

## Stop Gaslighting About Historical Injustice



I'm a direct descendant of Mormon pioneers. My great, great grandparents "settled" Southern Utah. All this happened more than a hundred and fifty years ago. I wasn't born yet, and neither were my parents or their parents.

If you're not familiar with the history of Native Americans, the people who lived here before Europeans began arriving in large numbers in the 1500s, I suggest you do some research. What I'm about to share with you is not controversial.

European settlers in the Americas systematically murdered and destroyed Native Americans for 400 years. The colonizers did this unjustly and without mercy.

Yes, there are nuances to the assertion that European settlers committed genocide. But the fact remains that Europeans invaded North and South America, decimated the existing peoples and cultures, and established new societies.

What the Europeans did in the Americas, they tried to do in Africa. The difference in outcome is that there were simply too many Africans - the Europeans couldn't kill or subjugate enough of them to establish long-term dominance.

If what I just said sounds brutal, it's because it was brutal. Mass murder isn't pretty. The destruction of civilizations is horrific, and the results are catastrophic for the losers.

Looking at the calendar, it says today is July 9, 2023. It is not July 9, 1823. The world we live in today is the world we live in today. No matter the crime or the injustice, we do not have the power to go back in time and stop it from happening.

So, what are we to do about the atrocity of Europeans colonizing the Americas? Every person directly involved in the massacres and land theft is dead and gone.

To this day, millions of Greeks mourn the loss of Constantinople in the fifteenth century. Does the timeline sound familiar? The Muslims conquered what was left of Byzantium in the same century Columbus discovered America.

The Romans conquered most of the known world by the time of Christ. They not only murdered but also enslaved entire populations, again without mercy.

The Native Americans were not, collectively, peaceful people living in harmony with each other. Constant inter-tribal warfare was the norm, not the exception.

Want more examples? I could quickly provide a hundred more. The history of the world is filled with conquerors and the conquered. Today's losers are often winners centuries later. To quote one of my favorite writers, Kurt Vonnegut, "So it goes."

In the twenty-first century, our challenge is to recognize every person's dignity and human rights and protect those rights regardless of race, religion, or any other "tribal" characteristic. If we do that, we can break the endless cycle of hatred, wars, and division.

The "solution" to the injustice perpetrated on First Peoples of North America is not vapid, hypocritical virtue signaling.

Ben and Jerry, who make excellent ice cream but haven't a clue about much else, suggested that we give Mt. Rushmore back to the Sioux as a first step in returning the "stolen land" to Native Americans. But when a Vermont Native American tribal leader said that Ben and Jerry's headquarters sits on their tribal land and they should return it to them, we heard nothing more from Ben and Jerry.

I'm not picking on Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield. Plenty of other people, most under the age of thirty, grew up reading propaganda like Howard Zinn's *People's History of America* and other such claptrap.

In broad terms, the best way to help Native Americans is to empower them, to help them in concrete ways, and to meet them where they are. No one will give them back all the land, but we need to honor the land they have left and truly lift them up. More importantly, we need to celebrate their culture and preserve their past. For those Native Americans who want to integrate into our modern culture, we should treat them equally in all respects.

I'm not an expert on Native American issues, nor do I pretend to be. But I am sure that if we continue to divide our country into White, Black, Native American, Gay, Straight, Red, Blue, etc., we are doomed.

If America is destroyed, it will likely not be replaced by a system that is kinder, better, or more concerned with human rights. Do you really think the Left will behave any differently today than they did a hundred years ago if they seize power? Look to Communist China for your answer to that question.

Let's build a world based on liberty, freedom, kindness, and respect. That's the only way we will rise above our brutish past and become all God intended us to be. That's how we honor and give justice to the millions of Native Americans slaughtered by our ancestors.

