



## The U.S. Military Goes for Woke

While the U.S. beat a demoralizing retreat from Afghanistan that left 13 American service members dead and many U.S. citizens stranded, the military top brass showed that they were not going to be distracted from what appears to be their primary mission: propagandizing the ranks. The same day that 13 service members were killed, Sgt. Maj. April Ivory celebrated Women's Equality Day.

Appearing at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia on August 26, Sgt. Maj. Ivory cheered her military superiors for pushing for equality in the military. "Today, we see progress," she told the troops that turned out to celebrate this day. She noted that this progress within the military reflected general social advancements being made by women, including the first female candidate for president in 2016 and the first female vice president. She was joined by other speakers such as Army Master Sgt. Eddie Brinkley, who intoned that "we have learned that our country succeeds when women succeed."<sup>1</sup>

Other military bases across the country joined in this celebration of advancing diversity through women's equality. At the 84th Training Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Sgt. 1st Class Sheree Dillon, the noncommissioned officer in charge of supply and logistics, gushed, "Today I am proud to be part of the most powerful military in the world—a force that believes in improving and investing in women's potential."<sup>2</sup>

Obviously these events were planned long before the Afghanistan debacle. Yet the event press releases issued by the military made no mention of the day's atrocity, the suicide bombing of American service members and Afghan civilians. Indeed, on September 1, in another futile attempt to distract the public from the administration's bungled pull-out, Defense Department spokesman John Kirby tweeted out an op-ed published that day in *The Hill* by Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Kathleen Hicks entitled "Addressing Racial Disparities in the Military Justice System."

*The heavy blow to U.S. prestige occasioned by the chaotic American withdrawal from Afghanistan in August should prompt soul-searching about the command structure's obsession with race and gender "equity" at the expense of military effectiveness.*

### A Push From the Top

Following his inauguration, President Joe Biden issued a sweeping executive order (EO 13950), "On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." It announced, "Our country faces converging economic, health, and climate crises that have exposed and exacerbated inequities, while a historic movement for justice has highlighted the unbearable human costs of systemic racism."<sup>3</sup> The order called for "a comprehensive approach to advancing equity" through action across all executive departments and agencies to close "racial gaps" in wages, housing credit, lending opportunities and education. Other Biden executive actions demanded federal measures to ensure equity for gay and transgendered people, including transsexuals in the military (see *Mindszenty Report*, March 2021).

*Numerous complaints have emerged that the U.S. military is aggressively pushing critical race theory in the ranks and in the military academies, with no tolerance for dissent.* A policy to make the armed forces more politically correct is not new, but the project has accelerated under Biden. In 2014, then Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel issued an "environmental roadmap" that mandated deference to environmental concerns when making operational plans. This was followed the next year by the Army issuing regulations requiring commanders to balance mission requirements with the needs of breastfeeding mothers.<sup>4</sup> Wokeness has reached new levels under the Biden administration.

Following the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot, Biden called on the intelligence community for an assessment of the threat of domestic terrorism. With reports that some active-duty

soldiers and veterans participated in the riot, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin ordered that the Defense Department undertake training on political extremism across the military, down to the smallest unit.

Following this order, *every military service was ordered to conduct a review to address extremism within its ranks, specifically focusing on white supremacy.* The implication was that the January 6 Capitol protest in support of President Trump, which his foes inaptly labeled an “insurrection,” was an expression of white supremacy that has no place in the military. Trump voters reportedly felt unwelcome in the military’s ensuing “stand-down” sessions.<sup>5</sup>

Shortly after this controversy, President Biden signed an order in January revoking former President Trump’s ban on transgender people serving in the military. This was followed by another order requiring all federal agencies involved with foreign nations to promote the rights of “LGBTQI+ people.” Secretary of Defense Austin jumped on the woke bandwagon by issuing a memorandum requiring the department to expand its efforts to promote LGBTQI+ rights and to consider these rights in all Defense Department funding and contracts.<sup>6</sup>

### Gen. Milley Fuels the Fire

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Mark A. Milley added fuel to the fire in his testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on June 23 when he defended the study of critical race theory (CRT) in the military. The Ivy League-educated Milley, a Trump appointee, explained, “I do think it’s important for those of us in the uniform to be open-minded and be widely read. . . . I want to understand white rage. . . . What is it that caused thousands of people to assault this building and try to overturn the Constitution of the United States of America?” He continued, “I’ve read Karl Marx. I’ve read Lenin. That does not make me a communist. So what is wrong with understanding, having some situational understanding about the country which we are here to defend?”<sup>7</sup>

