push toward socialism, under the guise of Critical Race Theory, is bent on turning students into utilitarian wards of the state, socially, emotionally, and sociologically programmed to promote and zealously demand a social justice transformation of the United States that will erase our history, compromise our liberty, reject free markets, and replace our constitutional republic with a socialist welfare state.



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CRT's Shock-and-awe Assault

There is a blitzkrieg in American public schools being waged upon families. Almost overnight, it seems, Democrat politicians, teachers unions, school administrators, faculty, and left-wing activist groups have launched a coordinated attack on the traditional purposes and methods of education. The trigger for this war to decide the future purpose of education — and by extension the future of Western Culture itself — was the death of George Floyd, a seemingly local tragedy that was destined to shock the world.

Immediately after the complicated and by no-means cut-and-dry “murder” of Floyd, cities were burning and school officials across the country were pledging radical reform of classrooms to avenge the latest outlaw martyr of the streets. Schools must become sites of anti-racism pedagogy, we were told, and combatting “white supremacy” meant rejecting even the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic in favor of Black Lives Matter talking points, Antifa class warfare, and a cancel-culture offensive against Western Civilization.

Consider the following selective examples of how the schools have been, in short order, entirely coopted by a Critical Race Theory-inspired surrender to socialist dialectic and a total break with American history and culture.

Poster Propaganda

Not only has President Joe Biden committed billions of dollars for public schools willing to create new ways of incorporating Critical Race Theory in their classrooms, but Miguel Cardona, the new secretary of education, is gathering support for overriding current curricular programs with Critical Race Theory initiatives. While education commissioner for Connecticut, Cardona pioneered America’s first state-mandated ethnic studies course for high-school students, a class completely immersed in Critical Race Theory and deeply critical of “white” culture while shamelessly lauding non-white cultures such as the Islamic Moors, despite their troublesome history of slavery, warmongering, and colonialism.

And what are the American people getting for their confiscated money, doled out to spread Critical Race Theory across the educational horizon? An ideology so intellectually shabby that, once you understand its basic principles, you are less tempted to laugh at its absurdities than to rage at its lies. Perhaps the most comically dishonest aspect of Critical Race Theory is its outrageous, reductive, and racist assumptions about white culture. These assumptions are never challenged or contextualized by proponents of Critical Race Theory. If you don’t understand how altogether duplicitous these foundational ideas are, then you might very well be swept away on a manipulative tide of empathy for a movement whose stated intention is to heal a wounded culture. But like any ideology, the dialectic is only as sound as its foundational ideas. And for Critical Race Theory, the foundational assumptions are made up of nothing but straw, as in the ludicrous straw-man caricatures of whites that pass for progressive thought.

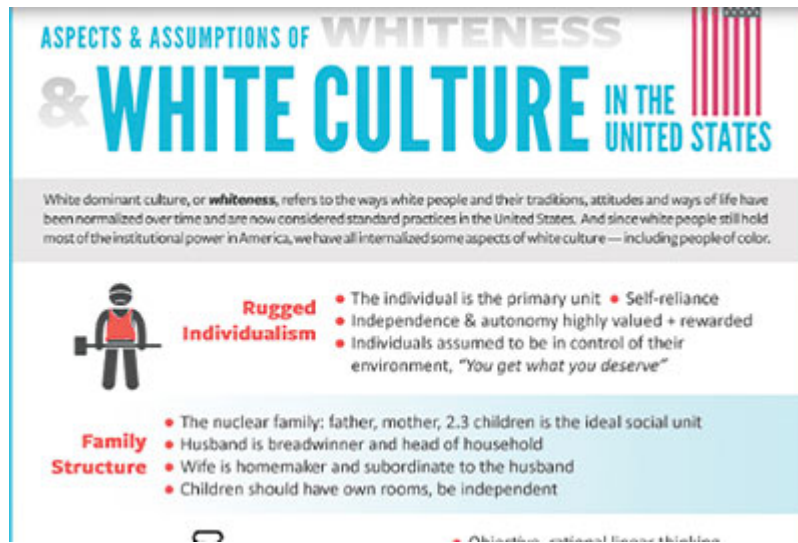
All good propaganda campaigns need visual aids to make them accessible to the masses who imbibe the lies and distortion. Consider the poster formerly on display at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, one of the prestigious Smithsonian Institutions. Titled “Aspects & Assumptions of Whiteness & White Culture in the United States,” the poster proclaims that the nuclear family — father, mother, and children — is a form white supremacy, as is the notion of “rugged individualism,” which instills in white drones such dangerous qualities as “self-reliance,” “individuality,” and the radical belief



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“that one gets what one deserves.”



