

21st CENTURY COLOR LINE

A Nation Divided and Polarized by Racism

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March 2016

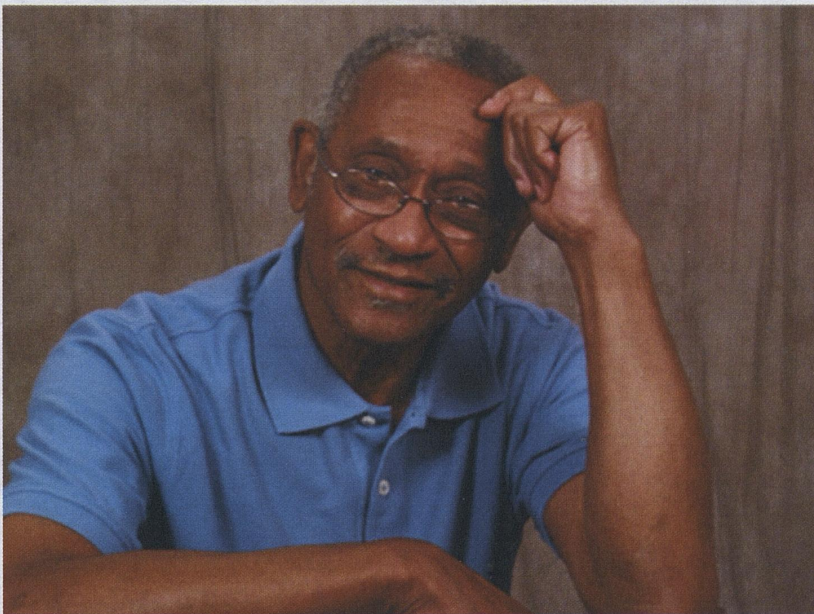
Charles Herbert Smith

Written originally for my immediate family six months before the primaries in 2016. Share my thoughts with me.

Unedited

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The problem of the 21st Century remains the color line. The relation of the darker to lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and in the islands of the sea when racial prejudice manifests itself into class, social policy, modes of domination, gross inequities of power, this is institutional racism.



Monograph Charles Hebert Smith,

Former National Deputy Executive Director NAACP (1980 - 1983)

Co-Editor of the Jubilee Legacy Collection

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PREFACE

This monograph is dedicated to my sister Kathryn Stephens; my five daughters, Jacqueline, Debbie Selena, Stephanie, Caroline and Kristen; sons-in-law, Daryl and Vincent; six granddaughters, Kamika, Kortney, Erin, Lillie, Dominique, Mikayla; and two great-grandsons, Kai and Brandon; and my nieces and nephews, who span four generations.

The subject of racism's 'color line' was chosen because of my unwavering determination to assist my family in untangling the fractious racial and social pathology associated with color. This series may provide them with an historical context for navigating the capricious mines of the pseudo-science of 'white supremacy' and loaded racial slogans, such as **'Making America Great Again'**.

The subject of the 'color line' is personal. I experienced segregation first hand as a youth. My mother not only inspired me to seek my rightful role with dignity in a segregated society, but to also pursue justice at any cost. She was keenly aware of our segregated culture, and taught me how to be respectful to everyone while being intolerant of "racial foolishness" from anyone. My father instructed me to never internalize racial stereotypes and to overcome racism through education. Racism never had the privilege of diminishing my self-worth and identity. My thirst for social justice guided my civil rights career and motivated me to liberate my black sisters and brothers from the damage inflicted by racial bigotry. It is my intent to inform my white sisters and brothers who have been held hostage by their ignorance and prejudice, to empathize with everyday damages inflicted on people of color.

The fight for justice was in my spiritual DNA. My divine call to fight for social justice has been the driving force in my life. I trust this paper will inform readers of the pseudo-science and bigotry masquerading as cultural values and paragons of religious virtues. I do not want my

family to become the victims of debilitating myths of 'racial superiority, which have infected every fabric of American life.

