

4 Facts That Prove the '1619 Project' Is a Total Farce

Backed by federal and corporate funding, the New York Times' "1619 Project" is being implemented in public schools and corporate settings throughout America. This is tragic for this teaching is producing a generation that despises and hates America.

Proponents are using this twisted history to groom a generation for the fundamental transformation of America into a socialist/Marxist state.

The "1619 Project" claims that 1619, when the first African slaves were brought to this land, was the true founding of America, not 1776. According to this narrative, America's founders were evil slaveholders who founded the country to protect slavery and their own wealth. America was forever defined by slavery and is racist and corrupt at its very core.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who spent eight years in a Soviet labor camp, said, "To destroy a people you must first sever their roots." This is the goal of the "1619 Project"—to destroy the America of Washington, Madison, Jefferson, Lincoln and King. They are doing this by rewriting America's history and severing her from her roots of faith and freedom.

Slavery is certainly a blight on America's history, but the 1619 narrative is a distortion of the facts. Here are four simple facts that show the "1619 Project" to be a total farce.

Fact No. 1 – Slavery Was Not Unique to America. The propagators of this teaching would have us think that slavery is unique with America. However, slavery has been practiced by many peoples and civilizations for thousands of years. Slavery was being practiced in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and many parts of the world when the first African slaves were brought

to America in 1619.

This is why the late Dr. Walter E. Williams, who was Professor of Economics at George Mason University, said that slavery in America was neither odd nor strange. He pointed out that at the beginning of the nineteenth century, "An estimated three-quarters of all people alive were trapped in bondage against their will either in some form of slavery or serfdom" (Hyatt, "America's Revival Heritage 2nd Edition," 89).

Williams pointed out that what was unique about slavery in America was both the brevity of its existence and the moral outrage that arose against it. The late historians, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Eugene Genovese, agreed, saying:

"Europeans (and Americans) did not outdo others in enslaving people or treating slaves viciously. They outdid others by creating a Christian civilization that eventually stirred moral condemnation of slavery and roused mass movements against it" (Hyatt, "America's Revival Heritage 2nd Edition," 57).

Fact No. 2 – America's Founders Turned Against Slavery.

Contrary to a thesis of the "1619 Project," America's founders turned against slavery at a time it was accepted and practiced in most of the world. The occasion for this anti-slavery movement was the Great Awakening, beginning in 1726, which spiritually and morally transformed colonial America. Dr. Thomas Sowell, who happens to be Black, has written of this, saying:

"Slavery was just not an issue, not even among intellectuals, much less among political leaders, until the 18th century—and then it was an issue only in Western civilization. Among those who turned against slavery in the 18th century were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and other American leaders. You could research all of 18th century Africa or Asia or the Middle East without finding any comparable rejection of

slavery there" (Hyatt, "1726: The Year that Defined America," 90).

For example, Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, who was a founding father, member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, helped form America's first abolition society in his hometown. He called on the ministers of America to take a bold stand against slavery, saying, "Slavery is a Hydra sin and includes in it every violation of the precepts of the Laws and the Gospels" (Hyatt, "1726: The Year that Defined America," 101).

Benjamin Franklin called slavery "an atrocious debasement of human nature." Two years before the Constitutional Convention, liberated his two slaves and began advocating for abolition. He joined the abolition society in Philadelphia and later served as its president.

George Washington, in a letter to Robert Morris, dated April 12, 1786, said, "There is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of slavery." Before his death, he devised a personal plan to completely rid Mt. Vernon of slavery. In a conversation with John Bernard concerning abolition, Washington declared:

"Not only do I pray for it, on the score of human dignity, but I can clearly foresee that nothing but the rooting out of slavery can perpetuate the existence of our union by consolidating it in a common bond of principle" (Hyatt, "Abolitionist Founding Fathers," 42).

By the time of the writing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Constitution in 1787, virtually every founder agreed with John Adams who declared:

"Every measure of prudence ought to be assumed for the eventual total extirpation of slavery from the United States. I have throughout my whole life held the practice of slavery in abhorrence" (Hyatt, "1726: The Year that Defined America,"

101).

Yes, America's founders were at the forefront of the fight to end slavery in the 18th century.

Fact No. 3 – America's Founding Documents Are Colorblind.

Because of the Great Awakening and the antislavery sentiments it produced, there are no classifications based on race or skin color in America's founding documents. The words "slave" and "slavery" are nowhere to be found. This was purposeful for James Madison said, "The Convention thought it wrong to admit in the Constitution the idea that there could be property in men."

There is nothing in either the Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution to indicate that the freedoms guaranteed therein do not apply to every individual. Indeed, from the beginning, abolitionists used the founding documents in their fight against slavery and inequality.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) understood this and in his stirring, "I Have a Dream speech," he challenged America, not to dispense with her founding documents, but to live up to them. Speaking from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he declared:

"When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the 'unalienable Rights' of 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'"

Then quoting from the Declaration of Independence, he proclaimed:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be

self-evident, that all men are created equal'" (Hyatt, "1726:The Year that Defined America," 122).

Yes, America's founding documents are colorblind even if her history has not been.

Fact No. 4 – The Testimony of Frederick Douglass and Dr. King

 Writing in 1963 from the Birmingham City Jail where he had been incarcerated, Dr. King expressed his conviction that his fight for civil rights would succeed because of America's unique heritage. He wrote:

'Our destiny is tied up with the destiny of America . . . We will win our freedom because the 'sacred heritage' of our nation and the eternal will of God are embodied in our echoing demands.'

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Dr. Eddie Hyatt is the founder of the "1726 Project," which is dedicated to educating the American populace about the nation's roots in faith and freedom. He is the author of several books on the topic, including *1726: The Year that Defined America*, from which this article was primarily derived, and available from Amazon and his website at .