

A publicly identified “critical race theorist,<sup>1</sup>” Professor Cartagena’s primary output consists of ***left-wing racial politics laundered through a patina of “Christianese.”*** To advance this agenda, he employs *faulty theological arguments (frequently of a racialized nature)* and *racialized political statements*. For example, a factual claim about racist syncretism within Christianity at points in American history is used with a broad brush to implicate every white Christian with racism.

This report is not comprehensive. A comprehensive examination of Professor Cartagena would likely run for dozens, possibly hundreds, of pages.

Some of the most outrageous examples of statements by Professor Cartagena include:

- Declaring his calling to “Love and Serve the Church as a Race Scholar.”
- Linking “Christ’s broken body” and “white nationalism.”
- Comparing President Trump to Pharaoh.
- Claiming “White Supremacy has Infiltrated American Christian Theology”
- Use of the pseudo-phrase “Pigmentocracies.”
- Favorable Quotations of Radical Authors such as Angela Davis and Paolo Freire.

## “God Has Called Me to Love and Serve the Church as a Race Scholar”

In a blog post entitled “Porque Mestizo?,<sup>2</sup>” Professor Cartagena makes the following statement about how his family background interacts with his professional experience:

*“The pain of not belonging to any group characterized my childhood and plagues me still. And I’m keenly aware that my Trinitarian adoption into the Church is another facet of my mestizaje. I am not merely the son of the Cartagenas and Smiths. I’m a child of God. And **God has called me to love and serve the Church as a race scholar.** This calling, like my family heritages, requires inhabiting competing and contested traditions, each occupied by those challenging my place among them. “How can you write on Thomas Aquinas and Critical Race Theory?””*

No single statement encapsulates Professor Cartagena’s worldview so succinctly.

## “Race Conscious’ Salt and Light”

In a 2021 interview with Sojourners Magazine<sup>3</sup>, about how he mixes critical race theory into more traditional Christian scholarship, Professor Cartagena makes the following comparison:

***“Some Christians have suggested we should “eat the meat and spit out the bones,” or take the good and discard the bad, of critical race theory. How does that approach strike you?***

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sojo.net/articles/why-nathan-cartagena-teaches-critical-race-theory-evangelicals>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/strongpor-qu-mestizo-why-mestizo-strong>;

<sup>3</sup> <https://sojo.net/articles/why-nathan-cartagena-teaches-critical-race-theory-evangelicals>

*I think one of my concerns is it still seems a bit too domineering. I worry about the ways in which we're presenting stuff as that which we can plunder, that which we can devour, etc.*

*I prefer to go with the following metaphor that you get from [Boethius and Aquinas](#). They talk about **turning philosophical water into theological wine**. That would mean that something like CRT, the movement, is going to be nourishing and life-giving in a way that water is. Then, I want to fit [CRT] in with certain ideas about being made in the image of God, common grace, and general revelation. As we talk about "theological wine," we are seeing this nourishing "water" as now being in contact with Christ. It's Christ, a member of the Trinity, that's taking this up and helping us to see how we can view God's creation better. CRT scholars are helping us to think through how to move in more decolonial ways and address the church's egregious history.*

*If we're in a racialized world, and we get dog-whistle politics, Southern strategies, and so forth from the GOP, part of **what it means to be an agent that's salt and light in that world is recognizing, in a race-conscious way**, all of these very subtle — and sometimes, of course, overt — modes of racism."*

While racism is one form of injustice against which Christians should stand, Professor Cartagena mangles scripture to elevate it above all other forms of injustice.

## “Historic Linking of Christ’s Broken Body to Redemptive Conceptions of Whiteness and White Nationalism”

In a blog post<sup>4</sup> ostensibly aimed at discussing an act of racist vandalism, Professor Cartagena states the following:

*“Whereas Christ’s covenantal body was broken to redeem people from every racialized community, this racist vandalism draws upon **the historic linking of Christ’s broken body to redemptive conceptions of whiteness and white nationalism**. Indeed, we students of U.S. racial history recognize the racist symbolic importance of placing white spray paint championing white pride over something black.”*

While it’s true that some Christian denominations have twisted scripture to rationalize questionable racial views, Professor Cartagena’s blanket statements about “whiteness” do the same thing in the other direction.