My three older daughters, who were reared in Huntington, West Virginia, experienced segregation and discrimination during their childhood. They view racism through a different set of lenses than my two younger daughters, who never experienced racism as youth growing up in Northern New Jersey. My fear is that my younger daughters will eventually face bigotry and will be ill-prepared in understanding its multi-faceted symptoms and impact. They have been spared the pain by living in an upper middle class, diverse neighborhood with well-financed schools. They have never faced the real world of racism, which will eventually confront them. They will need discernment and coping skills to mitigate racism's insidious effect on their lives. This monograph serves to provide them with the historical context of racism and its impact on everyday life. I challenge and encourage them to embrace the struggle for equality.

COLONIALISM

The colonization of the New World was driven by a white, male ruling class exercising condescending attitudes towards women and non-white racial groups and nations. This prejudice formed the premise of 'white supremacy' an, its justification for colonizing nations and non-white peoples throughout the world including North America.

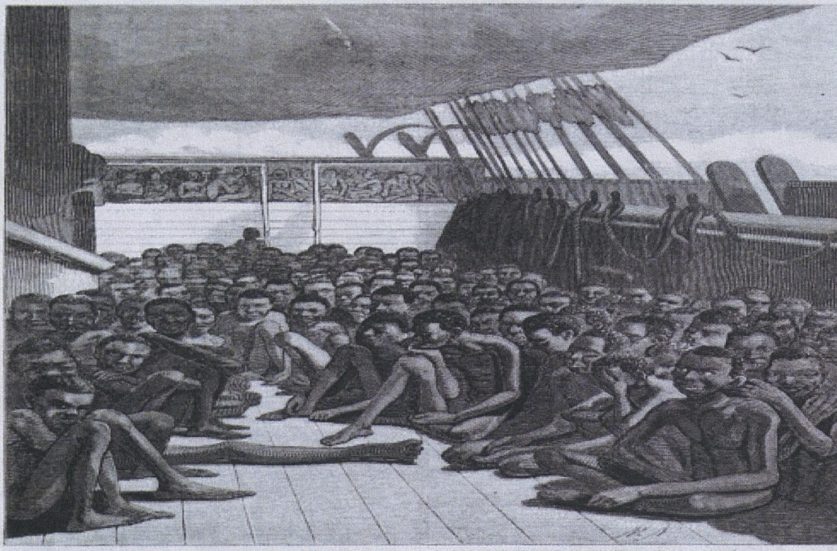
PILGRIM'S VOYAGE TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



Look with me at two boats - one sailing from Western Europe and the other sailing from the shores of Africa. One sailing for freedom and the other sailing away from freedom to be enslaved by the others seeking freedom. The tragic reality of history is that these two boats appear to have an irreconcilable relationship.

The historical context message of these two boats: The mission of one was to carry White Christians to freedom in the New Word. The mission of the other boat was to carry Black Africans to slavery so that those in the first boat would not have to work but instead enjoy their religious freedom although contrary to their biblical understanding: II Thessalonians 3.10 saying "if any would not work neither should he eat."

SLAVE SHIP VOYAGE WITH KIDNAPPED AFRICANS



One boat served a God that gave them permission to oppress and denigrate Africans. The second boat worshipped a God of the oppressed. This God was the God of the oppressed for the children of Israel - Moses' God.

Here we have a theology with God permitting oppression and we have another theology of a Universal God revealing Himself in the words of His Son Jesus - 'to set the captives free.'

Therefore, the divide in America can be traced with origins in the States of the Confederacy leaving their footprints of white supremacy all the way to the current Congress of the United States.

Against this backdrop comes 300 years of racial oppression met by resistance against inhumane treatment and inequalities. Resistance ranged from protest marches, boycotts, sit-ins, publications, sermons and elaborate escape plans and violent revolts.

Unfortunately, our nation remains racially and politically polarized.

