

Critical Race Theory Continues Its Influence

By Pat Ellis, Vice President, Issues -Eagle Forum of Alabama

Much has been written about Critical Race Theory (CRT), including two articles in this newsletter. Most parents of school age children know by now that CRT is a Marxist ideology that divides all people by race. Covid policies have opened parents' eyes to just what their children are learning.

As reported in the 2nd Quarter 2021 Education Foundation Newsletter, the Alabama State Board of Education passed a resolution on August 21, 2021, that forbids indoctrinating students in an ideology that "promotes one race or sex above another." This resolution is a good first step.

As I write this, there is an important bill in the Alabama legislature that addresses Critical Race Theory and its aliases—cultural competency, racial literacy, equity practices, diversity and anti-bias training, culturally responsive teaching, inclusion and social justice—to name a few. It is important because it includes consequences for teachers that go "rogue" and defy the law. It also addresses the problems with CRT in our universities.

The following twelve teachers in Alabama have already signed the Howard Zinn Project Pledge that they will teach Critical Race Theory even if it is banned by

law:

- Athens – Adam Keller
- Auburn – Mary Diamond
- Birmingham – Amanda Deter and Wes Lybrand
- Daphne – Tiffany Hudgins
- Huntsville – Derek Koehl and Melissa Snider
- Killen – Eric McGee
- Madison – Dr. Brittany C. Vinson
- Northport – Josephine Pryce
- Trussville – Rebecca Bidwell
- Tuscaloosa – Jessee Wheeler

When signing the pledge teachers are agreeing to teach: "Structural racism is a defining character of our society today."

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/here-are-the-thousands-of-teachers-who-say-theyre-willing-to-violate-law-to-keep-pushing-crt?fbclid=IwAR0VE1n>

"Woke" universities which embrace the sentiments of Ibram X. Kendi (Boston University Director of the Center for Antiracist Research and New York Times best-selling author of *How to Be an Antiracist*) are teaching our K-12 teachers how to teach. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi tells us: "The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination." His remarks are a striking contrast to the words of Martin Lu-

ther King who famously said: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Kendi and others in the CRT movement want to turn the calendar back so that Americans view all actions through the lens of race. Sadly, they want to introduce the youngest and most vulnerable in our society to children's books like: *Anti-Racist Baby*, *Woke Baby* and *A is for Activist*.

We are not naïve. We know there will always be individuals who reject those who don't look like them, but we are in an era of whites adopting children of color, and parents of color adopting white children. Interracial dating and marriages are not uncommon.

The majority of Americans acknowledge the cruelty of slavery. But we also know we have made great strides. Minorities hold positions of power throughout our government including the Supreme Court of the United States. Americans twice elected a black president! And 4 years later a black VP. If this doesn't prove we are not a "systemically racist nation," I'm not sure what will.

CRT continued on page 2

We know that leftists have seized control of our college campuses. Marxist radicals in the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) have been patient. Some of us are old enough to remember Tom Hayden (Jane Fonda's ex) who was a leader in the movement. Around the year 2000, SDS had achieved a 5 to 1 left right ratio. In 2016, the left right ratio for faculty in higher education was 12 to 1. The current ratio is approximately 15 to 1, but "new appointments are being made at a rate of about 50 to 1. As we approach complete leftist saturation among professors, college campuses will become even more intolerant, irrational and politically aggressive.

In our own backyard at the University of Alabama, one of the heavyweights in Critical Race Theory, Richard Delgado, has been a law professor in Tuscaloosa since 2013. He and his wife, Jean Stefanic, authored *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*. It is now in its 3rd Edition. The University of Alabama website prominently displays his areas of expertise as Civil Rights, Constitutional Law and Critical Race Theory. The university needs to sponsor an open debate so the public can understand the manner in which a professor who believes in Critical Race Theory teaches Constitutional Law.