## Trump as Pharaoh

In a blog post,<sup>5</sup> “Exodus 5 through Chicana/o Eyes,” Professor Cartagena endorses a comparison of President Trump to Pharaoh:

*“Romero is chiding president Trump, **calling the president to see himself for the Pharaoh he is**. If only president Trump could see with Chicana/o eyes!”*

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/white-supremacy-naperville-style>;

<sup>5</sup><https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/exodus-5-through-chicanao-eyes>;

Any comparison between modern day illegal immigration and the captivity of Ancient Israelites is a categorical error that overlooks the fact that the latter were originally invited<sup>6</sup>.

## “Wed Christianity and White Supremacy”

In a discussion of “Law and Order Then and Now,”<sup>7</sup> Professor Cartagena claims Christianity and Racism have been in league with each other for centuries:

*“Notice that Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and Trump employ Christian rhetoric and symbols to spread their racist calls. Notice **their efforts to wed Christianity and white supremacy. Or, more accurately, notice their efforts to remind us of the centuries-old marriage these two have had.**”*

## “White Supremacy has Infiltrated American Christian Theology”

In “A Good Word,”<sup>8</sup> Professor Cartagena approvingly quotes a claim that white supremacy has ‘infiltrated’ the American Church:

*“In fact as I have been studying the history of the American church I see what happens when we allow secular ideology to influence our theology. We have already followed the cultural practices of the world. No **I am not talking about cultural marxism, dear family. I am referring to White supremacy. This secular ideology has infiltrated American Christian theology to the point where leaders cannot distinguish between what is white, what is American, and what is Christian.** We have conflated whiteness with Christianity so much that when challenged with whiteness, some will feel like their faith has been threatened.”*

## “Sinful Blathering About Marxism”

Discussing “Karl Marx,”<sup>9</sup> Professor Cartagena accuses Christians that object to Marxism of “sinful blather”:

*“I’ll be blunt: **There’s a lot of sinful blathering about Marxism** (as if it were one thing or there were one Marxist school of thought!), cultural Marxism, and Karl Marx swirling around white evangelical Christian communions. Most of this drivell comes from folks who’ve not spent one hour reading Marx or self-identified Marxist authors, but who eagerly regurgitate anti-Marxist rhetoric and the Christianize-garnish that accompanies it. Those who served—and/or continue to serve—this grotesquely unjust dish have failed to follow biblical commands about neighbor-love.”*

In this circumstance, Professor Cartagena’s use of the word ‘sinful’ is an attempt to shut down discussion and dismiss reasonable concerns about an ideology that is antithetical to Scripture.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2045%3A16-47%3A27&version=NKJV>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/stronglaw-and-order-then-and-nowstrong>;

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/a-good-word>;

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/k35iky2ueco7vax6vgtxgmjtfvmcq>;

## “Pigmentocracies”

In his 2020 article<sup>10</sup>, “What Christians Get Wrong About Critical Race Theory – Part I,” Professor Cartagena accuses European nations of creating “pigmentocracies”:

*“With this presumption, Britain, France, Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands—the major European colonizing empires—constructed pigmentocracies, countries and governments by and for people deemed White. Slave codes, the 1790 Naturalization Act, Johnson v. McIntosh (1823), The Greaser Act (1855), Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857), The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882), Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), and Ozawa v. United States (1922) betray the United States as a white nationalist project at its inception and reveal the lengths people went to maintain this racial identity.*

....

*Because marginalization and oppression in pigmentocracies operate along racialized lines, Christians should share the common interests of critical race theorists.”*

## “No Racialized Group is More Criminalized”

Discussing the case of Ahmed Arbury<sup>11</sup>, Professor Cartagena approvingly quotes the following claim:

*“No racialized group is more criminalized, killed by homicide, or isolated from society as Black males.”*

## “A Colossal Work of Anti-Racism”

In his review of one of Ibram X. Kendi’s books<sup>12</sup>, Professor Cartagena states:

*“Ibram X. Kendi’s Stamped from the Beginning is a colossal work of antiracism. The book offers a sweeping history of racist ideas in the U.S.—“from their origins in fifteenth-century Europe, through colonial times when the early British settlers carried racist ideas to America, all the way to the twenty-first century and current debates about the events taking place on our streets.” At each turn, Kendi provides penetrating antiracist critiques of these ideas and the practices they empower. Surely, we are in Kendi’s debt.”*

Ironically, Cartagena then argues that Kendi’s work is insufficiently intersectional. Nevertheless, to describe Kendi in such glowing terms speaks volumes regarding his worldview.

