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White Supremacy vs. Education

Education gives students the opportunity to change their current circumstances by taking advantage of their resources. Especially, in the United States, the pursuit of knowledge is a priority for historically underserved families. In light of the country's history with slavery, education gave an opportunity for emancipated enslaved folks to improve their lives.

Education is a means of creating the path toward liberation for marginalized groups. However, with heavily westernized curriculums, most American students only have a narrowed view of the country and the outside world. As a result of white supremacy and European colonization, nationalism and patriotism control the information fed to these students. Thereby, impacting a student's understanding of people, systems of hierarchy, and the history of the U.S.A.

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate on critical race theory, and whether it should be implemented within the education system. Dissident groups argue teaching critical race theory or racism will divide groups of people. Thereby, causing a lack of unity within educational environments. However, the goal of implementing lessons on critical race theory is not to teach younger students about racism. There is a popular phrase, often social studies teachers will say to their students: "Those who forget their history are condemned to repeat it" (Lindeman). Understanding critical race theory prevents a repetition of past civil rights injustices that happened to marginalized groups across the States, mostly to people of color. These lousy arguments yelled by dissent groups are a facade, meant to hide the values that

will be revealed upon these teachings. One can ask themselves why white supremacists and racists are always in opposition to progressive urban reform. Mostly because the first step when instilling these progressive ordinances, is forcing its perpetrators to take accountability for their contributions. In other words, it is difficult to force a racist to admit their racism. Nevertheless, lessons on critical race theory are important in dismantling white supremacy. It teaches students the importance of intersectionality and learning what it means to be inclusive. More specifically, it allows students living in predominantly white areas to see the cross-sections between race and ethnicity.

White supremacy in education can be defined by the domination of white historical characters within history. Furthermore, the belief that white people remain superior to other races is prominent in U.S. education curriculums. Upon examining this white-washed version of history, one must come to the conclusion that white supremacy in education leads to the exclusion of people of color. Though, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. are often the only Black figures taught in American classrooms. Rarely do American history lessons involve a more in-depth version of the civil rights movements or what America was like for Black people during slavery. Yet, Parks and King were strategically used in American classrooms because of their non-violent tactics. Their usage of non-violent strategies was perfect for creating a pacifist worldview of the civil rights movement. Dismissing the blood and dissidence thrown among other Black civil rights leaders: Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, Richard Phillips and etc. White supremacy is vital in maintaining the pristine image of white America. This is why pacifists, like Parks and King, are only talked about in order to *diversify* white classrooms. Revealing the bloodshed and anger of people of color will only lead to pointing fingers at those who enable white supremacy. Teaching beyond the

scope of just Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. is necessary for dismantling white supremacy. It gives teachers the opportunity to unveil decades of systemic racism and discrimination against marginalized groups. By understanding the voices of several groups of people students begin to think for themselves about how to evoke change.

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