

The Need for a Critical Race Theory Framework



Learning to recognize systemic racism:

A. Fuels us to combat harmful myths about oppressed communities



B. Effectively target the root cause behind inequities and thus create REAL change



CRT Disproves Harmful Myths About BIPOC Communities (1/2)

E.g. Without understanding the systemic root causes of wealth inequality,



Many mistakenly conclude that those without wealth are lazy (or even “inferior.”)



CRT Disproves Harmful Myths About BIPOC Communities (2/2)

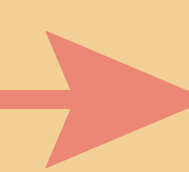
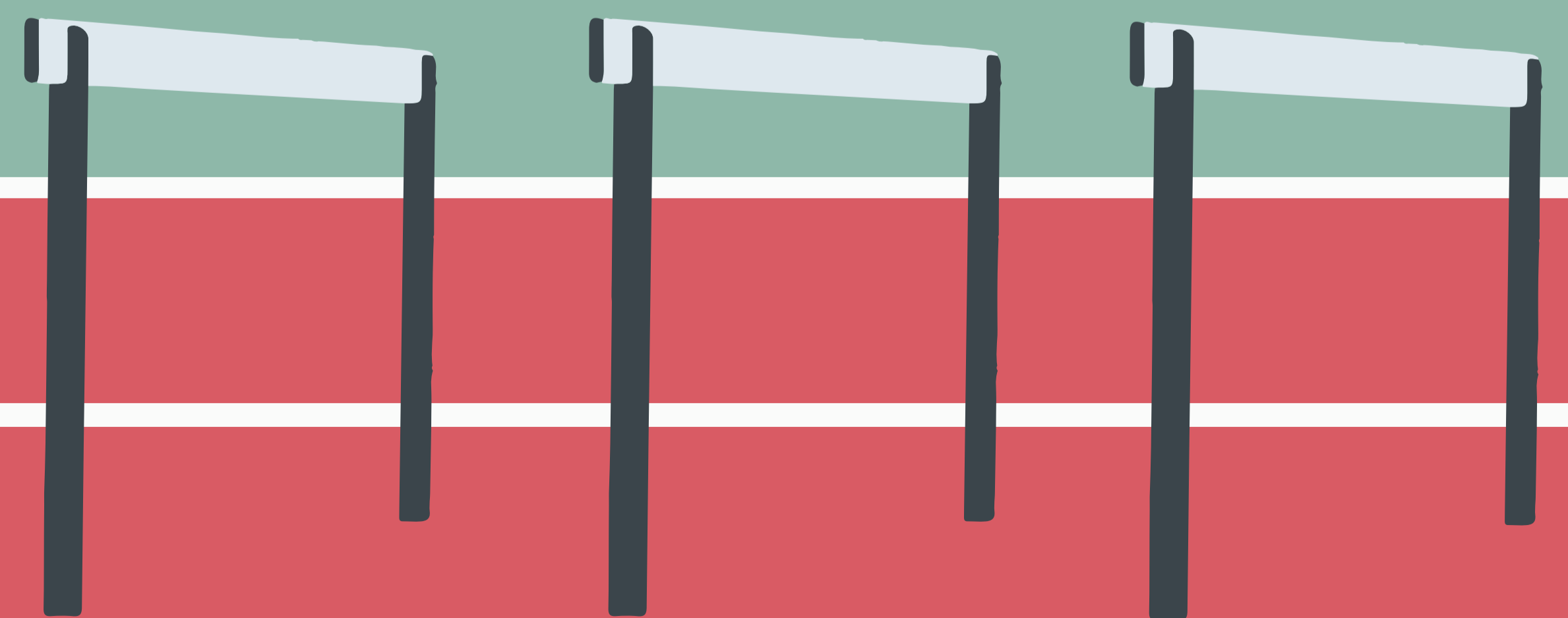
By learning about how systemic oppression works,



students recognize that individuals are not at fault for the challenges they face,

(e.g. poverty, etc.)

but rather that those individuals face unfair structural disadvantages.



