



Media's Misleading Portrayal of the Fight over Critical Race Theory

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November 2021

Key Points

- This report examines how media covered the critical race theory (CRT) debate in schooling through an analysis of all news articles published between September 2020 and August 2021 by four major newspapers and three major education press outlets.
- Coverage largely ignored bedrock assumptions of CRT, including its explicit rejection of rationality and objectivity. This was mentioned in fewer than 10 percent of articles.
- News accounts also rarely mentioned concerns about CRT-aligned practices, such as segregated, race-based affinity spaces or the promotion of “anti-racist” racial stereotypes.
- Instead, most coverage focused on whether schools should discuss racism and slavery, even though few (if any) critics have adopted this position. The result has been a misleading, slanted, and dismissive caricature of sober concerns.

Critical race theory (CRT) has dominated the past year's education debates. In theory, CRT is a narrow scholarly approach to addressing legal, social, and economic arrangements. In practice, it's come to serve as a shorthand label for an array of racially charged educational policies and practices. While the precise contours of CRT are far from clear, what's indisputable is that CRT-aligned advocates, such as Ibram X. Kendi and Nikole Hannah-Jones, have risen to prominence as their assertions that the US is systemically racist have gained traction in colleges and schools.

Such claims are ideologically charged, and it's no surprise that they've provoked fierce conflict. Kendi, for instance, holds that every thought, action, and policy is either racist or anti-racist. “There is no such thing as a not-racist idea,” he writes in his wildly influential book *How to Be an Antiracist*. “There is no such thing as a nonracist or race-neutral policy,” he argues. Robin DiAngelo, author of the bestseller *White Fragility: Why*

It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism and a popular speaker for colleges, foundations, and schools, similarly teaches, “White identity is inherently racist.”¹

Bettina Love, winner of the 2020 Society of Professors of Education Outstanding Book Award and cofounder of the Abolitionist Teaching Network, explains that “active anti-racism” is “the most important step” teachers can take and “is not a teaching approach or method” but “a way of life.” Glenn Singleton, president of the racial-sensitivity training provider Courageous Conversation, tells the *New York Times Magazine* that “scientific, linear thinking” and “cause and effect” are among the “hallmark[s] of whiteness.”²

Critics have responded that Kendi, DiAngelo, Love, Singleton, and others are encouraging schools to adopt practices that resurrect segregationist tropes, promote pernicious stereotypes, lead students to regard those of other races with suspicion and distrust, and flout civil rights law and constitutional norms. Whether one is

persuaded more by one camp or the other, it's no surprise that this has proven a contentious debate. And, contrary to the manner in which it has sometimes been depicted by media outlets, the clash is about much more than whether to teach about slavery. It's about beliefs and practices that adherents deem invaluable and critics see as invidious.

As this dispute has played out in school boards, statehouses, and Washington, DC, it has attracted considerable media attention. This raises the question of how the ensuing media coverage has portrayed the debate. Put another way: What have parents, voters, educators, and policymakers learned about the arguments and shape of the debate from the news accounts about it?

Employing a strategy I've used on a variety of previous occasions,³ I examined all news accounts addressing CRT published over a one-year period by four major newspapers (the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*) and three influential education press outlets (*Education Week*, the 74, and Chalkbeat). For the four major newspapers, I used ProQuest, a comprehensive database of newspaper articles, to perform a keyword search for "critical race theory."⁴ For the education press outlets, I performed the same keyword search on their individual websites.⁵

This analysis includes all news articles (not opinion pieces) these outlets published between September 1, 2020, and August 31, 2021, in which at least half the text was devoted to CRT-related issues.⁶ As such, I excluded broader articles about politics, education, or race in which there was only passing discussion of or a glancing reference to CRT.

Over that 12-month period, 91 articles met these criteria, with 57 of those in the three education press outlets and 34 in the four major newspapers. *Education Week* contributed 25 of the 57 education press stories, while Chalkbeat ran 21, and the 74 ran 11. In the mainstream media, the *Washington Post* ran 13 stories, *USA Today* ran 10, the *New York Times* ran seven, and the *Wall Street Journal* ran four. (A full listing of the articles analyzed is included in the appendix.)

On an issue this polarizing, it would be foolhardy to either attempt to grade the coverage or judge any ideological lean, as readers would likely dismiss any such attempt as unavoidably biased. Instead, this report focuses on four relatively discrete questions:

- How often were concerns about CRT's intellectual foundations, such as its skepticism of rationality and objectivity, mentioned?
- How often were controversial CRT-aligned instructional practices mentioned?
- How often did stories about laws passed to limit CRT (frequently referenced as "CRT bans") actually quote the language of the laws in question?
- What *was* mentioned in news coverage of CRT?

