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A first batch of key notions and dates

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Try to write down your own definitions of (some) the following terms

- ♦ The system of checks and balances
- ♦ The Separation of Powers
- ♦ The fourth estate
- ♦ The Bill of Rights
- ♦ Bipartisan VS partisan
- ♦ Liberal democracy / Illiberal democracy
- ♦ The liberal world order
- ♦ The liberal elites
- ♦ Culture war
- ♦ Woke
- ♦ Identity politics
- ♦ Cancel culture
- ♦ DEI
- ♦ Red America / Blue America
- ♦ Big government / Small government
- ♦ Trumpism
- ♦ MAGA Republicans

**Any idea where those sentences come from?**

- *We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union*
- *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press*
- *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,*
- *He who saves His country does not violate any law*

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## ■ The separation of powers

The doctrine that the liberty of the individual is secure only if the three primary functions of the state (legislative, executive, and judicial) are exercised by distinct and independent organs. In fact, however, while the judiciary is largely independent, the legislature and the executive depend on one another and their members overlap. The doctrine had a great influence over the form adopted for the constitution of the USA and many other countries.

Such a separation, it has been argued, limits the possibility of arbitrary excesses by government, since the sanction of all three branches is required for the making, executing, and administering of laws.

The first modern formulation of the doctrine was that of the French political philosopher Montesquieu in *De l'esprit des lois* (1748; *The Spirit of Laws*), although the English philosopher John Locke had earlier argued that legislative power should be divided between king and Parliament.

Montesquieu's argument that liberty is most effectively safeguarded by the separation of powers was inspired by the English constitution, although his interpretation of English political realities has since been disputed. His work was widely influential, most notably in America, where it profoundly influenced the framing of the U.S. Constitution.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica / Collins English Dictionary

## ■ checks and balances

principle of government under which separate branches are empowered to prevent actions by other branches and are induced to share power. Checks and balances are applied primarily in constitutional governments. They are of fundamental importance in tripartite governments, such as that of the United States, which separate powers among legislative, executive, and judicial branches

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

# 3 BRANCHES of GOVERNMENT



## Constitution

(provides a separation of powers)



### Legislative (makes laws)



#### Congress



#### Senate

100 elected senators total;  
2 senators per state



#### House of Representatives

435 elected representatives  
total; representatives based  
on each state's population



### Executive (carries out laws)



#### President



#### Vice President



#### Cabinet

Nominated by the  
president and must be  
approved by the Senate  
(with at least 51 votes)



### Judicial (evaluates laws)

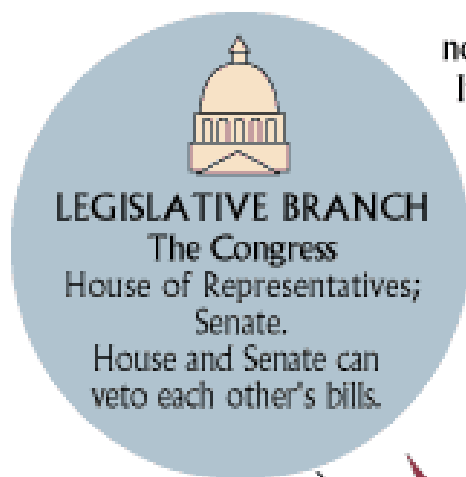


#### Supreme Court

9 justices nominated by  
the president and must be  
approved by the Senate  
(with at least 51 votes)