CRT Fuels Us to Create Real Change (1/3)

When we fail to recognize underlying, structural inequities,



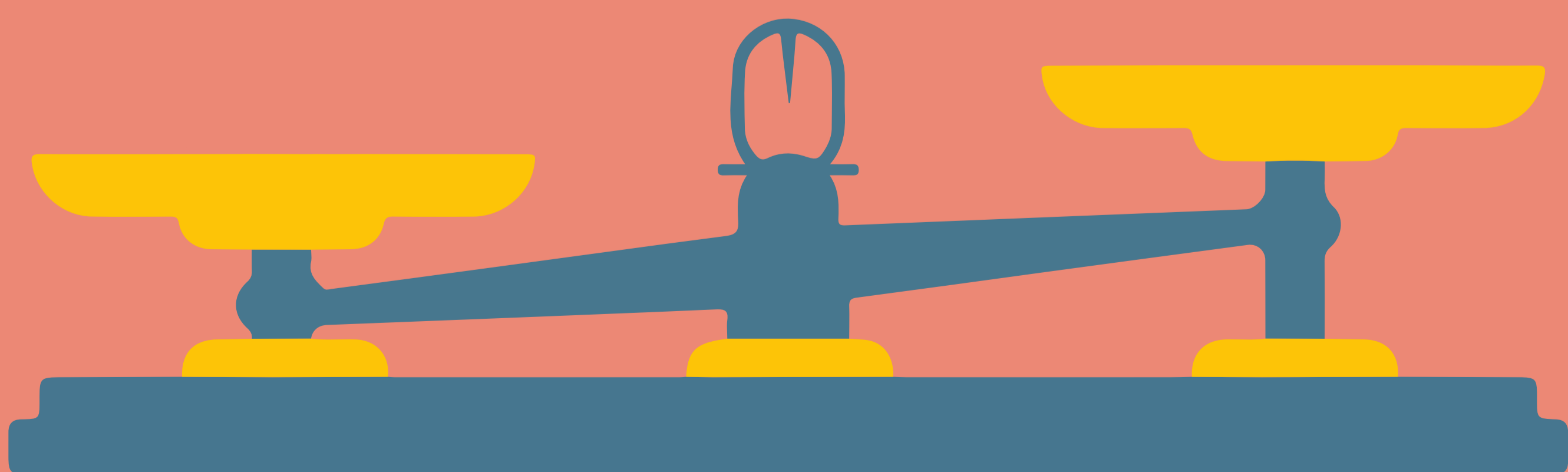
our view of racism becomes limited to individuals' racist attitudes.



And so we end up focusing exclusively on changing individuals,



and leave oppressive structures intact to reproduce inequities.



→ Which is ultimately more harmful →

CRT Fuels Us to Create Real Change (2/3)

