



Letters to the Editor

Critical Race Theory and the 21st-century Liberal

Somewhere near the center of the “classic liberal” conception is the idea that what one does ultimately defines who one is. One’s actions and convictions (for which a person is responsible), and not the accidents of life (for which he is not responsible), reveal his true face to the world. Identity, in other words, is forged, not implanted. A fragment from Heraclitus states, “A man’s character is his fate.” Otherwise put, “Circumstances do not make the man, they reveal him.” (James Allen)

In contrast, modern “liberals” adhere to the “woke” conception that race should be given preeminence in adjudicating the value of individual belief. “No man is an island,” says the millennial, and even if he were, that island’s sociopolitical history, and its roster of misdeeds and offenses, inescapably becomes part of him. No longer, as in the pompous days of class division, is one prejudiced by the cut of one’s cloth; however, like the onerous eras of division based on race, we are prejudged by the color of our skin. And nature holds to a strict No Refunds policy.

Lay aside the pseudo-historical justifications and obfuscatory post-modern interpretations, and what remains of woke-ness is this: a philosophy that considers skin pigmentation the supreme criteria for assessing a human being’s social worth. All justifications of such bigotry are either a way to extenuate, or obscure, this ineluctable fact.

Wokeness determines the value of an individual based on the ethnic strand into which nature’s fancy thrust him. If one is white, he is thrashed for his birthright; try as he may, he just can’t seem to rid himself of the burden of privilege, and can only grovel before his accusers, apologizing for his embarrassing, unbidden station. One’s opinion is snubbed. The white person is told, in firm tones, his particular “life experience” precludes him from ever understanding the intricate condition and rapturous sufferings of his woebegone peers. Note the convenient paradox: By dint of your life experience, you cannot possibly comprehend aught of anyone else; but by that very same criteria, the woke know everything about you.

This is simply racism. Like any other racism, it conceives a world where intangibles such as human character and worth are bound to superficial tangibles such as ethnicity or race. And woke members display heroic recalcitrance or happy ignorance when their inconsistencies are pointed out. And this serves to channel the members’ own internal doubts, frustrations, and pettiness.

Modern liberalism presents a strikingly simplistic, dull, and superficial perspective of humankind, and seeks to exert a repressive order in its name.

To lend skin color any superordinate importance is to encompass the imprimatur to history’s most odious supremacist movements and blood-based regimes.

What is true is that while each of us is given a unique life experience, we all commonly share an experience of life. And it is this which inexorably binds us, and allows us, in the end, hopefully, to understand each other. Whether privilege is perceived or prevalent is not germane to the idea of the individual. This meager portion of time each of us receives is a bequest too squalid to squander squabbling.

Haim Shweky



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A National Police Force

Selwyn Duke's recent online article "The Shadow of Obama: Biden Will Exert More Fed Control Over Local Police" (January 3) is likely a sign of things to come regarding policing in the United States. Under Biden, the FBI's dream of a national police force will come closer to fruition. The FBI has long envisioned such a force which they, the FBI, will head up. Such a national police force would undoubtedly be paramilitary in structure and stature, as are many national police forces in repressive countries such as Russia, China, Ukraine, Germany, France, and elsewhere, thereby wielding unfettered power and influence over the citizenry of this country.

The question: When will we see citizens here today, gone tomorrow, citizens alive one minute and not the next?

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