

COMMUNITY **EXCHANGE**

oregon education project

THURSDAY
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7PM
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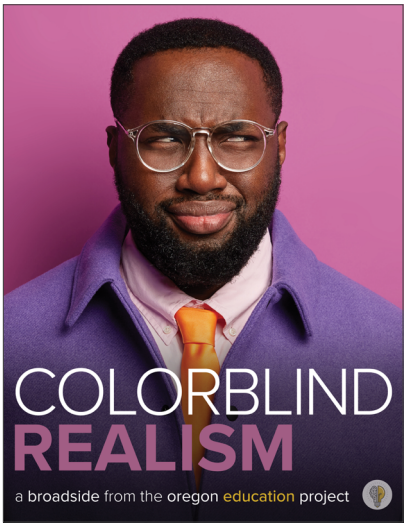
Why Are Students RACIALIZED?

Most Oregonians are unaware their kids are being taught to reject the Liberal Colorblind Realism of Martin King.

Required social science standards are framed with the ideology of critical race theory and intersectionality — "identity politics." That rejects the Constitution's insistence that, while race is real, it shouldn't be an identity marker to separate Americans.

Join us at the **Medford Library** or online for an information-rich exchange about how we **rebuild** Oregon K–12 Education.

This **unaffiliated** event is not sponsored or endorsed by the Library.



DISCOVER How Colorblind Realism Nurtures Belonging

Colorblind.info

COMMUNITY **EXCHANGE**

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Join us at the **Medford Library** for an information-rich exchange about how we rebuild **Oregon K–12 Education**.





Why Are Schools **FAILING**?

How the science of learning leads to success

THURSDAY AUGUST **27** @ 7PM





Why Are Kids **ANXIOUS**?

How moral character builds resilience

THURSDAY OCTOBER **8** @ 7PM





Why Are Students **RACIALIZED**?

How colorblind realism nurtures belonging

THURSDAY OCTOBER **29** @ 7PM



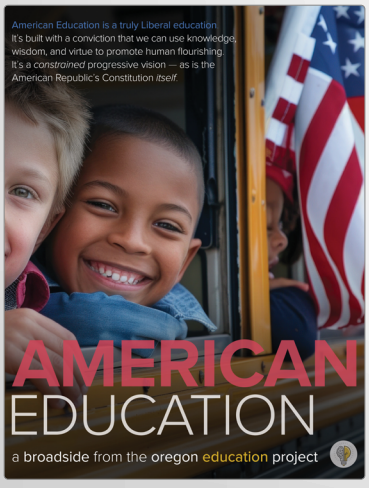



Why Is History Being **DISTORTED**?

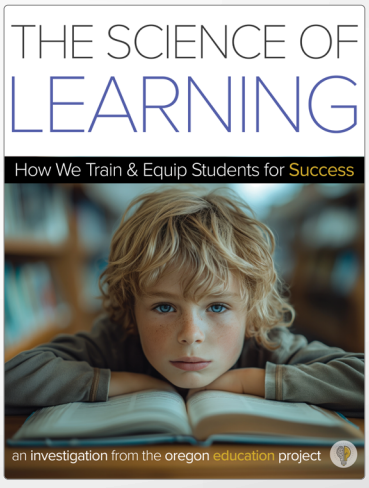
How critical thinking creates consilience

TUESDAY DECEMBER **1** @ 7PM

The Oregon Education Project is a FREE INFORMATION HUB promoting high-quality American Education grounded in **The Science of Learning** and Liberal Democracy.









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COLORBLIND
REALISM
a broadside from the oregon education project

The Reality of Race

Race is not entirely in the eye of the beholder.
It is a social concept with **a biological basis**.

Thomas Sowell[1]



We often hear people say "race isn't real," it's just something we "made up." But that's not what scientists find when they examine the matter *objectively*. Popular "race science" is motivated by a radically egalitarian political narrative. Its underlying psychology frames humans as "blank slate" products of socialization.[2] The biological basis of race cuts against that approach — despite being *true*.[3]

Race is a "low-resolution" way of looking at **ancestral populations** with **common cultures** and genes.[4] It's not simply the product of so-called "social construction."[5] And it wasn't *invented* by "whites" to justify African slavery and anti-black bigotry — a trendy idea advanced by proponents of critical race theory and intersectionality.[6] Though it most certainly *became* that in time. We need a more *accurate* narrative.