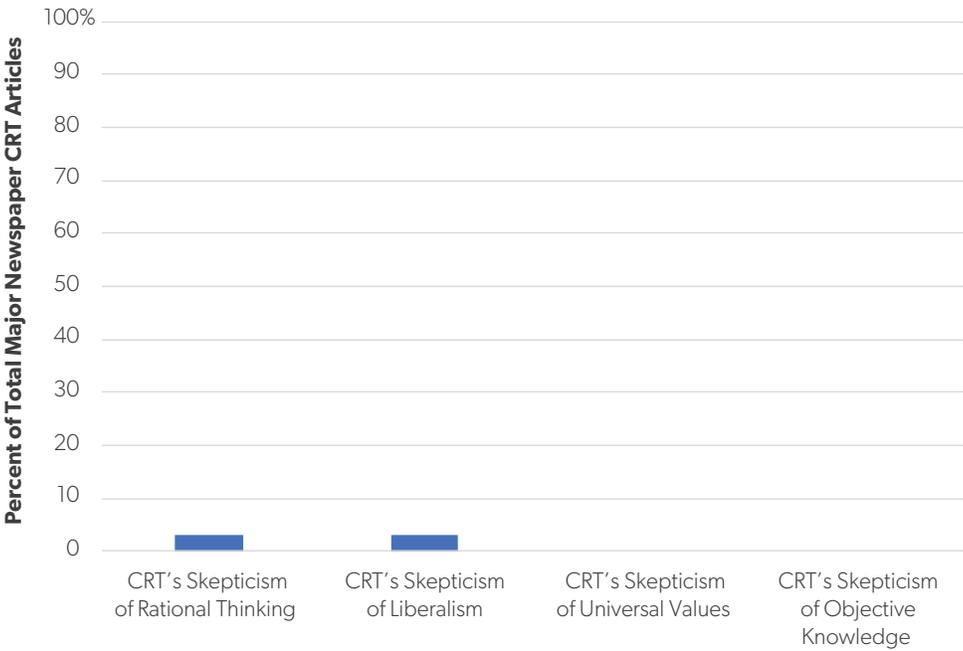
How Often Were CRT's Intellectual Foundations Mentioned in Media Coverage?

CRT rests on an innately, intentionally controversial intellectual foundation. As *Education Week's* Stephen Sawchuk observed, "Critical race theory emerged out of postmodernist thought, which tends to be skeptical of the idea of universal values, objective knowledge, individual merit, Enlightenment rationalism, and liberalism."⁷ CRT's leading proponents readily concede the accuracy of such descriptions and of their revolutionary aspirations. As Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, two founders of the CRT movement, write in their book *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*, "Critical race theory questions the very foundations of the liberal order, including equality theory, legal reasoning, Enlightenment rationalism, and neutral principles of constitutional law."⁸

Given that this admittedly revolutionary worldview is what motivates many objections to CRT-influenced pedagogy, one would expect news accounts to routinely address it. Remarkably, however, CRT's guiding assumptions were rarely mentioned in mainstream media or education press news accounts, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.⁹ Of the 91 total articles, just two mentioned CRT's skepticism of rational thought. Just one of the 91 mentioned that CRT is skeptical of universal values or objective knowledge.

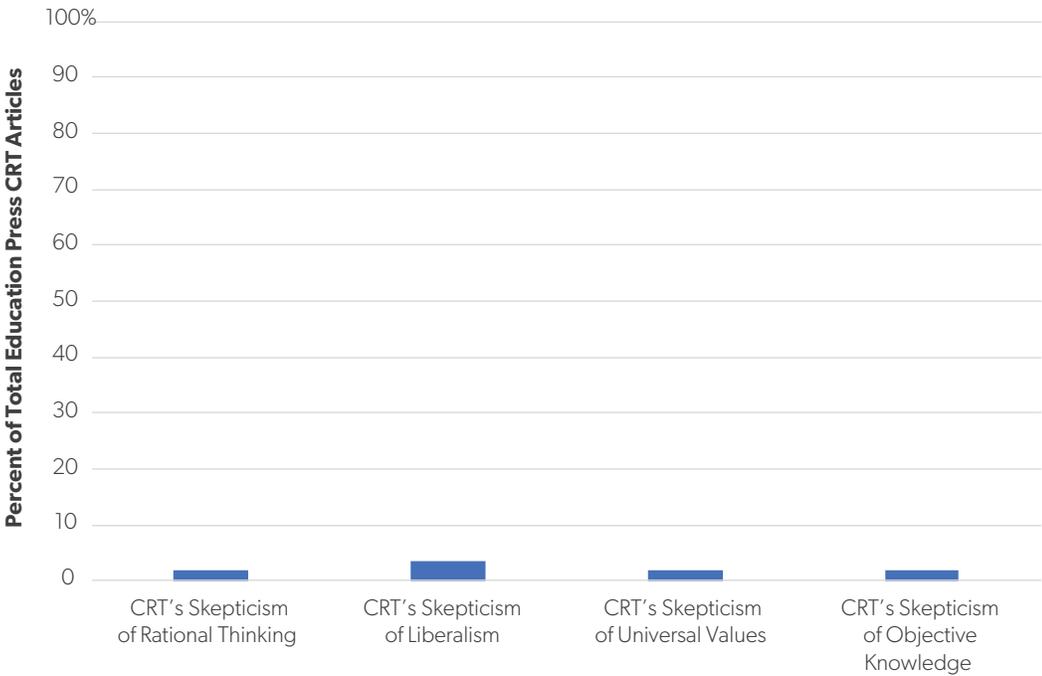
Put another way, one could read more than 95 percent of CRT coverage and never learn that CRT stridently challenges "the very foundations of liberal order." An attentive observer could read literally dozens of news stories regarding CRT in major press outlets and the education press and *never even encounter the extraordinary claims at the heart of a raging national debate.*

Figure 1. Mentions of CRT's Skepticism Toward Enlightenment Values in Major Newspapers



Source: Author's calculations.

Figure 2. Mentions of CRT's Skepticism Toward Enlightenment Values in Education Press



Source: Author's calculations.

How Often Were Controversial CRT-Influenced Practices Mentioned?

The push for “anti-racist education” may be the most prominent strand of CRT-aligned activity in K–12 schools. This effort includes an array of practices and pedagogies, many of which have been highly controversial.

Kendi, for instance, has said that schools must be willing to treat students of different races differently. In *How to Be an Anti-Racist*, he argues, “The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.”¹⁰

The push for this kind of anti-racist discrimination has included the introduction of race-based affinity groups, in which schools separate students or staff by race to discuss charged topics.¹¹ A related practice is the use of exercises like “privilege walks,” which teach students or staff to regard various identities and circumstances (such as race, gender, appearance, sexual preference, and the number of books in the home) as signals of unearned privilege and “White supremacy culture.”

