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OPINION

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They Hope to Destroy the Truth

Living within a lie

BY OSCAR H. BLAYTON

Even a person who does not believe a lie may be forced to live within it.

For generations, people of color, while not believing in white supremacy, have been forced to live as if it was real. And we are still forced to live that way today.

But the one glimmer of hope shining through the toxic cloud of racist lies enveloping the world for more than 500 years is truth. And critical race theory is one means of delivering the truth.

White supremacists are now attacking critical race theory, however, in an attempt to destroy it. By destroying critical race theory, they hope to destroy the truth and force all of us to continue to live within a lie.

The truth that the color of one's skin does not determine a person's God-given abilities has always been evident to people of color. But within a global social structure designed to advantage white people over everyone else, that truth has been denied and hidden from view.

The orthodoxy of white supremacy, reinforced by a willingness to employ gunpowder in a pan-global rampage, allowed white supremacists to amass most of the material resources of the earth, along with the means to exploit them solely for their own benefit. What school-aged child

has not seen graphic renderings of Europeans, cast in a heroic light, gunning down indigenous people of North America, South America, Africa and Asia? This oppression and annihilation of people of color have been characterized by British author Rudyard Kipling as "the white man's burden" to bring civilization to the rest of the world.

Poisonous race hatred spawned by white supremacy has flowed through Western society like filth in an open sewer. Yet there are those who take offense at the assertion that America is a racist country.

Race hatred began in America when European invaders, arriving with Christopher Columbus, annihilated as many as 3 million indigenous inhabitants in the Bahama Islands and continued with the slaughter of indigenous people in the early days of every state in this nation. This genocide of Indigenous Americans, combined with the importation of enslaved Africans as unpaid labor, created wealth for the European invaders founded upon stolen land and stolen labor. The continued encroachment on Indian land and exploitation of people of color through immorally low wages continue to underpin this disproportionate accumulation of wealth by white Americans. Current policy decisions by lawmakers and corporate leaders such as refusing to legislate a livable minimum wage, redlining, discriminatory

hiring practices, gerrymandering, and on and on, also continue to obstruct wealth accumulation by people of color.

The facts are clear, written in the blood-soaked soil and the countless unmarked graves of people of color who were murdered, massacred and worked to death so that certain white people could accumulate wealth and live as they pleased. This includes mistreatment of the Chinese, who were barred entry into this country after they helped build its railroads, and Japanese Americans who were herded into concentration camps during World War II without due process of law, while German Americans largely were allowed to go about their

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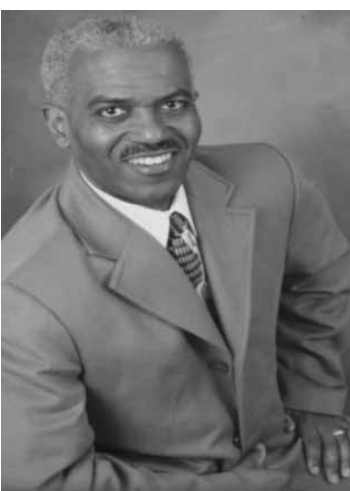
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