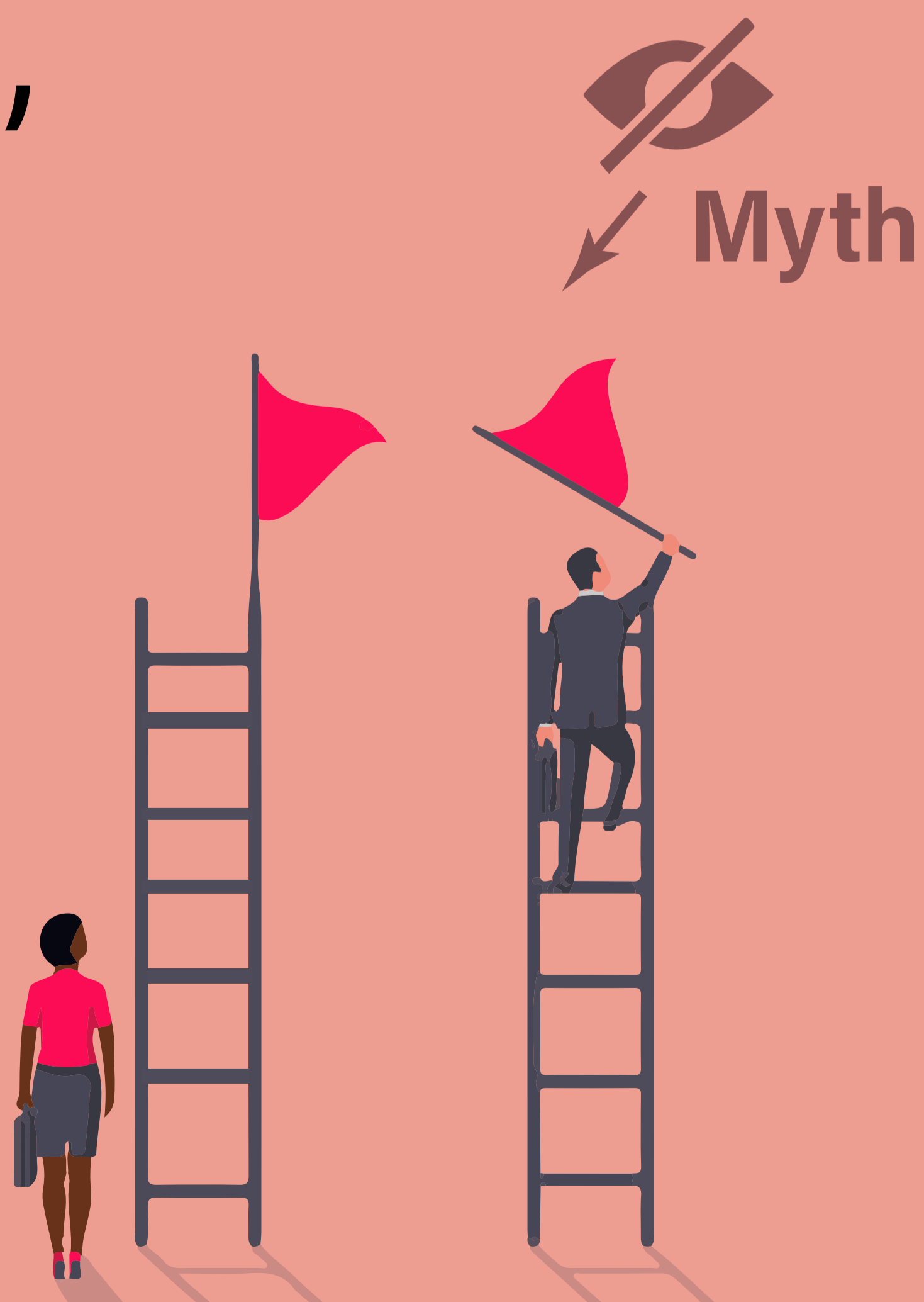
Many believe that “color-blindness” is the ultimate goal of racial justice efforts.