Such practices are linked with calls for schools to actively reject notions of color blindness. DiAngelo, for instance, teaches that seeing individuals rather than skin color is the mark of a “dangerous white person.”¹² The Joe Biden administration’s Department of Education has recommended professional resources that hold that attempts to be color-blind create an “unsafe environment” for students.¹³ The influential 1619 Project curriculum proffered by the *New York Times* is rooted in the premise, as explained by its architect Hannah-Jones, that the United States was founded as a “slavocracy” and the Revolutionary War was motivated by efforts to defend and extend the institution of slavery.¹⁴

Introducing all of this into schools seems destined to be controversial. Yet, for reasons difficult to fathom, these disputes seldom made it into news accounts (see Figures 3 and 4). The use of race-based affinity groups—a practice that has drawn substantial pushback—was mentioned in just five of 91 news accounts. The push for “anti-racist discrimination” and the rejection of color blindness were each mentioned in fewer than a dozen articles. Even the dramatic, foundational assertion that the US is a racist country was mentioned in barely half of articles—and many of those mentions

merely described state laws intended to circumscribe CRT without examining what it entails or explaining the concerns it raises.¹⁵

For instance, one Chalkbeat news account reported that under Tennessee’s CRT ban, “Teachers will not be able to discuss” whether “the United States is fundamentally racist,” because “white GOP lawmakers were anxious to block lessons they view as divisive, cynical, or misguided.”¹⁶ An *Education Week* story quoted Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter as saying, “America is not a fundamentally racist country,” but it did not explain why Hunter might feel compelled to make such a point or note that CRT-aligned thinkers would suggest that the US is a fundamentally racist nation (which could be a pretty relevant bit of context).¹⁷

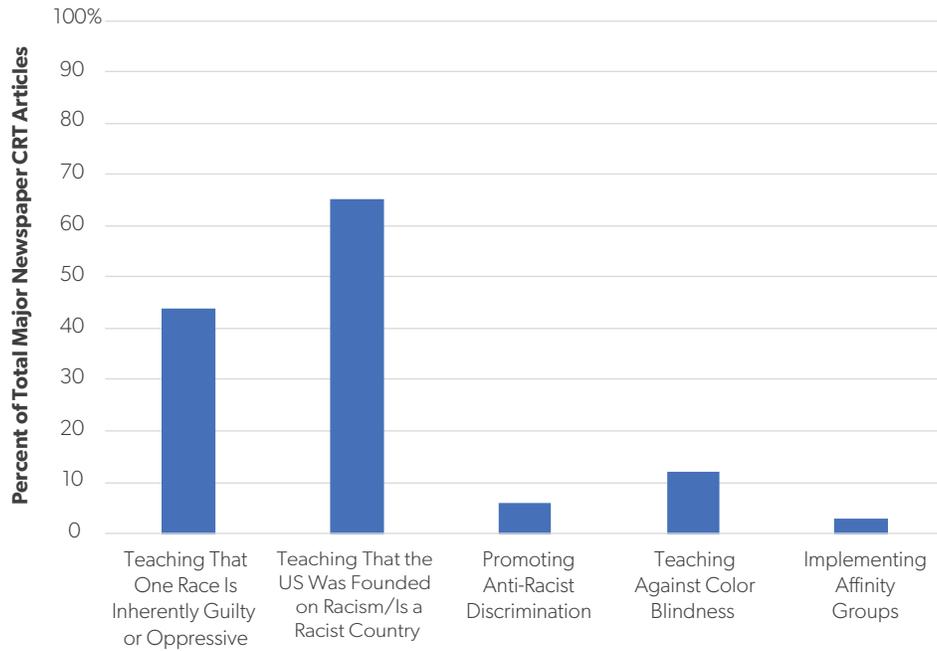
How Often Did Outlets Report What CRT Legislation Actually Says?

As of this report’s data collection, 27 states had introduced legislation or taken other measures to restrict CRT teaching, and 12 states had enacted a law.¹⁸ News accounts spent a lot of time digging into the dangers of these efforts. One Chalkbeat news story lamented that Tennessee’s CRT legislation “may make it even harder to discuss African American history.”¹⁹ A *USA Today* article, titled “Texas Republicans Push to Expand Restrictions on Racism Education in Public Schools,” asserted that Republicans passed a bill “which limits how teachers can discuss race and current events.”²⁰ An *Education Week* headline offered “Four Things Schools Won’t Be Able to Do Under ‘Critical Race Theory’ Laws.”²¹

Yet, many of these accounts share an odd failing: They rarely report what the supposed “bans” do and don’t say. That’s a problem. Indeed, as AEI Research Fellow Max Eden observed,

