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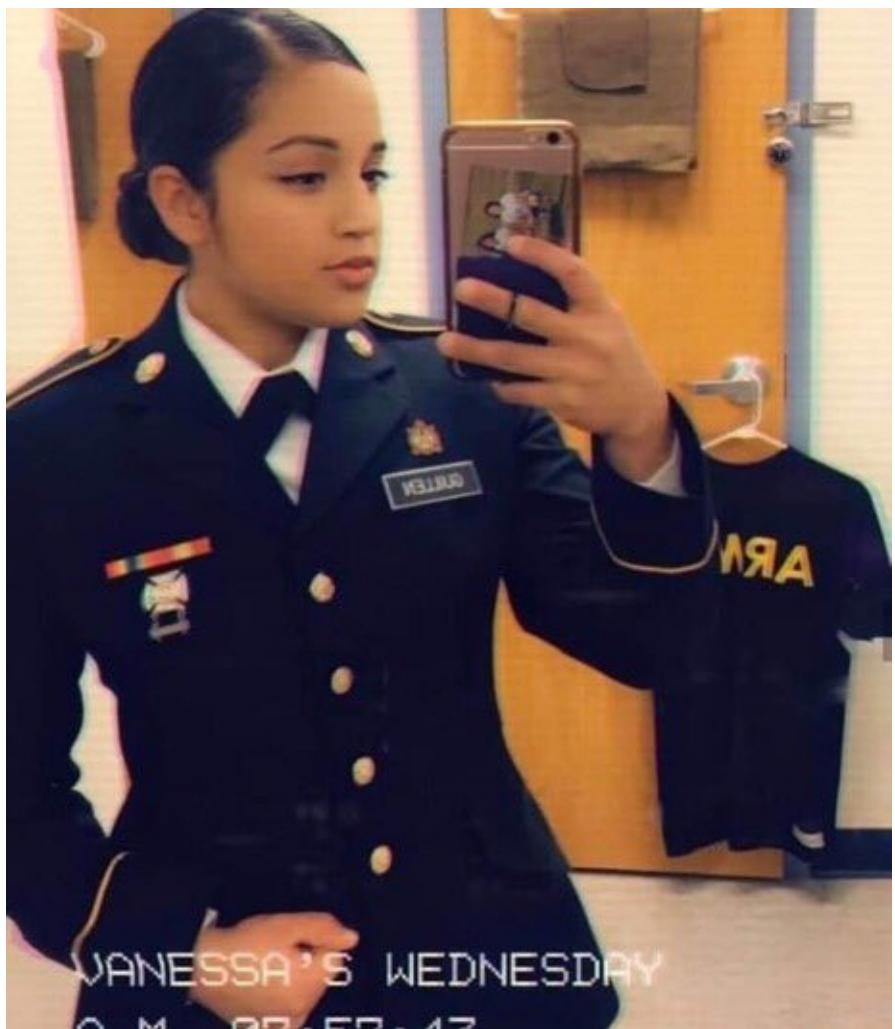
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VANESSA'S WEDNESDAY
6 M 08:57:43





SAY. HER. NAME.

Vanessa Guillen was serving her country, and in return she was sexually harassed, brutally murdered, and her body dumped. Justice needs to be served.

She was only 20 years old [#VanessaGullien source](#)





Autistic, Typing

Wednesday at 12:42 AM ·



Please remember that 2020 is not the year that we celebrate 100 years of women having the right to vote.

The 100 year anniversary of women having the right to vote in the US will be the year 2065.

Indigenous women were not allowed to vote until 1962.

Black women were not allowed to vote until 1965.

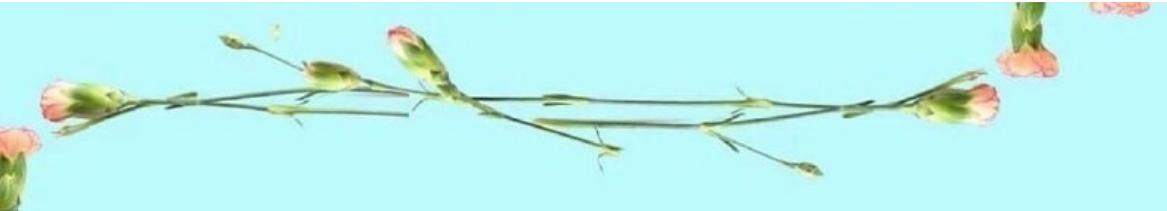
For every white woman celebrating 100 years this year, they're sending a very loud message about how they feel about women of color.



