

1. **Because “Police Genocide Against Blacks”**

is a Myth:¹ The best data we have are not even close to supporting this narrative. If anything, they support the completely opposite narrative.

Several databases track crime data², and the Washington Post, since 2015, has maintained a publicly accessible database³ of police shootings. What do the data tell us?

In any given year, there are, on average, a total of about 900 fatal police shootings of people of any race, armed or unarmed. The number of unarmed Black people fatally shot by police is about 15 in any given year. You read that correctly – fifteen out of 900! What’s more, in a large number of those cases, often more than half, the police are being clearly threatened by the victim; “unarmed” does not equal “not dangerous.”⁴

By contrast, there are approximately 8,000 Black people killed each year in the United States,⁵ and 7,500 of those (over 90%, on average) are killed by other Blacks.⁶ In the words of Black activist Joel Patrick, “By far the greatest threat to Black people in our country is – Black people.”⁷ Not police officers. Perhaps this is why 81% of Black people say they want as much or more police in their neighborhoods as are currently present.⁸

But, what *exactly* is happening with all fatal police shootings of Blacks, both armed and unarmed? Black people, though they comprise 14% of the population, are responsible for 53% of homicides, 29% of rapes, 38% of all violent crimes, and 29% of all property crimes,⁹ yet they account for

¹ Documentation on this in voluminous, but for starters, see the article: There is no epidemic of fatal police shootings against unarmed Black Americans, USA Today, 7/03/2020 (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/07/03/police-black-killings-homicide-rates-race-injustice-column/3235072001/>)

² Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program, which collects data from more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Vital Statistics System, which compiles death certificate data; Bureau of Justice Statistics, which collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government.

³ WP Police Shootings Database (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>)

⁴ For example, see: Tucker Carlson Breaks Down Every Police Shooting Of Unarmed Black Suspects In 2019 (<https://dailycaller.com/2020/06/03/tucker-carlson-police-shootings-genocide/>); WALSH: I Looked Up Every Case Of An Unarmed Black Man Shot By Cops In 2019. Here’s The Truth The Media And BLM Are Hiding, Daily Wire, 7/24/2020

(https://www.dailywire.com/news/walsh-i-looked-up-every-case-of-an-unarmed-black-man-shot-by-cops-in-2019-heres-the-truth-the-media-and-blm-are-hiding?fbclid=IwAR1x88edAtpfbb_PC9rcsW3c7V8YnQt_BB-ig_g8KiSivJewFMK19L4M6Cw)

⁵ Cf. Number of murder victims in the United States in 2018, by race/ethnicity and gender, Statista (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/251877/murder-victims-in-the-us-by-race-ethnicity-and-gender/>)

⁶ U.S. Blacks Killed by Other Blacks (<https://americanfreepress.net/in-just-35-years-232000-u-s-blacks-killed-by-other-blacks/>)

⁷ Black activist Joel Patrick on Police Violence (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CukLU4K0slw&feature=emb_logo)

⁸ Gallup Center on Black Voices, 8/05/2020 (https://news.gallup.com/poll/316571/black-americans-police-retain-local-presence.aspx?utm_source=tagrss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=syndication)

⁹ See, for example, the FBI’s Crime Statistics at <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/publications>. For my

only 26.7% of the deaths by police shooting.¹⁰ That translates to: Blacks commit homicide at a rate 3.8 times what one would expect, rape at a rate 2.1 times what one would expect, violent crime at rate 2.7 times what one would expect, and property crime at a rate 2.1 times what one would expect, given their percentage of the U.S. population. Yet, they are shot and killed by police only 1.9 times more than one would expect, given their percentage of the U.S. population.¹¹ In other words, Blacks are shot and killed by police proportionately *less* often than one would expect, given their level of crime. A police officer is, in fact, much more likely to be killed by a Black male than a Black man

(armed or not) is to be killed by a police officer, for any reason.¹²

Notice that, in the George Floyd homicide, two of the officers are White, one is an Asian American, and one is Black.¹³ How the heck do we process that one under the guise of systemic racism? Not a single person in America defended his murder. We were absolutely united as a country in bringing Derek Chauvin to justice. So, why the protests? Because we have believed a false narrative. We see a few YouTube videos and conclude that this is a widespread phenomenon (aided in our belief, I believe, by activists and a media with a political agenda).¹⁴ I believe most protesters are

calculations, I used data from 2016: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/tables/table-21>, 2017: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/topic-pages/tables/table-43>, and 2018: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018/topic-pages/tables/table-43>. Data for 2019 are still being analyzed by the FBI. Caveat: these data are arrest records, not conviction records, but they are the best data we have available for estimating crime rates.

¹⁰ The actual percentage could be as low as 22.1%, because there are some police shootings in which the victim's race is unknown. Hence, I chose the calculation that yielded the most likely rates for Blacks, which is 26.7%.

¹¹ Calculations based on data taken from: Number of people shot to death by the police in the United States from 2017 to 2020, by race, Statista (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/585152/people-shot-to-death-by-us-police-by-race/>). Another way to view the data is that Blacks are 6.7 times more likely than Whites to commit murder (per capita), 2.4 times more likely to commit rape, 3.6 times more likely to commit violent crime, 2.4 times more likely to commit property crime, but only 3.0 times more likely to be killed by police. Of note is that Black males – 7% of the population – commit the vast majority of these crimes as can be seen from the same data tables: males commit approximately 88% of homicide, 97% of rapes, 79% of all violent crimes, and 64% of all property crimes. See also Seven Statistics You Need to Know about Black on Black Crime, Daily Wire, 6/13/2016 (<https://www.dailywire.com/news/7-statistics-you-need-know-about-black-black-crime-aaron-bandler>); Black activist Joel Patrick on Police Violence (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CukLU4K0slw&feature=emb_logo); many personal discussions with Dr. Johnson, statistician here at WSU who has analyzed the data on police violence; The War on Cops:

How the New Attack on Law and Order Makes Everyone Less Safe, Heather MacDonald, 2016 (but be careful of the University of Michigan study she cites, which has been retracted (https://5315b3c7-4fd2-421c-be7a-cbaa4348a7c2.filesusr.com/ugd/b44013_086d65c1284b4734b7fdce4532edf02a.pdf))

¹² Fact Check: Is a Police Officer 18 Times More Likely to be Killed by a Black Male than an Unarmed Black Male is to be Killed by the Police? (<https://skeptics.stackexchange.com/questions/39880/is-a-police-officer-18x-more-likely-to-be-killed-by-a-black-male-than-an-unarmed>)

¹³ Are Black men racially profiled by police? Absolutely, because of the statistics cited here; it's their job to assess risk to themselves and to the communities they serve. However, most Black men are *not* criminals. (The Bureau of Justice Statistics Arrest Data Analysis Tool indicates that only about 2% of Black men commit a crime in any given year (<https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=datool&surl=/arrests/index.cfm#>)). So, very often, innocent Black men will be stopped by police. Is this unfortunate? Yes. Is it because the police are racist? The data we have do not support this claim. Better data on the outcomes of each police encounter with citizens is needed in this regard and will hopefully be part of any police reform legislation that is pursued by Congress.