Smithsonian/National Museum of African-American History and Culture

The poster also condemns the Protestant work ethic, which dares to suggest that “hard work might lead to success,” and the idea that one should “work before play.” And don’t forget the scientific method, which believes that objective thinking is actually possible and that “cause and effect relationships” are real things. We find that Western Culture offers the unforgivable hope that “tomorrow will be a better day.”

Under the categories “Religion” and “Status, Power and Authority,” we learn that Christianity has “no tolerance for deviation from the single god concept.” For white people, “wealth = worth,” “your job is who you are,” and you “respect authority.” Aesthetically, white people are about “steak and potatoes.” When it comes to food, “bland is best.” Clearly, Critical Race Theory does not combat stereotypes and generalizations — it embraces them. This is key to understanding Critical Race Theory: It fights imagined bigotry and generalized racism with racism and bigoted generalizations of its own.

Shame and Ostracism

What differentiates Critical Race Theory from other forms of social-justice reform is that, far from rejecting racist labeling, discriminatory stereotyping, and bigoted generalization, Critical Race Theory is predicated on them. It’s the grist that turns their lucrative mill. When you study the founders and leaders of the 1619 Project, Black Lives Matter, and other related movements, you do not find rigorous thinkers or philosophically profound minds. The movements are considered a “people’s” revolution of self-trained admirers of Marx and Mao, grade-school teachers, and journalists. Consider Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter. Her bio admits that she is a “trained Marxist,” educated in social agitation by Eric Mann, a former Weather Underground domestic terrorist. An inveterate critic of capitalism, Cullors recently made news for purchasing four new homes, including an expensive residence in an overwhelmingly white neighborhood. After receiving blowback for her hypocrisy, she accused home ownership in America of being complicit in systemic racism: a brazen grift that would make the likes of Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson blush.

The more you interact with the Critical Race Theory crowd, the more you realize that there is no epoch-changing idea at the heart of it, no once-in-a-generation epiphany that illuminates our problems or offers an undiscovered pathway to racial enlightenment. The exclusive purpose of Critical Race Theory



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is the disparaging of Western Culture; the canceling of Western creators, thinkers, and achievers; and the projecting onto maudlin white people the racist burden of inescapable guilt for all the evils of the world going back to the beginning of time.

The genius of the Critical Race Theory con is its success in convincing gullible white people to cower before their unoriginal scapegoating and racist culture-shaming. And its puzzling success at getting public school teachers to sob out their racist white guilt during mandatory training sessions while vowing to take it out on their elementary students by making them spend endless class time repenting. And the creepy way Critical Race Theory shakedown artists are adept at terrorizing corporate CEOs worth hundreds of millions of dollars into bartering away the guilt for their unearned wealth by demanding that all their employees undergo racial-awareness brainwashing. And even the dangerous way that Critical Race Theory scolds move a sitting president and commander in chief of the U.S. Armed Forces to force battle-hardened veteran soldiers of 20 years — and the raw cadets at West Point alike — to wallow in lectures about white guilt.

Pornography in the Classroom

Race hucksterism is but one prong of the overall Critical Race Theory juggernaut to exploit American education, canceling actual education for emotionally cruel exercises in ritualistic race-baiting and exploitation. Another prong is to expose children to pornography, ostensibly to fix “systemic racism.”

You read that correctly. American public schools purged English classrooms of the classic books of Western Culture. In their place, activist organizations are flooding the schools with recently created “young adult literature,” books laden with extremely graphic sex scenes, violence, and even incest. For Critical Race Theorists, this also undermines our racist and sexist culture. First, banishing the classics means that students are no longer exposed to arguments that champion individuality, self-sufficiency, and personal liberty. Nor are they made familiar with the cultural cohesion of an evolving Western Culture, where the steady march of civilization created greater freedoms for greater numbers of people from century to century, and for black Americans as well.

Secondly, graphic and pornographic literature breaks down Christian notions of chastity, modesty, and innocence, destroying family values instilled in home and church, and the racially and sexually charged stories promoted in classrooms where Critical Race Theory and its socialist solutions are offered as the answer to these unilaterally broken homes and communities. It is ironic and telling that when woke writers of young-adult literature and white Critical Race Theory teachers in public schools imagine minority culture in books and class assignments, it is always in the context of poverty, despair, family violence, crime, and drugs. Leave it to the progressive Left to fetishize the squalor and sexual chaos of inner-city life while simultaneously projecting the blame for these conditions on white supremacy.