Solomon Buchi
@Solomon_Buchi

Men that don't rape women are not special. Men that don't cheat are not special. Men that treat women with equality are not special. Men that cook in their homes and take care of the baby are not special. This is what a normal man should be like.

07:09 · 6/5/20 · Twitter for iPhone



The Erasure of Black Childhood

**The Dehumanizing Effects of
Adultification**



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What Is Adultification?

Adultification is the **denial of the innocence** that defines childhood.

Adultification depicts Black children as **malicious, intentional, calculated**, and deserving of harsh consequences. It **denies Black children the protection** all children deserve.

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Origins

The adultification of Black children began during **slavery**, when Black boys and girls were **treated as chattel** and had to work as early as **two-years-old**. They were subjected to much of the **same cruel treatments as Black adults**.

There was no regard for their health or happiness. This **adultification endures today**, though usually more **covertly**.

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Adultification, Like Racism, Is Gendered

Black boys and girls don't experience adultification the same way. Adultification manifests itself across **gendered lines**. The adultification of black children in general means that they are made to seem more **aggressive and violent**. For **Black girls** specifically, they are **hyper-sexualized** and even blamed for being **victims of sexual violence**. There is commonly less public outrage and justice for Black girls when they are raped and sexually assaulted. **Black boys** are seen as **more sexually active** and **physically larger** than they really are due to adultification.

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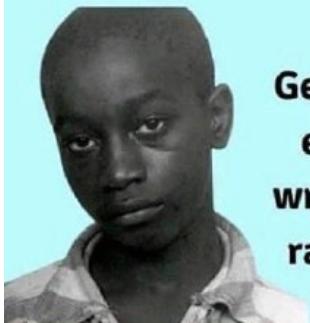
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Carceral Adultification



**Aiyanna Jones, age 7,
killed by police**

**Kaia Rolle, age 6,
arrested by police after
having a temper
tantrum**



**George Stinney, age 14,
executed after being
wrongfully convicted of
raping two white girls**

**Trayvon Martin, age
17, killed by white
vigilante**



**Tamir Rice, age 12,
killed by police**

School to Prison Pipeline

The school to prison pipeline describes the way in which **harsh disciplinary and municipal policies** in predominantly **Black/Brown schools** drive disproportionate levels of **student incarceration**.

Due to adultification, common **childlike behavior** in Black kids is **criminalized**. School is one of the earliest sites of this criminalization for Black children. The heavy presence of school resource officers (essentially **school cops**), **metal detectors**, and **zero-tolerance policies** reflect the **"carceralization" of schools**.

@youcantoprogram

Disparities (compared to white counterparts):

- Black girls are **2.7 times** more likely to be referred to **juvenile justice systems**
- Black girls are **6 times** more likely to be **suspended**
- Black boys are **6 times** more likely to go to **prison**
- Black boys are **3 times** more likely to be **suspended**
- Black, differently-abled youth are **3 times** more likely to be **suspended**

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COMBAT ADULTIFICATION

1. Schools must adopt restorative justice policies
2. People (especially authoritative figures) must check their implicit and explicit biases towards Black children
3. Stop calling Black girls "fast" and asking them to behave and dress a certain way around older men
4. Don't criminalize Black children period
5. Stop referring to Black children as adults and making comments about how much older they look

LET BLACK KIDS BE KIDS

@youcantooprogram

Let Black children be children! Adultification robs Black children of their innocence and subjects them to dangerous, sometimes even fatal, consequences.

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<https://telegra.ph/Nursing-student-in-civil-suit-against-RCMP-says-wellness-checks-need-to-change--CBC-News-07-03>

Telegraph

Nursing student in civil suit against RCMP says wellness checks need to change | CBC News

British Columbia The Kelowna, B.C., nursing student who was shown in building surveillance video being dragged by an RCMP officer out of her condo and down a hallway before being stepped on is calling for change in police wellness checks.