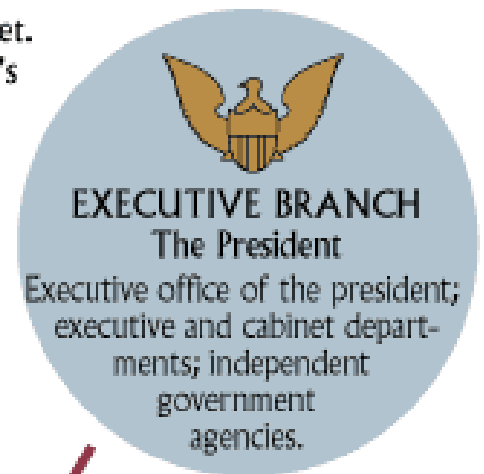


#### Other Federal Courts



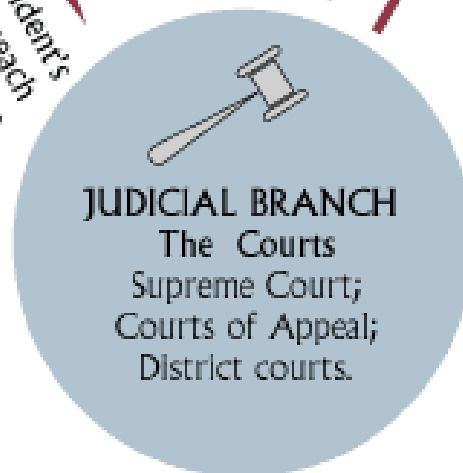
Congress approves presidential nominations and controls the budget. It can pass laws over the president's veto and can impeach the president and remove him or her from office.

The president can veto congressional legislation.



The Court can declare laws unconstitutional.

The Senate confirms the president's nominations. Congress can impeach judges and remove them from office.



The president nominates judges.

The Court can declare presidential acts unconstitutional.

## ■ The Fourth Estate:

the public press : journalists as a group >> by extension, the news media

the term *fourth estate* has been around for centuries. In Europe, going back to medieval times, the people who participated in the political life of a country were generally divided into three classes or *estates*. In England they were the three groups with representation in Parliament, namely, the nobility, the clergy, and the common people. Some other group, like the mob or the public press, that had an unofficial but often great influence on public affairs, was called the *fourth estate*. In the 19th century, *fourth estate* came to refer exclusively to the press, and now it's applied to all branches of the news media.

Sometimes also referred to as “the fourth branch of power” in charge of scrutinising the power-that-be and holding the elected officials to account

Source: [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

## ■ Partisan vs bipartisan

### **Trump suffers day of significant Republican defections on House and Senate votes**

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A number of Republicans in Congress bucked President Trump on Thursday.

January 8, 2026 at 6:05 p.m.

Significant numbers of Republicans joined with Democrats in voting against President Donald Trump’s interests on high-profile pieces of legislation Thursday, suggesting his party’s unyielding loyalty to this point in his term has started to splinter.

Earlier in the day, **the Senate advanced a bipartisan measure** intended to block the Trump administration from conducting further military action in Venezuela. Five Republicans joined every Democratic senator in advancing the resolution, following the White House’s capture of Venezuela’s president, without explicit permission from Congress.

The resolution is expected to get a chilly reception in the House if it passes the Senate, with Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) unlikely to bring it to the floor. But it gave Senate Republicans an opportunity to come out against continued military action in Venezuela —

which Trump and some administration officials have refused to rule out — without congressional approval.

**Trump survived House votes to overturn two of his vetoes**, which requires two-thirds of the chamber, but at least two dozen Republicans voted with Democrats to defy his will, demonstrating a greater willingness than seen last year to buck their party's president. Thirty-five Republican lawmakers voted to override Trump's veto of the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, a bill meant to aid a decades-old Colorado water project, while 24 Republicans voted to negate Trump's veto of the Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act, which codifies tribal land rights in Florida.

After those votes, House Democrats, with help from Republicans, passed a bill to extend expired enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies, a measure opposed by both Trump and Johnson. Seventeen Republicans supported the measure, which would need to pass the Senate before becoming law.

Lawmakers voting against their party's president is common in midterm election years, particularly for vulnerable lawmakers who represent swing districts. Yet the repeated rebukes of the president, and the number of lawmakers defecting, are unusual. And they represent a continued challenge for GOP leaders with limited majorities, who are struggling to corral their colleagues behind the president's agenda.

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-New York) said the five Republican senators who joined with Democrats to advance the war powers resolution Thursday were part of a broader trend. [From The New York Times](#)

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### **Partisan Gridlock: The End of Bipartisanship?**

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[Anthony Sinclair](#) [January 9, 2025](#) [Congress.net](#)

===INTRO:===

Partisan gridlock has become a defining characteristic of modern American politics. In this highly polarized environment, partisan divisions have made it increasingly difficult for lawmakers to find common ground and pass meaningful legislation. This article will examine the causes and consequences of partisan gridlock, as well as explore the potential demise of bipartisanship in American politics.

