

The A-word in Our Schools

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Banning “Critical Race Theory” in public schools and other government institutions seems like such a good idea that when you read Scott Shackford’s headline at *Reason*, “Don’t Ban Critical Race Theory in Education. Embrace School Choice Instead,” many a reader may balk.

“Conservatives in Florida, Idaho, and the nation’s capitol are attempting to block public schools from teaching Critical Race Theory,” Shackford writes, describing CRT as “an ideology that holds that racism is historically fundamental to how America’s political,

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legal, and cultural institutions are structured.” His problem with this political move is that it is “an authoritarian proposal that would cut off classroom debate about hot-button political issues.”

My issues really begin with the a-word.

From what I can tell, CRT is itself authoritarian, and groupthink-oriented, class-based and generally racist.



The program looks designed to implement a sort of Cultural Revolution indoctrination-and-social control system into American institutions, definitely *not* to encourage “classroom debate.”

While Shackford makes the obvious point that America’s past institutional make-up was indeed racist and structurally so, and that learning this is important for a decent education, CRT *did not add this* to “the debate.” This has been widely acknowledged for years.

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Though Shackford’s main point — that we should take the occasion to offer the best way out, “school choice” — is indeed a great one, letting socialist radicals and weak-minded educrats enshrine *a racist theory about racism* into public institutions amounts to a kind of brinkmanship, a “collapsitarian” approach.

Couldn’t we put government education’s allotted doom on the back burner, stop teaching CRT or other woke indoctrination, and *also* empower parents and students with freedom of choice?

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.