I'd be remiss if I didn't add that one of the biggest cheerleaders for CRT is the National Education Association (NEA). On July 15, 2021, City Journal reported:

"Union delegates representing 3 million public school employees approved funding for three separate items related to 'increasing the implementation' of 'critical race theory' in K-12 curricula; promoting critical race theory in 14,000 local school districts; and attacking opponents of critical race theory..." <https://www.city-journal.org/nea-to-promote-critical-race-theory-in-schools>

In addition, the NEA resolution provides resources to groups and individuals to target **grass-roots parent organizations**. Union dues will be used to attack parents who oppose the brainwashing of their children into a category of either "oppressed" or "oppressor."

Unfortunately, the NEA is not the only educational organization promoting this divisive ideology in America's classrooms. CRT is also supported by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). <https://lockesociety.org/crt-social-justice-on-full-display-at>

[-upcoming-national-teacher-conferences/](#). They continue to have an enormous influence on our local schools.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is a premier resource for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Alabama. CASEL is openly promoting a framework to shift school values towards ones that intentionally promote "equity" (equality of outcome) rather than equality of opportunity among students. For further information on CASEL, visit: <https://casel.org/>.

Our children and grandchildren have only the values our society hands down to them to create their world. We do need to teach them about a colorblind society, and that we help those who need help regardless of skin color. Destructive ideology from "woke" colleges is dealing the American public a bad hand. We've seen the part district attorneys and judges have played in aiding the crime wave across the country. We need to put the brakes on this poisonous ideology soon. If we don't, more and more of our young people, **our leaders of tomorrow**, will embrace Critical Race Theory. It's our watch. What will we do?

1Ellis, John (2022, Jan. 15) "Can Politics Get Better When Higher Ed Keeps Getting Worse" The Wall Street Journal

Districts Have Unprecedented Funds to Teach CRT via Social and Emotional Learning

Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced in June, 2021 plans to make "equity" a central focus of education using the "historical funding for schools" in the American Rescue Plan. The department announced in April, 2021 a rule supporting development of "culturally responsive teaching" in American history and civics. The department promoted the widely discredited *New York Times* "1619 Project," which teaches that the United States is fundamentally a racist nation. In a June 2021 webinar, CASEL CEO Karen Niemi urged the "elimination of the "color-blind" approach to education which, traditionally, has been tied to "equality." She also said that "We see SEL as a tool for anti-racism and to motivate students to become equity activists."

Source: Epoch Times, December 15, 2021

Once again, state educators show they don't believe parents should have a choice

By Stephanie Holden Smith, Eagle Forum of Alabama 6th District Chair

Sen. Del Marsh filed and moved his school choice bill, dubbed the PCA (Parental Choice Act) last week. Unfortunately, the educational powers that be don't actually believe that parents bear the responsibility for their children's education, nor do they believe that parents have a right to choose anything beyond the [education establishment's] control.

That was made clear last week with messaging from the education establishment as they denied the fact that tax dollars designated for education should follow the student and questioned the intentions of parents to provide for the education of their own children.

The Executive Director of School Superintendents accused religious schools of teaching radical and divisive ideas.

A member of a local school board who testified in the public hearing asserted that the results of the proposed program would be discriminatory in nature and accused it of being essentially a social welfare program for wealthy parents.

Another education leader asserted that students and schools be required to use the exact same textbooks and curriculum of the state in order to participate.

These folks don't seem to understand the harsh truth that there are literally thousands of parents and students who are ready to opt out of the structure they have built, in hopes that there is something better.

Instead, education bosses took the opportunity to lecture parents, insult homeschoolers, and imply that religious schools are radicalized. In fact, they demanded additional accountability for those not currently under their control in lieu of acknowledging the public's desire for educational freedom from their failing system.

Alabama is resting squarely at the bottom of the educational barrel and, despite the cries to the contrary, it's not from a lack of funding. Federal and state dollars have been pouring into the state at record rates for years. The education budgets are the largest they have ever been in the history of the state. The Education Trust Fund (ETF) has doubled in the past 20 years and now tops \$8 billion. Alabama is third in the Southeast in per-pupil expenditures while maintaining last or close to last rankings on every assessment.

In short, the dollars have been adding up while the test scores have been going down. It's clear to any objective observer that the education establishment is protecting the ETF rather than the students that the fund was established to serve.