### **The Surprising Bipartisanship of U.S. Foreign Policy**

*Even in Times of Polarization, Consensus Has Prevailed*

[Jordan Tama](#)

July 6, 2023 [Foreign Affairs](#)

# Trump's foreign policy is a disaster for America and the world

## [Opinion](#)

January 7, 2026 *The National Catholic Reporter*

The foreign policy of President Donald Trump combines the worst of isolationism with the worst of interventionism in a uniquely disastrous way.

He began his presidency as a firm isolationist. His "America First" policy promised to focus on domestic issues and stay out of foreign wars.

Trump immediately alienated allies by insulting Europe and threatening to abandon NATO, **which has been at the center of American bipartisan foreign policy** since the end of the Second World War. For more than half a century NATO was a deterrent to Russian aggression in Europe. This deterrent kept peace in Europe until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 when everyone rejoiced at the end of the Cold War.

### ■ Liberal vs Conservative

cf File 7 + document online

To sum up

**Liberals** believe in government action to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all. It is the duty of the government to alleviate social ills and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights. Believe the role of the government should be to guarantee that no one is in need. Liberal policies generally emphasize the need for the government to solve problems.

**Conservatives** believe in personal responsibility, limited government, free markets, individual liberty, traditional American values and a strong national defense. Believe the role of government should be to provide people the freedom necessary to pursue their own goals. Conservative policies generally emphasize empowerment of the individual to solve problems.

*NOTE: The terms "left" and "right" define opposite ends of the political spectrum. In the United States, liberals are referred to as the left or left--wing and conservatives are referred to as the right or right--wing. On the U.S. political map, blue represents the Democratic Party (which generally upholds liberal principles) and red represents the Republican party (which generally upholds conservative principles).*

### ■ Big Gov vs Small Gov

Cf document

More to come in the coming files <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/ten-questions-and-answers-about-americas-big-government/>

## ■ Blue States vs Red states cf video

## ■ The International Liberal order

Cf Files 7 & 8 and the interview of Michael Ignatieff

## ■ Liberal internationalism

**liberal internationalism**, cluster of ideas derived from the belief that international progress is possible, where *progress* is defined as movement toward increasing levels of harmonious cooperation between political communities.

Liberal internationalist theories address how best to organize and reform the international system. In general, liberal internationalists regard violence as the policy of last resort, advocate diplomacy and multilateralism as the most-appropriate strategies for states to pursue, and tend to champion supranational political structures (such as the European Union) and international organizations (especially the United Nations).

Liberal internationalism is typically contrasted with realism, and during the final decades of the 20th century the academic field of international relations came to be characterized as a clash between variants of those two traditions. Realists accuse internationalists of being naive and even dangerously utopian, and internationalists accuse realists of being overly fatalistic.

Source – Encyclopedia Britannica

## ■ Culture war

“A culture war is a conflict between groups that have different cultural ideals and beliefs, especially conservative groups opposed to social change on the one hand, and liberal groups with progressive ideas on the other hand. It’s called a war because the two sides are focused on attacking and scoring points off each other, not on understanding each other’s perspectives. There is no dialogue. The term was coined in 1991 by James Davison Hunter, an American sociologist, in his book *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America*. He described what he saw as a fundamental conflict between totally different systems of understanding what is ‘right and wrong about the world we live in.’”

Source: [learningenglishwithoxford.com](https://www.learningenglishwithoxford.com/), Oxford University Press, 23 March 2023.



Contemporary right-wing populism originates in the replacement of class allegiance by **affiliation rooted in cultural value**.

The expression “culture wars” first entered the vocabulary of U.S. politics with the publication of *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America* by sociologist James Davison Hunter in 1991. He argued that on an increasing number of “hot-button” (= sensitive) issues — the 3Gs (“God, guns, and gays”), abortion, minority rights, the death penalty, separation of church and state, federalism, recreational drug use, free speech, etc. —there existed two definable polarities – for and against, Progressives (or Liberals) vs Conservatives.

Those moral and constitutional wedge issues (= *des points de divergence, des facteurs de division*) are quite literally tearing the country apart, leading to the polarization of society and politics between two warring groups beyond social class, all the more so now on social media.