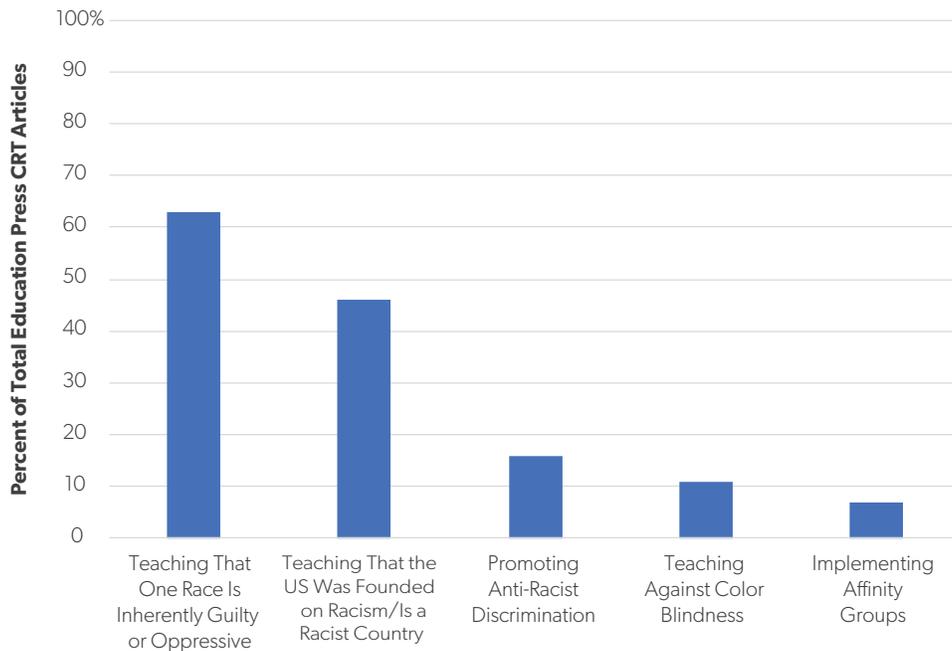
Anyone arguing in good faith against state laws addressing CRT in schools must argue against what these proposed laws actually say. For example, Idaho’s recently passed bill to ban CRT in the classroom declares that no educational institution “shall direct or otherwise compel students to personally affirm” that “any sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or national origin is inherently superior or inferior [and/or] that individuals should be adversely treated on the basis of their sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or national

Figure 3. How Often Were Controversial CRT-Influenced Practices Mentioned in Major Newspaper Articles?



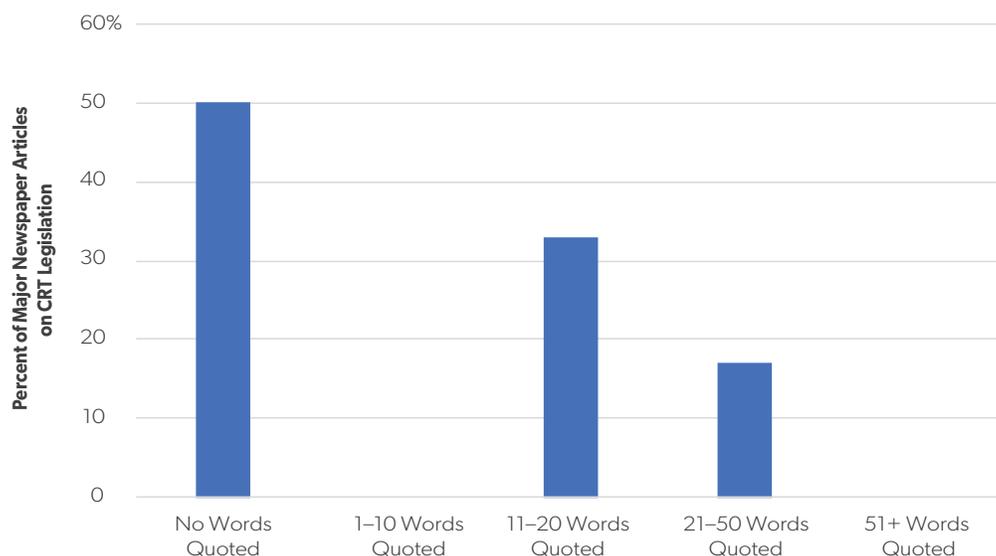
Source: Author's calculations.

Figure 4. How Often Were Controversial CRT-Influenced Practices Mentioned in Education Press Articles?



Source: Author's calculations.

Figure 5. Among Major Newspaper Articles About CRT Legislation, How Often Was the Legislation Quoted?



Source: Author’s calculations.

origin.” Therefore, the Idaho law’s critics must argue that schools actually *should* tell students that certain races are inherently superior or inferior, and that individuals *should* be treated differently based on their race.²²

Yet news articles about CRT, and even those that discuss these laws, have the odd habit of not quoting directly what CRT laws actually say. From the full sample of 91 news stories addressing CRT, six mainstream newspaper stories and 38 education press accounts devoted at least half their text to state CRT legislation. Of these 44 stories, *nearly half* never directly quoted a single state law or legislative proposal. Only three of the six major newspaper stories quoted the laws at all. Meanwhile, 42 percent of education press news accounts included not a single quote, and another 8 percent quoted 10 words or fewer. (See Figures 5 and 6.)

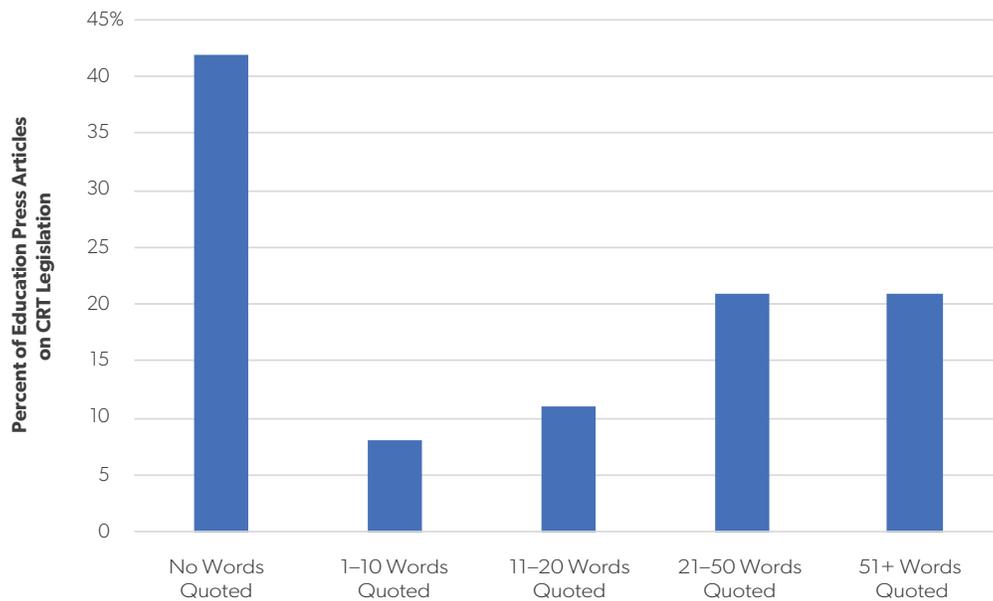
One *Education Week* story lamented that 27 states had passed laws or seen bills introduced and fretted that teachers “fear their work will be threatened” by them—but quoted not a single law to help readers gauge whether such concerns were justified.²³ A *Washington*

