



# Critical Race Theory: A Black Perspective

**CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

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# Native Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Potawatomi



Lenape



Myaamia



Shawnee





# Kumeyaay Peoples, and Lands

- Born as a guest on Kumeyaay Land
- Pacific Ocean, east to Colorado River in Imperial Valley, and north to Warner Springs Valley, to south to Ensenada in Baja Norte, Mexico
- They are Yuman speaking people of Hokan stock
- Spanish invasion of 1769 Mexican Period of 1826 to 1848, & American Period
- Nearly all of the Kumeyaay lands were taken into private ownership or made U.S. government holdings.

# Slavery: Systemic Oppression Acknowledgment



# Overview

- I. Introduction
- II. CRT
- III. Race
- IV. Racism is Permanent
- V. Whiteness as Property
- VI. Interest Convergence
- VII. Critique of Liberalism
- VIII. Counter Storytelling

# Introduction

- Nicholas B. Lacy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year Comm PhD student
- Critical Race Theorist
- RBF/BF/Race Lighting
- BIPOC Leadership RA
- JEDI for CLA
- Office of Grad Diversity Staff
- Purdue University 2022 HWW Diversity Champion
- Diversity in the Workplace Comm 328
- Intercultural Comm 303
- Critical Perspectives of Comm 204



# Critical Race Theory

Theory of Systematic Racial Inequities

# Different Critical Race Theories

- Black CRT
- Lat CRT
- Dis CRT
- Ed CRT





# Race:

Human Race

/, (h)yoōmən 'rās/

*noun*

human beings in general; humankind

- Race = a socially constructed category based on differences in appearance that has been used to create hierarchies that privilege some and disadvantage others (Jones, 2020)
- ✓ 99.9% of DNA shared from the genus (Homo Sapiens)
- ✓ Can interbreed (no matter the “race”)
- ✓ Only difference is pigmentation/phenotype (melanin) of the skin
- ✓ Skin is the largest organ **ON** the body



# 5 Socially Constructed Racial Categories

1. African American	Black	Pan African/BIPOC
2. Asian American	Asian	Pacific Islander*
3. European American	white	Caucasian
4. Latino/a	Hispanic	LatinX
5. Native	Indigenous	Native/BIPOC

(Jones, 2020)

# Critical Race Theory in A Nutshell

- CRT: Unfortunate Beginnings
- ***Critical Race Theory***. Critical Race Theory (CRT; Bell, 1980; Crenshaw, 1995) is a law-derived critical analysis of race within systems and society as a whole
- CRT is a theoretical framework with epistemological roots in legalese that explicates and acknowledges how race as a social construct is firmly ingrained in the fabric of (American) social systems.



# Critical Race Theory : 5 Tenets

## *Critical Race Theory.*

(CRT; Bell, 1980; Crenshaw, 1995; Delgado, 1993)

1. Racism is permanent
2. Whiteness as property
3. Interest convergence
4. Critique of liberalism
5. Counter storytelling

CRITICAL  
RACE  
THEORY

# (1) Racism is permanent.

## 1. Racism is in all systems in many ways

- Racism controls politics, education, socioeconomic and environments (Opperman, 2019)
- School to Prison Pipeline
- Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3?
- Iroquois Confederacy
- Differential racialization examines the unique patterns of racial marginalization across racial groups (Cabrera, 2018)



Cabrera, N. L. (2018). Where is the racial theory in critical race theory?: A constructive criticism of the critics. *The Review of Higher Education*, 41(1), 1-15.

Opperman, R. (2019). A permanent struggle against an omnipresent death: Revisiting environmental racism with Frantz Fanon. *Critical Philosophy of Race*, 7(1), 57-80.

