

STATUES, FASCISTS, AND MEMORY

The Use & Abuse of History

DR. DAVID REDLES

Professor of History Western
Campus

DR. MATTHEW PHILLIPS

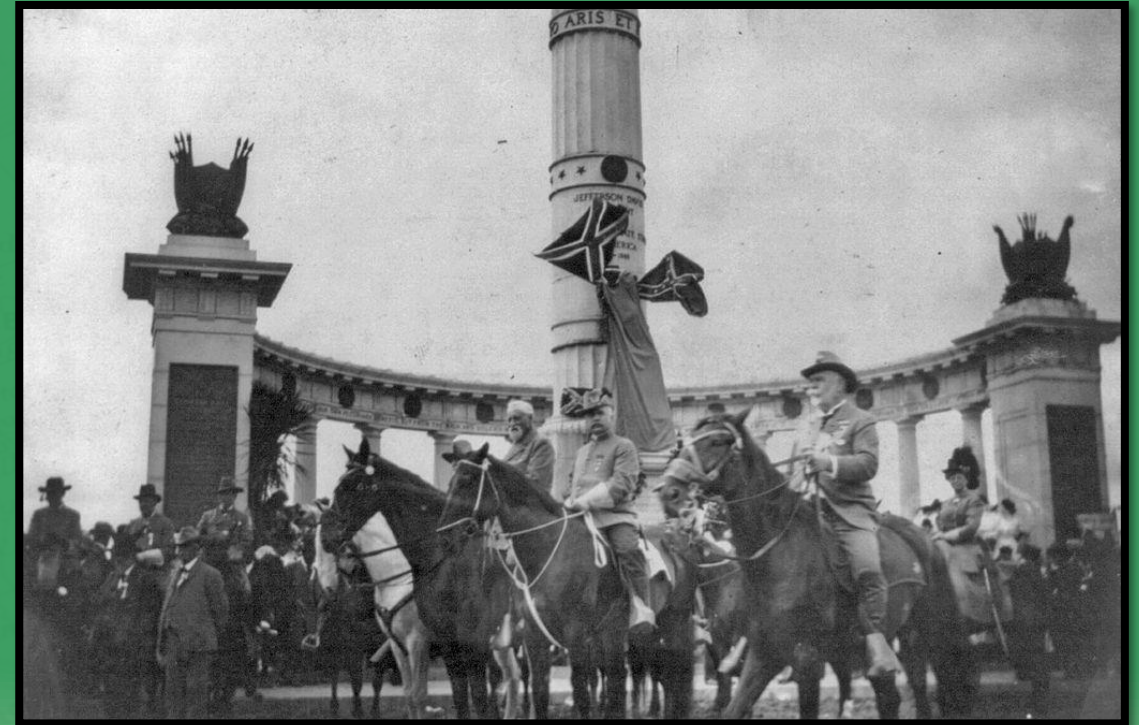
Assistant Professor of History
Metropolitan Campus



REMEMBERING THE U.S. CIVIL WAR & SLAVERY: THE LOST CAUSE MYTH



Bree Newsome Bass at the
South Carolina State Capitol in 2015



Curtis Lee at the Jefferson Davis Memorial,
Richmond Virginia, 1907

NARRATIVES: A STORY-TELLING SPECIES

- Identity; Place & Time; Values; Mission



Clash of the Titans depiction of Perseus, son of Zeus (1981); modern depiction of Manu and the Flood (India); Quetzalcoatl; modern depiction of Native North American Turtle Island; Adam and Eve by Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1528

MYTHOLOGY & MEMORY

Purpose	Narrative → Gain & Reinforce Identity, Place & Time, Values, Mission
Pronouns	We, us, ours vs. they, them, theirs
People Are	Characters or Character Types: Robert E. Lee; Southern Belles; slaves; etc.
Tools	Belief, Feelings, Art, Some Memory

REMEMBERING THE U.S. CIVIL WAR & SLAVERY: A NORTHERN MYTH?



Ontario Street, Cleveland, November 22, 2014,
Angela Merendino, Getty Images



Boston Harbor, Fitz Henry Lane, 1856

MYTHOLOGY & MEMORY

Purpose	Narrative → Gain & Reinforce Identity, Place & Time, Values, Mission
Pronouns	We, us, ours vs. they, them, theirs
People Are	Characters or Character Types
Tools	Belief, Feelings, Art, Some Memory

AMERICAN NARRATIVES



John Gast, *American Progress*, 1872

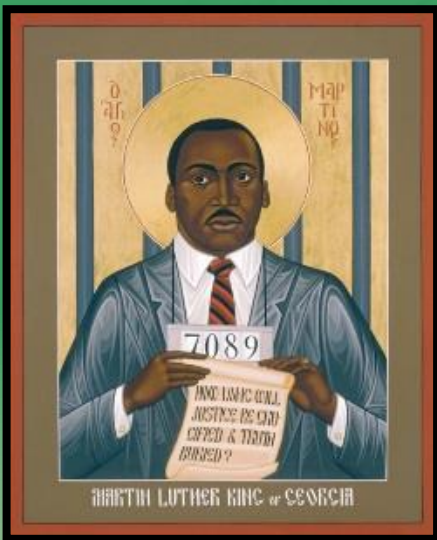
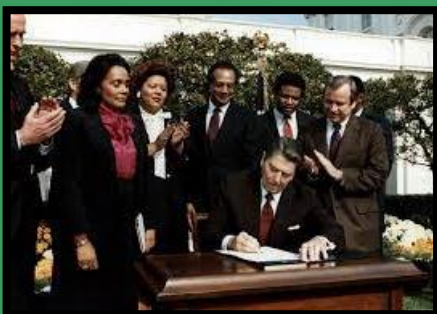


