One Education, Under God:

A Study of White Christian Nationalism and Its Authoritarian Impact on the United States K-12 Public Education

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BACKGROUND

- In recent years, coverage on White Christian Nationalism (WCN) has risen in both academic and popular media
- Empirical data indicates that WCN contributes to the implementation of authoritarian changes in U.S. institutions, including public education
- Research regarding WCN remains relatively new, especially in the context of education

What is WCN?

WCN is a political movement that gains power by promoting an authoritarian "fusion of Christianity with American civic life" and a false Christian-nation ethos (Whitehead & Perry, 2020, p.10).

OBJECTIVES

- Discern authoritarian ideology and tactics within WCN
- Identify intersections between
 WCN and U.S. public education
- Determine significance
- Propose potential solutions

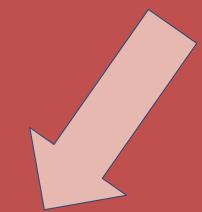
White Christian Nationalism (WCN) uses authoritarian tactics and promotes authoritarian thought in the U.S. K-12 public education system.

Authoritarian Ideology in WCN

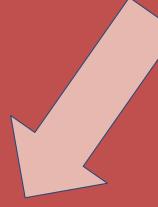
- Promotion of social hierarchies
- In-group vs.
 out-group mentality
- Blind national loyalty
- Restriction of personal freedom(s)

Authoritarian Tactics in WCN

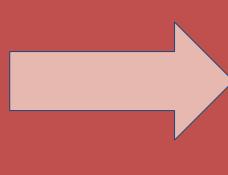
- Leverage religion
- Weaponize fear
- Target/scapegoat out-group(s)
- Rewrite history
- Censorship
- Spreaddisinformation



Culminate in Legislative Decisions such as:

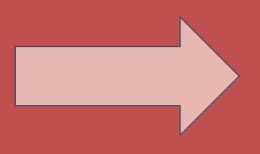


"Stop W.O.K.E. Act"



Restricts teachings of anti-Black racism including Critical Race Theory

Florida House Bill 1557



Prohibits teachings of gender identity and sexual orientation

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

METHODS

Analysis of academic scholarship, legislative decisions, education curricula

CASES

"Stop W.O.K.E. Act" redubbed to the Individual Freedom Act (2022)

- Targets Black Americans
- Maintains hierarchy of white supremacy
- Rewrites American history by excluding/censoring teachings regarding race

"Don't Say Gay Bill" officially titled Florida House Bill 1557 (2022)

- Targets LGBTQ+ youth
- Promotes "parental rights" while disregarding childrens' freedom of expression
- Potential risk of mental health and safety concerns for LGBTQ+ youth

POTENTIAL ACTION

Implementation of programs in education curricula surrounding:

- Critical Thinking
- Media Literacy
- Civil Dialogue

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