

## **Fact Sheet on Critical Race Theory**

Critical Race Theory (CRT), by its insistence on seeing everything in terms of race, undermines the American values of equality, individualism, and freedom. It greatly distorts our history and historical progress, with the intention of moving us toward greater government control and a racial spoils system. Americans of all races should join together to expel Critical Race theory from government at every level.

There are four especially dangerous foundation stones of CRT.

First, CRT insists that American blacks have enjoyed no progress, or only a very little, since the days of slavery. We are told that they are still just as oppressed and suffering as they were before 1865.

The truth is that slavery was abolished and legally-mandated segregation ended. Lynchings no longer take place. The Ku Klux Klan, which once had millions of members, is a weak and tiny force, its members operating furtively in the shadows because most Americans hold them in such contempt.

Blacks now vote and get elected to office, even in areas where that was unthinkable sixty years ago. We have had a black president, a black vice-president, and the third-ranking official in the leadership of the House majority is black. Blacks attend the most elite schools, and hold high positions in business and the nonprofit sector as well as government.

Not only have we brought about change in our own country, but we have been a positive influence on the entire world. The Declaration of Independence, with its proclamation that “all men are created equal”, was an inspiration to everyone. As the distinguished historian Gordon Wood put it, “The revolution unleashed antislavery sentiments that led to the first abolition movements in the history of the world.”

Second, CRT claims that the entire American system and culture is built to continue black oppression. They call this structural, institutional or systemic racism. Further, they tell us that all or almost all whites are racists who support preserving this racist society. (They also accuse politically incorrect blacks of being anti-black racists – e.g. calling Justice Clarence Thomas a “sellout”.) The 1619 project even insists that “Anti-black racism runs in the very DNA of this country.”

This leads to the conclusion that individual effort cannot bring success. They believe that only government, by controlling and manipulating all aspects of our society, can impose what they call “equity”. Government would have to use this power to fully equalize the races

Ibram Kendi, one of the most prominent scholars promoting Critical Race Theory, has gone so far as to demand that the Constitution be amended to guarantee this equality of outcome. His amendment, replacing our democratic republic with his version of Plato’s guardians, would put unelected “experts” in charge of examining everything done by national, state, and local governments, with the power of overruling their laws so as to guarantee that wealth, officeholding, imprisonment, etc. would all be approximately equal by race. Even “racist ideas”,

as defined by these “experts”, would be illegal (good-bye First Amendment, hello thought police).

Yet Americans of all colors know that it makes a difference whether we study and learn in school, stay out of trouble with the law, work diligently at our jobs, and treat family, friends, and neighbors according to the Golden Rule. This is what we must continue teaching our children. This is the way to get ahead – regardless of race.

Third, CRT denounces the concept of a colorblind society, in which each person is seen as an individual and can rise or fall on his own merits. Advocates of CRT say that being colorblind is just another form of racism, and that government policies must be designed to show a preference for blacks.

Michelle Alexander insists that “Colorblindness, though widely touted as the solution, is actually the problem. . . . in fact, it can be a form of cruelty.” She says that she hopes we will never become a colorblind society.

Kendi declares that “The most threatening racist movement is not the alt right’s unlikely movement for a White ethnostate, but the regular American’s drive for a ‘race-neutral’ one.” He goes on to say that “antiracist discrimination” (i.e. discrimination in favor of blacks) must be government policy.

Critical race theory demands that we return to an era when most people allowed racial stereotypes to guide behavior. We have come a long way since then. Do most Americans really want to turn back to clock to a highly race-conscious society? There is no proof that they do, and much evidence that they do not. A 2020 poll by the Pew Research Center found huge majorities opposed to using race to determine hiring and college admissions. A study of white parents found that “Most white parents who speak with their children about race adopt a colorblind rhetoric, telling their children that people may ‘look different’ but that ‘everyone is the same’. They also emphasize the importance of treating ‘everyone the same’.

For decades, Americans have been moving toward a colorblind society. We must not allow Critical Race Theory to throw that into reverse.

Finally, the free-market economy is described by CRT as being a form of white racism. Capitalism, they say, must be brought to an end. Yet free-market capitalism has demonstrated, for decades, its superiority over socialism when it comes to wealth production and raising people out of poverty. Historians have documented how the freedmen, during Reconstruction, benefited at first from a free market for their labor and their crops, only to see anti-capitalist government regulations erode that freedom and put them under a new form of white control.

Freedom has given blacks the opportunity to rise, and we must not allow socialism to replace that prosperous freedom.

If you would like to read about Critical Race Theory in more detail, go to the TCC essay on our website at <https://www.theconservativecaucus.org/crt>.