



CERF/CERA REPORT



MEMBER UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2021

Vol. 17, No. 3

An Educational Publication of Citizens Equal Rights Foundation and Citizens Equal Rights Alliance

“Systemic Racism” in America? NO!

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The media is replete these days with reports of “systemic racism” in the United States. Based on reports from some media sources an alien visiting the earth might conclude that the United States is a vast wasteland of “racism” where freedom and equal opportunity was and is always withheld and forever denied to all persons of color. From my perspective the reporting and spreading of such misinformation is unsupportable with any evidence and is unAmerican. I believe it is undeniable that America was not founded as a “racist” nation and is not “systemically racist” and I evidence the following.

To begin it must be understood that “systemic racism” as recently reported is a *theory* developed by sociologist Joe Feagin as a popular way of explaining, within the social sciences and humanities, the significance of race and racism both historically and in today’s world. While a *theory* may be *popular* it does not necessarily mean that any conclusions included in the *theory* are supported in the real *world* or in the United States.

While a *world theory* may be popular and interesting it must, when compared to actual events and history, prove itself supportable with data and facts. Based on its history the United States is not systemically racist. In support of my position I look to excerpts or refer to content from cherished historical documents unique to the United States and its founding.

Jamestown is popularly referenced as the founding of “racism” and slavery in America but there is little in Jamestown’s founding in 1607 to indicate that instituting or perpetuating “racism” or slavery was the reason or basis for Jamestown’s founding. To the contrary the founding was based on a perceived opportunity for a new beginning in a new world in the hope that a better life would be effected for the founders of Jamestown.

And an examination of the other well known founding in Plymouth, Massachusetts finds nothing to indicate those pilgrims sailing to North America in 1620 searching for religious freedom left their homes in Europe and settled in an unknown place to establish a “racist” nation. Excerpts from the Mayflower compact is included below.

The initial colonists at Jamestown were seeking a better life in a new colony and Plymouth’s founders were seeking freedom of religion and economic opportunity to improve their lives. They sought freedom and a better life at substantial risks with a dangerous ocean voyage and then settling in an unknown place. It is hardly plausible that establishing a “racist” nation was a priority in their seeking a better life and religious freedom in the founding of either Jamestown or Plymouth.

More colonists followed in the decades after Jamestown and Plymouth searching for freedom, economic opportunity and a new start in the New World of North America and eventually the American colonies came into existence. The decades following were not without trials, discord, and disagreement between the Colonists, their English King and his agents and in 1776 those separate diverse colonies united in freedom and declared their independence. From Our Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Nothing in that could be construed as the foundation for a “racist” nation or a nation intending to embrace, institute, and perpetuate “racism” systemically.

Federal Indian Policy is unaccountable, destructive, racist and unconstitutional. It is, therefore CERF and CERA’s mission to ensure the equal protection of the law as guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution of the United States.

In 1776 slavery in the Southern States was well established and is a well documented fact as part of our nation's early history. In 1787 at the Constitutional Convention the institution of slavery in the Southern States resulted in the three fifths compromise being included in the Constitution. An infamous compromise necessary for Southern states to agree to approve the new constitution. Without the Southern States approval it is doubtful the United States as we know it would exist. That unfortunate compromise included in the Constitution necessary to unite the United States in 1787 would eventually divide the United States in 1861.

That division came to a head in 1860 with the election of Abraham Lincoln. The attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861 and the secession of several Southern States in 1861 marked the beginning of the American Civil War. The Civil War would result in the nearly complete destruction of the slave holding Southern States and the human cost to the United States was over 1.5 million casualties with more than 620,000 killed. The costliest war in our history would see the emancipation of slaves by President Lincoln with his January 1, 1863 "Emancipation Proclamation" which would ultimately lead to the U.S. Constitution being amended immediately after the war to abolish slavery in the United States.

On November 19, 1863, in the third year of the war, President Lincoln delivered his famous Gettysburg Address that has resonated with generations of Americans through the decades. He began with these well known words:

*"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, **conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.**"*

And then he closed his historic address with these historic words:

*"It is rather for us to be here **dedicated to the great task remaining before us** – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – **that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom** – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."*

The powerful message delivered by President Lincoln at Gettysburg continues to remind Americans that the "Peoples" promise in the Constitution's preamble "to form a more perfect union" "**dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal**" had been honored during the Civil War at a horrific human cost to the nation. And further that this Nation, under God, have a new birth of freedom.