Post story accused Republican legislatures in five states of seeking “to restrict what teachers can say about race, racism and American history in the classroom”—and yet never quoted the text of what these five legislatures were actually proposing.²⁴ A Chalkbeat article on the legal ramifications of Tennessee’s law favorably quoted a professor talking about the importance of “looking at the language” of what the CRT legislation actually said—and then never quoted any of the language in question.²⁵

What Was Mentioned in CRT Articles?

If news accounts didn’t spend much time on CRT’s controversial worldview, the practices that have spurred backlash, or what state CRT legislation actually says, then what *was* mentioned? It turns out that much of the coverage focused on the assertion that schools should be addressing slavery, racism, and history.²⁶ As Figures 7 and 8 show, each of the 91 articles discussed racism in some fashion. Slavery and its historical legacy were mentioned in 39 of the 57 education press news accounts and 14 of the 34 mainstream press articles.

Figure 6. Among Education Press Articles About CRT Legislation, How Often Was the Legislation Quoted?



Source: Author’s calculations.

Two-thirds of mainstream press news accounts—and 50 of 57 in the education press—mentioned the history of race or how history is taught in schools. Stories routinely asserted or implied that these kinds of issues are at the heart of the CRT debate, such as the *New York Times* report that the CRT debate is really about how “the legacies of slavery, segregation and Jim Crow still create an uneven playing field for Black people.”²⁷

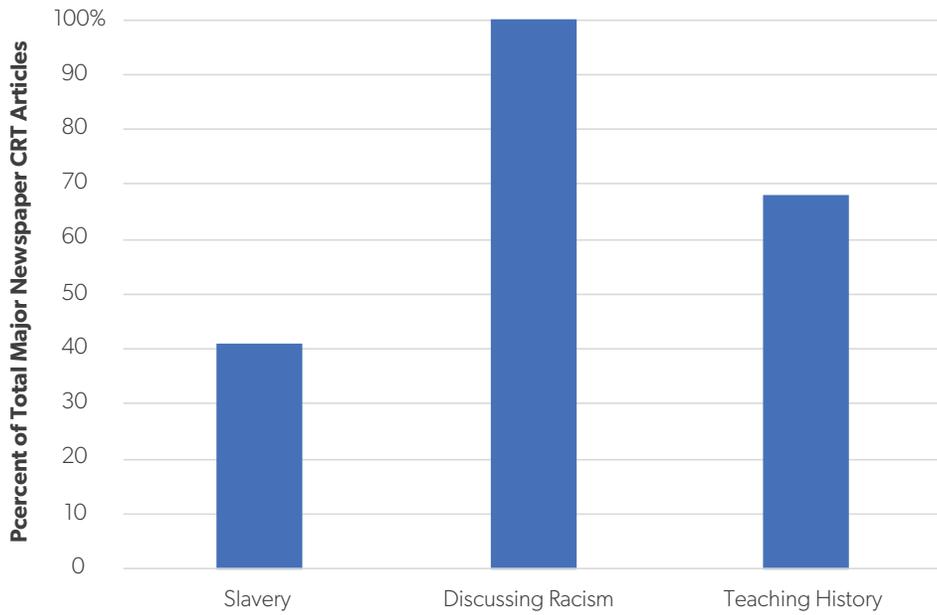
The odd thing is that whether schools should teach about slavery, segregation, and Jim Crow may be the *least* controversial feature of the CRT debate. Indeed, polling shows that the lion’s share of Americans agree that schools should teach about racism and slavery. Results from a recent national AEI poll are instructive. Seventy-four percent of White Americans and 75 percent of Black Americans “favor teaching students that the dispute over slavery was the principal cause of the Civil War.” Among Republicans and Democrats alike, more than four out of five agree that social studies textbooks should discuss the slave ownership among many Founding Fathers, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the federal government’s maltreatment of Native Americans.²⁸

And Republican officials have repeatedly said that they support schools teaching about Jim Crow, racism, and slavery. Former US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recently said, “Of course we need to teach history. We need to teach about slavery.”²⁹ She asserted that schools need a curriculum that “embraces all of the parts of our history.”³⁰ Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) tweeted, “OF COURSE we should teach about slavery & racism” and rejected the suggestion that Republicans feel otherwise as a “straw man.”³¹ When Florida passed its CRT legislation, Gov. Ron DeSantis said that schools should absolutely “teach everything that has happened.”³² In short, news accounts have focused intently on the one facet of CRT that is least controversial and have consistently treated *that* as the center of a raging national debate.