## ■ Identity Politics

cf video

## ■ Woke

### **What to Know – The short definition**

*Woke* is now defined in this dictionary as “aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice),” and identified as U.S. slang. It originated in African American English in the first half of the 20th century and gained more widespread use beginning in 2014 as part of the Black Lives Matter movement. By the end of that decade it was also being applied by some as a general insult for anyone who is or appears to be politically left-leaning.

Source: Merriam-Webster dictionary - For the longer version See at the end

## ■ Trumpism

Trumpism is the political ideology behind U.S. president Donald Trump and his political base. It is often used in close conjunction with **the Make America Great Again (MAGA)** and **America First** political movements. It comprises ideologies such as **right-wing populism**, **right-wing antiglobalism**, **national conservatism** and **neo-nationalism**, and features significant **illiberal**, **authoritarian** and at times **autocratic** beliefs.

**Trumpists** and **Trumpians** are terms that refer to individuals exhibiting its characteristics.

There is significant academic debate over the prevalence of neo-fascist elements of Trumpism.

Trumpism has been characterized by scholars as having authoritarian leanings and has been associated with the belief that the president is above the rule of law. It has been referred to as an American political variant of the far-right and the national-populist and neo-nationalist sentiment seen in multiple nations starting in the mid–late 2010s.

Trump's political base has been compared to a cult of personality.

Over the course of the late 2010s and early 2020s, Trump supporters became the largest faction of the United States Republican Party, with the remainder often characterized as "the elite", "the establishment", or "Republican in name only" (RINO) in contrast.

In response to these developments, many American conservatives opposed to Trumpism formed the Never Trump movement. Trump's second-term actions include executive orders expanding tariffs and ending trade exemptions, aligning with America First economic policies.

Source: Wikipedia citing numerous academic studies



The White House  
@WhiteHouse

...



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

He who saves his Country does not violate any Law.

1:32 PM - Feb 15, 2025

- A version of the phrase is often attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte, the French general who crowned himself emperor in 1804 and was known for his authoritarian rule—and whom Trump has quoted before. The quotation was also posted last year by **El Salvador’s populist authoritarian President Nayib Bukele, whom** Trump and Musk have expressed admiration for.

Trump’s latest Napoleonic invocation has rankled Democrats and liberal commentators.

- ***New York Times*** columnist Jamelle Bouie described it as “the single most un-American and anti-constitutional statement ever uttered by an American president” on social media platform Bluesky.

- **Some anti-Trump conservatives** have also voiced their unease. Anthony Scaramucci, who briefly served as White House communications director during Trump's first term before becoming a vocal intraparty critic, reposted Trump's statement, adding: *"Wants to be a dictator. If you don't see it it means you don't want to."*

Former Vice President **Mike Pence** appeared to implicitly rebuke Trump's post by resharing an essay he'd written in 2010, titled "The Presidency and the Constitution," in which he wrote: *"A president who slights the Constitution is like a rider who hates his horse: he will be thrown, and the nation along with him. The president solemnly swears to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. He does not solemnly swear to ignore, overlook, supplement, or reinterpret it."*

Dan McLaughlin, a senior writer at the **National Review** who wrote in November about writing in Pence for the 2024 election, posted on X about Trump's declaration: *"This is some un-American monarchical nonsense. The president is above \*some\* laws, because there are things legally only he may do. But his entire office remains a creature of law."*

Source: *New York Times, TIME, National Review*

- Cette phrase apparaît dans *Maximes et pensées de Napoléon*, un recueil d'Honoré de Balzac dédié à la mémoire de l'empereur déchu. L'auteur avait publié cet ouvrage dans le but d'obtenir la légion d'honneur, et n'y cite aucune source

Que Napoléon ait prononcé ces mots ou non, ils lui sont désormais attribués



Image posted on February 19, 2025, by the official White House account likening Trump to a monarch with the phrase LONG LIVE THE KING. The post was made shortly after Trump had taken several actions that were apparent violations of federal law and the Constitution

## ■ More on “Woke” – Still from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary

### Where does *woke* come from?

Some instances of *woke* and *stay woke* in reference to a state of alertness or awareness among Black people appear as early as the 1920s. In 1923, Jamaican Black nationalist leader, Marcus Garvey urged Black people to “wake up” as a call to action in his summons, “Wake up Ethiopia! Wake up, Africa!”