Hong Kong's new national-security law is one of the biggest assaults on a liberal society since the second world war [econ.trib.al/GW6t8yY source](https://econ.trib.al/GW6t8yY)

The Economist

China's draconian security law for Hong Kong buries one country, two systems
The regime in Beijing would rather be feared than admired

Real talk. For everything you do to “celebrate” this weekend (beach, bbq, fireworks, etc.) do at least ONE thing to fight for social justice. Make a phone call, sign a petition, register to vote. It’s not Independence Day until we’re all free. [source](#)

Dear White People:

When Black folks say you're 'privileged', they don't mean you were born rich or don't have to struggle to make a living.

We're talking about the privilege of having White skin that immediatley protects

you from some stuff in society.
Try to understand. [source](#)

[telegra.ph/Tear-Confederate-Statues-Down-Keep-Union-Statues-Up-and-Build-New-Antislavery-Monuments-07-05](#)

Telegraph
Tear Confederate Statues Down, Keep Union Statues Up, and Build New Antislavery Monuments
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[telegra.ph/How-China-Scammed-Hong-Kong-07-05](#)

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It pays to play the long game against people who want to be free. After many years of rejecting the people of Hong Kong's persistent demands for genuine universal suffrage and other rights, China made its position clear again on Tuesday with the legislative...

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How China Scammed Hong Kong

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It pays to play the long game against people who want to be free.



After many years of rejecting the people of Hong Kong's persistent demands for genuine universal suffrage and other rights, China made its position clear again on Tuesday with the legislative equivalent of a cracking head bash.

It chose the eve of July 1, a triple anniversary — of the birth of the Chinese Communist Party (1921), the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China (1997) and a break-in of the city's legislature by pro-democracy activists (2019) — to pass a draconian national security law that will forever harm Hong Kong's political freedoms and hobble its economic relations with the rest of the world.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China with its own, supposedly independent, executive, legislative and judiciary branches. Yet the new law was

proposed in Beijing, drafted in Beijing and promulgated in Beijing.

It went into force as soon as it was gazetted on Tuesday night — which was also the first time its contents were released to the public.

The law criminalizes acts of secession, the subversion of state power, terrorism and “collusion with foreign or external forces to endanger national security.” Some offenses in each of these categories are punishable with life imprisonment. Property damage alone might amount to terrorism.

Especially severe cases may be referred to the Supreme People’s Court of China, to be tried by another court of its choosing under the mainland’s law of criminal procedure, which allows for capital punishment in some cases. The death penalty was abolished in Hong Kong in 1993, and no execution had taken place since 1966.

The new law trumps any local laws that are inconsistent with it. A national security commission will be set up in the city, joined by a Beijing-appointed adviser, to oversee the law’s implementation. Its work will not be made public, nor will that be subject to judicial review.

The Hong Kong chief executive is to appoint special judges to hear national security cases. The city’s Secretary of Justice may deny a defendant a trial by jury. The ultimate power to interpret the law rests with Beijing.

Articles 37 and 38 appear to mean that the law is applicable worldwide — and universally: not only to permanent residents of Hong Kong and entities based in the city while they are abroad, but also to “a person who is not a permanent resident” of Hong Kong who commits an offense from “outside.”

Though the law is being called “national security” legislation, its true, bespoke purpose is to suppress the decades-old pro-democracy movement in the city — which has grown more vocal in recent years as repression from Beijing has increased, with some younger people calling for outright independence for Hong Kong.

Leaders of political organizations that China has previously accused of promoting separatism promptly announced their groups’ dissolution on Tuesday.

Politically astute Hong Kongers are only too aware of the Chinese government’s

propensity to bring bogus charges against its political opponents.

So are some foreign governments. Washington had already announced a spate of sanctions against officials deemed to violate the mainland's obligations to Hong Kong. On Tuesday, it barred defense exports to Hong Kong — and said it would begin to cancel the city's preferential trade status, arguing, correctly, that Hong Kong can no longer be considered to operate with significant autonomy from the mainland.