FACT: Human populations **evolved in differing environments** over many generations. Because of this, they evolved *slightly different characteristics* that remain over time.[7] This explains why people around the world are similar in basics yet *differ* in detail. And it sheds important light on the *original* racial disparity in the United States.

Ancestral Europeans faced novel evolutionary challenges moving north out of Africa. That led over many generations to the development of a particular *psychology* that Harvard evolutionary biologist Joe Henrich's team calls **WEIRD**. They argue:

> **W**estern, **E**ducated, **I**ndustrialized, **R**ich, and **D**emocratic **culture** produces *psychologically* peculiar and particularly prosperous people: highly *individualistic*, goal-oriented, self-obsessed, analytical, control-oriented, intention-based, moralistic, able to delay gratification, nonconformist, and more trusting of strangers.[8]

The foundation of their argument is the important role **culture** plays in shaping us:

> Beliefs, practices, technologies, and social norms — **culture** — can shape our brains, biology, and *psychology*, including our motivations, mental abilities, and decision-making biases. You can't separate "culture" from "psychology" or psychology from "biology" because *culture physically rewires our brains and thereby shapes how we think*.[9]

America was founded by **WEIRD** people from Western Europe with a common culture.[10] But that was completely foreign to the black slaves they imported from West Africa. Those *cultural* and *psychological* differences led to the vile racism found *especially* in the south, with its legally sanctioned "Jim Crow" framework "separating the races."[11] This created race consciousness among blacks, which remains among many today.[12]

While race is real, it shouldn't be used as an identity marker to separate Americans. That was the entire point of the Long Civil Rights Movement, culminating in Martin King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963. People are to be seen and judged ***as individuals***, not as members of a group or race.

That's Liberal Colorblindness: there's no "white America" and "black America" … no "European Americans" and "African Americans" — only **Americans**, **full stop**. It's the idea Frederick Douglass championed after black emancipation:

"We are born *on* American soil, and are *of* American soil … Every muscle and fiber of our bodies have been taken *from* it … What right then has any man to call us *Africans*?"[13]

[1] **Intellectuals and Race**.

[2] According to this view, humans are born without innate mental content, traits, instincts, or predispositions. The mind starts as a "blank slate" to be written upon entirely by experience, environment, upbringing, culture, and education. Humans are highly malleable and can be perfected through education and social engineering. Progressive Democrats promote this idea.

See **The Blank Slate**: The Modern Denial of Human Nature by Steven Pinker.

[3] See "**The Case for Race Realism**" by Bo Winegard on Substack.

[4] **Who We Are and How We Got Here**: Ancient DNA and the New Science of the Human Past by David Reich. [*Empirically* defined.]

[5] "Race is an artificial way of assigning people to groups, consolidating the power of the majority that sets the rules for racial assignment and enabling that majority to control racial minorities." [*Rationally* defined.]

Racial Formation in the United States by Omi and Winant.

[6] See Appendix 1: **The True Origins of Anti-Black Racism**.

[7] A landmark study from Harvard's David Reich confirms that human evolution has *recently* continued to act on complex behavioral measures, especially intelligence.

[8] **The WEIRDest People in the World**: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous by Joseph Henrich

[9] ibid. Note: WEIRD = **Liberal**.

[10] See Appendix 2: **The WEIRD Cultural Mindset**.

[11] See Appendix 1: **The True Origins of Anti-Black Racism**.

[12] See **Critical Race Consciousness** by Gary Peller.

[13] Often attributed to Frederick Douglass.