¹⁴ The myths have a very long life. The now infamous shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, gave rise to the “Hands up, don't shoot!” meme. After a long and exhaustive investigation, the Department of Justice found that the only witnesses testifying to this version of events also testified to details that clearly contradict the physical evidence in the case. Those witnesses with the clearest view of the incident and most reliable testimonies claimed the opposite. Yet, the myth lives on. See the complete DOJ Report on the Shooting

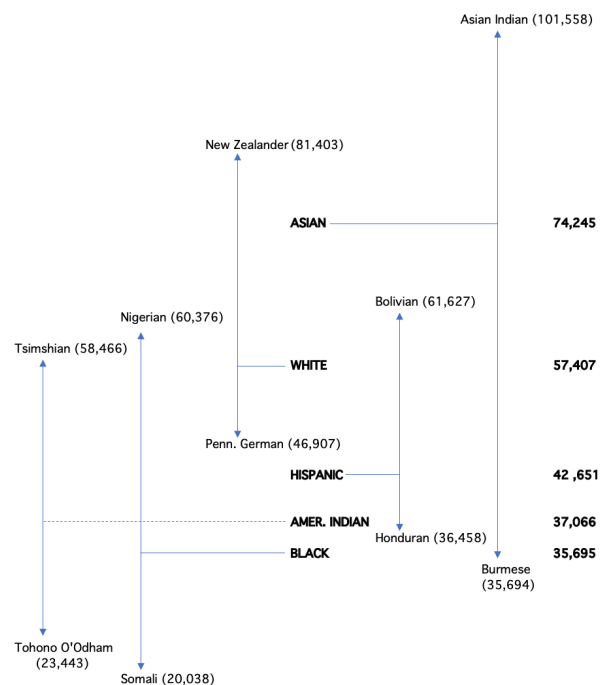
zealous for a truly righteous cause and want to be on the side of good, but their zeal is not according to knowledge in this case. The narrative is false, and those who perpetuate this myth for political gain are doing great damage to the fabric of race relations in our country. Therefore, I don't support BLM.

2. **Because “Systemic Racism” Doesn't Explain the Racial Disparities:** Yes, you read that correctly. I just said the unthinkable. How could I possibly challenge this widely accepted belief?

It is true that, by many rubrics (education level, income, home ownership, etc.), there is a significant disparity between Blacks and Whites in America today. We are told that the existence of such a racial disparity necessarily indicates systemic racism – policies and cultural norms, overt or hidden, conscious or unconscious, that oppress and discriminate against Blacks but privilege and empower Whites. Let us, for the moment, accept that as a general principle: *racial disparities indicate overt or hidden systemic racism.*

By these very same rubrics, there is an equally significant disparity between Whites

and Asian Americans. If we insist on holding to the above principle, we ***must*** conclude that this disparity indicates systemic oppression of and/or discrimination against Whites vis-à-vis Asian Americans. Is anyone really willing to believe that we as a country are systemically biased against and oppressive of Whites? See the graphic below, which delineates racial differences in median household income.¹⁵



It gets even more interesting. Notice that Nigerian Americans (whose skin is very dark

of Michael Brown (https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press-releases/attachments/2015/03/04/doj_report_on_shooting_of_michael_brown_1.pdf)

¹⁵ This graphic was created by Dr. Jeff Johnson at Winona State University using data gleaned from the 2015 American Community Survey.

compared to most African Americans),¹⁶ by those very same rubrics, outperform Whites. Are we willing to believe that this country is systemically biased against Whites vis-à-vis Black Nigerian Americans?¹⁷

Furthermore, if racism and systemic bias truly cripple our country to the extent that is claimed, how is it that we enthusiastically elected a Black leader – before England, France, any European country, Australia, New Zealand, or Canada has? We are apparently the leader in this regard among Western nations, and only 14% of our population is Black. Ponder that!

Finally, about 2 million Black Africans and more than 1 million Blacks from the Caribbean have immigrated to the United States in the last 20 years.¹⁸ Why would so many Blacks voluntarily move to a country that is “systemically racist,” where they will have little hope of advancement and will endure discrimination and oppression? Why would they not instead have immigrated to a more enlightened country?

Needless to say, the situation is more complicated than the dominant “systemically racist America” narrative would have us believe. Perhaps that is why a 2013 Swedish study,¹⁹ as reported in the Washington Post,²⁰ concluded that the United States is among the least racist countries in the world.

Is it therefore possible that the ongoing variety of challenges, which differ according to many varied Black sub-cultures of our nation, arise from other causes? Cultural causes, perhaps? Is it possible that our obsession with systemic racism, unconscious bias, White fragility, White privilege, and the ever-present “micro-aggression” is distracting us from having the very conversation, centered on culture, that can move our country forward in race relations? I think so, but the BLM Movement does not. Therefore, I don’t support BLM.

3. **Because Critical Race Theory is Eurocentric:** The superficial concept of race as a meaningful division of humans has its origins in European and American thinking.²¹ To demonstrate the absurdity of this notion,

¹⁶ I mention this only because there are many who assert that the level of discrimination or oppression one experiences is based not only on whether one is Black, but on how dark one’s skin is.

¹⁷ The above statistics are discussed in great detail in the textbook for Introductory Statistics, authored by Dr. Jeff Johnson of Winona State University.