# South Africa - Apartheid

- Apartheid (“apartness”) was a system of legislation that upheld segregationist policies against non-white citizens of South Africa.
- After the National Party gained power in South Africa in 1948, its all-white government immediately began enforcing existing policies of racial segregation
- Nelson Mandela freed from prison and freed South Africa from Apartheid in 1991





# Nazi Germany - The Holocaust

- The word “Holocaust,” stems from the Greek words “holos” (whole) and “kaustos” (burned)
- German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945 and it was here where the ideological and systematic state-sponsored persecution and mass murder of millions of European Jews (as well as millions of others, including Romani people, the intellectually disabled, dissidents and homosexuals)



# Asian Hate: Fight the Virus, Not the People

- Many Asian groups have faced extreme prejudice since the onset of COVID-19
- Asian persons of color have been attacked, brutally beaten, and discriminated in public spaces



# (2) Whiteness as property.

## 2. Entitlement to property (privilege), and exclusion

- Curriculum and pedagogy within education is white property (Mensah & Jackson, 2018)
- Lack of linguistic (language) pluralism in education policy demonstrates whiteness as property (Snyder, 2020)
- Whiteness as property includes bodies, establishments, real estate, policy, and curriculum (Annamma, 2015)



Annamma, S. A. (2015). Whiteness as property: Innocence and ability in teacher education. *The Urban Review*, 47(2), 293-316.

Mensah, F., & Jackson, I. (2018). Whiteness as property in science teacher education. *Teachers College Record*, 120(1), 1-38.

Snyder, R. (2020). The right to define: analyzing whiteness as a form of property in Washington state bilingual education law. *Language policy*, 19(1), 31-60.

WHITENESS?

# A Lexicon of Whiteness

- 1) **White Supremacy:** the belief that the white race is inherently superior to other races and that white people should have control over people of other races
- 2) **White Privilege:** inherent advantages possessed by a white person on the basis of their race in a society characterized by racial inequality and injustice
- 3) **White Fragility:** emotional state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves (Robin DiAngelo, 2018)
- 4) **White Rage:** anger and resentment toward individuals, groups, or organizations regarding race, gender, or socioeconomic status (Carol Anderson, 2020)
- 5) **White Guilt:** the vacuum of moral authority that comes from simply knowing that one's race is associated with racism (Shelby Steele, 2006)

# A Lexicon of Whiteness

- 1) **White Silence:** a specific white pattern in a specific context: whites' tendency to remain silent in racial discussions (DiAngelo, 2016)
- 2) **White Validation:** an ideology that white individuals need to validate people of Color in order for BIPOC to feel included
- 3) **White Resistance:** a refusal to accept or comply with racial endeavors; the attempt to prevent racial justice by action or argument
- 4) **White Fatigue:** emotional fatigue of racial, diversity, and equitable engagement of racial conversations and activities (Flynn, 2020)
- 5) **White Saviorism (Savior Complex):** a phenomena that suggests that “now” that a white person knows about something, it suddenly becomes important