Key Takeaways

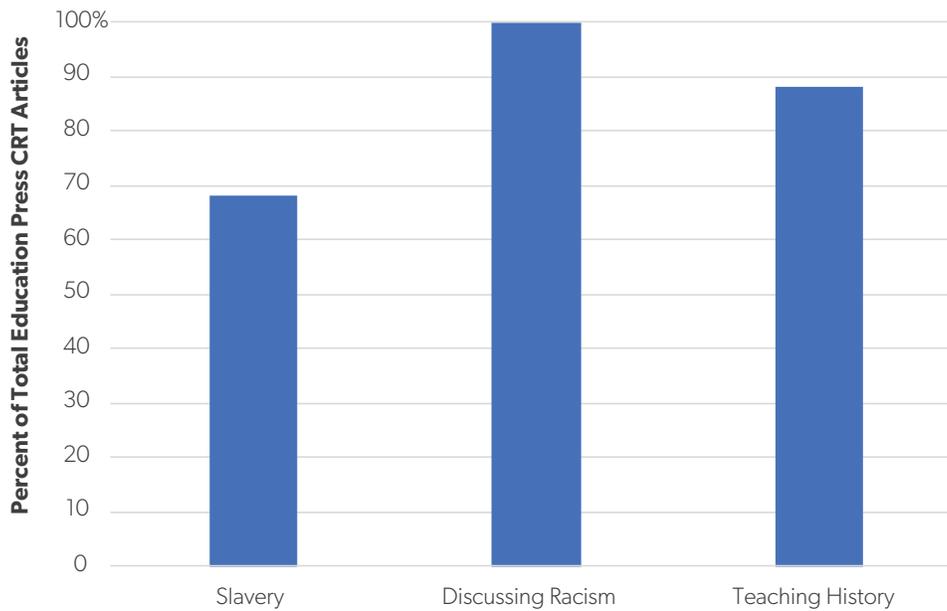
One could be forgiven for imagining that the media had set out to cover the CRT debate in a manner that would aggravate a polarized nation, fuel conservative distrust, and turn a principled debate into a food fight.

Figure 7. What Was Mentioned in Major Newspaper CRT Articles?



Source: Author's calculations.

Figure 8. What Was Mentioned in Education Press CRT Articles?



Source: Author's calculations.

The mainstream and education press have consistently downplayed serious and understandable concerns, failed to clarify what CRT legislation does and doesn't say, and given the misleading impression that the debate is about parents objecting to teaching slavery—something about which Americans largely agree.

- The most salient arguments against CRT got almost no attention in news accounts. Consequently, it's no great surprise that observers might not understand why reasonable people could have reservations about CRT.
- News accounts regarding CRT tended to emphasize teaching the history of slavery or segregation, which are fairly uncontroversial, rather than the aspects of CRT-aligned practice and pedagogy that spur objections. In light of that, it's understandable that much of the discourse seems to conflate CRT with “discussing racism” or “teaching about slavery.”
- Indeed, if the issues covered in news accounts *were* the central issues at stake, CRT *would not be controversial*. Weirdly, both the mainstream media and the

education press have covered CRT in a manner that elides the actual issues that provoke backlash.

- It's difficult to believe that news reporters are seeking to cover the CRT debate in a fair-minded manner when so little coverage even *acknowledged* the most salient objections. And it goes without saying that merely mentioning such objections in no way guarantees fair-minded or evenhanded coverage.

Only a tiny sliver of news accounts even mentioned the substantive concerns about CRT or sought to explore the actual tensions. This is a grave disservice to parents, communities, and educators interested in finding productive ways to debate these heated issues.

Oddly enough, it appears that news reporting on the CRT debate has consistently skipped the actual controversies, focusing on the one issue where the two camps broadly agree. If the results weren't so misleading and such a recipe for mutual misunderstanding, it might be a nice change of pace in an age of clickbait reporting. But given the consequences for a heated, high-profile debate, it's proven to be a grave and costly abdication.

About the Author

Frederick M. Hess is a senior fellow and the director of education policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, where he works on K–12 and higher education issues. He is the founder and chairman of AEI's Conservative Education Reform Network.