¹⁸ Key Facts about Black Immigrants in the U.S., Pew Research Center, 1/24/2018 (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/01/24/key-facts-about-black-immigrants-in-the-u-s/>);

¹⁹ Does Economic Freedom Foster Tolerance?, 4/11/2013, Kyklos International Review for Social Sciences (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/kykl.12017>)

²⁰ A fascinating map of the world’s most and least racially tolerant countries, Washington Post, May 15, 2013

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2013/05/15/a-fascinating-map-of-the-worlds-most-and-least-racially-tolerant-countries/?arc404=true>)

²¹ The concept of race as a superficial division of anatomically modern humans (Homo sapiens) has an extensive history in Europe and the Americas. The contemporary word race itself is modern,

we note that Somalis live on the east coast of Africa²², while Nigerians live on the west coast.²³ They have lived apart for thousands of years and have completely different cultures and religious backgrounds. Individuals from these distinct populations look very different from one another. Furthermore, they do not consider themselves at all “interchangeable.” And yet, CRT lumps them together as “Black” – as if *the* defining aspect of their identity is the fact that some Americans and Europeans think they have similarly dark skin and therefore “look the same.” When they immigrate to America, they likewise have very different experiences, as is borne out by just about every measurable social metric. For example, notice that the median household income of Nigerians is \$2,969 *higher* than it is for Whites (\$60,376 vs. \$57,407)²⁴, while the median household income for Somalis is \$20,038. These two groups of people do not experience America in at all the same manner. And yet, CRT, obsessed with the

most superficial aspect of their identity, considers both of them simply “Black” and assumes they experience America’s cultural, social, political, and economic systems in a comparable way – completely disregarding the fact that these two groups consider themselves quite distinct. This attitude of reducing a person to the color of their skin is the essence of Eurocentric racism. I reject it, but BLM does not. Therefore, I don’t support BLM.

4. **Because I Believe Black Lives REALLY DO Matter:** and I’ve seen little evidence that BLM really cares about Black lives based on principle and not simply as a matter of political convenience.²⁵ In 2020 alone, at least 32 Black police officers have been killed in the line of duty,²⁶ including one retired police officer that was protecting a friend’s store from protestors and looters²⁷ claiming to care about Black lives even as they destroyed many Black owned businesses,²⁸

historically it was used in the sense of “nation, ethnic group” during the 16th to 19th centuries. Race acquired its modern meaning in the field of physical anthropology through scientific racism starting in the 19th century. (See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_race_concepts)

²² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somalia>

²³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria>

²⁴ Data from the U.S. government’s [American Community Survey](#) of 2015, as gathered by Dr. Jeff Johnson from Winona State University. See the graphic on page 2 of this document.

²⁵ Cf. Black activist Samantha Marika’s video regarding the Black community being used (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=VbeN0XbClNc&feature=emb_logo); Black activist Candace Owens’ commentary on Black lives mattering only every 4 years ahead of an election (<https://newsprunch.com/candace-owens-black-lives-matter-liberals-every-4-years-ahead-election/>); BLM Doesn’t Care about

Black Lives, Townhall, 6/26/2020

(<https://townhall.com/columnists/derekhunter/2020/07/26/black-lives-dont-matter-to-blacklivesmatter-n2573114>); What Really Matters to BLM: An Analysis of their Own Web Content, 7/24/2020 (<https://finance.townhall.com/columnists/darrenbradynelson/2020/07/24/what-really-matters-to-blm-an-analysis-of-their-own-web-content-n2573075>)

²⁶ Officer Down Memorial Page: Honoring Officers Killed in 2020, accessed in mid-July, 2020 (<https://www.odmp.org/search/year>)

²⁷ David Dorn, Retired St. Louis Police Captain, Killed (<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/2/david-dorn-retired-st-louis-police-captain-killed-/>)

²⁸ Cf. 6 Cities Where Looters Are Ransacking Minority-Owned Businesses, Daily Signal, 6/02/2020

(<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/06/02/6-cities-where-looters-are-ransacking-minority-owned-businesses/>); Here Are Just 10 of the Many Minority-Owned Businesses Destroyed in the Riots, Foundation

ruining the lives of other Black people.²⁹ Of the approximately 8,000 Blacks who are killed each year, over 90%, on average, are killed by other Blacks.³⁰ BLM remains silent about these deaths and ruined lives. It is reasonable to conclude, therefore, that BLM accentuates only those deaths that are helpful to them in advancing their political agenda. Therefore, I don’t support BLM.³¹

5. **Because I Don’t Embrace Racism:** I heartily concur with Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision that each person be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.³² We have made great progress toward that goal; even Barak Obama said that “we are 90% of the way there.”³³ My mother’s last boyfriend was a Black man, my sister is married to a Cuban immigrant, and my

nephew is married to a Korean immigrant. This is typical today, where 1 in every 6 marriages in the U.S. is inter-racial (in the 1960’s, inter-racial marriage was still illegal in many states). In 1991, Orlando Patterson, a Black Harvard sociology professor, wrote: “The sociological truths are that America, while still flawed in its race relations...is now the least racist White-majority society in the world; has a better record of legal protection of minorities than any other society, White or Black; offers more opportunities to a greater number of Black persons than any other society, including all those of Africa.”³⁴

MLK would celebrate this color-blindness, but now BLM tells us that *not* seeing color is racist.³⁵ Far from seeking integration with people from other races, BLM activists dream

for Economic Freedom, 6/05/2020 (<https://fee.org/articles/here-are-just-10-of-the-many-minority-owned-businesses-destroyed-in-the-riots/>)

²⁹ Angry Black Woman Lays Waste Hypocrisy of Black Lives Matter (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FcSwD4dJMo&feature=emb_logo); Black Businesses Are Being Destroyed In Riots: Never Again, WeBuyBlack, 6/01/2020 (<https://webuyblack.com/blog/black-businesses-are-being-destroyed-in-riots-never-again/>)

³⁰ U.S. Blacks Killed by Other Blacks, which quotes a 2010 Bureau of Justice Statistics report that 93% of Blacks killed between 1980 and 2008 were killed by other Blacks (<https://americanfreepress.net/in-just-35-years-232000-u-s-blacks-killed-by-other-blacks/>)

³¹ As do several Blacks from various walks of life. For example, see Black Woman Destroys BLM Mural, Says “Refund the Police!” (https://townhall.com/tipsheet/bethbaumann/2020/07/18/watch-black-woman-destroys-black-lives-matter-mural-all-in-the-name-of-refunding-n2572722?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl&newsletterad=07/20/2020&bcid=bd3e697d53dbd2d9088009d4bb3f9c9&recip=6174495); Black Portland Police Officer: BLM is White People Telling Black People What to Do, especially time marker 2:54-10:58 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha7SETmJD4&feature=emb_logo); Black Man Tears Down BLM Signs, Attacked by White Guy (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=nopgFXetwUQ&feature=emb_logo); Black Man Exhorts America to Come Together, Move Beyond Racism

(<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8tmxcqlmrd5awt7/Powerful%20message%20every%20American%20should%20hear%21.mp4?dl=0>); Steelers Player Won’t Kneel For Anthem: ‘Screw Anybody’ Who Has A ‘Problem With That’ -- Talks Of Immigrant Grandmother, Townhall, 7/27/2020

