



Critical Race Theory

An overview of CRT with implications for our work as congregations
and in our communities

Kimbele Crenshaw, one of the modern-day researchers into Critical Race Theory, defines Critical Race Theory (CRT) as “an approach to grappling with a history of White supremacy ... [it] rejects the belief that what’s in the past is in the past, and that the laws and systems that grow from that past are detached from them.”

CRT is often called out as flawed by those wishing to curtail or undermine the investigation and understanding of racism in American society. They seek to belittle the academic work that shows the pervasive nature and structural underpinning that racism holds across much of American society.

This document includes links to several resources to help people who wish to understand what Critical Race Theory actually is and what it isn’t. It also includes links to some history of the development of Critical Race Theory and its growth in conservative discourse as the latest bogeyman in politics and education.

The resources include interviews, articles, an overview written by fellow UUs as well as a book that many view as particularly accessible and accurate as a help for understanding CRT.

We hope you will find these resources useful.

The following pages include suggested readings with links to their sites:



Overview of Critical Race Theory – Backgrounders

[*What critical race theory is -- and isn't*](#) By Faith Karimi, CNN

Updated 3:45 PM ET, Mon May 10, 2021

[*Critical race theory*](#), undated although references are to articles from 2021 and earlier. This is a pretty thorough explanation of the topic with links to pros and cons of CRT. Created by the Boise UU Fellowship, Boise, Idaho.

Opposition to CRT Curriculum in Schools

[*A school district tried to address racism, a group of parents fought back*](#)

By Leah Asmelash, CNN, Mon May 10, 2021 [describes the reaction of parents when the school board, addressing a racist incident in their school community, was about to implement an antiracism curriculum]

[*Academic Who Brought Critical Race Theory To Education Says Bills Are Misguided*](#) June 22, 2021 PM ET with Audie Cornish, Anna Sirianni, and Patrick

Jarewattananon [All Things Considered](#) [this document includes the text and a link to the audio interview by Audie Cornish with academic Gloria Ladson-Billings, President of the National Academy of Education]

[*What to know about Louisville JCPS Protests*](#) Billy Kobin, June 23, 2021, Louisville Courier-Journal. How the protesters inject confusion into a standard school board meeting discussing its efforts in implementing a racial equity curriculum. Protesters accuse the curriculum of being CRT. Includes a link to an interview with Superintendent Marty Pollio explaining JCPS efforts to close the achievement gaps between black and white students.



Kentucky-specific CRT Legislation news:

[Price on Politics: the Kentucky Education Bills](#) by Price Wilborn, Commentary, January 31, 2022, **WKU Herald**

This article (by a political science college student at WKU, Bowling Green) clearly explains the two bills currently introduced in the KY House of Representatives. Simply, they prohibit any classroom instruction or discussion that incorporates designated concepts related to race, sex, and religion; [bill also includes teacher disciplinary authorization, \$5K per day school district fine, and prohibits mandatory gender or sexual diversity training or counseling]

NOTE: The KUUJAN Racial Justice Team will try to keep this section updated with information about the status of these bills.



For in-depth learning:

Critical Race Theory: An Introduction (3rd edition), written by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, 224 pages – see the following review from Amazon:

Since the publication of the first edition of *Critical Race Theory* in 2001, the United States has lived through two economic downturns, an outbreak of terrorism, and the onset of an epidemic of hate directed against immigrants, especially undocumented Latinos and Middle Eastern people. On a more hopeful note, the country elected and re-elected its first black president and has witnessed the impressive advance of gay rights.

As a field, critical race theory has taken note of all these developments, and this primer does so as well. It not only covers a range of emerging new topics and events, it also addresses the rise of a fierce wave of criticism from right-wing websites, think tanks, and foundations, some of which insist that America is now colorblind and has little use for racial analysis and study.

Critical Race Theory is essential for understanding developments in this burgeoning field, which has spread to other disciplines and countries. The new edition also covers the ways in which other societies and disciplines adapt its teachings and, for readers wanting to advance a progressive race agenda, includes new questions for discussion, aimed at outlining practical steps to achieve this objective.