# Jane Elliot: A Class Divided: The Eye of the Storm



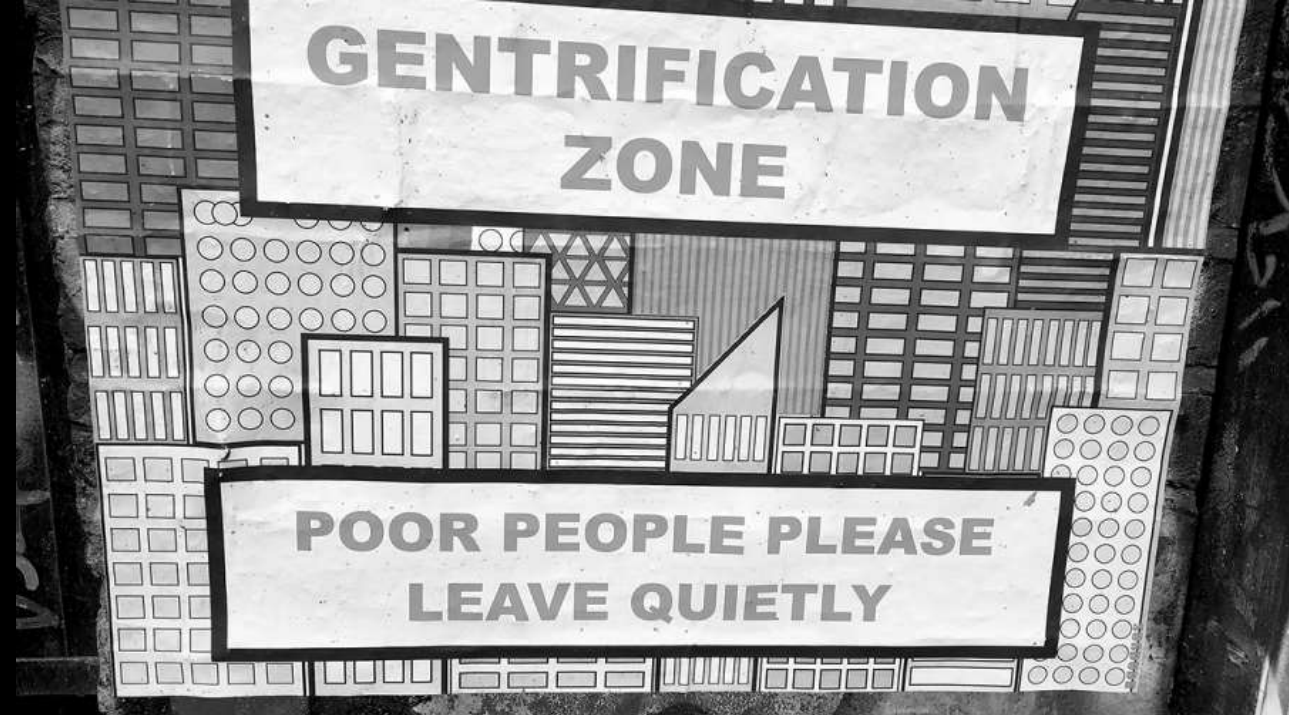
# PROJECT HOUSING

- Project Housing is just that, a government or local municipal project that houses a targeted population of people. Project housing began as early as the 1920's in the Jim Crow Era
- Since the Fair Housing Act (FHA) of 1968 - It is illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing, including against individuals seeking a mortgage or housing assistance, or in other housing-related activities.



# GENTRIFICATION

- Gentrification is the the character of a poor urban area is changed by wealthier people moving in, improving housing, and attracting new businesses, typically displacing current inhabitants in the process
- Many U.S. cities are gentrifying neighbors that occupy Black and Brown folks at alarming rates - The study, from the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), identified more than 1,000 neighborhoods in 935 cities and towns where gentrification occurred between 2000 and 2013.
- Seven cities accounted for nearly half of the gentrification nationally: New York City, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Diego and Chicago.





# (3) Interest convergence.

3. The interests of People of Color will only be advanced to the extent that they also advance white interests

- White women benefit from Affirmative Action (Aguirre, 2010)
- White women benefit most from affirmative action — and are among its fiercest opponents (Massie, 2016)
- Multi-cultural programs exist because the interest converge in the interest with the dominant group of decision makers (Johnson & Caraballo, 2019)