(<https://finance.townhall.com/columnists/darrenbradynelson/2020/07/24/what-really-matters-to-blm-an-analysis-of-their-own-web-content-n2573075>)

³² I Have a Dream, Speech, Martin Luther King, Jr., 8/28/1963 (<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkhaveadream.htm>)

³³ Talk given in a Black church on the “Moses Generation” before he was president, as quoted on the 2020 documentary Uncle Tom, Larry Elder (<https://uncletom.com>), time marker 1:35:30

³⁴ John Lewis Helped Win the Civil Rights War; Why Are We Still Fighting It?, Townhall, 7/23/2020 (https://townhall.com/columnists/larryelder/2020/07/23/john-lewis-helped-win-the-civil-rights-war-why-are-we-still-fighting-it-n2572948?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl&newsletterad=07/23/2020&bcid=bd3e697d53dbd2d9088009d4bb3f9c9&recip=6174495)

³⁵ A satire that creatively illuminates this paradox has made the rounds on YouTube: When Wokes and Racists Actually Agree on Everything (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=98&v=Ev373c7wSRg&feature=emb_logo)

of a world in which the Black community is completely separate and self-sufficient.³⁶ Maintaining that the defining aspect of our identity and experience must be the color of our skin, the movement “seeks to ensure that racial difference is the foundation of American life, dividing the country between supposed non-White victims and White victimizers, past and present.”³⁷ That is racism as it is traditionally defined.³⁸ Telling me that I am a racist simply because my skin is White is also racist. In an era when the number of mixed-race people is skyrocketing, this obsession with skin color makes less sense than ever to me. Such an attitude is not one that seeks reconciliation but division. At the same time, BLM activists have repeatedly demonstrated anti-Semitic views which have not been denounced by the BLM leadership, who has, at best, been

ambivalent about anti-Semitism.³⁹ Therefore, I don’t support BLM.

6. **Because I Reject the Counterfactual Notions of Anti-Racism and White Fragility:** The notions of White fragility, White privilege, and anti-racism provide a simple narrative that is easy to grasp but, in my view, is largely false and much more damaging than helpful.⁴⁰

In his book *How to Be an Anti-Racist*, Ibram X. Kendi divides us into two types of people: those who see the root of problems in groups of people (racists), and those who see the root of problems in power and policies (anti-racists). The fallacy he makes is called a *false dichotomy*, because it ignores the possibility of a third option. This assumption is, essentially, the same as an assumption that

³⁶ See the interview between Black blues player and activist Darrell Davis and BLM activists in the 2017 documentary *Accidental Courtesy*, time marker 1:15:00

³⁷ Why this revolution isn’t like the 1960’s, Townhall, 7/23/2020, (https://townhall.com/columnists/victordavishanson/2020/07/23/why-this-revolution-isnt-like-the-60s-n2572910?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl&newsletterad=07/23/2020&bcid=bdf3e697d53dbd2d9088009d4bb3f9c9&recip=6174495)

³⁸ Racism: a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities (as found in Merriam Webster Dictionary)

³⁹ Cf. The Los Angeles Pogrom That No Jewish Organization Will Talk About, Sultan Knish, 6/04/2020

(<http://www.danielgreenfield.org/2020/06/the-los-angeles-pogrom-that-no-jewish.html>); Black Lives Matter Risks Premier League Support Loss over Anti-Israel Views, Newsweek, 7/01/20 (<https://www.newsweek.com/premier-league-football-black-lives-matter-racism-equality-1514700>); Jewish watchdog calls out Black Lives Matter for anti-Israel Tweets, Jerusalem Post, 6/29/2020 (<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/jewish-watchdog-calls-out-black-lives-matter-for-anti-israel-tweets-633146>); BDS Joins BLM to Destroy Israel, Christians in Defense of Israel, 6/2020 (<https://cidisrael.org/details/20200709bds-joins-blm-to-destroy-israel>); BLM in Schools Turning Kids into Little Marxists (<https://thefederalist.com/2020/07/08/black-lives-matter-in-public-schools-is-turning-kids-into-little-marxists/>) and Anti-Defamation League Statement on BLM and Anti-Semitism (<https://www.adl.org/news/media-watch/adl-on-black-lives-matter?limit=all&print=1>)

(<https://www.adl.org/news/media-watch/adl-on-black-lives-matter?limit=all&print=1>)

⁴⁰ All of these are concepts invented to explain the supposedly hidden, unseen oppression and discrimination which “must still exist,” since racial disparities remain present in our country – a notion I challenge in the first item of this list. Their mere invention does not make them accurate descriptions of reality. One Black activist has rendered his own definition of White privilege: “A false ideology created to engender victimhood” (as seen in the 2020 documentary *Uncle Tom* (<https://uncletom.com>), time marker 1:41:56). Many Black people, from well-known activists like Candace Owens and Larry Elder to everyday folks, do not believe in the validity of these concepts and the way they are typically invoked. I personally believe that every cultural subgroup experiences certain privileges and disenfranchisements of various sorts, which vary by cultural subgroup and context. One Black commentator, Delano Squires, articulates very eloquently how the current BLM Movement disempowers Blacks and makes the issue all about White people in his article *It’s Time for the Conversation about Black Lives to Stop Focusing on White People*, *The Federalist*, 6/21/2020, (<https://thefederalist.com/2020/07/21/its-time-for-the-conversation-about-black-lives-to-stop-focusing-on-white-people/>).

Robin DiAngelo makes in her book *White Fragility*: that every disparity between groups of people is necessarily due to oppression and/or discrimination.⁴¹ If one accepts the premise of Kendi and DiAngelo, we find philosophical underpinnings consistent with the BLM Movement.

First, assume that all disparities between Black and White communities result from oppression and/or discrimination. Then, notice that, after those barriers have been identified and removed, the challenges facing the Black communities remain. Logically, either the assumption that all disparity results from oppression and/or discrimination must be false, or these still exist but are hidden or unnoticed. Kendi and DiAngelo choose the latter option.⁴² As I detailed in the first item of this list, based on

the evidence, I challenge the validity of this assumption and instead embrace the former option.

However, BLM appears to be predicated on ideas such as those put forth by Kendi and DiAngelo. Therefore, I don't support BLM.

