

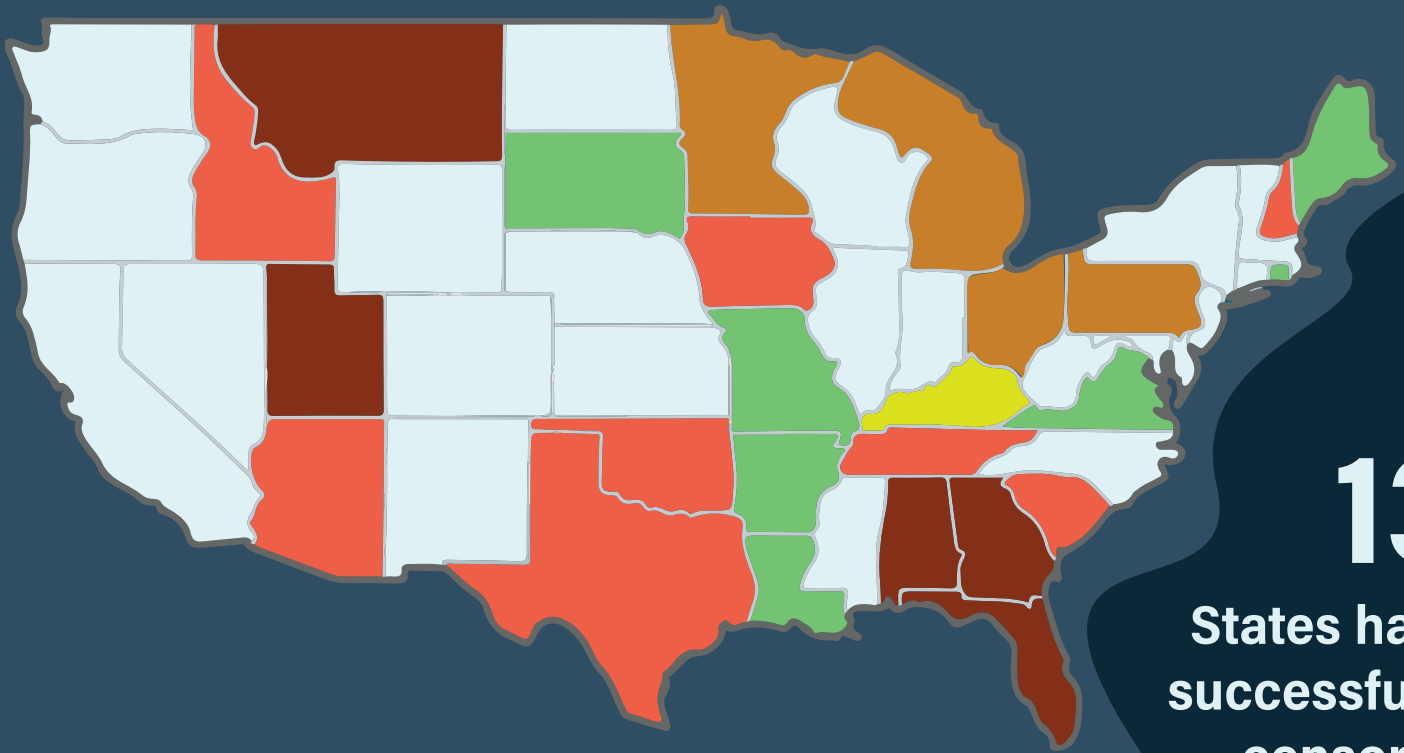
Responding to Criticisms of CRT

Unpacking the Right's culture war against critical race theory



The Policing of Knowledge Acquisition

Across the country, lawmakers have signed bills or taken state-level action banning critical race theory and discussions of racism in the classroom.



13

States have successfully censored CRT

- State-level action taken to censor CRT
- Bill to ban CRT signed into law
- Anti-CRT bill has been proposed
- Bill withdrawn

eg. Board of Education resolutions

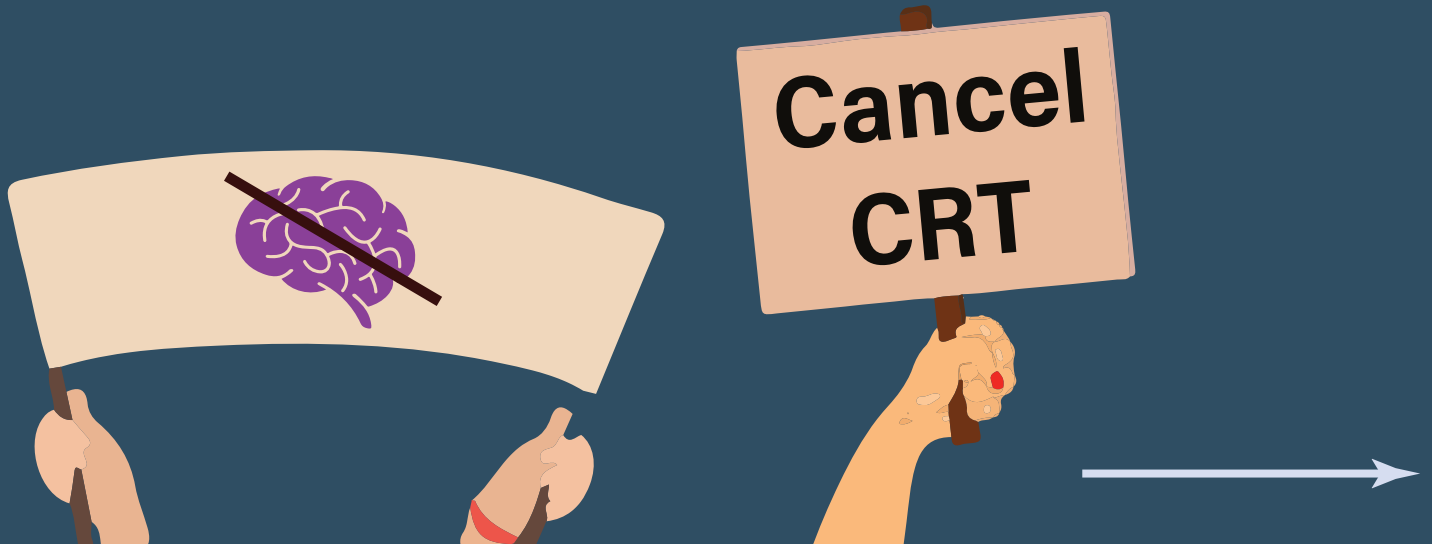
Why Is the Right Launching an Attack?