The European Union's Parliament recently passed a (nonbinding) resolution urging member states to bring China before the International Court of Justice if the law was passed. Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain has pledged to help some three million eligible people from Hong Kong live and work in his country. The government of Taiwan has said that it would grant asylum to some Hong Kongers on humanitarian grounds.

But even foreign politicians sympathetic to the plight of Hong Kong today bear some responsibility for it — if only by dint of their wishful thinking about Beijing's original intentions.

Many seem to have looked upon the first 15 years or so after Britain handed over Hong Kong to China in 1997 as the golden age of the city's semi-autonomy. They endorsed the “one country, two systems” principle that was put forward by the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s — and enshrined in the Basic Law, Hong Kong’s mini-constitution — as a benign concept that would protect the city.

In their view, President Xi Jinping of China has recently reversed, even betrayed, Deng’s blueprint for Hong Kong.

But this is faulty thinking. And it would be simplistic, as well as ultimately dangerous, to think that China has been acting in bad faith only under Mr. Xi today.

Deng hardly was a man of concessions. During the late 1980s, while China was relatively weak, he repeatedly advised acting meek and biding one’s time. Yet even during negotiations with Britain about the status of Hong Kong, it was he who insisted that Chinese soldiers should be stationed in Hong Kong after 1997, over the advice of some of his top officials. And it was Deng who ordered tanks into Tiananmen Square in 1989 to mow down peaceful demonstrators by the

hundreds.

Mr. Xi today isn't betraying Deng's vision for Hong Kong back then: He is only dutifully carrying that vision forward to what is, some three decades later, its natural, logical culmination.

The Basic Law, which was designed in the late 1980s and adopted in 1990, is an inherently cynical document.

It was instrumental in ensuring the smooth transfer of sovereignty from Britain in 1997 because it seemed to contain generous guarantees from China, in particular provisions that safeguarded Hong Kongers' fundamental political liberties and promised to give them more democratic rights in the future.

But many observers and major political actors in Hong Kong — including some who helped draft the Basic Law — have consistently overrated its apparent assurances, while overlooking the fact that many of those come with sleeper clauses or caveats that can override them.

The Chinese government today isn't violating the Basic Law, neither in letter nor in spirit, so much as connecting different dots in it. And *that* is the true horror lurking behind its original concessions.

Take Beijing's plan now to set up in Hong Kong a commissioner's office for national security affairs to ensure that the city's authorities will apply the new law effectively. This move, as I wrote previously, flatly contradicts the following clause of Article 22 in the Basic Law:

"No department of the Central People's Government and no province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government may interfere in the affairs which the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region administers on its own in accordance with this Law."

But that provision also says that "if there is a need" for any such department etc. to "set up offices" in Hong Kong, that department requires nothing more than the consent of the central government (and that of the Hong Kong government, which can be coerced at will).

Likewise, the first clause of Article 39 says that "the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" and other rights

agreements “as applied to Hong Kong shall remain in force.” What if those protections became irksome to Beijing? No problem, there’s Article 160:

“Upon the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the laws previously in force in Hong Kong shall be adopted as laws of the Region except for those which the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress declares to be in contravention of this Law. If any laws are later discovered to be in contravention of this Law, they shall be amended or cease to have force in accordance with the procedure as prescribed by this Law.”

And then there’s Article 18. It allows the Standing Committee of China’s rubber-stamping legislative body, the National People’s Congress, to “add to or delete from the list of laws in Annex III” in the name of defense, foreign affairs, national unity or security, “as well as other matters outside the limits of the autonomy” of the city. That annex is a lengthy appendix of laws passed on the mainland that apply in Hong Kong, all exceptionally.

Article 18 was, naturally, the perfect vehicle for implementing the new national security law.

In the 1980s, when people in Hong Kong were worried about their post-1997 future, the Chinese government played up the concessionary parts of the Basic Law. That was the first, the good-looking, stage in a two-stage plan to absorb the city into the mainland’s universe.