7. **Because the History of Slavery is Complicated:** The idea that all people are created equal is, historically speaking, a radically new idea. For almost all of human history, slavery was simply an accepted fact. Hebrew patriarch Joseph was a slave, Egyptians had slaves, Romans had slaves, and Blacks in Africa held other Blacks as slaves. Arabs and Muslims were involved in African slave trade centuries before European slavers bought and transported slaves out of Africa; it continued well after European

⁴¹ DiAngelo also cleverly ensnares her readers in a “Kafka Trap.” If you are White, you are consciously or unconsciously racist. That is her thesis. If you accept this, then it confirms her thesis. If you do not accept it, it is because you are experiencing “cognitive dissonance,” which is a common behavior observed in White people in denial of their own racism, so says she. If you question her work in any way, even on academic or philosophical grounds, that is seen as defensive and resistant, and it is further evidence that you are in denial of your racism. Therefore, DiAngelo allows for no challenge to her ideas; they are non-falsifiable and impervious to feedback. This type of intellectual dishonesty should be the first red flag to a discerning reader that they are being manipulated by a propagandist, not enlightened by a serious educator. Cf. White Fragility Theory Is a Bullying Rhetorical Tactic, *The Agonist*, 10/14/2019 (<http://theagonist.org/essays/2019/10/14/essays-church.html>)

⁴² Cf. The Dehumanizing Condescension of White Fragility by John McWhorter, *The Atlantic*, 7/15/2020

(<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/07/dehumanizing-condescension-white-fragility/614146/>); What to Read Instead of White Fragility by Mark Hemingway, *The Federalist* (<https://thefederalist.com/2020/07/15/what-to-read-instead-of-white-fragility/>); On “White Fragility”: A Few Thoughts on America’s Smash-Hit #1 Guide to Egghead Racism by Matt Taibbi, 6/28/2020 (<https://taibbi.substack.com/p/on-white-fragility>); Interview with Dr. Karlyn Borysenko regarding White Fragility, Glenn Beck,

7/13/2020; *The Orwellian Dystopia of Robin DiAngelo’s PhD Dissertation*, *Areo Magazine*, 7/14/2020 (<https://areomagazine.com/2020/07/14/the-orwellian-dystopia-of-robin-diangelos-phd-dissertation/>); Whiteness Studies and the Theory of White Fragility Are Based on a Logical Fallacy, *Areo Magazine*, 4/25/2019 (<https://areomagazine.com/2019/04/25/Whiteness-studies-and-the-theory-of-white-fragility-are-based-on-a-logical-fallacy/>); White Fragility Theory Mistakes Correlation for Causation, *Areo Magazine*, 5/10/2019 (<https://quillette.com/2018/08/24/the-problem-with-white-fragility-theory/>); The Epistemological Problem of White Fragility Theory, *Areo Magazine*, 12/21/2018 (<https://areomagazine.com/2018/12/21/the-epistemological-problem-of-white-fragility-theory/>); The Problem with ‘White Fragility’ Theory, *Quillette*, 8/24/2018 (<https://quillette.com/2018/08/24/the-problem-with-white-fragility-theory/>); Race in America: Two Opposing Narratives, Scott Allen, *Townhall*, 6/11/2020 (<https://townhall.com/columnists/scottallen/2020/07/11/race-in-america-two-opposing-narratives-n2572261>); The Problem of ‘Anti-Racism’, Ben Shapiro, *Townhall*, 7/01/2020 (<https://townhall.com/columnists/benshapiro/2020/07/01/the-problem-of-antiracism-n2571648>); The Vanity of White Guilt, *The Spectator*, 7/09/2020 (<https://spectator.us/the-vanity-of-white-guilt/>)β

slavery ended and was, by many counts, much more barbaric.⁴³

During the trans-Atlantic slave trade, Black Africans sold other Black Africans as slaves.⁴⁴ At the time of Black slavery in America, thousands of Whites from England were enslaved by the Barbary pirates in present-day Turkey. “More Whites were brought as slaves to North Africa than Blacks brought as slaves to the United States or to the 13 colonies from which it was formed. White slaves were still being bought and sold in the Ottoman Empire, decades after Blacks were freed in the United States.”⁴⁵

There were approximately 3,775 free Blacks who owned a total of 12,760 slaves according to the 1830 census, according to historian R. Halliburton, Jr.⁴⁶ The first legally recognized slave owner in the American colonies was Black man Anthony Johnson (recognized by the Northampton Court, 1654).⁴⁷ And what about Native Americans? “Slavery was a reality of indigenous life in the Americas

prior to the arrival of Africans and Europeans...‘captivity’ was ‘widespread, and it took many forms.’”⁴⁸ The number of enslaved people held by Cherokees was about 600 at the start of the 19th century and around 1,500 at the time of westward removal in 1838-39; Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws held around 3,500 slaves, across the three nations, as the 19th century began.⁴⁹ Slavery was, unfortunately, a grim fact of life. This does not excuse the horrific slavery that is our national heritage, but it places it in a global and historical context.

And, in this context, we see that it was a radically progressive and bold idea that all people are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights (life, liberty, etc.) by their Creator. Because it is such a lofty ideal, America has struggled to live up to this vision of equality, abolishing the slave trade only in 1807,⁵⁰ slavery in 1865, and legal discrimination in the 1960’s. We STILL, to this day, do not recognize the right to life for preborn human beings which, to me, is a

⁴³ Black History Month: Why Don't They Teach About the Arab-Muslim Slave Trade in Africa?, Larry Elder, Real Clear Politics (https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2020/02/20/black_history_month_why_dont_they_teach_about_the_arab-muslim_slave_trade_in_africa_142442.html)

⁴⁴ Cf. An African country reckons with its history of selling slaves, Washington Post, 1/29/2018 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/an-african-country-reckons-with-its-history-of-selling-slaves/2018/01/29/5234f5aa-ff9a-11e7-86b9-8908743c79dd_story.html)

⁴⁵ “Irresponsible Education” by Black economist and author Dr. Thomas Sowell (<https://www.creators.com/read/thomas-sowell/10/14/irresponsible-education>)

⁴⁶ Fact Check: 9 ‘Facts’ About Slavery They Don’t Want You to Know (<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/facts-about-slavery/>)

⁴⁷ Wikipedia Article on Anthony Johnson ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Johnson_\(colonist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Johnson_(colonist)))

⁴⁸ Slavery in Indian Country: The Changing Face of Captivity in Early America, Cristina Snyder, as quoted in Time Magazine, 9/11/2017.

⁴⁹ According to historian Tiya Miles in Slate magazine in January 2016 (http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/cover_story/2016/01/native_american_slavery_historians_uncover_a_chilling_chapter_in_u_s_history.html)

⁵⁰ Slave Trade Act of 1807, Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_Trade_Act_1807#:~:text=The%20Slave%20Trade%20Act%201807%2C%20officially%20An%20Act,nation%20states%20to%20abolish%20their%20own%20slave%20trades.)

tragedy. And yet, we have made tremendous progress.