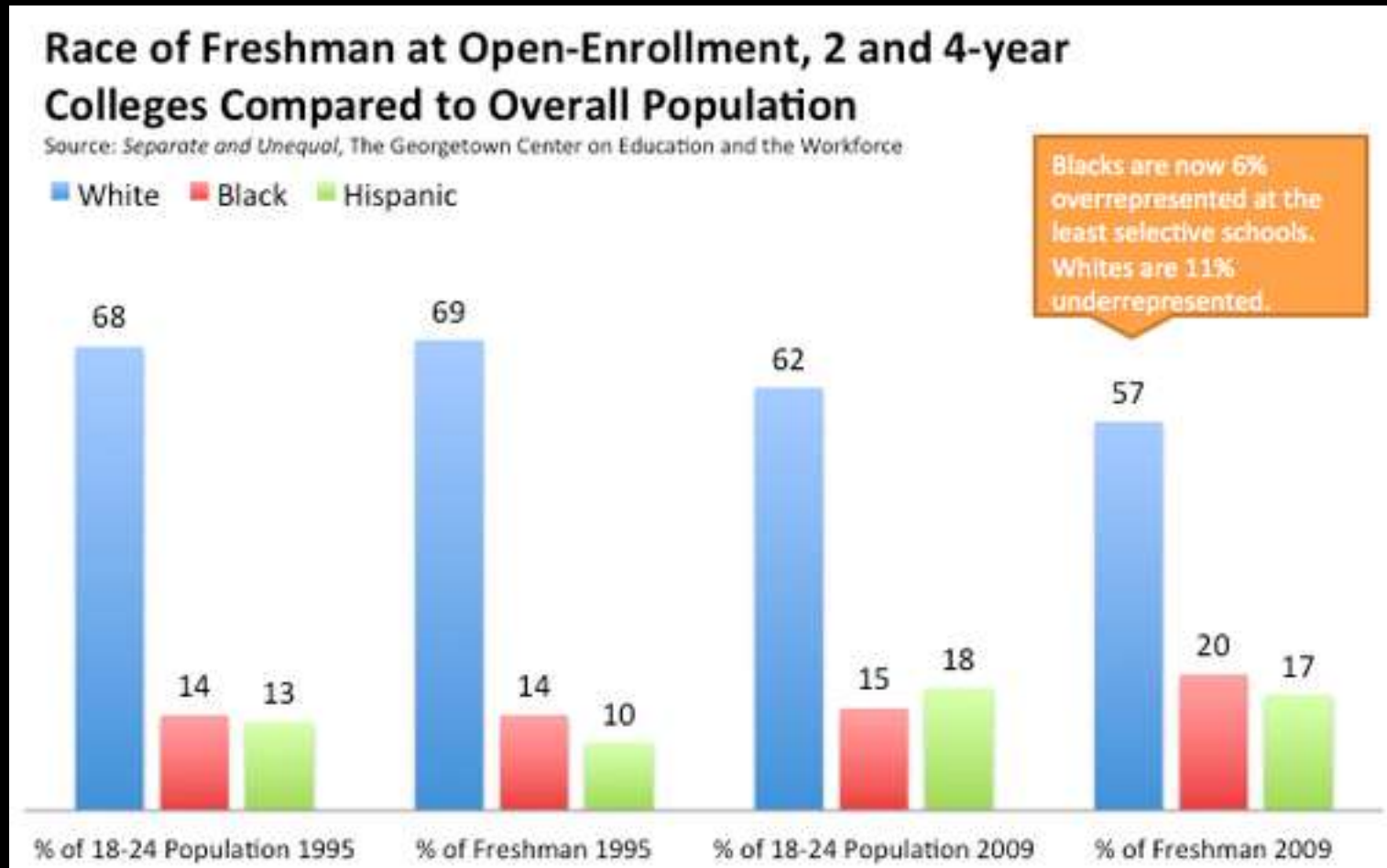


Aguirre Jr, A. (2010). Diversity as interest-convergence in academia: A critical race theory story. *Social Identities*, 16(6), 763-774.

Johnson, L., & Caraballo, L. (2019). Multicultural education in the US and UK in the 1980s and beyond: the role of interest convergence-divergence. *Multicultural Education Review*, 11(3), 155-171. *Education*, 42(1), 209-233.