Shortly after, an early written instance of *stay woke* appeared in the *Houston Informer*, an African American newspaper in 1924:

Have you heard the latest street slang, “Stay Woke?” While some of the slang expressions do not have much meaning or significance, this recent one does. It means that one should ever be on the job; should be on the alert and not rat or sleep at the post of duty ... —C.F. Richardson, *Houston Informer*, 24 May 1924

By 1938, American blues musician Lead Belly (also known as Huddie Ledbetter) used the phrase in an afterward of his song “Scottsboro Boys.” The song was in reference to a group of Black teenagers who were falsely accused of a crime.

“I advise everybody to be a little careful when they go along through there; best stay woke, keep their eyes open.” —Lead Belly, *Scottsboro Boys*, 1938 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrXfkPViFIE>

Written instances continued to pop up in the 1960s and 1970s: One appeared in a 1962 New York Times article about Black language entitled, "If You're Woke You Dig It; No mickey mouse can be expected to follow today's Negro idiom without a hip assist."

About a decade later, Barry Beckham's 1972 play *Garvey Lives* used the phrase in reference to Marcus Garvey's teachings:

"I been sleeping all my life. And now that Mr. Garvey done woke me up, I'm gon' stay woke. And I'm gon' help him wake up other Black folk." —Barry Beckham, *Garvey Lives!*, 1972

### **Stay woke**

*Woke's* transformation into a byword of social awareness started decades earlier but began to be more broadly known in 2008, with the release of Erykah Badu's song "Master Teacher":

Even if yo baby ain't got no money  
To support ya baby, you  
(I stay woke)  
Even when the preacher tell you some lies  
And cheatin on ya mama, you stay woke  
(I stay woke)  
Even though you go through struggle and strife  
To keep a healthy life, I stay woke  
(I stay woke)  
Everybody knows a black or a white there's creatures in every shape and size  
Everybody  
(I stay woke)

Erykah Badu was also among early users of the phrase on X (formerly *Twitter*) when she used the hashtag in a 2012 tweet to display solidarity with the Russian punk band Pussy Riot:

Truth requires belief. *Stay woke*. Watch closely. #FreePussyRiot. ... —Erykah Badu, X (formerly *Twitter*), 8 Aug. 2012

***Stay woke*** began circulating social media in reference to three different meanings: staying awake, being aware/suspicious of a cheating partner, and having awareness of social justice issues.

Soon the meaning narrowed, and *stay woke* became a watch word in parts of the Black community for those who were self-aware and striving for something better. But *stay woke* and *woke* became part of a wider discussion in 2014, immediately following the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The word *woke* became entwined with the Black Lives Matter movement; instead of just being a word that signaled awareness of injustice or racial tension, it became a word of action. Activists were *woke* and called on others to *stay woke*. Use of *stay woke* became popular on Black Twitter and began making its way into popular culture. In 2017, rapper Childish Gambino (Donald Glover) used "stay woke" as a hook in his song "Redbone" in reference to a cheating partner. However, when the song was used in Jordan Peele's *Get Out*, the phrase became further associated with its political "awareness" or "alertness" definition.

### **How is *woke* used today?**

Like many other terms from Black culture that have been adopted into the mainstream, *woke* has gained broader uses. *Woke* soon became associated with performative activism, with people often using the term mockingly or sarcastically to suggest insincerity about one's expressed beliefs about social issues:

"Fake woke" behavior arises. We put the hashtags on our social media. #Sayhername, #icantbreathe, #blacklivesmatter. And repeat. The problem is that the level of concern we express online doesn't match the everyday behavior we exhibit. Until people practice anti-racist behavior, nothing will change. —Surayya Walters, *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, 6 June, 2020

The disapproving sense of *woke* is today quite common, often used by politically conservative individuals to criticize people who are considered too politically liberal, especially in relation to issues of race and social justice.

Additional broader uses of *woke* include *woke-washing* and *woke capitalism*, with the former referring to the use of social movements by companies to increase sales while failing to actively contribute to social change or address these

issues within their companies and the latter similarly being used to describe a company's public support of and investment in social issues.

