

# "You Want a Confederate Monument? My Body Is a Confederate Monument"

## The black people I come from were owned and raped by the white people I come from. Who dares to tell me to celebrate them?

Paper Critique

### Introduction

This article discusses and raises the issue against “confederate monument”. In the past history, white people used to keep the black people as their slaves and uphold the white supremacy. In support of confederate army against black people, white people built the monuments and statues at various places in American states. But the drive to remove of confederate memorials increased after the incidents of “unite the right rally”, “Charleston church shooting” and “killing of George Floyd by white policeman”. The amputation of these memorials was driven with the belief that they glorify the white supremacy, and honor the unrecognized army whose only focus was endurance of suppression over black people and that the existence of the confederate monuments for more than hundred years after the defeat of the Confederacy continues to alienate and separate the black people from white people and put lives of blacks on stake. The author stresses the argument that if one wants to build those monuments again, let them know that black themselves are the monuments of that time. Author is not in favor of confederate monument after so many incidents happened to black people in history and recently in America due to white supremacy.

### Critical Review

The article was quite persuasive and heart wrenching written by a black woman. The reason I found this article persuasive is because after so many years of white supremacy and no right for blacks, still black people were living with white people and work for them. Even in the past, these blacks used to work as a slave for white army without any pay to their labors. So much oppression and harassment, they hold in the past but still present American President glorifies the confederate army of past for what they did to black people. They have neglected the lives of black people; this was the reason the slogan of “Black lives matter” raised by blacks to get their right to them after the recent incident of George Floyd killing happened.

Moreover, the article was meeting the persuasive format. However, some sections seemed more influential towards black people. As mentioned in the article that the black color is not to put aside. Black as a person is important and have right to live freely their own life. They are the actual victims not the confederate army. It is not just about the place they belong to. They have their families too. The politeness of blacks towards the white people have been elegantly described in the article by the author. It is them who fought the battles of lost cause in history, all these facts and statements were ignored in the history and all the oppressors (confederate army) were portrayed as the victims.

Author seems to be an expert in the subject as details stated in the article that she turmoil herself living with the brutality of having slave owners as her ancestors. Yet still cannot be able to denounce white people and confederate army for their wrong doings. Belonging to the black people, author further adds that if the monument is necessary to make the past noticeable, it is then she herself or other black people like her who represents the past and should be considered as the monument. There is no need for the monument that hurts the sentiments of black people, because it was them who got oppressed by confederate army and arose as unionist party only to get their rights.

Tough I am completely satisfied by the article yet there are some changes that I would like to add just for the movement to gain the momentum against confederate monument that besides writing articles and poems there needs to be done some practical work. This movement against confederate monument must be shared through digital imagery. It is an era of internet and social media and put a great influence over the government to take action. For black people to prove themselves, they need to elaborate the history and prove their innocence by using highly accurate stats and figures. They must raise the issue of income inequality in their jobs to let the world know about the injustice that happens to them on daily life basis. Above all the author has represented her point of view very gracefully depicting the inequality, brutality and viciousness of white people towards them and I am completely satisfied with her.

The article did change my opinion on the respective issue. Before reading this article I was unaware of the exact history behind confederate monument. I have gone through this article, came to know about author's point of view that how white people used to take abusive actions against black people even they were innocent but they could not say a single word because of white supremacy. Even today the words they utter are left unlisten and ignored. Their every act or movement is looked with suspicions and doubts. They are disregarded. Though everyone might not true but everyone has the right to describe its side of story.

### **Conclusion**

Talking about the personal opinion, large part of our history has been whitewashed and deploying monument is just another ploy to ignore the grievances of the large part of American society. The author has beautifully described that there is nothing to be taken pride of in the slave owning masters and protests against it are justified in destroying the statues and monuments which are not only offending but cause a hurtful impact on the colored society of the America. I was partially oblivious with the history behind confederate monument. Reading this article make me to think how full of brutality and cruelty the world is. Everyone on the basis of its race, color, religion and creed wants to cast its spell over the other. The more power you have, the more authority you have to rule over the suppressed one. In democratic country like America, it must not be permissible. Everyone must be given chance. Every living being deserves the right to live freely.