Massie, V. M. (2016, June 23). *White women benefit most from affirmative action — and are among its fiercest opponents*. Vox. <https://www.vox.com/2016/5/25/11682950/fisher-supreme-court-white-women-affirmative-action>

# Affirmative Action: (Weissmann, 2013)



# Japanese Internment Camps

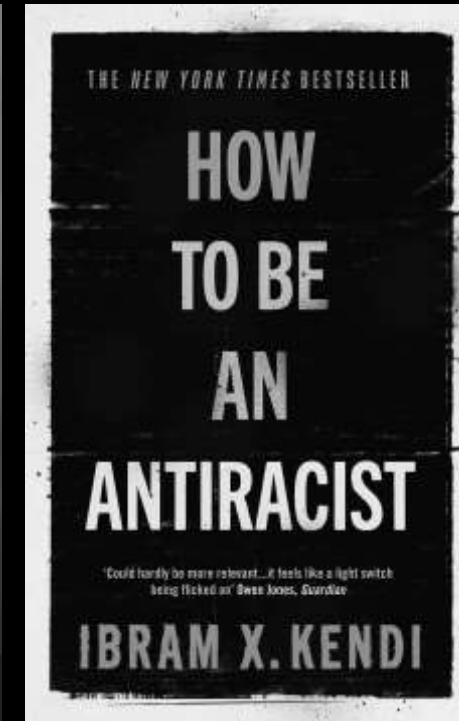
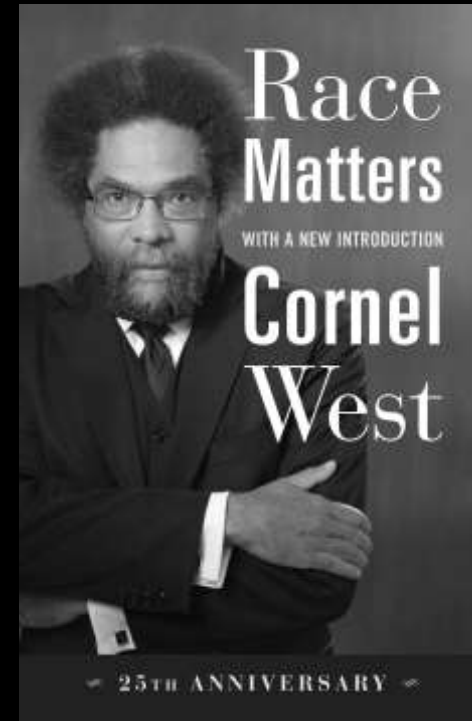
- Japanese internment camps were established during World War II by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR)
- Executive Order 9066 stated From 1942 to 1945, it was the policy of the U.S. government that people of Japanese descent would be interred in isolated camps.



# (4) Critique of liberalism.

## 4. Colorblindness is racism (ignores systemic inequality)

- Being too liberal is counterproductive to racial equity and racial justice (West, 1993)
- We need to elicit active approaches to anti-racist agendas (Kendi, 2019)
- All lives are not at stake in the same ways (Sang, 2020)



Sang, K. L. (2020). Reporting From the Whites of Their Eyes: How whiteness as neoliberalism promotes racism in the news coverage of "All Lives Matter", *Communication Theory*, Volume 30, Issue 1,, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ct/qtz019>

# Slave Patrols



- The unfortunate beginnings of policing for Black individuals date back to slavery. The United States' modern police organizations began as “slave patrols” (Potter, 2013).
- In the beginning, slave patrols, or police had three “watch” functions, (a) track and chase runaway slaves,
- (b) serve as a terror organization to prevent a slave revolt, and
- (c), maintain a form of discipline for slaves by providing and maintaining justice if slaves violated plantation rules. The watch functions developed a “day watch” and a “night watch” (Potter).