The victory of the United States in the Civil War in 1864 led to the quick adoption of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The 13th outlawed slavery, the 14th granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States and the 15th guaranteed the right to vote to all without respect to race, color, or previous condition of servitude. These amendments ushered in Lincoln's call for a "new birth of freedom" and initiated the Nation's "dedication to the great task that remained before us." A great task the Nation remains dedicated to in order "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." You would not expect to find amendments such as the 13th, 14th or 15th in the Constitution of a nation founded on racism and whose purpose is to preserve and expand racism.

Contrary to what many in the media would have us believe with their America is a "systemic racist" nation reporting, I believe that "We the People" remain dedicated to that great task set before us by President Lincoln. Unfortunately, there were States where the "great task" was not embraced or undertaken in the decades after the Civil War. Southern States passed and enforced separate but equal "Jim Crow" laws where former slaves and their descendants were discriminated against and separated from the Nation's promise of "all men are created equal." Those States' actions were antithetical to the rest of the Nation's dedication to the "all men are created equal" promise. The Nation continued to embrace the great task and major progress was made with significant changes in the military, with landmark Constitutional decisions from the Supreme Court, with passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, with additional federal legislation to the present and despite what you might hear or see in the media the racist "Jim Crow" era has passed into history.

Our Nation's 234 year dedication to a more perfect union is alive and well and evident in the most free and unique nation in the history of the world.

Our ongoing quest for freedom and equality for all is what makes the United States the number one destination for immigrants from all over the world. Rarely, if ever, do you hear media report that more people of color immigrate to the United States than to all the other countries in the world.

Why would so many people of color immigrate to a country that is “systemically racist?” Answer is, because the United States is not now and has never been a racist Nation. Certainly some States in our history were racist but the Nation was not founded on racism and has never as a Nation embraced racism as evidenced by the more than 620 thousand deaths and 1.5 million casualties suffered in the Civil War, the three post Civil War amendments, and changes in the Nation’s laws and policies to assure all citizens an equal opportunity to exercise their God given right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness regardless of race or ethnicity.

To be sure, the United States was founded on the proposition that all men are created equal. As a Nation, we remain dedicated to the great task of preserving freedom and equal opportunity for all and that Our government of the people, by the people, and for the people should not perish from the earth. We, as Americans, and our Nation are unique in the history of the world because freedom and equality was the basis of our founding and remains at the core of our ongoing journey to a more perfect union.

However, for all our efforts and progress Federal Indian Policy remains a “system of racism” which continues to evade all efforts to fulfill the promise of freedom and equality for all Americans. Regrettably, I now conclude with a brief venture into “Federal Indian Policy” which unfortunately remains a bastion of racist policies based solely on color and ethnicity. Federal Indian Policy is one part of our federal government where a group of people are isolated from the protections of the U.S. Constitution and other laws of the United States with a separate special set of federal laws for Indians based on race and ethnicity found at 25 U.S.C., a special section of our nation’s laws dedicated solely to Indians and their rights and privileges as Indians.

A reading and study of 25 U.S.C. reveals the entirety of 25 U.S.C. is devoted solely to Indians. The Congress has provided Indians with a separate Indian Civil Rights Act. However, there is no enforcement language in the Indian Civil Rights Act

and abuse by tribal governments to the Constitutional rights of tribal members is common. It is not clear why the 1964 Civil Rights Act is not sufficient for Indians.

Finally, until 25 U.S.C. is rescinded and Federal Indian Policy as currently administered is abolished Indians will continue to be excluded from the protections of the U.S. Constitution. Until Indians are included in our nation as equal and not separated because they are Indians our great task dedicated to a more perfect union will remain incomplete.

Eliminating an openly racist Federal Indian Policy is the last great task to complete the circle of the hope of freedom and the promise of equality expressed in the Declaration of Independence and adopted in the U.S. Constitution “that all men are created equal.” A more perfect union where all Americans live under one Constitution and one law without a set of separate laws for any American based on race or ethnicity or any other reason.

CERA remains proudly dedicated to that great task of freedom and equality for all based on our fidelity to the Constitution and to the memory of all those who have sacrificed in pursuit of that goal. Never let us forget that while the United States is not yet perfect it remains the only nation in the world conceived and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal and free and where the Nation remains dedicated to the task of perfecting our union so “that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.”

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