In late May 2021, The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) released a report right out of the Critical Race Theory playbook, titled “Digital Age Assurance Tools and Children’s Rights Online.” The report concluded that pornography may not always be harmful for children who consume it, and that many children are unaffected by viewing sexually explicit material. The report initially suggested that children could access sexually explicit material depending on their age and “maturity,” and that children have a human right to access pornography online on the pretext of sex education: “From a rights perspective, extreme care would be needed to avoid excluding children from sexual and reproductive health information online: sexuality education, including resources for LGBTQ education,



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may be categorized as pornography in some contexts.”

Almost immediately, the original report was pulled down by UNICEF; it was restored days later after careful editing and revision. Spokespersons for UNICEF refused to comment directly about the shocking conclusions of the initial document, which were based on a recent EU study that surveyed children’s online habits and found some children felt “happy” after seeing sexually explicit images.

In the fall of 2020, a group of Leander Independent School District administrators in Austin, Texas, replaced the traditional canon of literature with more “diverse” books from contemporary young-adult literature. Many of the readings contained pornographic passages, including graphic depictions of gang rape and references to strap-on sex toys, masturbation, and ejaculation. The most shocking scenes involved sex and violence, focusing on incest and the sexual abuse of minors, including prepubescent children.

A book targeted for high-school freshmen, *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Perez, contains a scene in which boys make plans to gang rape a girl: “Take her out back, we boys figured, then: hand on the t*****; put it in her coin b*x; put it in her corn****; grab a hold of that braid; rub that calico,” one passage reads. Carmen Marian Machado’s *In the Dream House* chronicles an abusive relationship between two lesbians that contains graphic scenes of BDSM. Parental complaints were countered by threats from activist teachers, who accused the families of racism, religious bigotry, and homophobia for questioning the age-appropriateness of the books.

In Virginia, parents were mortified after learning that their children’s freshman English class read a book that described young adults performing oral sex. According to the parent group Parents Against Critical Theory, the book *Monday’s Not Coming* by Tiffany Jackson includes 30-plus phrases that include the word “f***” as well as numerous passages like the following:

“‘Me and Monday... We did do something.’ He took a deep breath. ‘She... sucked my d***. I didn’t really want it to happen, it just kinda... did,’” the presentation reads. “Her top lip curled up. ‘Wait a minute, is that what was really going on? She did your homework and you [ate] her c****! Is that why you crying? ‘Cause Monday’s not around to do your homework no more?’”

Even private schools are rushing to conform to the sexualization of curriculum favored by Critical Race Theory activists. Consider New York City’s Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, an elite private school founded in 1764 and costing \$47,000 a year. Under the guise of a health and sexuality workshop for juniors, the school subjected students to a class on “Pornography Literacy: An Intersectional Focus on Mainstream Porn.” According to the *New York Post*: “The often-explicit slide presentation and lecture ... included lessons on how porn takes care of ‘three big male vulnerabilities’; statistics on the ‘orgasm gap’ showing straight women have far fewer orgasms with their partners than gay men or women; and photos of partially-nude women, some in bondage, to analyze ‘what is porn and what is art.’”

Parents were not notified about the program beforehand, and no opt-outs were offered. Some parents would only speak to the press on condition of anonymity for fear of “being canceled” and having their reputations ruined by school administrators. The *Post* also noted that the presentation “included a list of the most searched pornographic terms of 2019, including ‘anal,’ ‘gangbang,’ ‘stepmom’ and more. One slide cited various porn genres such as ‘incest-themed,’ consensual or ‘vanilla,’ ‘barely legal,’ and ‘kink and BDSM’ (which included ‘waterboard electro’ torture porn as an example).”



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Threatening Teachers to Conform

One of the more problematic aspects of Common Core that has been intensified by Critical Race Theory is the threatening attitude toward teachers. Under Common Core, teachers were required almost overnight to completely adjust their teaching to meet vague and poorly explained standards. Senior teachers recognized both the anti-teacher nature of the pedagogy and the erosion of rigor and common sense in the presentation of subject matter. While resisting teachers were pushed, and in some instances pressured, to retire, most teachers found a way to accommodate themselves to the new system wherever they could, and still found ways to quietly work around Common Core to the degree that it was possible.