Colorblind Education



Universities have concluded, wrongly, that **the touchstone of an individual's identity** is not challenges bested, skills built, or lessons learned but the *color of their skin*. Our constitutional history *does not tolerate* that choice.[14]

Chief Justice John Roberts

Being black or female or gay is not an **accomplishment**.[15]

Heather Mac Donald

The US Constitution is **liberally colorblind** — as Justice John Harlan famously argued in his lone dissent against the legal imposition of racial segregation ("Jim Crow") in 1896:

> Our Constitution is **color-blind**, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful.[16]

The American Republic is grounded in Liberal Equality: We are all equal citizens.[17] None is privileged with special benefits or rights due to their race or group membership. Yet efforts to ameliorate the effects of past racial discrimination — notably the use of "affirmative action" in educational opportunities — has created an area of conflict.[18] Such efforts have also shown to be broadly unpopular with American voters.[19]

In his 2006 book **The Audacity of Hope**, Barack Obama wrote:

> Affirmative action programs, when properly structured, can open up opportunities otherwise closed[20] to qualified minorities without diminishing opportunities for white students.[21]

Liberal Harvard Law professor Randall Kennedy — who is black — rebuked him:

> Acutely sensitive to charges that he supports racial favoritism that discriminates against whites, Obama defines affirmative action in a fashion meant to *drain it of controversy* ...
>
> Affirmative action *does* distinguish between people on a racial basis. It *does* discriminate. It *does* redistribute resources. It *does* favor preferred racial categories of candidates, promoting some racial minorities over whites with superior records. It *does* generate stigma and resentment. These issues cannot be hidden for long behind *verbal tricks*.[22]

The Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in **Fair Admissions v. Harvard** put the matter to rest. In a landmark decision written by Chief Justice John Roberts himself, the majority determined (6–3) that race preferences were unconstitutional and must finally end.[23] This affirmed the **liberal colorblind** argument Roberts made previously, in 2007:

> The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race.[24]

That's not to deny race matters to *some* individuals.[25] But not as a *defining* feature. It's neither an accomplishment deserving reward nor a privilege to assuage white guilt. It can't be the touchstone of an individual's identity in a **Liberal** Democratic Republic.

Oregon is out of compliance with the Constitution on this issue of racial identity.[26] A new privilege of "political equity" to redistribute power, opportunities, and resources was guaranteed to blacks and other "marginalized groups" in 2021 legislation — despite blatantly violating Oregon's State Constitution as well:

> No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens.[27]

[14] The majority opinion in Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College, 2023 [emphasis added].

[15] **When Race Trumps Merit**: How the Pursuit of Equity Sacrifices Excellence, Destroys Beauty, and Threatens Lives by Heather Mac Donald.

[16] Plessy v. Ferguson. Harlan's is now the accepted view of the Court [Allen v. Milligan, 2026].

[17] See OEP **Liberal Democracy**.

[18] **The Affirmative Action Myth: Why Blacks Don't Need Racial Preferences to Succeed** by Jason Riley and **The Age of Entitlement: America Since the Sixties** by Christopher Caldwell.

[19] See California's recent failure to repeal Proposition 209 (1996).

[20] There's been **no evidence** of discrimination against blacks and other minorities in educational opportunity for decades. In fact, the data show the opposite: it's whites and Asians who are now subject to rampant discrimination. See **When Race Trumps Merit**.

[21] **The Affirmative Action Myth**.

[22] ibid [emphasis added].

[23] Fair Admissions v. Harvard.

[24] Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1 (551 U.S. 701, 2007).

[25] According to Pew Research about half of American blacks find their race "very important."

[26] Oregon **HB 2030**. The goal of the bill was to provide equality in outcomes ["racial equity"]: "treating people fairly based on their needs and requirements." That is *illiberal* Socialism: "From each according to his ability to each according to his need."

[27] Article I, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution. Education opportunities and resources are a major target for redistribution. It's no accident that the Oregon Department of Education's curriculum standards promote an "intersectional" [socialist] framework based on group identity.

Colorblind Democracy



If race and politics are not disentangled and a claim is cynically used as a tool for advancing a partisan end, the Voting Rights Act's noble goal will be perverted.[28]

Justice Samuel Alito

American culture, even in its most rigidly segregated precincts, is patently and irrevocably composite. It is, regardless of all the hysterical protestations of those who would have it otherwise, incontestably **mulatto**.[29]

Albert Murray

A recent Supreme Court ruling striking down the use of race to draw congressional districts solidifies the Liberal Colorblindness that is at the core of American Law, making it more consistent with the *actual text* of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.[30] The Court emphasized the need to "disentangle race from partisan preferences" to guard the Voting Rights Act from becoming a cynical tool to advance politics.

