

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
- Spread disinformation

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

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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