As we seek to tear down statues of anyone and everyone who wasn't fully “woke” hundreds of years before that term even gained its current meaning, it might behoove us to engage in something deeper than Twitter-length thoughts. Thomas Jefferson owned slaves and never released them.⁵¹ He also authored a grievance against slavery in the Declaration of Independence⁵² (11 of 13 colonies were in favor of abolishing slavery, but Georgia and South Carolina forced the removal of the grievance from the declaration⁵³) and fought against slavery his entire public career.⁵⁴ General Robert E. Lee said, “In this enlightened age, there are few I believe, but what will acknowledge, that slavery as an institution, is a moral and political evil in any Country.”⁵⁵ And yet, he mistreated his own slaves and fought for the Confederacy.⁵⁶ It is no wonder that he wrote to his wife, “You must endeavour to enjoy the

pleasure of doing good. That is all that makes life valuable...When I measure my own by that standard I am filled with confusion and despair.”⁵⁷ These were deeply conflicted people who recognized the evil of slavery but feared that simply freeing slaves without an viable exit strategy could devastate the economy and cause societal collapse. Many of them could not even envision an economy functioning without slavery, even as they found the practice abhorrent, so conditioned were they by their times.

We can relate to this today. Many people are “personally opposed” to abortion, do not like abortion, believe abortion is a sign of our collective failure as a society – but they cannot bring themselves to make it illegal because of the economic and societal consequences, especially for young women who find themselves in crisis pregnancies with no other way out. That is a legitimate and necessary concern. Who knows but one day, if we ever attain to a society that thrives

⁵¹ Jefferson's Attitude Toward Slavery (<https://www.monticello.org/thomas-jefferson/jefferson-slavery/jefferson-s-attitudes-toward-slavery/>); The Practice of Slavery at Monticello (<https://www.monticello.org/thomas-jefferson/jefferson-slavery/the-practice-of-slavery-at-monticello/>); and The Business of Slavery at Monticello (<https://www.monticello.org/thomas-jefferson/jefferson-slavery/the-practice-of-slavery-at-monticello/>)

⁵² The Deleted Passage of the Declaration of Independence (<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/declaration-independence-and-debate-over-slavery/>)

⁵³ Why Thomas Jefferson's Anti-Slavery Passage was Removed from the Declaration of Independence (<https://www.history.com/news/declaration-of-independence-deleted-anti-slavery-clause-jefferson>)

⁵⁴ Jefferson's Attitude Toward Slavery (<https://www.monticello.org/thomas-jefferson/jefferson-slavery/jefferson-s-attitudes-toward-slavery/>)

⁵⁵ Robert E. Lee's letter to his wife in response to a speech given by President Pierce, December 27, 1856 (<https://www.civilwarhome.com/leepierce.htm>)

⁵⁶ The Myth of Kindly General Lee (https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/06/the-myth-of-the-kindly-general-lee/529038/?fbclid=IwAR2WGrU0I75dAT4bfxB0pNDM-Tbslc6S_8VbG74K1NbaovbMSYG5E5h1tbA) and Making Sense of Robert E. Lee (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/making-sense-of-robert-e-lee-85017563/>)

⁵⁷ Robert E. Lee to Mary Anna Randolph Custis Lee, 1863 January 29 (<https://leefamilyarchive.org/family-papers/letters/letters-1863/9-family-papers/953-robert-e-lee-to-mary-anna-randolph-custis-lee-1863-january-29>)

apart from abortion, our descendants may look back on the legacy of our first African American President, Barak Obama, and wonder how such a man could have possibly been in favor of such a barbaric practice. The only way they will understand is if they seek to comprehend the times in which we live. The only way we can properly understand the greatness, and the failings, of our founders is if we seek to do the same. Having proper humility about our own current time in history is the only way we can see ourselves in, and therefore learn from, the past.

History is indeed complicated, and negotiating it requires in-depth and nuanced conversation and understanding. BLM offers a simple but misleading narrative. It closely coincides with the factually inaccurate, oversimplified, and very popular New York Times’ 1619 Project,⁵⁸ authored by Nikole Hannah-Jones, who said she would “be honored” if the 2020 riots were termed the “1619 riots.”⁵⁹

Contrary to the rhetoric, I see no true discourse happening, only unilateral demands for cowering submission to an ideologically narrow rewriting of history. I see no appetite for dialogue or a meeting of the minds amongst the protestors or the intellectual elite who support them. I witness no effort to more deeply understand our forebears and re-contextualize our multi-faceted history in order to bring into relief henceforth underacknowledged elements. There is no appreciation for the fact that statues are public property and therefore belong to the entire community, not individually to protestors filled with rage. Anger, even when justified, does not confer upon a person extra rights of ownership in a democracy. Rage is not righteousness, nor does it bestow upon the enraged the moral high ground.

MLK was clear that his dream was “deeply rooted in the American dream.”⁶⁰ Like him,

⁵⁸ 1776 Honors America’s Diversity in a Way 1619 Does Not: academic historians, conservatives, and Trotskyist socialists rightly reject The New York Times’ reframing of the past, The Atlantic, 1/26/2020 (<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/01/inclusive-case-1776-not-1619/604435/>); The 1619 Project” Enters American Classrooms: adding new sizzle to education about slavery—but at a significant cost, Education Next, Summer 2020 (<https://www.educationnext.org/1619-project-enters-american-classrooms-adding-new-sizzle-slavery-significant-cost/>); The ‘1619 Project’ Gets Schooled: The New York Times tries to rewrite U.S. history, but its falsehoods are exposed by surprising sources (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-1619-project-gets-schooled-11576540494>); How to Disprove the 6 Most Outrageous Myths of the 1619 Project, The Federalist, 7/27/2020

(<https://thefederalist.com/2020/07/27/how-to-disprove-the-6-most-outrageous-myths-of-the-1619-project/>); With That NYT Writer’s Admission About 1619 Project, A Liberal Reporter Wrecks It With One Tweet, Townhall, 7/28/2020

(<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/mattvespa/2020/07/28/nyt-writer-makes-damning-admission-about-1619-project-n2573222>)

⁵⁹ Creator Of 1619 Project: ‘Honor’ If Riots Called ‘1619 Riots’ – Deletes Post On Native Americans Owning Slaves, Daily Wire, 6/22/2020 (<https://www.dailywire.com/news/creator-of-1619-project-an-honor-if-riots-were-called-1619-riots-deletes-post-on-native-americans-bringing-slaves-on-trail-of-tears>)

⁶⁰ I Have a Dream, Speech, Martin Luther King, Jr., 8/28/1963 (<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkhaveadream.htm>)

and like Fredrick Douglass,⁶¹ I believe in demanding that we Americans continue our relentless march toward fully achieving the lofty vision proposed by our founders – to achieve that last 10%, as Barak Obama put it.⁶² BLM does not seek to achieve MLK’s dream, deeply rooted in the American dream. It seeks to replace them both. Therefore, I don’t support BLM.