Appendix: List of Articles Analyzed

Table A1. Major National Newspapers

Source	Publication Date	Title
<i>Washington Post</i>	June 25, 2021	Hot Topic on Fox: Critical Race Theory
<i>Washington Post</i>	June 25, 2021	Amid Critical Race Theory Fight, an Outburst in the House
<i>Washington Post</i>	June 19, 2021	Bill Seeks Ban on Critical Race Theory
<i>Washington Post</i>	July 11, 2021	GOP Sees Political Promise in Targeting Critical Race Theory
<i>Washington Post</i>	July 28, 2021	From Mock 'Slave Trade' to War over Critical Race Theory
<i>Washington Post</i>	July 6, 2021	School Clashes Put N.Va. at Forefront of the Culture Wars
<i>Washington Post</i>	December 24, 2020	Several Black Pastors Leave Southern Baptists in Protest
<i>Washington Post</i>	July 7, 2021	Teachers Union Chief Vows Legal Action to Defend Teaching of 'Honest History' in Schools' Anti-Racism Push, Right Sees a Threat
<i>Washington Post</i>	May 4, 2021	In Schools' Anti-Racism Push, Right Sees a Threat
<i>Washington Post</i>	June 3, 2021	Racial Equity Sparks Lawsuit
<i>Washington Post</i>	June 6, 2021	Texas Readies Intervention into Classrooms' Curricula
<i>Washington Post</i>	September 5, 2020	Federal Memo Is Critical of Race-Related Trainings
<i>Washington Post</i>	October 1, 2020	White House 'Race' Memo Sows Confusion Across Agencies
<i>New York Times</i>	July 27, 2021	Critical Race Theory: A Brief History
<i>New York Times</i>	August 15, 2021	In Backlash to Racial Reckoning, Conservative Publishers See Gold
<i>New York Times</i>	July 20, 2021	A 'Daily' Follow-Up to a Tricky Topic
<i>New York Times</i>	June 2, 2021	Debate over Scope of Racism Embroils Schools
<i>New York Times</i>	June 17, 2021	Support for Teachings on Race
<i>New York Times</i>	September 18, 2020	Trump Calls for 'Patriotic Education' for American Children
<i>New York Times</i>	October 14, 2020	Trump Order on Training Chills Efforts on Diversity
<i>USA Today</i>	August 23, 2021	Unfamiliar with Critical Race Theory or Related Terms?
<i>USA Today</i>	July 9, 2021	Learning About Race and Racism in Schools
<i>USA Today</i>	August 13, 2021	'Critical Race' Raises Familiar Furor
<i>USA Today</i>	July 6, 2021	Politics Besiege School Board Meetings
<i>USA Today</i>	October 2, 2020	Trump Diversity Training Ban Roils Corporate America
<i>USA Today</i>	October 13, 2020	Diversity Push Is at Crossroads
<i>USA Today</i>	November 10, 2020	Biden Likely to Overturn Trump's Diversity Order
<i>USA Today</i>	January 22, 2021	Biden Reverses Trump's Diversity Training Ban
<i>USA Today</i>	August 23, 2021	Scholars Agree on History Education Basics
<i>USA Today</i>	July 21, 2021	Texas Eyes More Limits on Teaching
<i>Wall Street Journal</i>	July 27, 2021	U.S. News: Virginia Campaign Tests Critical Race Theory
<i>Wall Street Journal</i>	October 8, 2020	U.S. News: White House Diversity Order Spurs Pushback by Business
<i>Wall Street Journal</i>	October 7, 2020	U.S. News: Race Debate Divides Illinois School District
<i>Wall Street Journal</i>	October 16, 2020	U.S. News: Business Groups Urge Trump to Pull Back Diversity-Training Order

Note: Article titles for the major national newspapers are listed as they appear in ProQuest. The titles on each individual newspaper's website may vary.

Source: Author's compilation, as described in the methodology section, using ProQuest.

Table A2. Education Press

Source	Publication Date	Title
<i>Education Week</i>	May 18, 2021	What Is Critical Race Theory, and Why Is It Under Attack?
<i>Education Week</i>	June 11, 2021	Map: Where Critical Race Theory Is Under Attack
<i>Education Week</i>	July 19, 2021	Who's Really Driving Critical Race Theory Legislation? An Investigation
<i>Education Week</i>	July 23, 2021	How Political Backlash to Critical Race Theory Reached School Reopening Guidance
<i>Education Week</i>	July 15, 2021	'Stop CRT' Bill, Votes in Congress Add to Political Drama over Critical Race Theory
<i>Education Week</i>	July 15, 2021	What Does the Critical Race Theory Law Mean for Texas Classrooms? Teachers Speak Out
<i>Education Week</i>	July 8, 2021	Allow Critical Race Theory—and Opposing Views—in Kentucky Schools, Ed. Chief Says
<i>Education Week</i>	July 6, 2021	Teachers' Unions Vow to Defend Members in Critical Race Theory Fight
<i>Education Week</i>	July 1, 2021	Why the Critical Race Theory Fight Is Harder for Educators Than the Common Core Battle
<i>Education Week</i>	June 30, 2021	Four Things Schools Won't Be Able to Do Under 'Critical Race Theory' Laws
<i>Education Week</i>	June 24, 2021	Shout of 'Racist' Heard as Miguel Cardona, GOP Clash on Critical Race Theory
<i>Education Week</i>	June 10, 2021	Florida State Board of Education Bans the Use of Critical Race Theory in Schools
<i>Education Week</i>	June 10, 2021	If Critical Race Theory Is Banned, Are Teachers Protected by the First Amendment?
<i>Education Week</i>	July 15, 2021	Teachers Share What They Will—and Won't—Do Differently Under Critical Race Theory Law
<i>Education Week</i>	May 26, 2021	Critical Race Theory Puts Educators at Center of a Frustrating Cultural Fight Once Again
<i>Education Week</i>	May 26, 2021	Efforts to Root Out Racism in Schools Would Unravel Under 'Critical Race Theory' Bills
<i>Education Week</i>	June 24, 2021	'I'm Terrified.' Idaho Students Fear Repercussions of Indoctrination Task Force
<i>Education Week</i>	July 29, 2021	'A Very McCarthyism Feel': Idaho Teachers Say Indoctrination Task Force Stokes Fear
<i>Education Week</i>	July 14, 2021	How Will Bans on 'Divisive' Classroom Topics Be Enforced? Here's What 10 States Plan to Do
<i>Education Week</i>	May 17, 2021	Four States Have Placed Legal Limits on How Teachers Can Discuss Race. More May Follow
<i>Education Week</i>	April 15, 2021	8 States Debate Bills to Restrict How Teachers Discuss Racism, Sexism
<i>Education Week</i>	September 10, 2020	What a Trump Directive on 'Anti-American Propaganda' Means for the Ed. Dept.
<i>Education Week</i>	August 15, 2021	Local School Boards Are Banning Critical Race Theory. Here's How That Looks in 7 Districts
<i>Education Week</i>	August 30, 2021	Teachers Rally Against Laws Aimed at Limiting Classroom Discussion of Racism
<i>Education Week</i>	August 3, 2021	A \$5 Million Fine for Classroom Discussions on Race? In Tennessee, This Is the New Reality