In Senate committee, an amendment was added to require students and schools who opt into the program to take or administer state standardized tests. Why would parents readily submit to testing requirements for a curriculum that mirrors the failing system they're seeking to escape?

Quotes from the "edu-crats" and union bosses included veiled threats toward educational freedoms of homeschoolers and assertions that if parents were going to get state funds for their children (where do they think these state funds come from and who do they think they're for?), then the state was entitled to control the entire process.

Note: there are always strings attached.

Continued on page 5

Fentanyl overdoses have become the leading cause of death in 18-45 year-olds in the U.S. Over 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in the 12 month period ending in April, 2021, 2/3 related to fentanyl. This year as the southern border became more porous, record amounts of drugs have been seized by authorities, but this is just a drop in the bucket of the amount that gets through. Traffickers are using social media to promote their product among our young people. Parents must watch their children's social media and educate them on the dangers of this deadly drug.

Epoch Times, Dec. 19, 2021

On January 21, 2022 the Supreme Court announced it granted a request for review of lower court decisions involving the University of North Carolina and Harvard University. A student group disagrees with how some colleges use race to determine which applicants get admitted to the universities. The separate cases were consolidated and will be heard by the court together. The U. S. Constitution's 14th Amendment and Title VI mean the schools cannot use race in the admissions process, according to the petitions to the court. The universities contend that race is only one consideration in its admission policies and that it abides by legal precedent. "The cornerstone of our nation's civil rights laws is the principle that an individual's race should not be used to help or harm them in their life's endeavors," Edward Blum, president of the group said.

Epoch Times, January 24, 2022

In a welcome move to those of us concerned about the Critical Theory agenda, the new governor of Virginia has taken on the "woke" movement. Gov. Glenn Youngkin has renamed the state's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office as the Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion office. He appointed a conservative to head the office. The charge to the new office will be to bring Virginians from different faiths together in service to their communities, to promote free speech and civil discourse, and to promote ideas, policies and practices to eliminate disparities in pre-natal care and be an ambassador for unborn children.

Red State.com Jan. 20, 2022

Abortion was the leading cause of death worldwide in 2021, killing 42.6 million people according to statistics compiled by Worldometers at <https://www.worldometers.info> Abortions far outnumbered other causes of death, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents, and suicide. Abortions accounted for 42% of all deaths. Worldometer indicates that approximately 3.5 million people died from COVID worldwide, although many think that is high due to the CDC counting anyone who died from other causes though testing positive for COVID. Even assuming the numbers are correct, and not adjusting for overcounting, abortion is 12.7 times more deadly than the coronavirus. In America, just under 1 million unborn babies are aborted every year. Even though the number of abortions have dropped in the past decade, it remains the leading cause of death in the U. S..

LifeNews.com Jan. 3, 2022

Many of us enjoy the homespun humor of **Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana** as he pontificates on the workings of Congress. Below are a few of his best.

"The difference between men and dogs is dogs don't allow the dumbest and most inept members to become leaders of the pack."

"Always follow your heart.....but take your brains with you "

"Americans are thinking, there are some good members of Congress but we can't figure out what they are good for. Others are thinking, how did these morons make it through the birth canal."

"This election in Ga will be the most important in history, you have nothing to worry about unless you are a tax payer, parent, gun owner, cop, person of faith, or an unborn baby!"

"Go sell your crazy somewhere else...we are all stocked up here."

Senator John Kennedy on Nancy Pelosi, "She can strut sitting down!"

"Christmas ornaments, picture frames and Jeffery Epstein. Name three things that don't hang themselves."

"Why are we giving American tax dollars to countries that hate us? They should be able to hate us for Free!"

In addition to the state-controlled annual testing, State Superintendent Eric Mackey demanded a state registry of all students, including homeschoolers; a state registry of the curriculum the students would be following; and floated the idea of state officials monitoring parents and students in their own homes.

He further demanded that private schools be brought under some sort of state authority for documentation, monitoring & accreditation.

As a bonus, Mackey would also like the ability to decide what types of students private schools may accept and that the whole program be under the authority of the State Department of Education.

Wait - doesn't that negate the entire point of the bill? Wasn't this bill supposed to expand the choices of parents and expand opportunities for students? This looks like an intentional power grab to me.