*Secretary of Defense Austin, who followed Milley, quickly tried to reassure Congress that CRT was not being incorporated into military training or the military academies.* While Austin denied the military was using CRT, progressives threw their support behind Milley’s call for critical race theory to be studied. *Rolling Stone* reporter Ryan Bort called Milley’s speech a “powerful defense” of studying CRT.<sup>8</sup>

Amid this debate, two *Washington Post* reporters, Carol Leonnig and Philip Rucker, in *I Alone Can Fix It: Donald*

*J. Trump’s Catastrophic Final Year* (2021) described how Milley was prepared to call out the army to stop Trump from undertaking a possible coup d’état on January 6. Leonnig and Rucker portray Milley as becoming increasingly fearful of a Trump coup intended to prevent a peaceful transition following the November 2020 presidential election. By June 2020, Milley had concluded that Trump was determined not to relinquish control of the White House whatever the results of the election.

### Paranoia About a Coup

Watching the election results on television in November, Milley became more and more alarmed about what Trump might do. When Trump fired his Secretary of State Mark Esper following the election, and rumors circulated that the heads of the CIA and FBI were next, Milley began to hear from lawmakers, commanders, retired generals, and national security officials that Trump was planning a coup. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) separately told Milley that the entire country was counting on Milley to prevent such a coup.

Milley bought into the rumors. He described Trump protesters as the modern American equivalent of “brownshirts in the street.” When Trump called for a rally to protest the election on January 6, Milley concluded, “This is a Reichstag moment. The gospel of the Führer.”<sup>9</sup> Milley’s thinking followed a certain twisted logic: If Trump was America’s next Führer, then his hard-core followers were enraged white supremacists, and therefore “white rage” should be studied in order to prevent a fascist takeover in America.

A new book by journalists Bob Woodward and Robert Costa released in September, *Peril*, revealed more troubling details about Milley’s mental state last January. Shaken by the January 6 Capitol riot and worried that Trump could “go rogue,” Milley called a secret meeting of senior military officials at the Pentagon and instructed them not to take orders from anyone (such as commander-in-chief Trump) unless Milley was involved. He also had two back-channel phone calls with China’s top general, promising to tip him off if the U.S. planned to attack China, and tried to assure a panicky Pelosi that the nuclear weapons were safe from Trump.

The question remains, however: Is the Pentagon actually employing critical race theory in military training and education? Unequivocally yes. *Austin’s denial was disingenuous. Reports of CRT indoctrination within the military are widespread.* The Department of Defense’s Diversity and Inclusion Plan calls for “diversity, equity and inclusion” to

be included at all levels of the Army.<sup>10</sup> Austin established within the department the “Countering Extremism Group” with the mission of outing “extremism” in the ranks, which includes outing religious “extremists” who have too strong views against abortion or LGBTQI+ lifestyles.<sup>11</sup>

Following up on this directive, the Department of the Navy was ordered to develop educational programs and operational procedures for all Navy and Marine personnel to ensure “diversity, equity and inclusion.” The Navy created a task force “to address the issues of racism, sexism, and other destructive biases and their impact on naval readiness.” The task force was charged to address “the full spectrum of systemic racism, advocate for the needs of underserved communities, work to dismantle barriers and equalize professional development frameworks and opportunities with the Navy.”<sup>12</sup> The Department of Defense denied hiring a cyber-analysis company to conduct internet searches for military personnel expressing extremist positions.<sup>13</sup>

### The Reality of CRT in the Military

In late May Lt. Col. Matthew Lohmeier was fired as commander of a U.S. Space Force unit because he denounced the rapid inroads of critical race theory indoctrination among America’s armed forces in a new book, *Irresistible Revolution: Marxism’s Goal of Conquest and the Unmaking of the American Military*. Lohmeier reported on the “intensive teaching” of CRT at his base, which he described as “Marxist in nature.”<sup>14</sup> He declined to allow a chaplain at his base to give his troops a series of lectures on race, supported by the base’s leadership, to elaborate on the chaplain’s stated belief that “basically, all whites are racist.” In retaliation, Lt. General Stephen Whiting, the head of Space Operations Command, removed Lohmeier as commander of the 11th Space Warning Squadron. Lohmeier has since separated himself from the military altogether.