1908 play,
The Melting Pot



Suburban Family, H. Armstrong
Roberts, 1958, Corbis

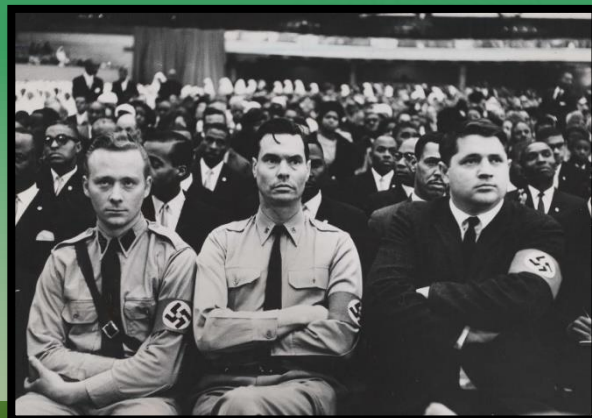
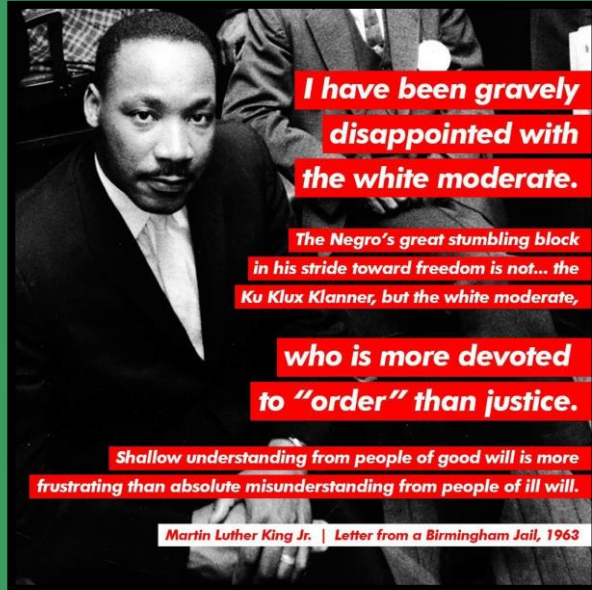
“I HAVE A DREAM . . .”



Rose Garden signing of MLK Day, November 2, 1983; King icon, Holy Christian Orthodox Church

Normal Rockwell, *New Kids in the Neighborhood*, 1967

BLACK POWER & THE WHITE MODERATE



- Angela Davis
- Black Panthers Breakfast Program
- George Lincoln Rockwell (center), Head of the American Nazi Party, at Nation of Islam Meeting, Washington, D.C., 1960

JAMES BALDWIN ON THE “N WORD” (CONTENT WARNING)

- Identity
- Place
- Time
- Values
- Mission



[https://www.youtube
.com/watch?v=L0L5fc
iA6AU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0L5fc
iA6AU)

MYTHOLOGY VS. HISTORY

Purpose	Narrative → Gain & Reinforce Identity, Place & Time, Values, Mission	Analysis of Changes over Time → Discern Systemic Developments, Patterns
Pronouns	We, us, ours vs. they, them, theirs	They, them, theirs
People Are	Characters or Character Types	Agents
Tools	Belief, Feelings, Art, Some Memory	Research and Revision

MYTHOLOGY VS. HISTORY

Purpose	Narrative → Gain & Reinforce Identity, Place & Time, Values, Mission	Analysis of Changes over Time → Discern Systemic Developments, Patterns
Pronouns	We, us, ours vs. they, them, theirs	They, them, theirs
People Are	Characters or Character Types	Agents
Tools	Belief, Feelings, Art, Some Memory	Research and Revision

Where do news sources fit into this?

MYTHOLOGY VS. HISTORY

Purpose	Narrative → Gain & Reinforce Identity, Place & Time, Values, Mission	Analysis of Changes over Time → Discern Systemic Developments, Patterns
Pronouns	We, us, ours vs. they, them, theirs	They, them, theirs
People Are	Characters or Character Types	Agents
Tools	Belief, Feelings, Art, Some Memory	Research and Revision

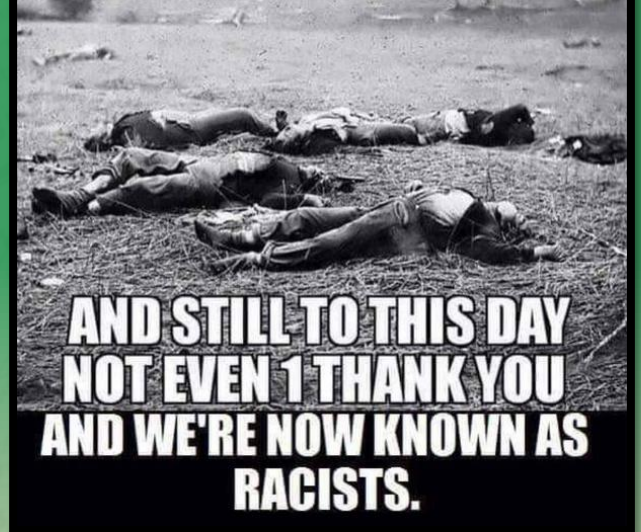
*Where do news sources fit into this?
national news, demographic news*

**OVER 620,000 WHITE PEOPLE
DIED TO FREE BLACK SLAVES**



**AND STILL TO THIS DAY
NOT EVEN 1 THANK YOU.**

**OVER 620,000 WHITE PEOPLE
DIED TO FREE BLACK SLAVES**



**AND STILL TO THIS DAY
NOT EVEN 1 THANK YOU
AND WE'RE NOW KNOWN AS
RACISTS.**