

Spark of George Floyd & The “Anti White Movement” 2020 [Pandemic Era]

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decolonization_of_public_space

[Mni Sóta Makoce] Beautiful Saying.

Following the murder of George Floyd in 2020, "decolonization" became a more visible concept in parts of American public discourse, particularly in higher education, museums, nonprofits, some government agencies, and activist organizations. It was one of several methods discussed alongside racial justice, equity, and historical reexamination.

Some of the most prominent movements and initiatives included:

Land Back

Led primarily by Indigenous activists, the Land Back movement advocates for the return or co-management of certain lands to Indigenous nations, honoring treaties, and expanding tribal sovereignty.

Decolonize This Place

Decolonize This Place is an activist collective founded before 2020 that became more visible during this period. Its campaigns have included:

- *Museum governance*
- *Policing*
- *Housing*
- *Indigenous rights*
- *Palestinian solidarity*
- *Labor issues*

Decolonizing Education

Many schools and universities launched efforts described as:

- *Decolonizing the curriculum*
- *Diversifying reading lists*
- *Expanding Indigenous studies*
- *Expanding African American studies*
- *Reexamining historical narratives*
- *Reviewing campus names and symbols*

Museum Decolonization

Museums increasingly:

- *Reassessed exhibits about colonialism.*
- *Consulted with Indigenous communities.*
- *Returned some cultural artifacts and human remains.*
- *Revised exhibit language and interpretation.*

Public Monuments

Following the 2020 protests:

- *Numerous Confederate monuments were removed.*
- *Some statues of figures associated with colonialism or slavery were removed or relocated.*
- *Communities debated monuments to figures such as Christopher Columbus and other historical leaders.*

Indigenous Rights Organizations

Several existing organizations received greater public attention, including:

- *National Congress of American Indians*
- *Native American Rights Fund*
- *IllumiNative*

DEI and Institutional Change

Many corporations, universities, and public agencies expanded initiatives related to:

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)*
- *Anti-racism training*
- *Equity assessments*
- *Inclusive hiring*
- *Historical acknowledgments, including land acknowledgments*

Some institutions described parts of these efforts as "decolonizing" institutional practices.

Related Activist Organizations

Although they are not themselves "decolonization movements," some organizations and networks active during the same period engaged with decolonization concepts or collaborated on related issues:

- *Movement for Black Lives*
- *Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation*
- *Environmental justice organizations*
- *Indigenous youth organizations*
- *Community mutual aid groups*

Areas of Debate

The term "decolonization" has been used in different ways, leading to significant debate:

- *Some view it as a method for addressing historical injustices, strengthening Indigenous sovereignty, and broadening historical perspectives.*
- *Others argue that certain uses of the concept can become overly ideological, may oversimplify complex history, or may create new divisions.*
- *Specific proposals—such as changes to school curricula, monument removals, or land policies—have often been debated on their own merits rather than accepted or rejected simply because they are labeled "decolonization."*

Because of this diversity, "decolonization" in the United States after 2020 referred not to a single coordinated movement but to a set of initiatives and ideas that emerged across education, culture, public policy, and activism.

Union of Saint's Opinion

Poses a threat to culture, identity, race, and nation. It is often highly ideological and, reflects an incomplete understanding of colonialism. Colonialism is the replacement or domination of one culture by another. It is not simply a historical phenomenon but also occurs in the present.

These movements often target White Americans while avoiding discussions about mass immigration, modern slavery, cultural preservation, and demographic change. Union of Saint's instead discusses moderate conservatism, mediation, and peace education because we believe that softer, more balanced approaches to peace are the better path forward.

At present, much historical context is missing from these discussions. Within left-leaning spaces, anti-White racism and hostility have become radically apparent. Worse, many White Americans are targeted, suppressed, marginalized, enslaved or exploited, while accountability for these issues is akin to pulling teeth.

These movements are often reactionary, yet they miss the bigger picture, including the harm they themselves may contribute to or perpetuate. Erasing history does not change it; it simply makes it more difficult for us to understand, learn from, and avoid repeating it. As an Acadian, I know firsthand what historical erasure can do. I did not learn my own Acadian history until I

was forty years old. This experience taught me that denying or neglecting history prevents people from fully understanding themselves, their heritage, and their place in the world.

Furthermore, holding people today responsible for what their potential ancestors may have done twenty or more generations ago is, a significant misstep. It does little to advance our shared humanity, and it is something that people around the world are increasingly paying attention to. Ideological revenge movements, pose a serious threat to humanity. We have witnessed increasing social division, violence and tragedy. Extreme political polarization is precisely what fuels war. It does not strengthen a nation or serve its primary purpose of protecting its people.

I am an ethnic White American. If a movement is not committed to protecting all people equally, including White Americans, but instead seeks to justify harm through revenge politics, resentment, or hatred, then it is not a movement that represents me.

The aftermath of the George Floyd protests is an important part of this discussion, yet also, the Covid-19 pandemic. How was hatred, revenge, and the pandemic used as a motivation for these movements to get ahead? Where else have our vulnerabilities been exploited? While many demonstrations were peaceful, we also witnessed riots, violence, property destruction, injuries, manufactured events, fraud, fires and lives lost.

*For these reasons, these movements have proven detrimental to the United States and have contributed to unnecessary division and loss of life. Their cost, including lives lost, have outweighed their benefit. And frankly, **we're sick and tired of it.***