Notably, CRT is not (nor ever has been) widely taught in US high schools



Only 56% of American high schoolers report discussing race at all in the classroom (much less critical race theory)

So why is the Right trying to ban CRT?



Why Is the Right Launching an Attack?

According to the Washington Post, the culture war against CRT has effectively mobilized conservative voters.



By fueling fears and misconceptions of CRT, the Right has "paint[ed] Democrats as 'extreme.'"



Many don't understand what CRT is, "but viewed it as part of a broader cultural shift they feared."



Their key arguments & our responses →

Criticism 1: "CRT is Anti-White"

By asking white people to acknowledge "white privilege"



Critics alledge that CRT villainizes white people

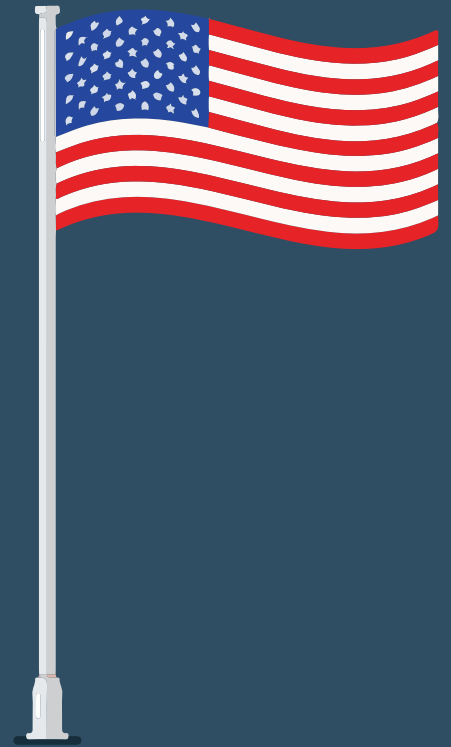
And unfairly implies that "all white people are racist"



Our Response:

CRT recognizes that this country was built upon the oppression of BIPOC people,

And that white people have inherent systemic privileges.



But by focusing on systemic flaws, it does the opposite of blaming white individuals for inequality –

It provides a framework for us to work together and rebuild in better ways.

Criticism 2: "CRT is Too Divisive"

By focusing on the ugly parts of America's history, from slavery to the Jim Crow era,



Critics argue that CRT further divides us along lines of racial identity



And prevents us from "moving on" from the past

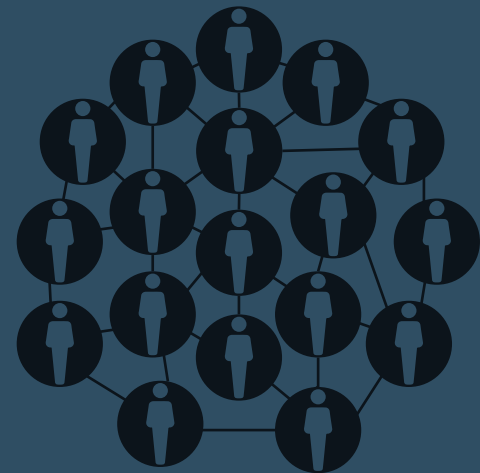
Our Response:

Identity politics –
approaching politics
from the perspective
of a group, rather than
as an individual –



Is a source of
strength and community
for marginalized people

As it allows us to realize
that the violence affecting
us is "part of a broad-scale
system of domination"



Rather than "isolated
and individual."

Sources

"Mapping the Margins," Kimberle Crenshaw

"'There's a concerted backlash': Ibram X Kendi on antiracism under attack," David Smith (The Guardian)

"What Is Critical Race Theory, and Why Is It Under Attack?" Stephen Sawchuck (EducationWeekly)

"The War On Critical Race Theory Continues As Some Call It Anti-White," Janice Gassam Asare (Forbes)

"Map: See which states have passed critical race theory bills," Aadit Tambe (NBC News)

Education Week. (2021, August 13). Map: Where critical race theory is under attack. Education Week. <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/map-where-critical-race-theory-is-under-attack/2021/06>.