Foundational to Justice Samuel Alito's majority opinion is the fact that America is not the racially divided country cynics claim.[31] As one of our great black intellectuals wrote:

> For all their traditional antagonisms and obvious differences,
> the so-called "black" and so-called "white" people of the United States
> resemble nobody else in the world so much as they resemble each other....
> [They are] incontestably **mulatto**.[32]

Race still matters. Yet American blacks have become as WEIRD as everyone else. Meanwhile, "white" people have been profoundly influenced by blacks, who have transformed America's popular culture with their unleashed talent and creativity. Our music has been especially influenced, as Thomas Jefferson long ago predicted.[33]

America is increasingly "mixed-race" — a trend likely to continue in the future. This is the subject of a 2018 film by Eli Steele, **How Jack Became Black**.[34] It critiques how the focus on racial identity in Democrat politics reduces complex individuals to racial checkboxes for political gain and institutional power. It argues for prioritizing the individual over group racial identities, the essence of Liberal Colorblind Realism.

Most Oregonians are unaware their children are being trained for the opposite. Oregon's K–12 Education Standards are framed with the **intersectional ideology**[35] of identity politics. They reject the US Constitution's insistence on colorblindness, setting up future generations for conflict and divisiveness. **This must stop now**.

Perhaps legendary performer Michael Jackson said it best:

> I don't want to spend my life being a color .... It don't matter if you're black or white.

[28] Louisiana v. Callais, 2026.

[29] **The Omni-Americans: Some Alternatives to the Folklore of White Supremacy** by Albert Murray

[30] Louisiana v. Callais. The primary goal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment to the US Constitution by eliminating racial discrimination in voting, particularly the widespread barriers that prevented blacks in the South from registering to vote and exercising their rightful franchise. It didn't guarantee majority-black congressional districts.

[31] **Taboo: 10 Facts [You Can't Talk About]** by Wilfred Reilly and OEP **Systemic Oppression**.

[32] **The Omni-Americans**.

[33] **Notes on the State of Virginia**.

[34] HowJackBecameBlack.com.

[35] **Intersectionality** is an analytical framework for understanding how multiple social identities [race, gender, class, sexuality, disability, and others] *intersect* and interact to shape individuals' experiences of privilege, oppression, discrimination, or advantage. It extends creator Kimberlé Crenshaw's anti-Liberal, black-centered **Critical Race Theory** to embrace other "marginalized identities."

See OEP **Ethnic Studies**.

Broadsides Clear Thinking. Critical Thinking. Effective Thinking.

Approximately 2,000 words, these succinct essays can be be read in 15–20 minutes.
They include links to online references, resources, and a basic bibliography.



Rob Schläpfer is a retired social science educator who's spent over a decade conducting classes and community conversations to bridge Oregon's deep political divide.

A former pastor, professor, and publisher, he's taught critical thinking, civics, and cultural studies for over four decades.

He created the Oregon Education Project to promote high-quality American Education grounded in The Science of Learning.

The True Origins of Anti-Black Racism[5]

The cultural disparity that existed between the (mostly) British who settled what became the United States and the West African slaves they purchased to work in their businesses, fields, and homes was daunting.[6] At the time, white Americans were reaping the benefits of the British Enlightenment, enjoying the results of literacy, science, and technology driving an advanced culture that was unprecedented in the history of the world. Their tightly organized, *morally structured* Christian society — particularly in terms of sexual ethics — had reached levels of social coöperation that allowed Liberal republican self-government to take root for the first time anywhere.