The inevitable second stage is unfolding today. Now that Hong Kong is under the watchful eye of both Chinese soldiers garrisoned in the city and their newly loyal local cousins — the increasingly violent and politicized Hong Kong police force — Beijing is activating the sleeper clauses of the Basic Law to feather the deathbed of the city’s autonomy.

Politicians and thought leaders in Western countries, as well as older members of Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement, are only beginning to realize — if they are at all — that for three decades or more they have been reading the Basic Law, and China itself, wrong. They believed that the West, by helping China modernize, would also help it democratize and with that, would be protecting Hong Kong.

Many of the younger activists I have come across in Hong Kong think differently. They fault their forebears for buying into the Basic Law and “one

country, two systems”; to them, all that was a Communist siren song, a scam.

And so some of them have called for full autonomy for Hong Kong. Such goals may be unrealistic now — and as of Tuesday, even outright dangerous. But they at least expose China’s decades of deception and put the world on notice.

Midday on Wednesday, the city police reported their first arrest under the new security law: a man holding a banner that read “Hong Kong independence.”

Yi-Zheng Lian, a commentator on Hong Kong and Asian affairs, is a professor of economics and a contributing Opinion writer.

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Nursing student in civil suit against RCMP says wellness checks need to change | CBC News

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British Columbia The Kelowna, B.C., nursing student who was shown in building surveillance video being dragged by an RCMP officer out of her condo and down a hallway before being stepped on is calling for change in police wellness checks.



Mona Wang is pictured in Burnaby, B.C., on Wednesday. (Ben Nelms/CBC)

The Kelowna, B.C., nursing student seen in an apartment surveillance video being dragged by an RCMP officer down a hallway before being stepped on during a wellness check says police should be accompanied by a health professional.

"I thought, 'What's going to happen after this? Where am I supposed to go when

"the people who are supposed to protect you are the ones that are abusing you?!"
Mona Wang, 20, said in an interview with CBC about her experience.

On January 20, Wang, who says she has history of anxiety, was having a panic attack. She had been in contact with her boyfriend in Vancouver, but when she stopped responding to his texts, he got worried and called emergency responders to check up on her.

"I had self-harmed a little bit and drank two glasses of wine and ingested some medication. I wasn't really in the best state due to the alcohol and [the medication]," she said.

RCMP officer Cpl. Lacy Browning arrived alone at Wang's Kelowna condo to do the wellness check.

In her notice of claim, Wang alleges Browning used excessive force during the check, at one point punching Wang and leaving her with bruises on her face, while shouting at her "to stop being so dramatic." Surveillance video later shows Browning dragging Wang across the hallway, and later, stepping on her head.

- Video in civil claim shows RCMP officer dragging student, stepping on her head after wellness check

"So many people in the building were walking past, people I see on a daily basis. It felt so humiliating and so degrading," Wang said.

"I was of no threat to her. I had my hands cuffed behind my back, laying on the floor on my stomach."

The RCMP have denied the allegations and say Browning used reasonable force given the circumstances. In Browning's statement of defence, she alleges Wang had a box cutter in her hand.

After she removed the knife, Browning claims the student was initially unresponsive but then became combative, and started yelling that she wanted to be killed.

"The defendant Browning then struck the plaintiff several times with an open palm, which subdued the plaintiff sufficiently for the defendant Browning to successfully handcuff the plaintiff," the legal response states.

Wang denies she was holding a box cutter, saying it was across the room.

The case is still before the courts.

Watch Mona Wang talk to CBC's Lien Yeung about her experience:

Mona Wang told CBC's Lien Yeung about her experience with police during a January wellness check. 3:21

Growing number of mental health calls to police

The police say the number of mental health calls officers have had to respond to has grown exponentially in recent years.

Brenda Lucki, the RCMP commissioner, said RCMP have an important role to play in these situations.

"When someone is holding a knife and suffering from a mental health crisis, that is not the time to be bringing in mental health practitioners," she said during the House of Commons public safety and national security committee meeting Tuesday.

"It's time for the RCMP to go in, get that person calm, get them to a place of safety and get them the help they need."

- Family of Ont. man fatally shot by police 'can't wrap our heads' around how wellness check ended in his death

In Surrey, RCMP say they responded to 7,000 mental health calls in 2019. The detachment has made an attempt to better respond to these calls by creating the Car 67 program. In it, a mental health nurse is paired with an officer to attend certain calls.