# Neighborhood Watch

- Unfortunately, these anti-Black sentiments continued after slavery as “the watch” functions later developed into a “neighborhood watch” (Bennett et al., 2008)
- For example, during the Jim Crow era, White supremacists were deputized as extended slave patrol to “watch” for, and kill Black folks in The “Red Summer” of 1919, The Tulsa Oklahoma Massacre of 1921, and The Rosewood Massacre of 1923 (Capeci, 2001; Tuttle, 1972)



# (5) Counter storytelling.

## 5. Legitimizing of People of Color's narratives

- Marginalized and minoritized voices need to be centered and the focus for systemic progress (Solórzano & Yosso, 2002)
- Stinson (2008) has used CRM to analyze how Black male students negotiate their discourses of success. Stinson highlights the counter-storytelling of CRM, but also gives Black students a voice in academia

Solórzano, D. G., & Yosso, T. J. (2002). Critical race methodology: Counter-storytelling as an analytical framework for education research. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 8(1), 23-44.

Stinson, D. W. (2008). Negotiating sociocultural discourses: The counter-storytelling of academically (and mathematically) successful African American male students. *American Educational Research Journal*, 45(4), 975-1010.



**1919** **RED**  
**SUMMMER**





EXTRA! MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN THE DISTRICT WHERE THE RIOTING HAD BEEN THE WORST, AND SINCE THEN THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE TROUBLE EXTRA!

Stay Off the Streets, Let the Law Settle It

**THE Chicago Defender**

WORLD'S GREATEST WEEKLY

Foolish Talk Is No Good Now. Stop It.

PL. XIV NO. 21 425 SATURDAY CHICAGO, AUGUST 2, 1919 SATURDAY PRICE FIVE CENTS

# RIOT SWEEPS CHICAGO

## GHASTLY DEEDS OF RACE RIOTERS TOLD

## LIST OF SLAIN IN FOUR DAYS' RIOTING

## Gun Battles and Fighting in Streets Keep the City in an Uproar

Defender Reporter Faces Death in Attempt to Get Facts of Mob Violence; Hospitals Are Filled With Maimed Men and Women

Foreigners Say Lack of Color Line Abroad Increased

### French Give Opinion of Riot

### 4,000 Troops in Armory-Ready to Patrol City; Scores Are Killed

# Tulsa Oklahoma, Rosewood Florida



The Greenwood District was a historic freedom colony and on May 31 and June 1, 1921 mobs of white residents were given weapons by city officials, attacked and killed 36-40 free Black folk

The Rosewood massacre was a racially motivated massacre of Black people during the first week of January 1923 in rural Levy County, Florida.

# Some Documented “Black” Disparities

- The Maryland Doctrine of Exclusion (1638)
- Slave Codes of 1705
- Black Codes (aka “Jim Crow Laws”) (1865)
- Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
- “Red Summer” (1919)
- Rosewood Florida (1921)
- “Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male” (1932-1972)
- Brown v. Board of Education (1952-1954)
- The Moynihan Report “The Negro Family” (1965)
- Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) of 1968
- Gerrymandering, & Gentrification (1970+)
- The Belmont Report: Ethical Human Subject Guidelines (1979)

