

Confederate statues and flags

During the civil unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, a number of monuments and memorials associated with racial injustice were vandalized, destroyed or removed. This occurred mainly in the US, but also in several other countries. In some cases, the removal was legal and official; in others, most notably in Alabama and North Carolina, laws prohibiting the removal of monuments were deliberately broken.

Initially, protesters targeted monuments related to the Confederate States of America, its leaders and its military. As the scope of the protests broadened to include other forms of systemic racism, many statues of Christopher Columbus in the US were removed, as his arrival in the Americas was the beginning of the genocide of Native American people. Several statues of American slave owners were also vandalized or removed, including Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

Critical Race Theory (CRT)

Critical race theory is an academic concept that is more than 40 years old. The core idea is that race is a social construct, and that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies.

The basic tenets of critical race theory, or CRT, emerged out of a framework for legal analysis in the late 1970s and early 1980s created by legal scholars Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Richard Delgado, among others.

A good example is when, in the 1930s, government officials literally drew lines around areas deemed poor financial risks, often explicitly due to the racial composition of inhabitants. Banks subsequently refused to offer mortgages to Black people in those areas.



A global trend

In the United Kingdom, removal efforts and vandalism focused on memorials to figures involved in the transatlantic slave trade, British colonialism, and eugenics. In Belgium, sculptures of King Leopold II were targeted due to his rule during the atrocities in the Congo Free State. In South Africa, a bust of Cecil Rhodes was decapitated, and a statue of the last president of the Orange Free State was taken down. In India colonial-era statues were relocated.

Movies on US "revisionist" history

[American History X](#)

[Watchmen \(2019 series\)](#)

[BlacKkKlansman](#)

[The Watermelon woman](#)

[Lincoln](#)

[Forrest Gump](#)



1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

In the early 1900s, the discovery of oil in Tulsa prompted a rapid economic and population growth. As Tulsa experienced an economic boom, so did the neighboring Black community of Greenwood. Home to 10,000 Black residents, Greenwood was composed primarily of thriving, black-owned businesses. But as Greenwood was becoming wealthier, increasing racist White militancy was taking over the country and its institutions.

In May of 1921, Dick Rowland (a Black man) was arrested after he allegedly assaulted a young woman in an elevator. Although the claims were false, information spread by the news media triggered a lynch mob to assemble by the courthouse. Members of the Greenwood community arrived to defend Rowland from a potential lynching, but the gathering quickly turned violent.

After the massacre, Tulsa's white city leaders realized a negative national response to the massacre would make it harder for them to continue growing the city. In response, they began efforts to cover it up.

The Massacre is viewed by many as the worst incident of racial violence in US history but despite its severity, people around the nation have refused to acknowledge the event for decades. In less than 12 hours, more than 1100 African American homes and businesses were looted and burned to the ground by a white mob and between 100 and 300 people were killed. But the massacre has been cast into the shadows across most of its existence.

1619 Project

The 1619 Project is a long-form journalism endeavor developed by Nikole Hannah-Jones, writers from The New York Times, and The New York Times Magazine focused on subjects of slavery and the founding of the United States. Historians, journalists, and commentators have described the 1619 Project as a revisionist historiographical work that takes a critical view of traditionally revered events and people in American history, including the Patriots in the American Revolution, the Founding Fathers, along with later figures such as Abraham Lincoln and the Union during the Civil War.

The 1619 Project was launched in August 2019 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the British colony of Virginia. This framing challenges the idea that American history began with the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, which created the United States, or with the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620.

The project received varied reactions from political figures. Then-Democratic Senator Kamala Harris praised it in a tweet, stating "The #1619Project is a powerful and necessary reckoning of our history. We cannot understand and address the problems of today without speaking truth about how we got here." High-profile conservatives criticized it. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich called it "brainwashing" and "propaganda," later writing an opinion piece characterizing it as "left-wing propaganda masquerading as 'the truth'".

‘The past is never dead. It's not even past.’ (William Faulkner)

1776 commission

The 1776 Commission was an advisory committee established in September 2020 by then-U.S. President Donald Trump to support what he called "patriotic education". The commission released The 1776 Report on January 18, 2021, two days before the end of Trump's term. Historians overwhelmingly criticized the report, saying it was "filled with errors and partisan politics". Consensus of academic scholars was that the commission's goal was naked jingoism unconnected to factual history.

The commission was conceived partly as a response to The New York Times' 1619 Project. Various federal laws prohibit the federal government from directly regulating school curricula, which are determined by school districts under rules established by state governments. However, the federal government influences state and local decisions through funding. The report of the so-called committee was deeply steeped in white supremacist rhetoric

