

Critical Race Theory – is and isn't – PART 1

Link: [\(406\) The War Over Teaching America's Racist History in Schools | The Daily Show - YouTube](#) [May 5, 2021 (11 mins)]

Trevor Noah states that only a few well-known Black Americans are referenced in US history. The reason is that Americans who have written history have been the victors; and white people have been the winners, as evidenced in the 8% of high school seniors who identify slavery as a central cause of the Civil War, and the many states limiting children's access to learning about our Civil Rights history. Noah asks, "Should we keep telling ourselves [just] what we wish happened [in history]?"; what is the point of teaching history? Addressing the growing controversy around CRT, he points to the histrionics (CRT wants children "to grow up hating our country") and names the process of the accurate teaching of history in, for example, Germany, where children are taught to "understand that we learn from history."

Link: [\(422\) Princeton Professor Explains Critical Race Theory w/ Marc Lamont Hill - YouTube](#) [May 5, 2021 (9 mins)]

Black News Tonight's Lamont Hill interviews Dr. Imani Perry, a race, law, literature, and African-American culture professor at Princeton University. Dr. Imani breaks down the origin and function of Critical Race Theory (CRT) as she tries to reduce the current political and highly racialized heat around it. Dr. Perry describes the origins of CRT as starting with the Civil Rights Movement when there was a growing awareness that racial inequality did not begin with Jim Crow. In response, initiatives and funding streams were enacted to address past harm—and [white] people began to challenge these initiatives as "reverse discrimination." Civil Rights lawyers then began to think about law, legislation and policy, and how history, gender, and class play roles in "the mechanics of inequality and how the law might be reimagined" to address these. Dr. Perry says if we pretend to be "color blind," and don't track indices of racial well-being, we don't have data to address inequalities or disparities. Critics of CRT are banking on the fact that most people do not know what CRT is. Several Republican-led states are banning any mention of Critical Race Theory in schools. NOTE: This interview follows the network's previous one with former Rep. Vernon Jones and Georgia gubernatorial candidate, who said he would ban CRT on his first day of office-- although he could not define CRT. [Many negative reviews of Dr. Perry's video were posted under it on the YouTube site, including personal ones attacking her intelligence.]

Additional Resources:

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05>
"Critical race theory is an academic concept that is more than 40 years old. The core idea is that racism is a social construct, and that it 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."

"Applying Critical Race Theory to Group Model Building Methods to Address Community Violence,"
(NOTE: Ann Marie White, Executive Director, Children's Institute can share her insights into the value of the CRT and the function it served in this study.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6052436/>

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/civil-rights-reimagining-policing/a-lesson-on-critical-race-theory/

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_race_theory#:~:text=Critical%20race%20theory%20\(CRT\)%20is,liberal%20approaches%20to%20racial%20justice](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_race_theory#:~:text=Critical%20race%20theory%20(CRT)%20is,liberal%20approaches%20to%20racial%20justice)

Teachers across the country protest laws restricting lessons on racism (Valerie Strauss)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/06/12/teachers-protest-laws-restricting-antiracism-lessons-in-school/>

<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth>

As schools expand racial equity work, conservatives see a new threat in critical race theory (Laura Meckler & Hannah Natanson)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/05/03/critical-race-theory-backlash/>

YMCA is on a Mission Critical Race Theory 101

Reading about Critical Race Theory in the news and the resistance some school systems have in teaching it in classrooms? Want to know more?

Resistance to critical race theory is not a new phenomenon. However, the term jumped into headlines and social media feeds in recent years when some political figures characterized education that takes a critical lens as “radical” and “ideological poison.”

WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

Critical race theory (sometimes abbreviated to CRT) is an intellectual approach to looking at U.S. society with a belief that racism is at the core of its laws and institutions.

Critical race theorists base this thinking on a few important observations:

- **Race is a social construct** that doesn't have anything to do with biological differences among people, including differences in intelligence or physical ability. This became definitively clear after the Human Genome Project.
- The U.S., and all of its **laws and institutions**, were founded and created based on the myth of white supremacy—the assumption that lighter skin and European ancestry meant that white people were better and deserved a higher social and economic position than people of color.
- Because racism is embedded within our systems and institutions, codified in law, and woven into American public policy, this racial inequality is replicated and maintained over time. Thus, **systemic racism shows up in nearly every facet of life for people of color.**
- **CRT aspires to empower voices that have been marginalized.** Embracing the lived experiences of people of color through research, storytelling, and counter-storytelling—placed in historical, social and political context—is critical to scholarship that examines race and racism in society.

WHY IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY RELEVANT TODAY FOR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS?

In a perfect world, educational equity would ensure that all students have access to high-quality curriculum, instruction and funding. But we don't live in a perfect world, so racial inequality manifests in a number of ways in American education. For example:

- The predominant curriculum centers on the **white narrative** and tends to exclude the histories and lived experiences of people of color.
- Instruction often takes a **deficits-based approach**, characterizing students of color as being in need of remediation rather than appreciating their talents and giftedness.
- **School discipline policies** disproportionately impact students of color, often compromising their educational outcomes.
- School funding inequities persist; predominantly white districts receive **\$23 billion more** in funding than districts serving students of color.

Source: <https://educationpost.org/explained-the-truth-about-critical-race-theory-and-how-it-shows-up-in-your-childs-classroom/>

STILL WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CRT AND SYSTEMIC RACISM?

Check out this article authored by Elicott C. McLaughlin, CNN published on Thursday, May 27 entitled "[Critical Race Theory as a lens. Here are 11 ways looking through it might refine your understanding of history.](#)" which provides a list of 11 key points in American history where bias and bigotry infiltrated American institutions and shaped American life.