This doesn't look like a choice anyone in their right mind would want to take.

In addition to her volunteer work with Eagle Forum, Stephanie Holden Smith is an experienced policy analyst, political commentator, and public speaker. Smith has worked and volunteered in Governmental Affairs in Alabama since 1997, including lobbying for a Fortune 500 company and serving as Deputy Director of Finance for the State of Alabama. She is currently the principal of Thatcher Coalition LLC. To contact Stephanie, please go to <http://thatchercoalition.com>. This article was originally published in 1819 News.com on Feb. 7, 2022.

COVID-19 and the Global Predators

Dr. Peter Breggin, MD and his wife have written a book titled *Covid-19 and the Global Predators: We Are The Prey*. They say in the book that the U.S. and other countries have adopted the policy where, "The more society can be frightened, isolated, controlled, and suppressed—the safer it will be from the virus." They further states "The pandemic continues to be used to justify the imposition of vast fear and oppression on the American people. All this is being done in the name of public health, but it represents authoritarian politics with worldwide ramifications." They write: "As we began our research in COVID-19 policies and practices, we became dismayed by the absence of any rational science to justify the shutdowns and to prevent the use of the very safe and useful medication available, the inexpensive hydroxychloroquine, and now ivermectin."



What's Good About America?

We Dare Defend Our Rights

By Rev. John Killian, Special Contributor to Eagle Forum



Notice the patch on the uniform of an Alabama law enforcement officer or observe the state motto on an official state car or as you enter the Alabama State House you will find the slogan **Audemus Jura Nostra Defendere**. Why note a phrase from a dead (Latin) language and why is this motto important?

Marie Bankhead Owen was director of the Alabama State Department of Archives in 1923 when the State of Alabama determined this state motto. In a *Birmingham Age-Herald* article of April 23, 1939, Mrs. Owen told the story behind our strong state motto. In this article, Mrs. Owen referenced a desire to express "a phrase that would interpret the spirit of our peoples in a terse and energetic sentence."

Owen found inspiration from the famous poem of Sir William Jones (1746-1794) **What Constitutes a State?** where Jones wrote:

"Men who their duties know,
But know their rights, and, knowing, dare maintain,
Prevent the long-aimed blow,
And crush the tyrant while they rend the chain;
These constitute a State;
And sovereign law, that State's collected will,
O'er thrones and globes elate"

Drawing from these powerful lines, Mrs. Owen singled out the phrase "We dare maintain our rights" or "we dare defend our rights." Professor W.B. Saffold of the University of Alabama translated the phrase into Latin and thus, the Alabama State Motto was born.

The area now known as the State of Alabama was considered wilderness. In fact, Mississippi grew faster and was settled quicker than Alabama in the early 1800s. Settling our land required courage and toughness. Alabama was a crucial battleground in the War of 1812. Those settlers were largely veterans of the American Revolution or their sons. Alabama has a heritage of loving and honoring liberty.

While our state constitution is much maligned, the fact remains that the Alabama Constitution maintains the strongest Declaration of Rights of any state constitution in the Union, building upon the principle "That the great, general, and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and established." Alabamians have celebrated that liberty by standing in the forefront of defense of our country and remaining among the highest in support for private charities and benevolent operations. Alabamians historically prefer private help over government-coerced assistance.

For this reason, government-controlled healthcare, including vaccine mandates and talk of vaccine passports, has not found support among common Alabamians. When our people feel the pressure of government control, we don't naturally look for centralizing control by a federal system. Instead, "We dare maintain our rights."

In her 1967 inaugural address, Governor Lurleen Burns Wallace said "Be proud to be called an Alabamian, for your courage has nurtured the flame of freedom. So bury me in her hallowed ground and among her good people, because my heart will always belong to Alabama."

Go Woke or Go Broke? by Elaine Little, Editor

Have you heard the acronym ESG lately? It stands for Environment, Social, and Governance. It is a measurement of how well corporations meet the criteria for what has come to be called “woke capitalism”. Proponents say it is a way for socially conscious investors to screen potential investments rather than basing their investments solely on financial performance. If one wonders why a company has “gone woke,” it may be that they are courting that socially conscious investor class or that the upper management has itself bought into this agenda.