Blacks, on the other hand, were thousands of years behind them *culturally*. There was no "reading, writing, and arithmetic" in West Africa until missionaries brought it in the late 1800s — along with sanitation, roads, medicine, healthcare, and the basic know-how to build houses and dwellings of any real substance. West Africans didn't even have the wheel, a basic technology that had been part of "civilization" for millennia.[7] Moreover, their social life, as compared to *repressed* whites, was marked by deep passions and fanciful superstitions.[8] West African culture was the antithesis of British culture, which often led to rash comparisons and narrow-minded skepticism about blacks' basic humanity.

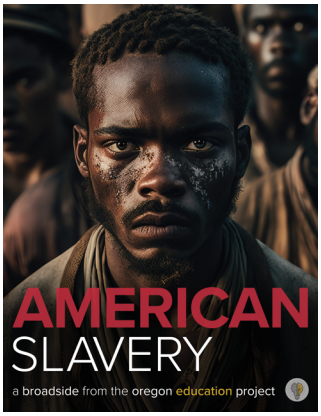
Many whites found the native behavior of their black slaves morally repugnant. Blacks felt humiliation and disrespect, profoundly unprepared for a constraining white society and *unfairly* judged for the habits and mindset they were born with. **This is the true origin of anti-black racism in the United States**.

This cultural disparity made future emancipation and assimilation a challenge many saw as insurmountable — notably Thomas Jefferson, a pioneer black emancipator, who wrote about it in his "Notes on the State of Virginia" shortly after the American Revolution.[9] And not just whites: after emancipation did indeed come, Booker T. Washington recognized the fact that blacks were centuries behind whites *culturally* and would need time, investment, and focus to close the gap in morals, intelligence, and marketable skills. His work prioritized social uplift through vocational education to create thriving businesses and communities. He was successful.

Here is a remarkable **FACT**: at the end of the Civil War in 1865, very few blacks could read and write — the foundation for citizenship in a Democratic Republic. Yet by the end of the century, *most* blacks had achieved that and more. It had taken centuries for whites to achieve what blacks did in a single generation, dispelling the notion that their "backwardness" was due to *innate inferiority*.

The fact that West Africans were brought into the orbit of American culture and, through much adversity over time, *acculturated into it* explains why American blacks are overwhelmingly more prosperous and free than the ancestors they left behind. West Africa today remains disproportionately violent, economically weak, and lacking in democratic norms and the rule of law, despite over a century of investment and nurture from Western countries seeking to close those gaps.

Black Americans have been able to prosper in ways that were nonexistent in their ancestral environment, **making enormous contributions** to their adopted homeland *despite* the toxic racism and discrimination that has hindered them.



Race is a "low-resolution" way of looking at ancestral groups with common cultures and genes. It's not simply the product of "social construction."

"Race is not entirely in the eye of the beholder, but it is a social concept with a biological basis."

Thomas Sowell
Intellectuals and Race

[5] Racism is the belief that race accounts for *fixed*, *essential* differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is *essentially* superior.

[6] What is not racism: the *fact* that evolutionary adaptation accounts for *differences* in human character or ability and that particular cultures differ due to a broad set of evolved cultural and social factors at play that are *not fixed*.

[7] Due to geography, West Africa was isolated from the civilizations that emerged on the Eurasian continent and around the Mediterranean about 6,000 years ago.

[8] West African religions were animistic, dominated by witch doctors and sorcerers. The world "was always in flux and dependent on the weather, unruly demons, ineffable gods who ruled the cosmos, or tribal chiefs who had access to them and whose whims and moods determined the moods and nature of the gods themselves" (Jason Hill).

[9] Jefferson tied future emancipation to the resettling of blacks among their own people for peace, prosperity, and safety. He advocated they be provided with financial resources to give them a good start. He was *skeptical* they could successfully assimilate into American culture *en masse*. This was primarily due to intense enmity between blacks and whites — which would evolve into the toxic racism of the Jim Crow era.

The **WEIRD** Cultural Mindset

All cultures are not equal. Or at least they are not equal in preparing people to be *productive* in an advanced economy.[8]

The cultural values that developed in Western Europe, especially among the British, Dutch, and Germans, are the key to understanding **WEIRD** success. They rest on *individualism*: **the idea that people can and should guide their own lives**.[9] This is the anchor of republican *self-government*, emerging fully in America by establishing a Liberal Democratic **Republic** based on *individual* liberty, rights, and private property.