From the outset, Critical Race Theory targeted teachers first, in part because COVID kept children at home and all but removed contact between teachers and students. But more importantly, school administrators had learned from Common Core that the implementation of Critical Race Theory could only be accomplished if teachers bought into the program completely and with zeal. Better to remove teachers altogether than to proceed without instructors who did not conform to the program 100 percent. Numerous stories have been written about the intensity, severity, and racial intolerance built into the anti-racism training sessions forced on teachers and staff. Teachers are being bullied to reject the outmoded role of educator and become activists instead. Those who resist are excommunicated.

These required “anti-racism” training programs force teachers to openly promote in their classrooms Black Lives Matter propaganda, as well as such discredited approaches as the 1619 Project and the Southern Poverty Law Center’s “Learning for Justice” lessons. In a Zoom meeting in January, Dan Grotting, superintendent of the Beaverton, Oregon, school district, suggested that teachers who disagree with Critical Race Theory should look for work elsewhere: “I do want the message to get out there that [anti-racism training] isn’t optional anymore.... We’ve waited for the willing, and if you’re not willing then maybe this isn’t the right place for you to work.”

The arrogant Grotting went further, threatening teachers who aren’t 100-percent on board with the ideological hijacking of Oregon schools: “Maybe we can free up your future, because if we’re going to become an anti-racist school district, it can’t just be a few people, it needs to be everybody, to include our staff, our students, our community, eventually everyone.” Grotting is undeterred that his coercive virtue signaling is most likely a violation of teachers’ First Amendment-protected rights.

An eighth-grade humanities teacher at Cedar Park Middle School, also in Grotting’s Beaverton district, recorded a Zoom video session warning fellow teachers that they will be fired if they don’t “come to the light” and become “anti-racist.” Katherine Watkins, who introduced herself with the pronouns “she, her, we, and us,” then threatened:

If you’re not evolving into an anti-racist educator, you’re making yourself obsolete.... Our district is only getting browner and browner.... Obviously, you can’t change your melanin, all right? But you can change your mind so that you can actually function in a district that is full of BIPOC [black, indigenous, and people of color] children. So if you’re being resistant, I understand that. But you’re gonna have to eventually come to the light. Because if you’re going to keep with those old views of colonialism, it’s gonna lead to being fired. Because you’re going to be doing damage to our children — trauma. And so as we fire the teachers



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who sexually abuse our children, we will be firing the teachers who do racist things to our children and traumatize them.... And so it's just a matter of time; so it's like you either evolve or dissolve.

Also in Oregon, the state legislature passed a resolution allowing newer teachers to be retained over senior ones if the newer teachers have more diversity training. The bill requires that public schools use merit-based systems when making staff reductions, unless the system interferes with the school's "diversity ratio." School districts who plan education staff reductions must retain employees with less seniority if they have more "merit" than senior employees. Merit is defined as having taken anti-bias and other forms of diversity training.

In a move that demonstrates the quasi-fascist nature of Critical Race Theory, the Rochester Public Schools system in Minnesota voted unanimously that the phrase "Black Lives Matter" and other slogans dear to the Critical Race Theory movement are privileged "official government speech," which means they are exempt from challenge by dissenting opinion ordinarily protected under the First Amendment. Among the other phrases so designated are "All Are Welcome Here," "Indigenous Lives Matter," "Stop Asian Hate," and "Brown Lives Matter." Simply decreeing speech to be government speech and therefore speech that cannot be criticized or challenged is Orwellian, and not likely to pass constitutional muster in a court of law. Another resolution was passed to exclude messaging deemed "undesirable" by Rochester Public Schools.

Parents: First and Last Lines of Defense

After documenting the origins, methods, and threats to education and liberty posed by Critical Race Theory, it is clear that the comparisons to communism are not only fair, but accurate and appropriate. From the president of the United States, to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, to the leadership of the teachers' unions, to public-school administrators at the federal and state levels, to the college departments of education that train and accredit future teachers, and to many working teachers in our classrooms, this transformation of public-school education away from the pursuit of knowledge, subject mastery, and academic achievement and toward radical, left-wing, activist, and ideological reprogramming of our children is completely acceptable, necessary, and inevitable.

If you are a parent, now is the time to ask yourself what you will do. Will you protect your children and grandchildren from the coming storm? And how will you do so? To leave them in these schools is to offer them up as sacrificial lambs to the slaughter. In spite of everything rehearsed here, you can still take them out and educate them yourself, or have them educated by responsible and student-centered teachers and curriculum. There is still enough "America" left to allow you and your family to simply opt out. There is no greater act of parental love and responsibility left to us with regard to education in this dark time. Walk away now for the sake of your children, your nation, and your faith.



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