

God, Parents and the '1619 Project'

Religious Americans should reject the idea that slavery is what defines the nation.

WSJ Opinion



By Latasha Fields

President Trump

tweeted <<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1302586046551597061>> on Sunday that the Education Department would “looking at” whether public schools were teaching the New York Times’ “1619 Project,” which argues that the U.S. is a corrupt country fundamentally built on slavery. Historians have shown in these pages why this is false and a harmful idea, but there are also reasons for religious Americans to reject this revision of history.

First, as a black American, I believe it is particularly important to break away from the oppressive way of thinking promulgated by the 1619 Project. Slavery is an appalling part of this nation’s history, and discrimination continues in some forms today. But these flaws do not define the self-correcting spirit of freedom and truth

etched into America's founding documents. They certainly don't define me as an individual.

My belief in individual choice and personal responsibility is why I oppose programs that create dependence on the government. By subsidizing recklessness and the growing affects of immorality, these programs have subverted, undermined and unraveled the tapestry of thriving and healthy families. Ultimately the successes and failures of the black community come from the choices we make.

The idea that the U.S. is a racist country predates the 1619 Project. It's no wonder countless African-Americans—including many of my family and friends—have bought this lie and vote for progressive politicians. But believing your destiny is determined by factors outside your control, like the color of your skin, is demeaning. Black parents need to oppose false portrayals of history and unite around the shared values that created the U.S.

We must hold ourselves accountable and build communities that teach the next generation how to live meaningful lives. Parents have the ultimate responsibility to train and educate their children. God designed the family as an expression of His spiritual truths, to reflect His image and fulfill a critical role on Earth. It is the mind and will of God for parents to demonstrate morality and a practical way of life—leaving a spiritual inheritance to their offspring. Only parents, not the government, can ensure that this critical knowledge will be carried from generation to generation.

More than 100 years ago Booker T. Washington wrote: “There is a class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Having learned that they are able to make a living out of their troubles, they have grown into the settled habit of advertising their wrongs—partly because they want sympathy and partly because it pays. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs.” Little has changed since.

“Evaluated honestly, the 1619 Project is a kind of performance art,” Columbia professor John McWhorter argued <https://broadandliberty.com/2020/05/24/john-mcwhorter-we-cannot-allow-1619-to-dumb-down-america-in-the-name-of-a-crusade/> earlier this year. “Facts, therefore, are less important than attitude. [The 1619 Project's Nikole] Hannah-Jones has predictably dismissed serious and comprehensive empirical critiques, as if for Black thinkers, truth is somehow ranked second to fierceness and battle poses.”

Public schools today—like the ones using 1619 in their curriculum—rely on one-size-fits-all secular humanistic indoctrination to dumb-down American children and drive wedges between them and their parents. Such secularism has grown increasingly hostile to patriotism and parental authority. Its greatest enemies are

true diversity, tolerance and the nuclear family structure. This form of progressive education destroys and distorts God's order and the fundamental rights of parents and society.

The public school system in Illinois, where I live, is an example of gross negligence in education. The system is failing to instill time-tested values while encouraging social perversion, truancy and violence. The results of this are most apparent in Chicago public schools. Notably today's education system has excised God. In doing so, it has eliminated order and structure in society. Children memorize letters and numbers but nothing unifies their education other than the pursuit of grades. Meantime, their souls hang in the balance.

Fourteen years ago the Lord called my husband and me to home-school our four children. Since then we have witnessed American culture's aggressive decline. We need a Judeo-Christian alternative to government education.

Building better schools and giving parents real educational autonomy is the way to build a better future for this nation's children and the means to reclaim America's heritage. We must safeguard our children's innocence by opposing the false prophets of our day while constructing a viable alternative for them. This project entails returning to our first love, Judeo-Christian values, and our first principles of liberty and justice codified in the Declaration of Independence by imperfect but prescient men.

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