## Using Professor’s Platform to Promote Racialized Ideology

Professor Cartagena’s page<sup>13</sup> on the website “ratemyprofessors.com” contains numerous references to his relentless focus on race and racism in his classroom. Examples include:

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<sup>10</sup> <https://faithfullymagazine.com/critical-race-theory-christians/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/the-arbery-case-a-conversation-on-race-amp-faith;>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.nathancartagena.com/blog/strongan-antiracist-critique-of-emstamped-form-the-beginningemstrong;>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/professor/2411149>

*“[V]ery passionate to educate on the history of racism in the US.”*

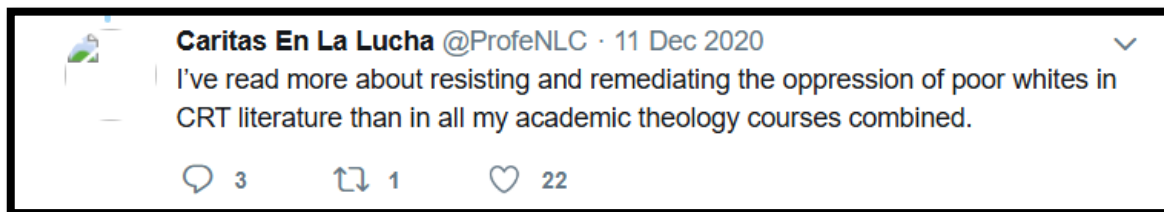
*“[H]is entire class discusses white parties oppressing non-white parties. I have never seen him change his opinion and discourse only furthers his stances.”*

*“[E]xtremely helpful perspective on race in America.”*

*“Race/Justice - we go from modern CRT scholars to Aquinas, analyzing race and racism from a largely Christian perspective.”*

## Using Social Media to Promote Far-Left Ideology

In addition to his blogging and scholarly histories, Professor Cartagena has an extensive history of using social media to promote far left views. While Professor Cartagena has deleted his Twitter account, many of his tweets have been captured by the Internet Archive WayBack Machine.



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<sup>14</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20211123054756/https://twitter.com/ProfeNLC/status/1337576797664407556>

**Caritas En La Lucha**  
@ProfeNLC

Amen. Exactamente.

Preach, hermano. Preach.

**political.education in black** @RenyTure  
The Liberatory question: "how has colonialism and imperialism stripped us of our culture and being, and what methods and strategies constitute its destruction?"

The Liberal question: "how has discrimination stripped me of equality and gaining..."

6:02 PM - 11 Feb 2021

11 Retweets 58 Likes

15

**Caritas En La Lucha**  
@ProfeNLC

"A deepened consciousness of their situation leads people to apprehend that situation as an historical reality susceptible of transformation."  
- Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

10:16 AM - 10 Aug 2020

1 Retweet 4 Likes

16

**Caritas En La Lucha**  
@ProfeNLC

Once more for the folks in the back:

Robin DiAngelo isn't a Critical Race Theorist.

(To self: "But folks are making lots of money speaking to white churches by suggesting she is.")

5:37 AM - 19 Feb 2021

7 Retweets 97 Likes

17

**Caritas En La Lucha**  
@ProfeNLC

Short Quotation Thread:

"The educated individual is the adapted person, because she or he is better 'fit' for the world..."

10:39 AM - 10 Aug 2020

1 Retweet 1 Like

**Caritas En La Lucha** @ProfeNLC · 10 Aug 2020  
...Translated into practice, this concept is well suited to the purposes of the oppressors, whose tranquility rests on how well people fit the world the oppressors have created, and how little they question it."  
-Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

2 Retweets 3 Likes

18

**Caritas En La Lucha**  
@ProfeNLC

And tomorrow countless US Christians will deny the evils of their President failing to denounce white supremacy.

I hear them now: "The real problem is Critical Race Theory and [insert racist trope]."

Lord help us.

8:25 PM - 29 Sep 2020

2 Retweets 30 Likes

19

**Caritas En La Lucha**  
@ProfeNLC

Here's a thread I wrote listing some books on/in critical race theory. Enjoy.

**Caritas En La Lucha** @ProfeNLC  
Replying to @faithfullymag @lisasharper  
I'll reply with a thread.  
I encourage starting with this book by Derrick Bell.