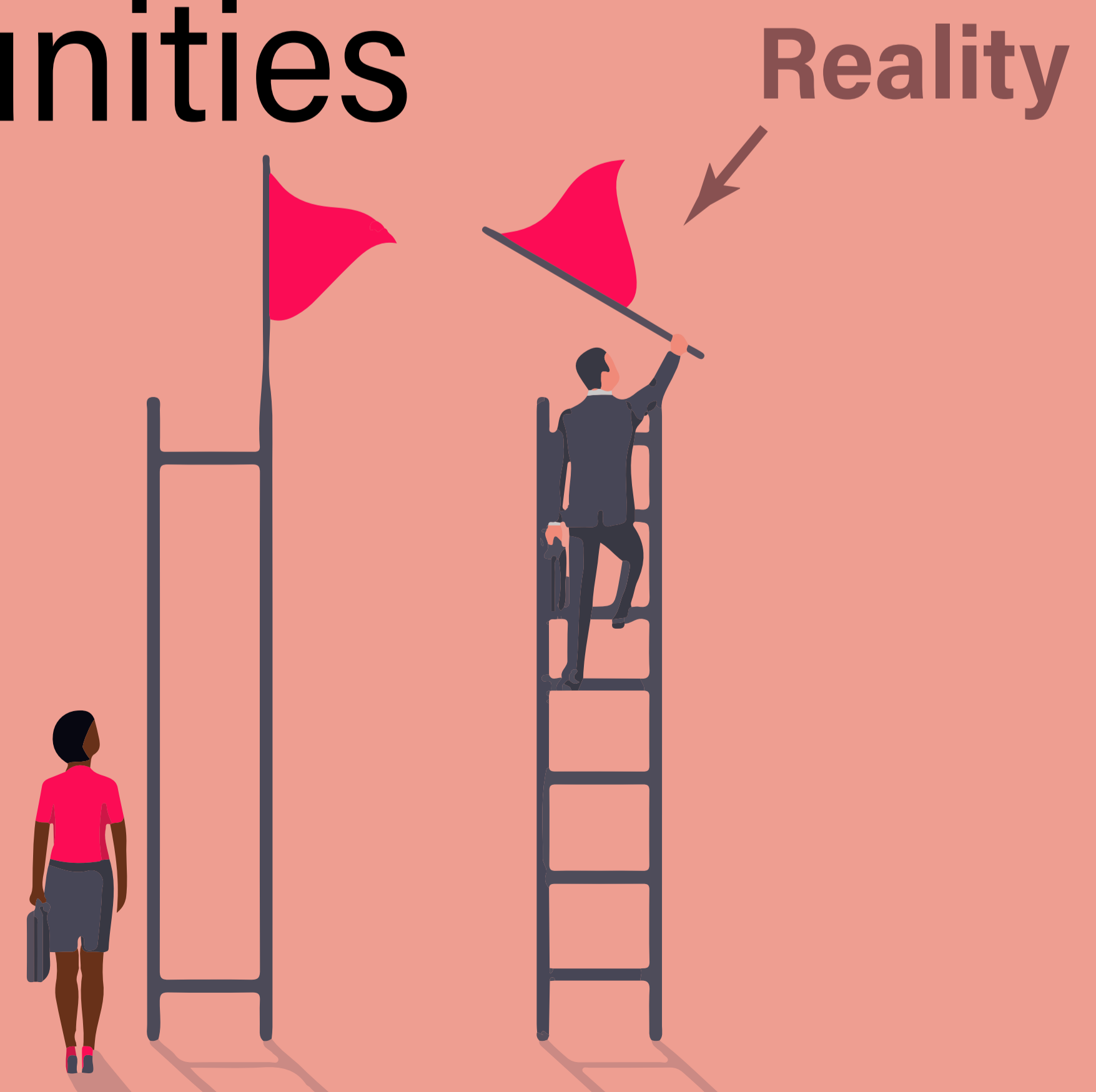
When someone “doesn’t see” race

But “color-blindness” is harmful:

