

Chapter 1: Where did Critical Theory and Wokeism Come From?

All Roads Lead to **Marx**... Yikes!



Worldview Questions	Christianity	Critical Theory
Who are we? What gives us meaning?	God. Created in the image of God	The position in society of the groups we belong to: oppressor vs. oppressed
What is our fundamental problem?	Sin : All individuals have sinned	Systemic power : Groups oppress other groups
What is our ultimate hope?	Redemption through faith in Jesus Christ	Social liberation, freedom from oppression
What is our ultimate moral responsibility?	To love God and to love others	Activism : to dismantle structures of power & oppression
What is our ultimate purpose?	To glorify God	To create a utopian society free of oppression

Christianity and CT: Incompatible Worldviews

- Your worldview shapes your **morality**: what you believe is sinful and what is sacred, your **values**, your **sense of ethics**, your sense of **responsibility**, your ideas of **justice** and **fairness**, and what it means to “do good”. It acts as a lens or filter for interpreting/understanding the world around you.

It's all so confusing...

- “Gender-inclusive bathrooms”... what?
- “How is the Kyle Rittenhouse verdict racist and white supremacist?”

THE REIDOUT BLOG

Kyle Rittenhouse trial was designed to protect white conservatives who kill

The shooter's homicide acquittal coddles conservatives and may lead to even more violence.



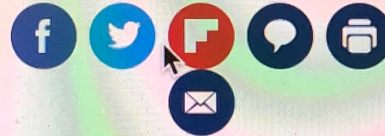
It's all so confusing...

- “Why is there a protest to defund the police in Minneapolis?”
- “How is Christianity an institution of oppression?”
- “Wait... why did the Attorney General of the United States, Merrick Garland, label parents who protested the teaching of CRT in public schools as *domestic terrorists*?”
- “What’s a gender unicorn?” And, what’s it doing at WCU?

Western Carolina University subjects RAs to mandatory 'woke' 'Gender Unicorn' training

Referring to America as a 'melting pot' can be deemed offensive

By Andrew Mark Miller | Fox News



Do you know your ancestry?

Get your full genetic story in the future - at no cost!

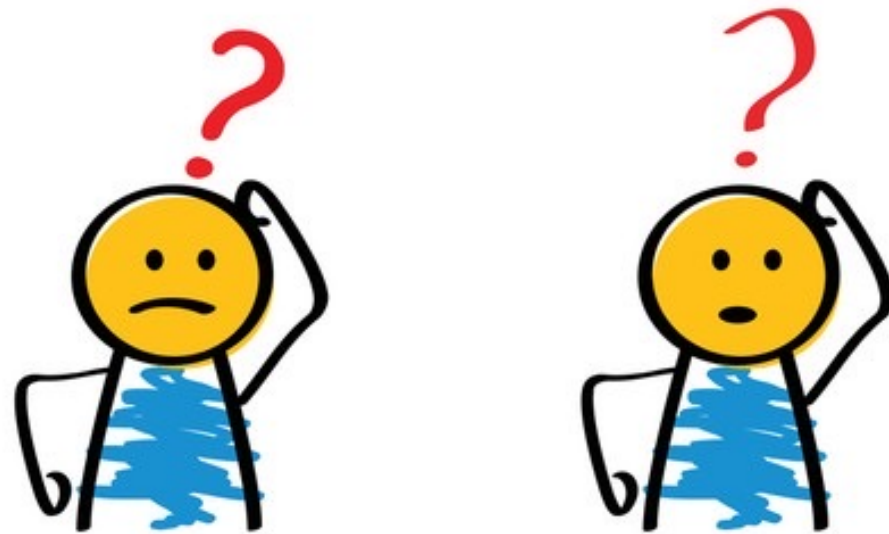
[JOIN ALL OF US](#)

An advertisement for genetic ancestry testing. It features a woman's face at the bottom and a yellow button with the text 'JOIN ALL OF US'.

It's all so confusing...

New ways of talking about social issues defined within the framework of a Marxist ideology.

Old words, new meanings. “I thought I knew these words”:
Justice, Fairness, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Oppression, Power, Racism



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New words: *hegemony, woke, heteronormativity, cisgender, nonbinary, White privilege, White fragility, intersex, queer, etc.*

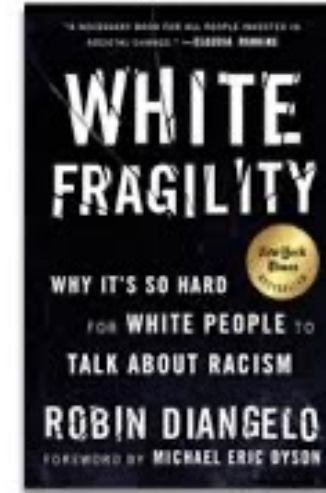
It's all so confusing...

Cancelled words: ~~Latino, master bedroom, picnic, melting pot, nitty gritty, urban, illegal immigrant, manhole, mother.~~



It's all so confusing...