If corporations meet the criteria of being a socially “responsible corporation”, sensitive to the social needs of society as visualized by the liberal politically elite, it gets a high ESG score, thus more likely to appeal to this millennial investor class. If not, the business gets a lower score and may suffer accordingly. What are the main agenda items of this liberal investor class? According to an article published in *Epoch News* on February 15, 2022, entitled “Woke Capitalism is a Monopoly Game”, author Micheal Rectenwald wrote that such items include identity politics, gender pluralism, transgender rights, lax immigration standards, climate change mitigation, and so on. Such agendas greatly favor large corporations at the expense of smaller businesses because they can better afford any financial impact. Woke capitalism is also called “stakeholder capitalism” which puts the social values of investors, employees, etc. equal to or above financial performance.

When a corporation adopts policies that reflect liberal values, it is coming to be known as a “woke” company. They have accepted the idea of “woke, not broke” or they just want to avoid being “cancelled” by the Twitter mobs. As an example, recently Coca Cola, Inc. had a training program for employees telling them to “try to be less white” as it promoted Critical Race Theory.

This Environment, Social, and Governance Index or score is very similar to the Chinese social credit score. China’s criteria is compelled by the government of the Chinese Communist Party, both on companies and individuals. When they comply, they are allowed privileges, when they do not, those privileges are withdrawn. The ESG score is similar but it is not imposed by the government (at least not yet). When companies have a low ESG score, they can be squeezed out of the market. Woke investment drives ownership and control of production away from the noncompliant.

Stakeholder capitalism plays right into the agenda of the World Economic Forum led by Klaus Schwab. Rectenwald quoted Schwab who wrote in 2020: “Every country, from the U. S. to China, must participate and every industry, from oil and gas to tech, must be transformed. In short, we need a “Great Reset of capitalism.” In this country, BlackRock, Inc. and Vanguard, the first and second largest investment companies in the U.S. respectively, are solidly behind stakeholder capitalism. So, it is little wonder that companies are increasingly adapting to this way of doing business.

Could such a system of social ratings come to apply to U. S. citizens as it does for Chinese subjects? We tend to think that our Constitution will protect us. But, beware there is a program called ID2020 Alliance Partners. The partners are Microsoft, Rockefeller Foundation and Gavi, the Bill Gates funded vaccine promoting group. They are pushing this “need” for a digital identifier worldwide. This reeks with the stench of the New World Order. If we were to move to a digital currency as proposed by HB 4741, all digital currency, which would be managed by the Federal Reserve Bank, would have a unique serial number. Such currency would have to be tied to an owner of that currency who then also would have to have a unique digital identifier. Such a digital identity could easily be used by the government for any tracking purpose. Along with enhanced facial identification software (developed by Microsoft for China) and cameras on every street light, China tracks its people and controls their lives by debits and credits to their social credit score allowing or removing privileges accordingly. Thus, our every move could be tracked and our every expenditure monitored. Every digitized health record, academic records, licenses, certifications, affiliations, political party affiliations, etc. could be tracked by the federal or any level of government. Your pay would be deposited in your Digital Wallet and expenditures removed from your Digital Wallet.

As our world becomes increasing digital, our quest to protect our freedoms becomes increasingly harder to do. We must continue to educate ourselves and our youth on this new danger.

4200 Stone River Circle, Birmingham, AL 35213

Return Service Requested

***Eagle Forum of Alabama
Education Foundation Newsletter***

4200 Stone River Circle
Birmingham, AL 35213

Eunie Smith, Managing Director, Elaine Little, Editor

*To subscribe to this newsletter, please visit our website,
www.alabamaeagle.org, and join Eagle Forum of Alabama
or call (205) 879.7096.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

First Quarter, 2022

- **Critical Race Theory Continues Its Influence**
- **Districts Have Unprecedented Funds to Teach CRT via Social and Emotional Learning**
- **Once again, state educators show they don't believe parents should have a choice**
- **COVID-19 and the Global Predators**
- **We Dare Defend Our Rights**
- **Woke, Not Broke**