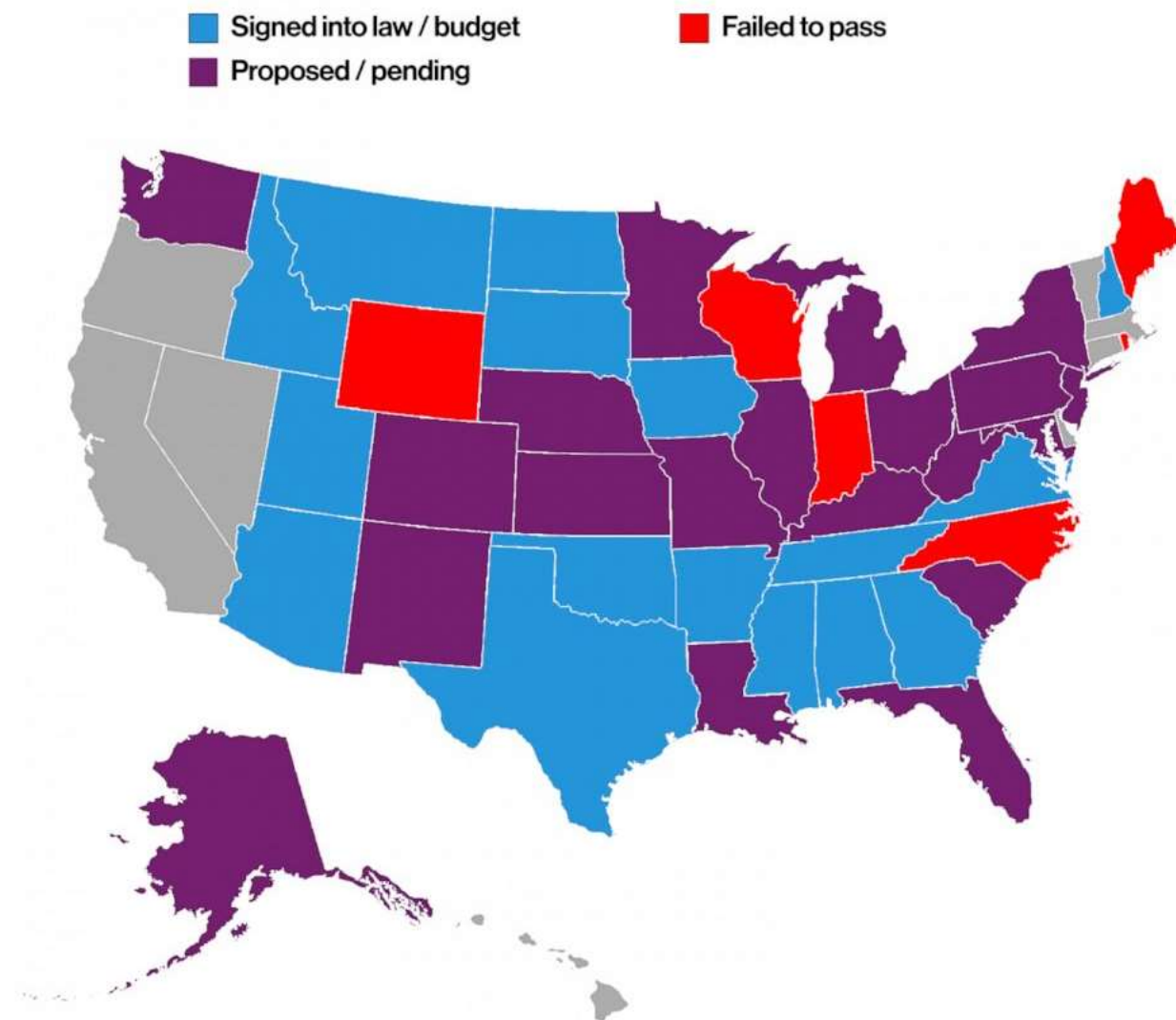
# CRT in Action

- CRT is the critical deconstruction/analysis of Race/Racial Inequality in;
  - Politics
  - Power Relations
  - Socio-economic statuses
  - Organizations/Institutions
  - Workplace(s)
  - Education
  - Health Care (etc.)
  - Law/Judicial
- Ex. California Proposition 16 (Affirmative Action)

# CRT Ban

- 36 States have a bill that seeks to ban CRT in schools
- ABC.com Feb, 2022

LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RESTRICT EDUCATION ON RACE IN CLASSROOMS OR STATE AGENCIES HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AND SIGNED INTO LAW ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



# CRT's Prominent Author Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw



# Additional Readings



# YOUR THOUGHTS ON CRT?

Is the true pandemic racism?

Should we socially re-construct language surrounding race?

Can we ever get rid of racism?

**INJUSTICE  
ANYWHERE  
IS A THREAT  
TO JUSTICE  
EVERYWHERE.**

REVEREND, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ALL