WEIRD people tend to take initiative on their own, guided by *internalized* norms. Such a **mindset** generates relentless innovation motivated by inner goals and values with a strong sense of *agency* grounded in *self-reliance*. This helps explain why the **WEIRD** West was so much more dynamic and productive in history.

Westerners have shouldered the burdens of freedom to undertake improvements that produced constant change, usually in an improving direction.[10]

Martin King famously said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." This captures the **WEIRD** mindset that history realizes its ideals over time, even if it still falls short.[11] It encouraged delayed gratification at the psychological level, which is vital to success in America: greater patience is associated with better economic, educational, and governmental outcomes.[11] It's no coincidence that **WEIRD** people tend to outscore others on psychological tests that measure self-control, patience, and the ability to delay gratification.[12]

German economic sociologist Max Weber coined a term related to this **WEIRD** mindset, calling it the "Protestant work ethic." Its key elements were diligence, punctuality, deferment of gratification, and the primacy of the work domain.[13] In today's world, it means valuing work before play — hard work is, after all, the key to success. It means scrupulously following prearranged time schedules: being on time and showing up as you've agreed. Businesses won't succeed without an *internally disciplined* work force that can be *relied* on to get the job done. It's no accident that this mindset made Americans so prosperous.

Recently this mindset has been *caricatured* by proponents of Critical Race Theory as evidence of white supremacy.[14] This confuses **WEIRD** culture with a particular *ideology*. White supremacy is the *idea* that people of European ancestry are *inherently superior* to those of African descent ***by birth***. But **WEIRD** culture is *universal*, spread through *sharing, participation,* and *assimilation*, delivering empirically measured success ***for all***. It was none other than Booker T. Washington who championed this mindset as the key to future success for black Americans. His work transformed uneducated and unskilled former slaves into flourishing citizens, leading to the emergence of a "black elite" that rivaled the success white Americans enjoyed for generations. The famed "Harlem Renaissance" in New York City was the fruit of his decades-long effort.[15]

Key to the **WEIRD** cultural mindset is the promotion of *literacy*, which laid the groundwork for standardizing laws and energizing scientific innovation.

Highly literate societies are relatively new and quite distinct from most societies that have ever existed. This means modern populations are neurologically different from those found in societies throughout history … The neurological and physiological modifications associated with literacy should be thought of as part of a *cultural package* that includes practices, beliefs, values, and institutions — like "formal education" and "schools" … [which powerfully transform cultures.][1]

As Frederick Douglass put it: "Once you learn to read, you will be *forever free*."



[8] "Paying the price for break-down of the country's bourgeois culture" by Amy Wax & Larry Alexander.

[9] "**Individualism** connotes the idea that people can and should guide their own lives. That is, they should pursue goals and values that they themselves have chosen. In contrast, **collectivism** connotes the idea that society must decide most matters for its members, who should defer to others. Typically, Westerners think of themselves first as individuals, whereas Asians [and Africans + Native Americans] conceive of themselves first as members of a group." Lawrence M. Mead

"For Westerners, it is the self who does the acting; for Easterners [and Africans + Native Americans] action is something that is undertaken in concert with others or that is a consequence of the self operating in a field of forces." Richard Nisbet

[10] Lawrence M. Mead

[11] King shows his own adoption of a **WEIRD mindset** here as this sort of thinking contrasts sharply with the mindset of his Africa ancestors' animistic culture. Their worldview was non-linear; there was no sense of "history" — let alone "morality" — *going* anywhere in African thought.

[12] Psychological tasks are powerful predictors of real-life behavior. Adults and teenagers who were more patient in the "marshmallow test" as preschoolers stayed in school longer, got higher grades, saved more money, earned higher salaries, exercised more, and smoked less. They were also less likely to use drugs, abuse alcohol, and commit crimes.

[13] **The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism** by Max Weber.

[14] See the National Museum of African American History "Aspects & Assumptions of Whiteness and White Culture in the United States."

[15] **Aristocrats of Color** by Willard B. Gatewood.

For Further Study