In response to such accounts, Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Representative Dan Crenshaw (R-TX) established a whistleblower reporting system for members of the Armed Forces to describe incidents of CRT indoctrination in the military. By mid-August they had received hundreds of reports.<sup>15</sup>

Austin’s assurance to Congress that CRT was not being imposed in the military was challenged directly by Representative Mike Waltz (R-FL), who noted that the superintendent of West Point Academy had confirmed in a letter to him that CRT was part of an academy course using Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, *Critical Race Theory: An*

*Introduction*, as a primary text. The book is an over-the-top defense of CRT. Moreover, West Point hosted a seminar entitled “Understanding Whiteness and White Rage” led by Carol Anderson, who called Trump a white nationalist out to destroy American democracy.<sup>16</sup>

Incoming cadets at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs are now required to watch a “diversity and inclusion” video encouraging them to attend a Black Lives Matter meeting. A student’s expressed preference for the slogan “All Lives Matter” is described in the video as a “really problematic” comment.<sup>17</sup> An associate professor of political science at the Air Force Academy, Lynne Chandler Garcia, openly teaches that America was founded on a duality of liberalism and “inequality, inequality and second-class citizenship.” She asserts that “racism was ingrained in the system from the beginning” and calls for CRT to be taught at all the military academies.<sup>18</sup>

A sign of the further erosion of meritocracy in order to promote racial “equity” in the military was a remark by Vice Admiral John Nowell Jr. in August. He said at a conference that the military “should consider reinstating photos” in considering officer promotions. A couple of years earlier, the services eliminated the photo requirement in order to remove any racial bias in the promotion process. As a result, racial “diversity” in promotions “went down with photos removed.” In an op-ed taking issue with Admiral Nowell’s comment, a retired black naval intelligence officer asked rhetorically, “Do Americans want leaders who are promoted based on intelligence, aptitude, skill and excellence? Or do they want to entrust their children to those who were selected to bump up the military’s diversity statistics?”<sup>19</sup>

### Feminization of the Military

The erosion of standards for female soldiers and sailors has been going on for many years, culminating in the 2015 decision of the Obama administration to open all combat positions in the U.S. Armed Forces to women. There is constant pressure to lower physical standards for women. New Pentagon regulations even allow pregnant air crew members to wear maternity flight suits for flying missions.<sup>20</sup>

In yet another concession to political correctness at the expense of military preparedness and sound policy, both the Senate and the House Armed Services Committees have voted out proposed 2022 defense policy bills containing *a provision that would require young women to register for the military draft like men*. A number of Republicans voted with the Democrats on each committee to refer the bills to the full Senate and House.

## Politicized Armed Forces

For years prior to the drive to root out white supremacy in the military, the U.S. Armed Forces were admired for their training to promote unity within a diverse corps. Military recruits were trained to have loyalty to their units. This was necessary for combat. This began to change when the Diversity and Leadership Office was created within the U.S. Central Command. In 2010, the office issued the United States Army Diversity Roadmap promoting affirmative action.<sup>21</sup>

Under the Biden administration, the military brass took the next step: CRT training and the outing of alleged white supremacists in the ranks. The tragic irony is that while the military command looks for “extremists” in their ranks, the Biden administration capitulated to actual extremists in Afghanistan—the Taliban—and then declared that the United States was seeking cooperation with them to counter ISIS-K, the Afghanistan-affiliated Islamic State group that claimed responsibility for the murderous suicide bombing at the Kabul airport on the Taliban’s watch. The Taliban remain closely allied with al-Qaeda, the terrorist group responsible for the 9/11/2001 attacks on America.

The Biden administration is promoting an agenda that seeks to convince the young and those defending our nation that America was founded on racism and continues to be a racist society. How willing will young soldiers be to defend a society that they believe is fundamentally racist? How many non-brainwashed young patriots will continue to enlist in a blatantly propagandistic institution whose top commanders are careerist yes-men who cave to the woke agenda?

Military academies, the armed forces, and schools should teach a message of unity, not victimhood. Let’s hope our political and military leaders wake up to reality, instead of wokeism, before it is too late.

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**BIDEN TARGETS WHITE EXTREMISTS: AN OLD LEFT-WING PLOY.** On little evidence, the Biden administration considers white supremacists a bigger domestic threat than Islamists or antifa. The left has been smearing conservatives as fascist extremists ever since the 1930s. Ask for 9/21

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