It assumes a level playing field for all races,

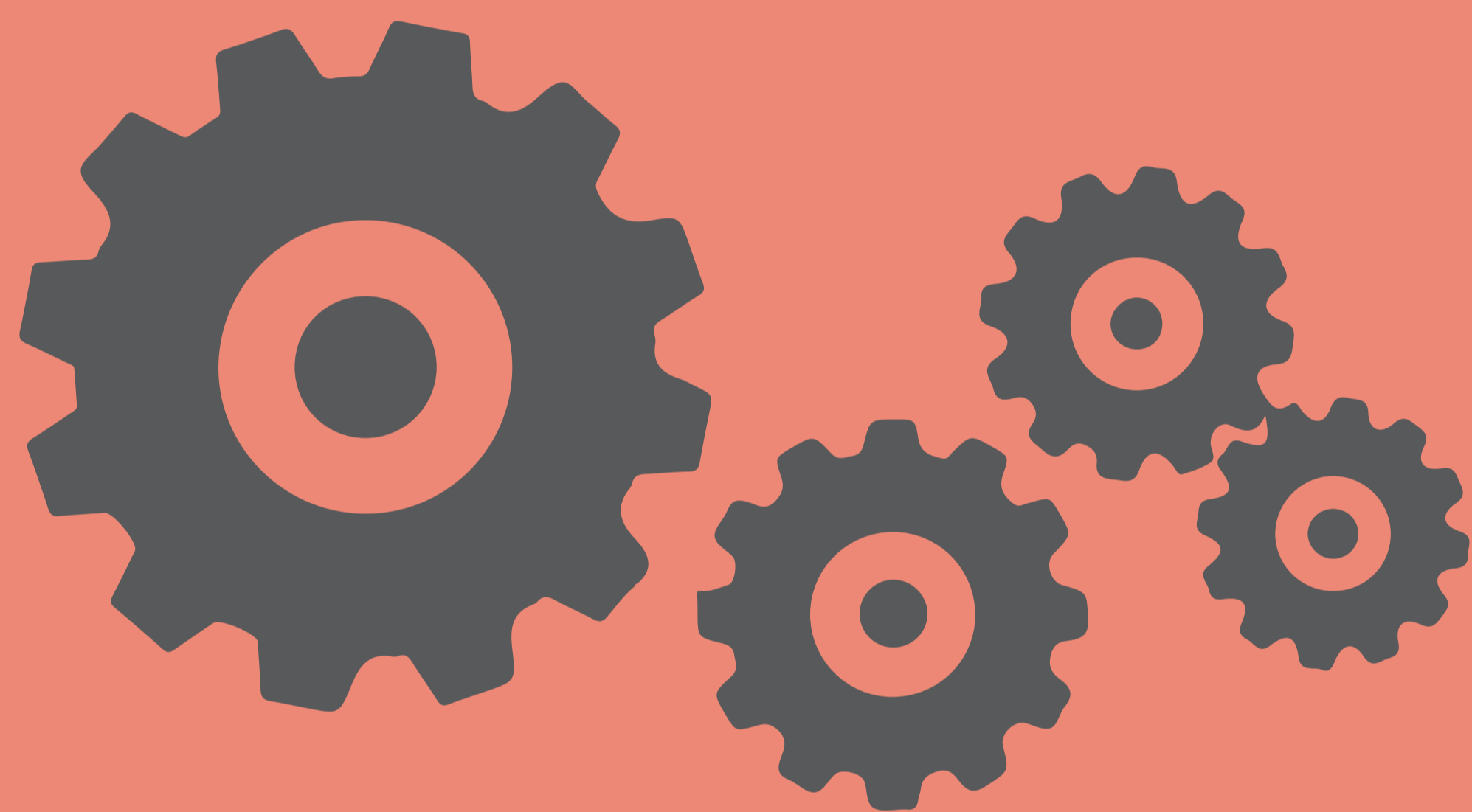


Ignoring the structural disadvantages and historical exclusion faced by communities of color.



CRT Fuels Us to Create Real Change (3/3)

Analyzing systemic racism through CRT allows us to recognize the root causes of inequality



And thus focus our efforts on making structural change.

It demands anti-racism, rather than just the absence of individuals' racism.