Cpl. Scotty Schumann, an officer with the program, says it is disheartening to see people struggling with mental health issues and not getting the help they need. He also noted the expertise of the nurse in specific situations.

"There's definitely times when, without the nurse, we may have apprehended someone not recognizing the signs of a mental health issue," Schumann said.



Wang says pairing a police officer with a mental health professional could help. (Ben Nelms/CBC)

Wang says that kind of pairing could be a good way to prevent what happened to her.

"I don't believe that police officers should go alone to a wellness check," she said. "[And] I think it's very important for a mental health nurse or a social worker or any other kind of allied health to accompany police ... because they have the skills needed."

Referring to her own training, Wang says nurses are specifically taught to use de-escalation techniques without resorting to force.

"We have combative and aggressive patients all the time," she said. "It's telling them that your feelings are valid and speaking through it."

Renewed scrutiny on wellness checks

Wang is not the only one calling for significant change to wellness checks. Her case and others have put increased scrutiny on the role of the police in dealing

with mental health crises.

- Recent deaths prompt questions about police wellness checks

Since the beginning of April this year, at least four people have died in Canada during the course of a police-involved wellness checks.

- D'Andre Campbell, a 26-year-old Black man with schizophrenia, was shot dead on April 6 in Brampton, Ont., after calling Peel Regional Police himself for help.
- Regis Korchinski-Paquet, 29, a Black-Indigenous woman, died after falling from a high-rise balcony in Toronto after her family called the police for help on May 27.
- In New Brunswick, Chantel Moore, a 26-year-old Indigenous woman, was shot and killed by an officer on June 4 during a wellness check.
- And on June 20, Ejaz Ahmed Choudry, a 62-year-old Pakistani immigrant who had schizophrenia, was shot and killed by police in Mississauga, Ont., during a wellness check.



Meenakshi Mannoe, with the Pivot Legal Society, says society needs to look at how the entire mental health system is failing people up to and including the moment police go to their home for a wellness check. (Martin Diotte/CBC)

Meenakshi Mannoe, with Vancouver's Pivot Legal Society, says she's not surprised by these stories, citing past deaths in the Lower Mainland such as Tony Du, a 51-year-old man who was shot by police in 2014 after brandishing a two-by-four at a Vancouver intersection, and Kyaw Naing Din, who was killed in his Maple Ridge, B.C. home in 2019. Both men had mental illnesses.

Mannoe says the use of police to deal with mental health crises shows that too many people are being failed by the mental health system.

"For folks that contact the RCMP for a wellness check or any kind of check or any kind of police authority, it represents the failure of community services. It is people at their wits end about who to call," she said.

She said there needs to be more support — and funding — for peer-support workers, counsellors and health professionals.

"It's so important that we respond to people empathetically and also in culturally-safe, trauma-informed ways rather than use of force or potentially lethal use of force."

With files from Brady Strachan, Lien Yeung, Andrea Ross, and On The Coast

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Tear Confederate Statues Down, Keep Union Statues Up, and Build New Antislavery Monuments

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Protesters gather at Lincoln Park to demand the Emancipation Memorial be taken down, on June 23, 2020 in Washington, DC.
(Tasos Katopodis / Getty Images)

A statue is not merely a marker of some neutral historical fact. It honors those it depicts and exerts a subtle moral influence over the society that raises them in its public spaces. This is why the removal of statues commemorating Confederate figures is entirely justified.

Confederate monuments were erected to read back into history the lie that these men acted with honor and out of duty, and that their public service should be

commemorated. Most were raised decades after the Civil War to mark the defeat of Reconstruction and restoration of white supremacy to the South and elsewhere in the United States. Confederate statues are idols of the order they sought to preserve and extend, one of white supremacy and black bondage.



Protesters attempting to topple down a statue of Andrew Jackson in Lafayette Square in Washington, DC. (Twitter)

Protesters tearing down confederate monuments and public officials ordering their removal is the right step to rectifying the injustice done to the memory of those they sought to subjugate. Yet the recent wave of removals of Confederate statues has been interspersed with protesters tearing down Union memorials.

