

CULTURAL MARXISM: HISTORY, COMPONENTS, IMPACTS & RESPONSE

Dr. Brad Alles • Concordia University Wisconsin • brad.alles@cuw.edu • bradalles.com

• Introduction

1. "(Cultural Marxists) realize that what is at stake is a struggle between two incompatible and irreconcilable worldviews. That is why they are resolute and implacably hostile toward anyone more traditional or conservative than themselves." (Jefrey Breshears, *A Brief History of Cultural Marxism and Political Correctness*)
2. Thomas Sowell (Stanford University): "The battlefield is everywhere, but especially where the young are being taught—from the elementary school to the university. The sins of the human race are being taught to them as the special depravities of the United States or of Western civilization."

HISTORY

• Classic Marxism's worldview

1. Assumption—No God & no Truth
2. Reality—Natural
3. Ethics—No sinful nature (Poor are good)
4. Answers—Evil due to oppression by powerful rich

• Antonio Gramsci

1. Italian political theorist (1891-1937)
2. Goal: change Western culture to accept Marxism
3. Developed Critical Theory—attack capitalism & Christianity (controls culture; too focused on afterlife)

• Georg Lukacs

1. Hungarian philosopher (1885-1971)
2. Favorite slogan: "Who will free us from the yoke of Western civilization?"
3. Started Institute of Social Research in 1923 in Frankfurt, Germany

• Frankfurt School

1. Nazis closed it in 1933
2. Moved to Columbia University
3. Spread Neo-Marxist view of West called Critical Theory

COMPONENTS

• Critical Theory

1. Criticize, dismantle & eventually command culture
 - *No Truth, just truth claims of dominant culture oppressing marginalized (cultural hegemony)*
 - *Tear institutions down (God, family, nation, capitalism...)*
2. Unrelenting attack on Western civilization alone
 - *"Founded" on aggression, oppression, racism, slavery, classism, & sexual repression*
 - *Traditionalists/conservatives are innately fascist; demented & dangerous ("phobias")*

• Critical Legal Theory

1. Law biased for oppressors who created laws
2. Overturn society from legal perspective
3. Attacks Enlightenment ideas—law protects individuals (equal protection, free speech, property rights...)

• Critical Race Theory

1. Race as prism to analyze America
2. Economy, law, society privileges whites (white supremacy)
3. Racism explains inequality of outcomes (focus on outcomes, not opportunities)

• Social Justice as rival religion to Christianity

1. Oxford Dictionary definition: distribution of privilege, opportunities, & wealth
2. Explains life & gives purpose—advocate for oppressed
 - *Oppressed shouldn't adhere to oppressor's culture (impedes revolution)*
3. Provides moral absolute where opponents confess "sin" but no forgiveness

• Critical Theory & sexual liberation

1. Manmade codes are just socially determined
2. Society hindered by sexual repression; leads to anxiety & frustration
3. Charge opponents with "___phobia" (clash of moralities)

IMPACTS

• Religious freedom as problem

Martin Castro, chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights: “The phrases ‘religious liberty’ and ‘religious freedom’ will stand for nothing except hypocrisy so long as they remain code words for discrimination, intolerance, racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, Christian supremacy or any form of intolerance.”

• Free speech vs. repressive tolerance

1. Herbert Marcuse’s “Repressive Tolerance” (1965)
2. Need “intolerance against movements from the right, and toleration of movements from the left”
“restraining the liberty of the right” “strengthening the oppressed against the oppressors.”
3. Legacy: cancel culture

• NEA approval for funding (July, 2021)

1. “Increasing the implementation” of “critical race theory” in K-12 curricula
2. Promoting CRT in local school districts
- *Develop a study to critique “empire, white supremacy, anti-Blackness, anti-Indigeneity, racism, patriarchy, cisheteropatriarchy, capitalism, ableism, [and] anthropocentrism”*
3. Attacking opponents of CRT, including parent organizations & conservative research centers

RESPONSE

• Christian duties in kingdom of left hand (state)

1. Obedient (1 Pe 2:13-17)
2. Praying (1 Ti 2:1-2)
3. Informed & involved (Je 29:7)

• Philosophical

1. Ask basis for judging morality & culture
2. Ask about individual or collective responsibility

• Political

1. Ask what replaces Western culture? (Critical Theory is one-way street)
2. Explain tribalism (not multiracial democracy) is norm—Iraq, India, Yugoslavia...
3. Share Freedom House survey of 194 nations (38% free, 28% mostly free, 34% not free)
- *Free nations almost exclusively due to Western civilization (Not free mostly non-Western)*

• Logical

1. Explain more opportunity & higher standard of living here
- *Asian Americans—Highest % with college degrees & highest average income level (US Census Bureau)*
2. Explain more legal immigrants than any other country (4x more than Germany in 2nd place—UN)
3. Note loaded questions (“Disagreeing with white supremacy charge proves racism”)

• Legal

1. Use Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)—allows review of instructional materials
2. Use Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)—informs how materials were approved & implemented
3. Fight for rights in lawsuits—eliminate scapegoating or stereotyping
- *1st Amendment (free and no compelled speech; freedom of religion)*
- *14th Amendment (equal protection under law) - Civil Rights Act (no discriminating on race, religion, sex...)*

• Civil

1. Communicate & coordinate with others
2. Support police (*Washington Post*)
- *10 million+ arrests annually (7.4 million whites)*
- *1000+ killed by police—370 Whites, 235 Blacks (13 unarmed--2019)*
- *56,000+ assaults against officers (17,000+ injured); 306 killed (2020)*

• Practical

1. Explain success not evenly distributed among individuals/groups (*Discrimination & Disparities* by Thomas Sowell)
- *Parental education* - *Parental attention* - *Socioeconomic level* - *Environment*
- *Birth order* - *Intelligence* - *Priorities* - *Resiliency*
2. Emphasize “Success Sequence” (Brookings Institute)—97% of Millennials from all groups not in poverty if they
- *Graduate high school* - *Work fulltime* - *Get married* - *Have children*
3. Emphasize excellence, hard work, discipline, individual responsibility

• Remember

1. Know their worldview & “gap in the map”
2. Offer positive alternative centered on Christ & reality—race, class, gender united in Christ (Galatians 3:28)

- **Resources**

Critical Race Theory, the New Intolerance, and Its Grip on America by Jonathan Butcher & Mike Gonzalez

Cynical Theories by James Lindsey & Helen Pluckrose

Responding to Social Justice and Critical Race Theory by Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford

<https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/critical-race-theory-fight/>

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/06/07/my-woke-employees-tried-to-cancel-me-heres-how-i-fought-back-and-saved-my-nonprofit>

<https://shenviapologetics.com/book-reviews/>

<https://christopherrufo.com/what-i-found-about-critical-race-theory-and-why-it-shouldnt-be-taught/>

<https://christopherrufo.com/the-enablers/>

<https://www.glennbeck.com/glenn-beck-podcast/critical-race-theory-explained-how-to-stop-it-voddie-baucham-ep-109>