Woke-washing creates the appearance of intention without the substance of action. —Vern Howard, *Forbes*, 15 June 2021

... But woke capitalism is a paper tiger. Companies embrace identity and cultural inclusion as a way to expand their market share to new communities while obscuring their raw political power and the ruthless underpinning realities of shareholder capitalism ... —Lydia Polgreen, *The New York Times*, 16 July 2023

## **Back in the day, being woke meant being smart**

### ***The Conversation,***

14 February, 2024 - **Ronald E. Hall**, Professor of Social Work, Michigan State University

If Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had his way, the word “woke” would be banished from public use and memory.

As he promised in Iowa in December 2023 during his failed presidential campaign, “We will fight the woke in education, we will fight the woke in the corporations, we will fight the woke in the halls of Congress. We will never, ever surrender to the woke mob.”

DeSantis’ war on “woke ideology” has resulted in the banning of an advanced placement class in African American studies and the elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion programs in Florida’s universities and colleges.

Given the origins of the use of the word as a code among Black people, DeSantis has a nearly impossible task, despite his tireless efforts.

For Black people, the modern-day meaning of the word has little to do with school curriculum or political jargon and goes back to the days of Jim Crow and legal, often violent, racial segregation. Back then, the word was used as a warning to be aware of racial injustices in general and Southern white folks in particular.

In my view as a behavioral scientist who studies race, being woke was part of the unwritten vocabulary that Black people established to talk with each other in a way that outsiders could not understand.

### **The early days of wokeness**

It’s unclear when exactly “woke” became a word of Black consciousness. Examples of its use – in various forms of the word “awake” – date back to before the Civil War in Freedom’s Journal, the nation’s first Black-owned newspaper.

In their introductory editorial on April 21, 1827, the editors wrote that their mission was to “plead our own cause.” Part of that mission was offering analysis on the state of educating enslaved Black people who were prohibited from learning how to read and write.

Because education and literacy were “of the highest importance,” the editors wrote, it was “surely time that we should awake from this lethargy of years” during enslavement.

By the turn of the 20th century, the use of versions of the word “woke” by other Black newspaper editors expanded to include the fight for Black voting rights. In a 1904 editorial in the Baltimore Afro-American, for instance, the editors urged Black people to “Wake up, wake up!” and demand full-citizenship rights.

By 1919, Black nationalist Marcus Garvey frequently used a version of the word in his speeches and newspaper, *The Negro World*, as a clarion call to Black people to become more socially and politically conscious: “Wake up Ethiopia! Wake up Africa!”

At around the same time, blues singers were using the word to hide protest messages in the language of love songs. On the surface, Willard “Ramblin” Thomas laments a lost love in “Sawmill Moan”:

*If I don’t go crazy, I’m sure gonna lose my mind ‘Cause I can’t sleep for dreamin’, sure can’t stay woke for cryin’*  
But instead of a love song, some historians have suggested that the lyrics were a veiled protest against the atrocious conditions faced by Black workers in Southern sawmills.

The song given the most credit by historians for the use of the word woke was written and performed in 1938 by Huddie Leadbetter, known as Lead Belly. He advises his listeners to “stay woke” lest they run afoul of white authority.

In an archived interview about the song “Scottsboro Boys,” Lead Belly explained how tough it was at the time for Black people in Alabama.

“It’s a hard world down there in Alabama,” Lead Belly said. “I made this little song about down there. ... I advise everybody, be a little careful when they go along through there — best stay woke, keep their eyes open.” Lead Belly explains his “stay woke” advice to Black people at the 4:30 mark.

And that’s the message that came out in the song lyrics: *“Go to Alabama and ya better watch out The landlord’ll get ya, gonna jump and shout Scottsboro Scottsboro Scottsboro boys Tell ya what it all about.”*

### **A miscarriage of justice**

On March 25, 1931, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, two white women, Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, falsely accused a group of several Black young men of rape.





National Guard troops protect members of the Scottsboro Boys as they enter an Alabama courtroom on Jan. 1, 1932. Bettmann/GettyImages

Based on their words, the nine Black men – ages 12 to 19 years old – were immediately arrested and in less than two weeks, all were tried, convicted, and with one exception, sentenced to death.



One of the alleged victims, Victoria Price, testifies on April 4, 1933, against nine young Black men in the Scottsboro case. Bettmann/GettyImages

All the cases were appealed and eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court. In its 1932 *Powell v. Alabama* decision, the court overturned the verdicts in part because prosecutors excluded potential Black jurors from serving during the trial. But instead of freedom, the cases were retried – and each of the “Scottsboro Boys” was found guilty again.