8. **Because I Am Not a Marxist:** the vision and language of BLM,⁶³ including the “disruption of the nuclear family,”⁶⁴ the Soviet-style tactics being used by BLM activists,⁶⁵ the admission by co-founder Patrisse Cullors in 2015 that she and one of her fellow founders are “trained Marxists,”⁶⁶ and the fact that Susan Rosenberg, convicted member of the

violent Marxist terrorist organization M-19, is a leader in the organization Thousand Currents that funds the BLM Global Network,⁶⁷ all give me great pause. In every country in which Marxism has been implemented (the former Soviet Union, Cuba, China, Laos, Vietnam, North Korea, and now Venezuela⁶⁸), it has resulted in a totalitarian state, a stagnant economy, and impoverished people. This claim is corroborated by the fact that those countries control their borders to stop the flow of those who want to leave, whereas we control our borders to manage the flow of those who want to enter. Of particular interest are immigrants who have escaped from Marxist countries and are now warning us to understand clearly what is happening now in our own country.⁶⁹ Worth

⁶¹ “Now, take the constitution according to its plain reading, and I defy the presentation of a single pro-slavery clause in it. On the other hand it will be found to contain principles and purposes, entirely hostile to the existence of slavery...Allow me to say, in conclusion, notwithstanding the dark picture I have this day presented of the state of the nation, nation, I do not despair of this country. There are forces in operation, which must inevitably work the downfall of slavery.” (Speech given by Fredrick Douglass at a meeting sponsored by the Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society, Rochester Hall, Rochester, N.Y., July 5, 1852)

⁶² Talk given in a Black church on the “Moses Generation” before he was president, as quoted on the 2020 documentary Uncle Tom (<https://uncletom.com>), time marker 1:35:30

⁶³ Cf. Agenda of Black Lives Matters is Far Different from Slogan, Daily Caller, 7/7/2020 (<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/07/07/the-agenda-of-black-lives-matter-is-far-different-from-the-slogan/>); Video of Lilith Sinclair, an “afro-indigenous non-binary local organizer” who advocates for the “abolition not just of the militarized police but of the United States as we know it.” (<https://twitter.com/i/status/1284375074359803904>)

⁶⁴ BLM: What We Believe (<https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>)

⁶⁵ Cf. interview with Christopher Rufo, contributing editor of the City Journal and Director of the Center for Wealth and Poverty, about BLM movement in the city of Seattle, Glenn Beck Radio, 7/9/2020, time marker 55:21; BLM’s Intentions Sound All Too Familiar (<https://townhall.com/columnists/joeconnor/2020/07/07/sound-familiar-n2572011>)

⁶⁶ BLM Co-Founder Describes Herself as a “Trained Marxist” (<https://nypost.com/2020/06/25/blm-co-founder-describes->

[herself-as-trained-marxist/](https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/06/25/4-things-the-liberal-media-wont-tell-you-about-black-lives-matter/)), 4 Things the Liberal Media Won’t Tell You About Black Lives Matter, Daily Signal, 6/25/2020 (<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/06/25/4-things-the-liberal-media-wont-tell-you-about-black-lives-matter/>); Actual interview with BLM Co-Founder Patrisse Cullors “We are Marxists, We are Ideological” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=Pyhy4JvkENg&feature=emb_logo)

⁶⁷ Thousand Currents Board of Director’s Page from 6/24/2020 (<http://web.archive.org/web/20200624141704/https://thousandcurrents.org/board-of-directors/>); Thousand Currents abruptly removes board of directors page after Glenn exposes shady characters, Glenn Beck, 6/26/2020 (<https://www.glennbeck.com/thousand-currents-abruptly-removes-board-of-directors-page-after-glenn-exposes-shady-characters/>); Fact Check: Did a ‘Convicted Terrorist’ Sit on the Board of a BLM Funding Body?, 7/14/2020 (<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/blm-terrorist-rosenberg/>)

⁶⁸ How Venezuela Became Communist (<https://panampost.com/luis-henrique-ball/2017/12/17/how-venezuela-became-communist/>)

⁶⁹ For example, Venezuelan Immigrant Elizabeth Rogliani Warns U.S. about What is Happening Now in U.S., (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=MrBFkSwAG8&feature=emb_logo); Cuban Immigrant Maximo Alvarez Warns about What is Happening Now in U.S., at Trump Roundtable Discussion (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=C1ybQWwLl4s&feature=emb_logo)

noting is that China became a dominant economy only when it embraced a modified form of Capitalism.⁷⁰ Why? Because it works. Marxism seems to deliver successfully on its bold promises only in the imaginations of certain intellectuals. I personally believe responsibly governed Capitalism that respects the free market is the world’s best hope for lifting all people out of poverty.⁷¹ That is why I identify as a Classical Liberal. It is also another reason I don’t support BLM.

9. **Because ALL Black Lives Matter:** Abortion is a very complex issue and reasonable people can disagree about it on many different levels. However, at the very least, the science is clear that a preborn fetus in a Black mother’s womb is a *genetically unique, Black, human life*. I believe that such a human life matters, because no human life is a means to an end, but an intrinsically valuable end in

itself. The fact is that abortion disproportionately affects Blacks, but somehow do not see that as automatic evidence of oppression and discrimination the way we do other racial disparities. About 79% of Planned Parenthood abortion mills target Black and Hispanic neighborhoods,⁷² and 36% of abortions are Black even though Black women comprise only 13% of the female population,⁷³ and 52% of all African American pregnancies end in abortion.⁷⁴ According to the Guttmacher Institute, Black women abort their children at 5 times the rate that White women do.⁷⁵ In contrast, I believe that attempting to build a just and thriving society on the backs of dead preborn human lives is a testimony to our collective failure as a society. It is no better than attempting to build a just and thriving society on the backs of Black slaves and will end in the same kind of failure. We need to work

⁷⁰ China’s Economic Success Proves the Power of Capitalism (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rainerzitelmann/2019/07/08/china-s-economic-success-proves-the-power-of-capitalism/#8f43b163b9d7>)

⁷¹ Cf. Even Angels Couldn’t Make Socialism Work, Townhall, 7/23/2020 (https://finance.townhall.com/columnists/rogermckinney/2020/07/21/even-angels-couldnt-make-socialism-work-n2572826?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl&newsletterad=07/23/2020&bcid=bdf3e697d53dbd2d9088009d4bb3f9c9&recip=6174495); This is How Panera Bread Discovered that Socialism Doesn’t Work, Return to Order (<https://www.returntoorder.org/2019/02/this-is-how-panera-found-out-that-socialism-does-not-work/>); You may disagree with these analyses, and that is another great thing about our country. Enjoy it, because if history is any indication, and if we become a Marxist country, you will no longer have the freedom to disagree with the authoritative cultural narrative!

