

Why Afrocentricity? The Importance of an African- Centered Approach in Anti- Racism

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Moderated by Dr. Jason Cox

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What is it?

- African-Centered Paradigm: provides a framework for the centering of knowledge about Africans, at home and abroad, on the experience of Africans as **subjects** of history. (C.T Keto.)
- Afrocentricity: placing African ideals at the center of any analysis that involves African culture and behavior. (M. Asante.)

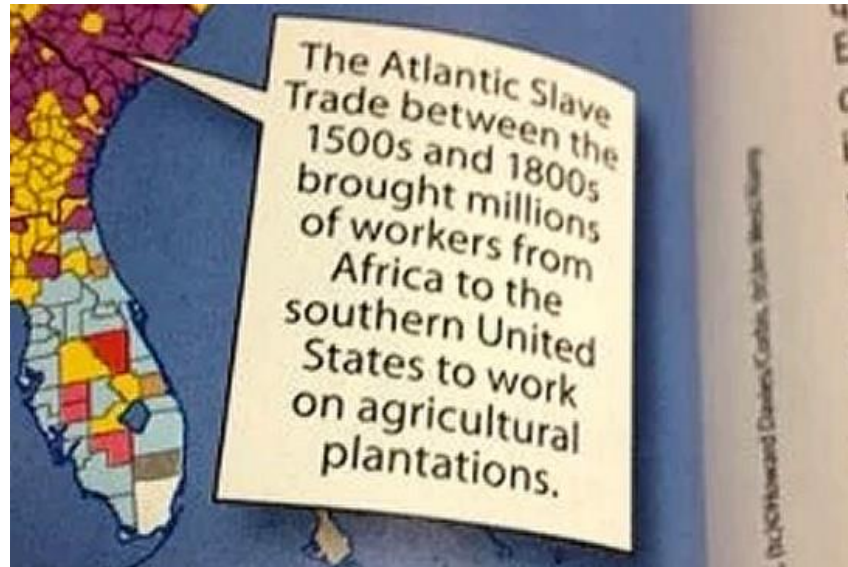
Why Does it Matter?

- “The Negro exhibits the natural man in his completely wild and untamed state... for Africa is no historical part of the world; it has no movement or development to exhibit.”- Hegel
- “I am apt to suspect the Negroes... to be naturally inferior to Whites.”- David Hume

Why Does it Matter (Cntd)

- free blacks were “pests in society” “as incapable as children of taking care of themselves... never seen an elementary trait of painting or sculpture or poetry among blacks” and argued that blacks’ ability to “reason” was “much inferior” to whites’, while “in imagination they are dull, tasteless, and anomalous”- Thomas Jefferson
- “There is only the history of Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness... the unedifying gyrations of barbarous tribes in picturesque but irrelevant corners of the globe.”= Hugh Trevor-Roper

Contemporary Erasure



Carolina bringing cotton in from the fields. At least at the head of the line is probably the foreman.

exhaustion. And failure to perform up to expectations could lead to a whipping.

But the "peculiar institution," as Southerners came to call it, like all human institutions should not be oversimplified. While there were cruel masters who maimed or even killed their slaves (although killing and maiming were against the law in every state), there were also kind and generous owners. The institution was as complex as the people involved. Though most slaves were whipped at some point in their lives, a few never felt the lash. Nor did all slaves work in the fields. Some were house servants or skilled artisans. Many may not have even been terribly unhappy with their lot, for they knew no other. But certainly others were, as the Nat Turner revolt revealed. And there were many

How Did We Get Here?

- “...The parts of the world inhabited by the Caucasian were treated in detail. Less attention was given to the yellow people, still less to the red, very little to the brown, and practically none to the Black race.”-Woodson
- “To handicap a student by teaching him that his black face is a curse and that his struggle to change his conditions is hopeless is the worst sort of lynching.”

As a Result...

- Intellectual Marginalization
- Perpetuated Inferiority
- Ingrained Notions of Self-Deficiency
- Eurocentrism as Universalism
- Absence of Nuanced Contextualization
- Erasure

Why Culturally Specific Education?

- “Solutions that do not engage cultural identity will be ineffective at best and detrimental at least. The historical legacy of racial construction in America impacts generational relationships, health, and safety, peer pressure, family structures, material culture, and educational quality. This African American history underscores the limitations and promise of community engagement and partnerships.”

- Colette M. Taylor

Desired Outcomes

- Undoing Engrained Racism
- Representation
- Historical Rectification
- Pluriversalism > Universalism



Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg 
@TheRaDR

We need diverse representation not only so every kid can see themselves as the hero of the story, but so that every kid can understand that *other* kinds of kids are *also* the heroes of the story.

7:44 AM · 12/2/18 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

9,903 Retweets 34.3K Likes

Presentation Resources

- *Why Afrocentricity?* Lecture by Presenter (YouTube Video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiX6gSATxps&t=39s>
- *Miseducation of the Negro*- **Carter G Woodson**
- *Vision and Time: Historical Perspective of an Africa-Centered Paradigm*- **T C Keto**
- *African Americans and Community Engagement in Higher Education: Community Service, Service-Learning, and Community-Based Research* - [Stephanie Y. Evans](#) (Editor), [Colette M. Taylor](#) (Editor),
[Michelle R. Dunlap](#) (Editor), [DeMond S. Miller](#) (Editor)