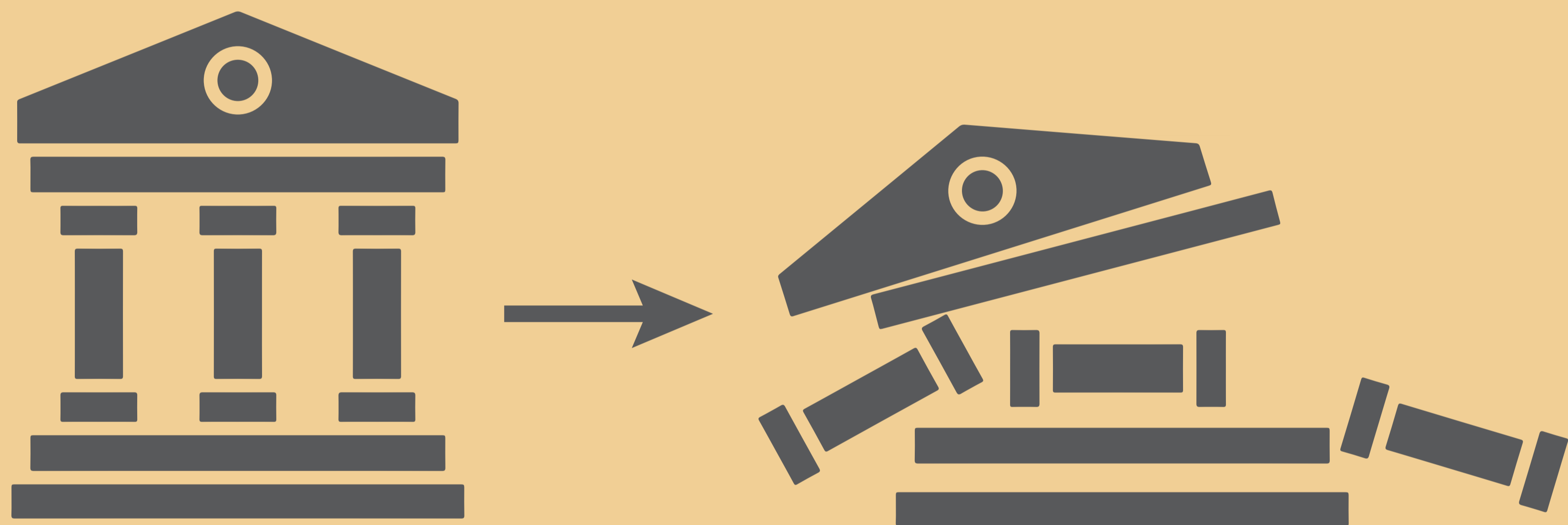


To consistently and actively question and challenge racist systems

A NOTE ON Fundamental Criticism vs Bit Criticism

Fundamental Criticism: Challenges the fundamental reality that we live within

Demands an overhaul of current structures and the criticism of widely held assumptions



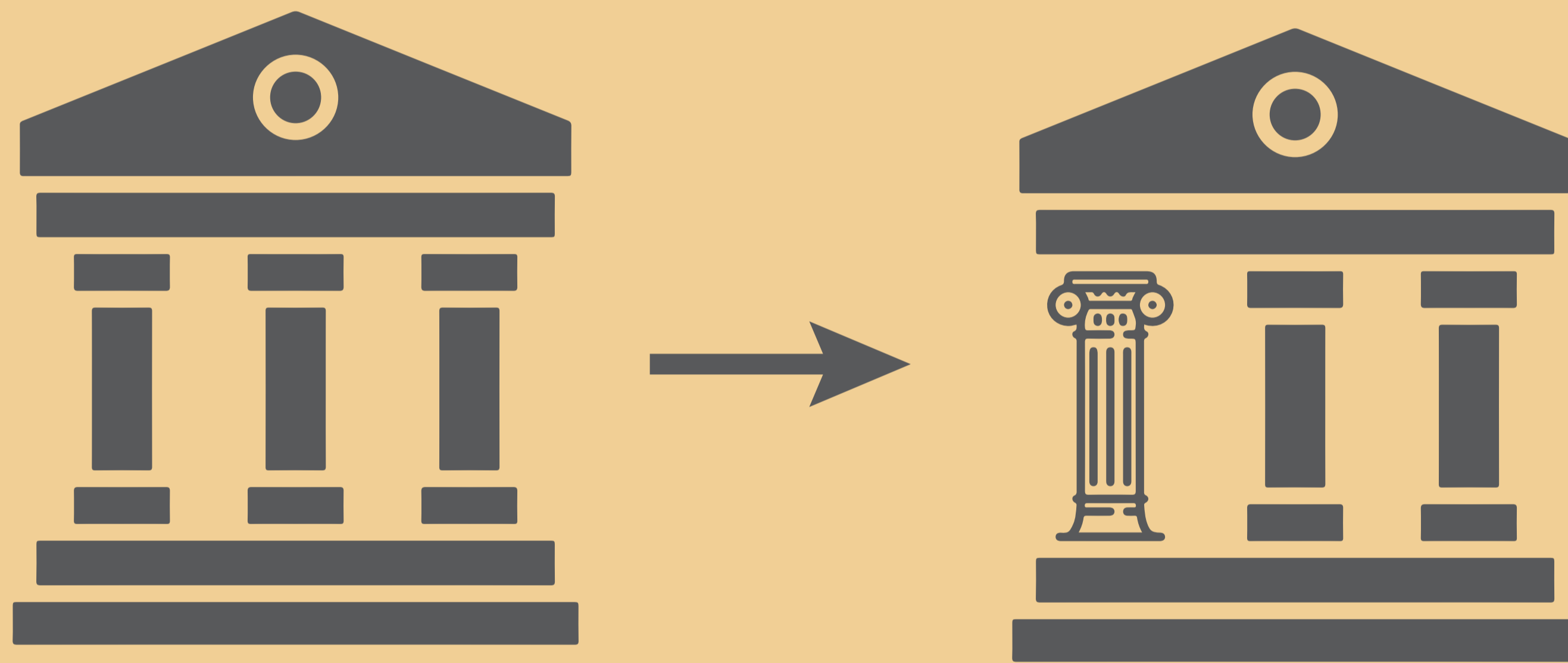
Provides room to construct new and better systems