In San Francisco, a statue of Ulysses S. Grant, described by one observer as “a slave owner too, before the Civil War,” was torn down. Grant served as a Union general and as president he used every power at his disposal to dismantle and suppress white supremacy in the former Confederate states. In Madison, Wisconsin, a statue of Colonel Hans Christian Heg, an antislavery activist who dedicated his life to abolition and died fighting the Confederacy, was torn down, beheaded, and dumped in a nearby lake.

In Washington, DC, protesters announced they plan to tear down the Emancipation Memorial depicting Lincoln hovering over a kneeling freed slave.

DC delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton plans to introduce a bill to remove the statue from Lincoln Park, the same bill that would remove a statue of Andrew Jackson. The iconography of the Emancipation Memorial is indeed unfortunate, appearing to depict a relationship of paternalism between Lincoln and the slaves. But the historical pedigree of the memorial should give serious pause to those calling for its removal.

The monument was financed at considerable expense by freed (and free) blacks. It was inaugurated in the presence of President Grant and other representatives of the federal government along with DC's black community. Frederick Douglass's speech at the dedication did not shy away from rebuking Lincoln for his flaws: his early plan to remove blacks from the United States, his delay in embracing the cause of emancipation, his restraining of more radical abolitionists in his command.

Nevertheless, Douglass continued, "it was enough for us that Abraham Lincoln was at the head of a great movement, and was in living and earnest sympathy with that movement, which, in the nature of things, must go on until slavery should be utterly and forever abolished in the United States."

Douglass highlighted Lincoln's ability to marshal the "earnest sympathy and the powerful co-operation" of those loyal to the United States to accomplish what was otherwise impossible, the destruction of the Confederacy and slavery along with it. Douglass recruited this memory for the cause of saving Reconstruction — as we now should to complete the work of emancipation that was begun but unfinished.

Adding statues to the park — perhaps the original proposal by Harriet Hosmer to have Lincoln flanked by black Union soldiers, shoulder to shoulder as equals — is a good way to counterbalance the memorial without taking away what black men and women in their freedom and from their treasure had commissioned and raised. It better illustrates what Civil War historian Matt Karp calls "the mass politics of antislavery," in which "the construction of an antislavery majority in the North — the true 'abolition-democracy' — was an essential precondition for the Civil War's emancipatory bond between Republican politicians, Northern soldiers, and Southern slaves."



Built from 1889 to 1892, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch in Brooklyn, New York City, just north of Prospect Park, is dedicated "To the Defenders of the Union, 1861–1865." (Wikimedia Commons)

It is not wise to reason about the motivation of presumably uncoordinated acts across multiple cities. The small handful of people who have torn down Union memorials aren't representative of the millions who have taken to the streets to protest. But just as the intention behind the raising of Confederate monuments was a clear celebration of white supremacy, the intention behind monuments

commemorating Union leaders and antislavery activists is about the celebration of black emancipation — exactly the intention at the heart of the current wave of antiracist protests.

The Civil War should never be forgotten. Monuments to the defeated white supremacists of the Confederacy should indeed come down. Let a new era of commemoration of the cause of antislavery flourish. Erect statues to Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Thaddeus Stevens, Charles Sumner, John Brown, Hans Christian Heg, the Wide Awakes, German 48ers, and countless others who fought to vanquish slavery and the confederacy in every city and town in America. We cannot dismantle racism without the mass politics and multiracial solidarity modeled effectively by the antislavery cause. May their memory endure forever.

Kalewold H. Kalewold is a PhD student in philosophy at the University of Maryland, College Park.

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This county voted to recognize Black Lives Matter. Then it OKd 310 more Tasers

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As Bay Area communities adopt resolutions supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, one Silicon Valley county this week voted to stockpile its Sheriff's Department with nearly \$1 million in new Taser guns.

On Wednesday, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved a budget that includes the purchase of 310 new Tasers. The approval of the Taser

purchase is coming under fire, in part because it occurred just minutes after the board adopted a resolution supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

“We have heard from our community and from protesters across the nation that enough is enough,” wrote Warren Slocum, the board’s president, in a statement posted on the county supervisor’s website. “We need to take concrete steps to address this injustice.”