- **Woke Person:** “Hey, Tom... You’re a RACIST!”
- **Tom:** “What? Am not! I believe everyone should be judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin.”
- **Woke Person:** “Right. That’s why you’re racist. That and you’re WHITE!”
- **Tom:** “Wait, what...?”



It's all so confusing...

- You hear some form of speech you disagree with (e.g., pro-abortion demonstration).
 - You would want to protect the freedom to make the speech because you believe freedom of speech is necessary for a free society.
- Woke person hears a disagreeable form of speech (e.g., pro-life demonstration on a college campus).
 - They might want to use the force of their movement to put a stop to it.
 - They view the protection of such speech as contributing to oppression.
 - **They are willing to restrict freedoms and rights (freedom of speech, and particularly religious liberty) to end oppression as they define it.**

- We have to understand the Marxist ideological lenses of the Woke movement.
- We have to “unpack” the worldview of CT.



Where did Critical Theory Come From?: Overview

1. **Karl Marx (1850s – 1880s)**



2. **Antonio Gramsci (1920s)**

3. **Frankfurt School (1930s)**

Max Horkheimer



4. **Herbert Marcuse & Angela Davis (1960s – 1970s)**

5. **Derrick Bell &**

Kimberlee Crenshaw (1970s – 1990s)



6. **Present-day Scholar/Activists**

Foundation of CT: Two Marxist Ideas

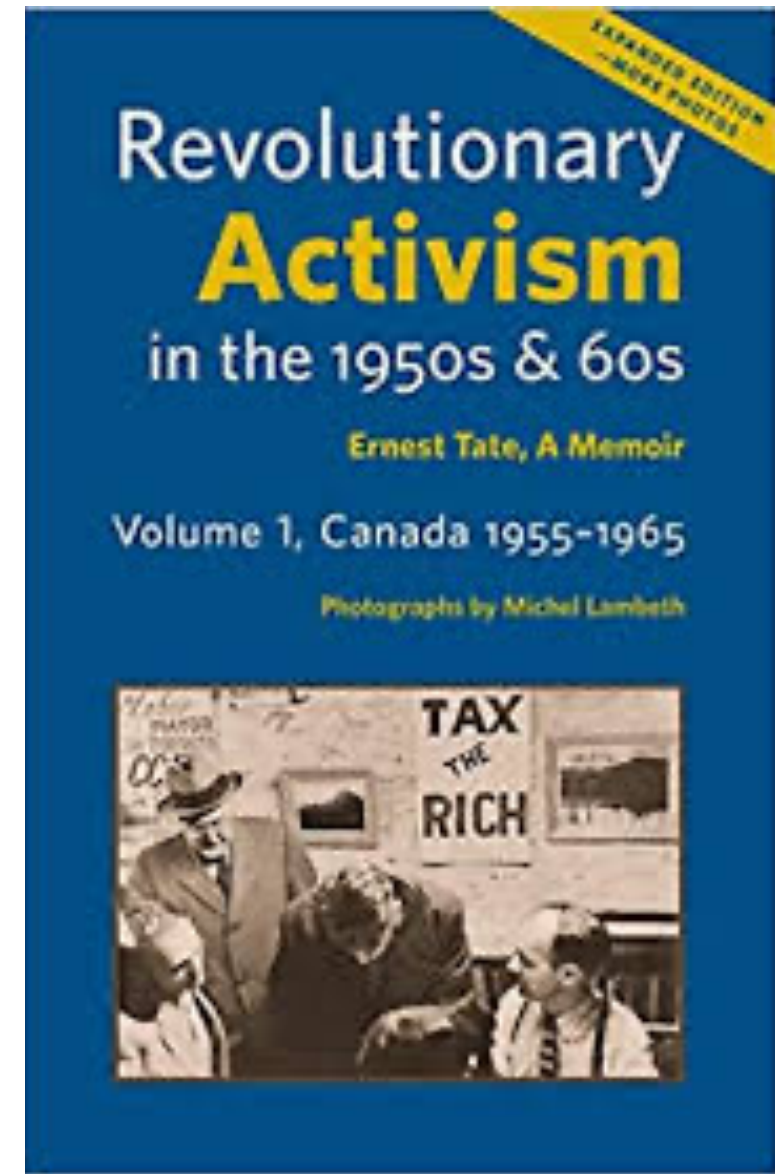
Critical Theory

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graph TD; A[Critical Theory] --> B[Social science requires ACTIVISM: Study society to TRANSFORM IT.]; A --> C[Liberal societies are built on SYSTEMIC POWER and OPPRESSION];
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Social science requires **ACTIVISM**: Study society to **TRANSFORM IT**.

Liberal societies are built on **SYSTEMIC POWER** and **OPPRESSION**

Scholarship in the Pursuit of Activism



Foundation of CT: Two Marxist Ideas

Critical Theory

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graph TD; A[Critical Theory] --> B[Social science requires ACTIVISM: Study society to TRANSFORM IT.]; A --> C[Liberal societies are built on SYSTEMIC POWER and OPPRESSION];
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Social science requires **ACTIVISM**: Study society to **TRANSFORM IT**.