4:15 PM - 10 Dec 2020

2 Retweets 8 Likes

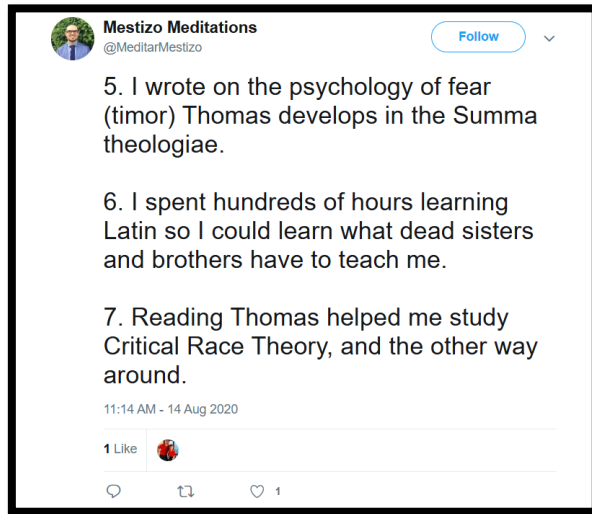
20

<sup>15</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20210830162817/https://twitter.com/ProfeNLC/status/1360046470473383938>

<sup>16</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20210914225248/https://twitter.com/ProfeNLC/status/1292872359624552450>



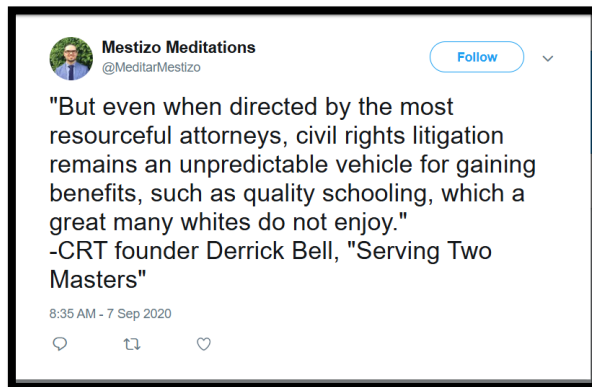
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<sup>17</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20211213211840/https://twitter.com/ProfeNLC/status/1362758318029238278>

<sup>18</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20210919195346/https://twitter.com/ProfeNLC/status/1292878193813344257>

<sup>19</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20211101171354/https://twitter.com/ProfeNLC/status/1311145018904768517>

<sup>20</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20211123010519/https://twitter.com/ProfeNLC/status/1337189215516438531>

<sup>21</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20200625160208/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1276173939568529410>

<sup>22</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20200814181726/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1294336612378324992>

<sup>23</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20201202023706/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1333962639161094144>

<sup>24</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20200907153719/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1302993936856895497>

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo · 48m  
Crenshaw's critique of Thomas Sowell is damning.

2 4

**Curt Kennedy** @imcurtkennedy · 11m  
Where can I read or hear this critique?

1

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo Follow

Replying to @imcurtkennedy

See Crenshaw's essay "Race, Reform, Retrenchment."

8:46 PM - 12 Sep 2020

1 Like

25

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo · 30. Dez.

Willie Jennings' discussion of the racial paterfamilias in "After Whiteness" takes on a richer meaning when you recall that William Perkins (1590) justified slavery in Mass. through a racist interpretation of Paul's teachings on families in Ephesians. /1

2 26

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo Folgen

In "Ordering a Familie," Perkins writes that "Though the servant in regard of faith and the inner man be equal to his master, in regard of the outward man...the master is above the servant."

Perkins situates this racist master-servant/slave within a vision of a godly family. /2

09:03 - 30. Dez. 2020

12 „Gefällt mir“-Angaben

26

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo · 39 Min.

Second: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me...'." "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" (Matt. 23:40, 45)/2

1 6

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo Folgen

See how Matthew 23 builds on Proverbs 19?

Now consider this final quotation:

"In the era of neoliberalism...Americans were trained to see poverty as a behavioral issue primarily concerning minorities, the "underclass," individuals with low IQ, and single mothers." -Paul Ortiz

16:34 - 15. Dez. 2020

27

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo · 2 Min.

"Most Northern whites do not oppose desegregation in the abstract. What they resist is the price of desegregation."

-Derrick Bell

1 8

**Mestizo Meditations** @MeditarMestizo Folgen

"Moreover, most public school desegregation plans do not affect upper middle-class white families who live in the suburbs or whose children attend private schools. College admissions are another matter..."

-Derrick Bell

17:34 - 5. Jan. 2021

28

<sup>25</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20200913035003/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1304989775435366400>

<sup>26</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20201231191015/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1344328295270273024>

<sup>27</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20201216011004/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1339005840955682816>

<sup>28</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20210106013503/https://twitter.com/MeditarMestizo/status/1346631257590018050>