In 2018, three unarmed people died after officers used Tasers on them within county limits.

By Friday evening, none of the five county supervisors could be reached for comment.

Video from a board meeting in early May, prior to George Floyd’s killing in late May in Minneapolis, shows the board approved the acquisition unanimously, and it was seen as a necessary expenditure required to replace the department’s aged, 15-year-old Tasers.

David Canepa, a supervisor for the county’s District 5, which includes South San Francisco, Daly City and San Bruno, said the expense was “a matter of common sense.”

The May vote came less than one year after county law enforcement officials revised their use-of-force policies, which included limiting the number of times a Taser can be used against a person to three and narrowing the justifications for use from “active resistance” to “causing immediate physical injury or threatening to cause physical injury.”

The new devices are considered safer than earlier versions, limiting the amount of time the Taser operates after it hits its target to five seconds, according to board minutes.

The department rejected recommendations by the American Civil Liberties Union to ban the use of carotid restraints, or chokeholds.

Across the San Francisco Bay Area, Black Lives Matter protests have erupted since Floyd's killing on May 25.

In Oakland, nooses and effigies have been found hanging from trees, while state and local politicians are promising systemic reform and change.

In Menlo Park, a wealthy tech community on the San Francisco Bay Peninsula, the city's chief of police retired abruptly during a virtual town hall meeting last week. He did so after listening to community members complain about his force's racial profiling, alleged racism and his department's cozy relationship with the social media behemoth Facebook.

"It's confusing and crazy and totally not surprising," said Faraji Foster, an artist and activist from East Palo Alto, referring to the San Mateo board's votes and the chief's retirement.

"The police have been terrorizing us for years," he said while attending a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Palo Alto on Thursday night. "They don't know any other way."

Foster said the BLM movement calls for a reduction in law enforcement funding and police violence against Black communities and people. It also calls for investment in educational, recreational and senior care in Black communities.

"They say they support Black lives, but how can we believe it if they're investing in more weapons for the police?" said Tenedra Julian, a resident of East Palo Alto, who was at the Thursday demonstration.

Palo Alto, part of Santa Clara County, has a median property value of \$1.99 million and 56% of the population is white, 31% Asian, 4% Latinx, and just 1.2% Black.

In East Palo Alto, part of San Mateo County, the median home price is \$600,200 and 60.7% of the population is Latino, 10.6% Black, 10.3% Pacific Islander and 8.9% white.

The demonstration, which started at Palo Alto's City Hall, was convened by the Hood Squad, an activist group in East Palo Alto.



Hundreds of people marched north through the city's streets to San Francisquito Creek, where they crossed into San Mateo County — passing through a thicket of dense redwoods and the memorialized 1769 campsite of Gaspar de Portola — convening in front of the city's Police Department, where the demonstrators, led by Foster and Los Angeles rapper Milla, chanted, "Defund the police," "Black lives matter" and "Hey hey, ho ho, these racist cops have got to go."

Two police officers were seen leaving their patrol cars for the building. A few others were observed peeking out of the department building's windows.

Income disparity in the Bay Area is higher than anywhere else in the state. According to an analysis conducted this year by the Public Policy Institute of California, residents in the 90th percentile of incomes earned \$384,000 a year, compared with those at the bottom 10th percentile, who earned just \$32,000.

The gap is striking as one drives from the west side of the 101 Freeway, in Menlo Park, to the eastern side, home to the city's Belle Haven neighborhood and East Palo Alto. Or north along Middlefield Road from Atherton, which is one of the wealthiest ZIP Codes in the nation, to Redwood City.

Multi-acre estates, hidden by giant oaks, redwoods and magnolias, give way, almost immediately, to strip malls, car repair shops and abandoned industrial warehouses.

And for decades, the communities surrounding these wealthy enclaves have felt targeted by police, often afraid to venture too close.

“When I was a kid, East Palo Alto was considered the murder capital of the world,” Foster said. “Yet, I felt safer there than I ever did walking down the streets of downtown Menlo Park or Palo Alto.”

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