The 74	August 18, 2021	Critical Race Theory and the New 'Massive Resistance'
The 74	August 23, 2021	Texas School District Cancels Youth and Government Class in Wake of State's Controversial New Social Studies Law
The 74	August 8, 2021	Texas Teachers Say GOP's New Social Studies Law Will Hinder How an Entire Generation Understands Race, History and Current Events
The 74	July 14, 2021	In Special Legislative Session, Texas Lawmakers Look to Further Restrict Critical Race Theory in Schools
The 74	July 6, 2021	Unions Go All-In on Critical Race Theory, Promising Money and Support to Members Teaching 'Honest History'
The 74	June 4, 2021	What Is (and Isn't) Critical Race Theory? A Closer Look at the Discipline Texas' Governor Wants to 'Abolish'
The 74	June 19, 2021	Texas Gov. Abbott Signs 'Critical Race Theory' Bill Limiting Teaching of Current Events into Law
The 74	May 6, 2021	GOP Lawmakers Look to Ban 'Woke Philosophies' Like Critical Race Theory in Texas Schools
The 74	June 28, 2021	Chaos Theory: Amid Pandemic Recovery Efforts, School Leaders Fear Critical Race Furor Will 'Paralyze' Teachers
The 74	May 26, 2021	Texas Educators Worry That New State Legislation Limiting the Teaching of Historic Racism and Current Events Would 'Whitewash History'
The 74	May 25, 2021	Texas Senate Approves Bill Limiting How Students Learn About Historic Racism and Current Events
Chalkbeat	July 22, 2021	Efforts to Restrict Teaching About Racism and Bias Have Multiplied Across the U.S.
Chalkbeat	June 14, 2021	Critical Conversations: Panelists to Discuss the Tennessee Legislation's Ban on Critical Race Theory
Chalkbeat	June 17, 2021	Suburban Philadelphia District's Equity Initiative Provokes Anger over Critical Race Theory
Chalkbeat	July 1, 2021	Protesters Confront Tennessee Education Commissioner over Claims of Critical Race Theory in Curriculum
Chalkbeat	July 26, 2021	What's at Stake in Pennsylvania's Gubernatorial Race? Educators Say Teaching Race, Racism in Schools.
Chalkbeat	May 3, 2021	Tennessee Lawmakers Advance Bill to Ban Critical Race Theory Instruction in Public Schools
Chalkbeat	June 24, 2021	Cardona: I Trust Teachers to Handle History 'We're Not Proud Of'
Chalkbeat	July 19, 2021	How Nikole Hannah-Jones' 1619 Project Ignited the Critical Race Theory Backlash
Chalkbeat	July 13, 2021	Critical Race Theory Debate Hits New York City Public Schools
Chalkbeat	May 25, 2021	How Biden Grants and Parent Concerns of 'Indoctrination' Spurred Tennessee Republicans to Limit How Race and Racism Are Taught
Chalkbeat	May 5, 2021	Tennessee Legislature Approves Ban on Teaching Critical Race Theory in Schools
Chalkbeat	May 10, 2021	'Teaching the Truth': Tennessee Educators Respond to Proposed Limits on Teaching About Racism
Chalkbeat	May 16, 2021	Legal Scholars Question Tennessee's New Bill Restricting How Educators Teach About Racial Injustice
Chalkbeat	June 21, 2021	Tennessee Teachers Get Lessons on New Law Limiting Classroom Discussions on Race

Chalkbeat	July 8, 2021	As States Place New Limits on Class Discussions of Race, Research Suggests They Benefit Students
Chalkbeat	June 9, 2021	Schwinn: Guidance for What Tennessee Teachers Can and Can't Teach on Race Will Come by Aug. 1
Chalkbeat	May 21, 2021	Republican Bill Aims to Cut Funding to Michigan Schools That Teach About Racial Oppression
Chalkbeat	May 24, 2021	Tennessee Governor Signs Bill Restricting How Race and Bias Can Be Taught in Schools
Chalkbeat	May 4, 2021	A House Divided: Tennessee Legislative Chambers Split on Bill Banning Classroom Discussions About Systemic Racism
Chalkbeat	August 2, 2021	Teaching Prohibited Concepts on Race in Tennessee Could Bring Million-Dollar Fines and Suspended Licenses
Chalkbeat	August 26, 2021	Some Philadelphia Teachers Stand Firm on Teaching About Race

Source: Author's compilation from the individual source websites, as described in the methodology section.

Notes

1. Frederick M. Hess and J. Grant Addison, “‘Anti-Racist’ Education Is Neither,” *American Mind*, December 18, 2020, <https://www.aei.org/articles/anti-racist-education-is-neither/>.
2. Hess and Addison, “‘Anti-Racist’ Education Is Neither.”
3. See, for example, Frederick M. Hess and RJ Martin, “How Did Major Newspapers Cover the 2018 Teacher Strikes?,” *American Enterprise Institute*, August 27, 2018, <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/how-did-major-newspapers-cover-the-2018-teacher-strikes/>; Frederick M. Hess, Kelsey Hamilton, and Jenn Hatfield, “How the Press Covers Charter Schools,” *American Enterprise Institute*, May 19, 2016, <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/how-the-press-covers-charter-schools/>; and Frederick M. Hess and Matthew Rice, “Media Coverage of Education Is a Partisan Affair,” May 6, 2021, *RealClearPolicy*, https://www.realclearpolicy.com/articles/2021/05/06/media_coverage_of_education_is_a_partisan_affair_775910.html.
4. All ProQuest searches were completed on September 4, 2021. I used the following ProQuest categories: “The Washington Post,” “New York Times,” “USA Today,” and “Wall Street Journal.”
5. All education press website searches were completed on September 24, 2021.
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