⁷²Protecting Black Life relays that, according to the 2010 Census, Planned Parenthood is targeting minority neighborhoods. 79% of its surgical abortion facilities are located within walking distance of African American or Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods, and they map these out on their website

(https://www.protectingblacklife.org/pp_targets/index.html). While Planned Parenthood’s claim that 73% of its facilities are in rural and medically underserved communities may very well be true, it is misleading, because almost none of those are abortion facilities (<https://www.factcheck.org/2011/11/cains-false-attack-on-planned-parenthood/>). The Guttmacher Policy Review takes issue with the claim that PP “targets” minority populations, pointing out that, even though Black women have abortions at 5 times the rate of White women, this is de facto and not by design on the part of Planned Parenthood (<https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2008/08/abortion-and-women-color-bigger-picture>). This is a fair point to make, but whether by design or not, the disparity is real, and the fact is that abortion claims Black lives at a disproportionate rate.

⁷³ CDC: Thirty-six percent of abortions abort Black babies, CNS News, 11/18/2018 (<https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/emily-ward/blacks-make-134-population-36-abortions>)

⁷⁴ As quoted in the 2020 documentary Uncle Tom (<https://uncletom.com>), time marker 1:21:50

⁷⁵ Abortion and Women of Color: the Bigger Picture, Guttmacher Institute, 8/2008 (<https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2008/08/abortion-and-women-color-bigger-picture>)

toward a more just society – not where abortion is illegal, but where abortion is literally as unthinkable as slavery. Organizations like Blackgenocide.org and protectingblacklife.org advocate on behalf of these preborn Black lives, as does Alveda King (niece of Martin Luther King Jr.), but BLM is silent about these lives. Therefore, I don’t support BLM.

10. **Because the Cancel Culture is an Impediment to Racial Reconciliation:** Our only hope for racial reconciliation, and social reconciliation of any sort, is the protection of free speech.

Daryl Davis, a Black blues player who has led over 200 White supremacists out of the Ku Klux Klan, did so by building bridges, not sowing division. He said, “Respect is the key. Sitting down and talking. Not necessarily agreeing. Respecting each other to air their points of view. Because of that respect and my willingness to listen, and his willingness to listen to me, [the Grand Master of the KKK] ended up leaving the Klan...Take the time to sit down and talk with your adversaries. You will learn something, and they will learn something from you. When two enemies are talking, they’re not fighting. They’re talking.

It’s when the talking ceases that the ground becomes fertile for violence. Keep the conversation going.”⁷⁶

Daryl Davis is the embodiment of what black commentator Ryan Bomberger recently noted: “Dividing people is *always* easy. All it takes is a lie dressed up in a hashtag. Uniting people is *never* easy. It takes a lot of work, a lot of listening, and a lot of learning. It takes humility and honesty. It requires context that brings clarity. And it’s worth every effort.”⁷⁷

Academia is supposed to be a marketplace of ideas where such listening, learning, and articulation of context can occur. However, it functions only when bold, and especially *dissenting*, ideas can be expressed and discussed freely. So, as a Classical Liberal committed to the value of free speech, I find it embarrassing when some of my colleagues promote the cancel culture, teaching that “disagreement is hatred,” that simply expressing an opinion is a “micro-aggression,” and that those who challenge or even question certain belief systems are creating a “hostile environment” by their “hate speech,” regardless of the manner in which those challenges or questions are

⁷⁶ See his 18 minute TED Talk from 2017: https://www.ted.com/talks/daryl_davis_why_i_as_a_black_man_attend_kkk_rallies

⁷⁷ Stop Apologizing for America, Christian Post, 8/07/2020 (<https://www.christianpost.com/voices/stop-apologizing-for-america.html>)

expressed. “If liberty means anything at all,” said George Orwell, “it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.”

Every great advance in our understanding of the world has begun with one person who dared to think differently, one person who challenged the prevailing narrative. Instead, too many academicians of our day are intolerant of true intellectual diversity, even while they talk incessantly of tolerance and diversity.

If more people do not stand up for their right to question, challenge, and even disagree with the prevailing cultural narrative, then the right to do so will soon be lost for all of us, including those who currently promote or defer to the cancel culture out of fear and a desire for self-preservation.

Those active in the BLM Movement have expertly weaponized this cancel culture to create a cultural taboo against challenging or even questioning any aspect of the movement.⁷⁸ Therefore, I don’t support BLM.

⁷⁸ If You Don’t Support BLM, You’re Fired, The Federalist, 6/11/2020 (<https://thefederalist.com/2020/06/11/if-you-dont-support-black-lives-matter-youre-fired/>); Twitter Feed of List of People Who Lost their Jobs for Opposing BLM (<https://twitter.com/SpeechUnion/status/1269314030663012352>); I’m a Law Professor: Here’s What Happened After I Spoke Out on Black Lives Matter, Daily Signal, 7/20/2020 (<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/07/20/im-a-law-professor-heres-what-happened-after-i-spoke-out-on-black-lives-matter/>); After Black Lives Matter Controversy, Catholic Removed from Florida State Student Government, Catholic News Agency, 6/23/2020 (<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-black-lives-matter-controversy-catholic-removed-from-florida-state-university->

[student-government-77770](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-black-lives-matter-controversy-catholic-removed-from-florida-state-university-student-government-77770)); Stu Does the Cancel Culture Olympics, Stu Does America, BlazeTV, Episode 102, 7/2020; Hispanic Californian Man Fired over ‘Racist’ OK Gesture: Claims he was only Cracking his Knuckles, Stoking Calls to Reinstate Job, RT, 6/17/2020 (<https://www.rt.com/usa/492072-hispanic-man-White-power-gesture/>); Saying All Lives Matter is Now Getting People Killed, Daily Caller 6/23/2020 (<https://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/2020/07/13/woman-allegedly-killed-for-saying-all-lives-matter-n2572348>); How the Media Uses Tiny Petitions To Make Leftist Positions Front-Page News, The Federalist, 7/21/2020 (<https://thefederalist.com/2020/07/21/how-the-media-uses-tiny-petitions-to-make-leftist-positions-front-page-news/>)