Liberal societies are built on **SYSTEMIC POWER** and **OPPRESSION**

Systemic Power and Oppression

- Industrialized, capitalist societies force people into hierarchical categories (groups) defined by *systemic power*.
 - **Oppressor**: Groups that have power
 - **Oppressed**: Groups that do not have power
- The two groups compete with one another in a zero-sum conflict over the opportunities, goods, and resources of society. **Those in power always win and always oppress the powerless.**

Systemic Power and Oppression

- **Marx: Basis of systemic power is social class.**

Bourgeoise = Powerful Elite

V.S.



Proletariat = Powerless Working Class

The powerful bourgeoisie always wins and **always oppresses** the powerless proletariat. There is one and only one organizational principle of society that really matters, systemic power.

How did Marx view religion?

- Religion pacifies “the common folk” so they’ll tolerate unjust oppression.



Karl Heinrich Marx
(1818-1883)

"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people".



How did Marx view Power and Oppression?

- **Common Understanding:** Power and oppression are defined by *individuals and their actions*. The roles of oppressor and oppressed vary by **circumstance**. **No one is *inherently* guilty of oppression, and nobody is inherently exempt from oppression.**

How did Marx view Power and Oppression?

- **Marxist Understanding:** Power and oppression are *systemic*: “baked into the fabric of society.” The roles of oppressor and oppressed depend on the position of one’s **social identity** in society.



How can a society overcome **Systemic Power** and **Oppression**?

- **REVOLUTION**

- The only way to overcome systemic power and oppression is to change society itself through **revolution**.



How is Marx's view of power and oppression relevant today?

- Critical Theorists of today conceptualize power and oppression in the same way.
 - Only White people can be racist, and all White people are inherently racist (e.g., DiAngelo, 2018; Kendi, 2020).



How is Marx's view of power and oppression relevant today?

- Further, they argue that we cannot overcome the white supremacy that is baked into our society through **reform**; we need a **revolution**.
- They don't want to reform law enforcement; they want to abolish ("defund") it and start over (Crenshaw et al., 1996; Kendi, 2020).



How does revolution happen?

- **Problem: False Consciousness.** Oppressed working class is blind to the true nature of class oppression; they have a *false consciousness*.
- **Solution: “Woke.”** The oppressed working class needs to awaken to see the true nature of their oppression; they need to gain **class consciousness**.
- If a critical number of people gain a class consciousness they naturally will want to ban together, rise up, overthrow their oppressors, and make a new **utopian society**.



Marxism is about *taking power and exerting control*.

- If you disagree with them, Marxist organizations call you part of the problem.
- Marxist organizations declare speech and actions against the movement as oppression, as something that should be banned from society (sound familiar?).



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	65 MILLION
SOVIET UNION	30 MILLION
CAMBODIA	2 MILLION
NORTH KOREA	2 MILLION
AFRICA	1.7 MILLION
AFGHANISTAN	1.5 MILLION
EASTERN BLOC	1 MILLION
VIETNAM	1 MILLION
LATIN AMERICA	150,000

*Numbers indicate those killed by communist regimes

**100 YEARS
100 MILLION
KILLED***

#COMMUNISMKILLS

 **Victims of Communism**
Memorial Foundation

Take-home Message: Three Central Ideas

- **First**, there is one and only one organizational principle of society that really matters, **systemic power** and oppression. **Systemic power and oppression are the fundamental problems of society.**
- **Second**, power and oppression are **societal** problems, not problems among individuals. They are “built into the fabric of society.” **The focus is on society.** This means two things:
 - Status as oppressor or oppressed is based on your **social identity**, the group you belong to and the position of that group in society.
 - **Oppression is everywhere.**

Oppression is everywhere...

Article



Glaciers, gender, and science: A feminist glaciology framework for global environmental change research

Progress in Human Geography
1–24
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sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav
DOI: 10.1177/0309132516660048
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Abstract

Glaciers are key icons of climate change and global environmental change. However, the relationships among gender, science, and glaciers – particularly related to epistemological questions about the production of glaciological knowledge – remain understudied. This paper thus proposes a feminist glaciology framework with four key components: (1) knowledge producers; (2) gendered science and knowledge; (3) systems of scientific domination; and (4) alternative representations of glaciers. Merging feminist postcolonial science studies and feminist political ecology, the feminist glaciology framework generates robust analysis of gender, power, and epistemologies in dynamic social-ecological systems, thereby leading to more just and equitable science and human-ice interactions.

Keywords

feminist glaciology, feminist political ecology, feminist postcolonial science studies, folk glaciology, glacier impacts, glaciers and society

“Feminist
Glaciology”
??



Take-home Message: Three Central Ideas

- **Third**, Marxist movements like the “Woke movement” and the LGBTQ+ movement sound like liberation ideologies concerned with the good of society but they’re not.
- They intend to take power and exert control. They are **totalitarian** in the enforcement of their ideas, making people afraid to speak up against them.



- “Why are we talking about a moral revolution in the U.S. that’s rooted in such a bankrupt ideology as Marxism?”



Stop and Think

Chapter 2: Marxism + Culture = Critical Theory