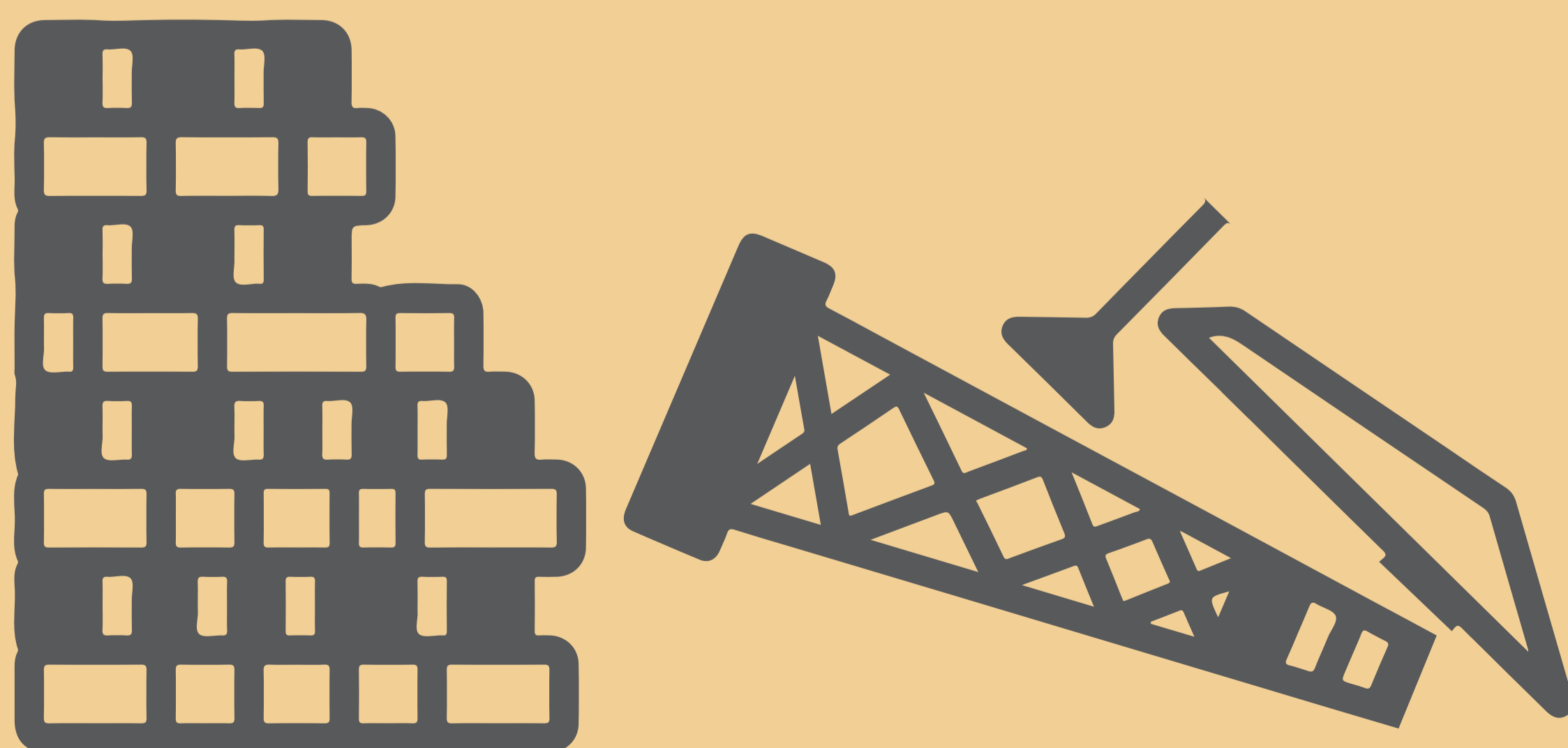
A NOTE ON Fundamental Criticism vs Bit Criticism

Bit Criticism: Challenges “bits” of the reality that we live within

Demands that individual parts of the system change, rather than the whole system itself



Inadvertently strengthens our support for current reality by implying that real change is possible within it



Sources

“CRITICAL RACE THEORY, ARCHIE SHEPP, AND
FIRE MUSIC: SECURING AN AUTHENTIC
INTELLECTUAL LIFE IN A MULTICULTURAL WORLD”
JOHN CALMORE

“A Critique of ‘Our Constitution Is Color-Blind’”
Neil Gotanda