We have two major political parties concentrated geographically in what is known as Blue States and Red States. The red states represent the Republican Party which is primarily 'white' and the southern states of the confederacy. The blue states represent the Democratic Party hosting 80% of the 'people of color.' Another major divide is reflected in white Protestant

Churches that established white schools after the 1954 desegregation decree from the Supreme Court to maintain white racial purity.

The 21st Century Color Line



It is imperative that we revisit W.E.D. Du Bois' thoughts behind his famous statement, "the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line." The problem of the 21st Century remains the 'color line.' Racial prejudice manifests itself into class, social policy, modes of domination, gross inequities of power and institutional 'racism'.

The Color Line Etched in History

For me, I understand the color line as an intellectual construct that white skin is superior to darks skin. This concept, taught and imbedded in culture, creates the golden standard for white purity. This construct creates a default which empowers imposition, domination, devaluation and degradation. It is suppressed in a logic- tight compartment which allows the brain to receive only facts that support preconceived biases or beliefs thereby avoiding emotional conflict.

Racism is an ideology of justification for the imposition of the color line.

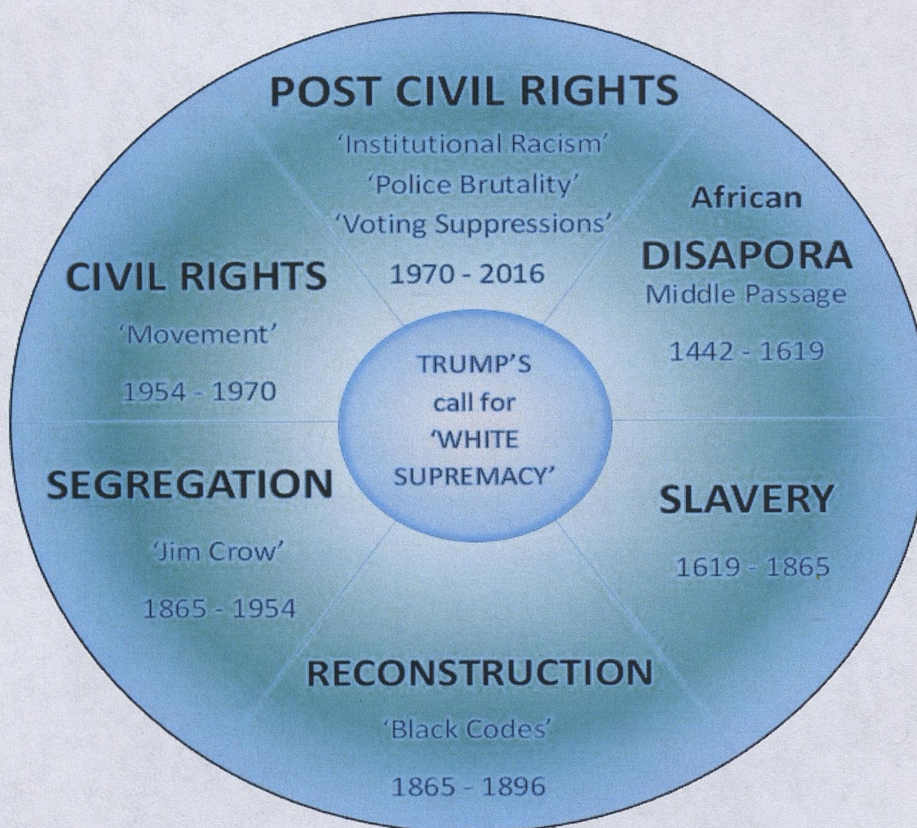
We will briefly trace racism's power of separation and white supremacy from the Colonial Era to our current 2016 political race for the presidency of the United States. A historical perspective will be provided from the Colonial Period to our current 2016 race for the presidency of the United States.

THE LEGACY OF THE COLOR LINE

'Making America Great Again' 'Great for Whom?'

Excerpts from pending Monograph 'TRUMP PHENOMENON'

White Entitlement 1619 – 2016 • Racial Bigotry/ Color Line 1619- 2016



*The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.
W. E. B. DuBois (1868 – 1963): Founding Member of the N.A.A.C.P 1909
The problem of the 21st century remains the 'Color Line'*

Diaspora 1442 -1619 The beginning of the Color Line and the passage of the enslaved Africans voyage to the new World.