There were four more trials, seven retrials and, in 1935, two landmark Supreme Court decisions – one requiring that defendants be tried by juries of their peers and the other requiring that indigent defendants receive competent counsel.

The nine young men spent a combined total of 130 years in prison. The last was released in 1950. By 2013, all were exonerated.

### **How woke became a four-letter word**

Over the years, the memory of the Scottsboro Boys has remained a part of Black consciousness and of staying woke. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr. used a version of woke during his commencement address at Oberlin College in 1965. “The great challenge facing every individual graduating today is to remain awake through this social revolution,” he said.

In recent times, use of the word has ebbed and flowed throughout Black culture but became popular again in 2014 during the protest marches organized by Black Lives Matter in the wake of the shooting death of Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. Two years later, a documentary on the group was called “Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement.”



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks at a conservative political conference on Feb. 24, 2022, in Orlando, Fla. Joe Raedle/Getty Images

But for GOP lawmakers and conservative talk show pundits, such as DeSantis, “woke” is a pejorative word used to describe those who believe that systemic racism exists in America and remains at the heart of the nation’s racial shortcomings.

When asked to define the term in June 2023, DeSantis explained: “It’s a form of cultural Marxism. It’s about putting merit and achievement behind identity politics, and it’s basically a war on the truth.”

DeSantis couldn’t be more wrong. The truth is that being aware of America’s racist past cannot be dictated by conservative politicians. Civic literacy requires an understanding of the social causes and consequences of human behavior – the very essence of being woke.



## ■ Examples of Headlines & Quotes using “Woke” and its multiple derivatives

### **Blistering report calls for investigation into 5 'woke' hospitals pushing 'radical' agenda with taxpayer money**

Consumers' Research is calling on the Trump administration and states to investigate the hospitals



By **Andrew Mark Miller** · Fox News

Published June 17, 2025 11:00am EDT | Updated June 17, 2025 1:14pm EDT

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/blistering-report-calls-for-investigation-into-5-woke-hospitals-pushing-radical-agenda-with-taxpayer-money>

### **Jack Daniel's renounces 'woke' agenda, latest iconic US brand to 'bring sanity back' to business**

Tennessee distiller 'preemptively announced' it was ending 'woke' programs, says warrior who targeted Harley-Davidson

By **Kerry J. Byrne** · Fox News

Published August 22, 2024 9:59am EDT



#### **Mamdani's victory shows New York learnt the wrong lessons from 9/11**

The newly inaugurated New York mayor is the perfect choice for Gen Z's nihilistic wokesters



**Zoe Strimpel**

3 Jan 2026, 4:00pm

## ■ In the UK too – They have been much more inventive with the word

### ● A famous line from then Home Secretary Suella Braverman

“The Guardian-reading, tofu-eating wokerati”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rY79cDI-miA>



## Bardot proved that, in France, you can be anti-woke and still be a national treasure

While Britain enforces ideological alignment and public apology, France has been more willing to tolerate unrepentant figures



**Katherine Pagonis**

“ 30 Dec 2025, 10:00am



“

## Only a city like Brighton would 'decolonise' Santa

Trust the wokest borough in the land to take Father Christmas and make him a symbol of the West's 'cultural superiority'



**Celia Walden**

22 Dec 2025, 5:00pm



## The anti-woke podcast pioneer: ‘Tommy Robinson is tempestuous, but a great communicator’

Konstantin Kisin on the progressive ‘lunacy’ that made him popular, his adoration for Nigel Farage and why being ‘English’ isn’t enough

George Chesterton

18 Dec 2025, 1:00pm

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konstantin\\_Kisin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konstantin_Kisin)



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### The woke Left can’t see white without seeing red

Only the terminally online can turn Pantone’s mundane ‘colour of the year’ announcement into a race row



**Michael Deacon**

10 Dec 2025, 2:00pm

My favourite one, as a foie-gras eating (woke?) Landaise



“

## Eating foie gras this Christmas is the most delicious way of resisting wokery

The delicacy is likely to be banned in England by this time next year – Boris Johnson proposed it and Keir Starmer will complete it



**Michael Mosbacher**

24 Dec 2025, 6:00am

<https://www.slidespilot.com/s/p/ymMaYzY2MB>