SLAVERY 1619 - 1865 The Color Line and disputes over other issues, such as slavery, started with the Civil War and divided our nation into The Confederacy States and the Union States. Approximately 650,000 soldiers died during America's Civil War.

SEGREGATION 1896 - 1954 The Color Line separated believers of the same Christian faith. Blacks were not accepted to worship as equals to whites. They withdrew from white churches, and established their own congregations.

The Color Line separated blacks and whites on public transportation and in healthcare, restrooms, education, entertainment, recreation and dining facilities. This separation was extended to block interracial marriages and cohabitation. Segregation was even practiced in cemeteries

The Color Line



The Color Line separated students by color in public education institutions.

The Color Line separated neighborhoods by multiple forms of housing discrimination, including steering and loan redlining.

The Color Line robbed people of color by giving them loans with high interest rates.

The Color Line segregated our military troops.

RECONSTRUCTION 1865 - 1896



The Color Line contributed to the passing of 'Black Code' laws, which restricted black voting in Confederate States.

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT 1954 - 1970



The **Color Line** affects the black community's right to vote without artificial restraints.

The **Color Line** determines what interest rate black families will pay when financing a home (e.g., predatory lending).

The **Color Line** determines how black men, women, and youth are treated by police officers.

The **Color Line** in the administration of justice determines who is arrested for the same offense and whether there are differences in the length of sentence.

The **Color Line** adversely affects the black community's access to public transportation.

POST CIVIL RIGHTS 1970 - 2017

A. INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMIC RACISM

The construct of racism has multiple dimensions. There are group stratifications based on power, status and access to social rewards. In America, racism transforms and structures other social institutions in a manner that results in the entire social system being racialized. A symbiotic relationship exists between racism and various political, legal, judicial, economic, cultural and religious institutions.

B. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Evidence suggests that the administration of criminal justice, including the prosecuting attorney, legal representation and mandatory sentencing laws, is biased against blacks.



C. REDISTRICTING STRATEGIES These strategies are designed to weaken voting power in “the black community.”

D. RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION High rates of concentrated poverty, joblessness among men, and residential instability often lead to high rates of single-parent households among black families. The combination of these factors may contribute to the elevated levels of violent crime in the black community.

E. VOTER DISFRANCHISEMENT Today, 1.4 million black men are denied the right to vote because they have served time in prison. In addition, voter suppression strategies, such as voter ID laws, targeted voter purges, and dirty tricks, such as false notification of polling places, are used to deprive blacks of their vote.

F. PUBLIC EDUCATION

Funding Appropriations for public education depends on the zip code leaving black communities with adequate funding for schools

G. MINIMUM WAGE

Three and a half million people of color would be lifted out of poverty if minimum wage were raised to \$15.00 per hour

H. ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Access to adequate public transportation has been limited as the results race-based planning strategies.

State of our Nation

America's social and economic progress requires a thorough understanding of social and economic forces which have modified the state of our nation. These changes have affected Americas' psyche and lifestyle.

AUTOMATION has profoundly influenced technological changes in America during the last half century. Jobs have become automated, thereby limiting employment opportunities. Automation's impact on the lost blue collar jobs has decimated revenue for families and towns.

GLOBALIZATION has brought cheaper goods to the marketplace while simultaneously robbing many towns of jobs.

WAGE STAGNATION has occurred due to automation and globalization changes. In addition, Trade Agreements have caused a loss of industrial jobs.

WARS AND THE THREAT OF ISIS have prolonged America's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. This has negatively impacted the collective psyche of Americans as they come to terms with the emotional threat of ISIS.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS indicated that there are generational changes in political and social norms.

GAY MARRIAGE: The legalization of gay marriage and LBTG demands have created panic among religious and social conservatives.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: The lack of a clear comprehensive immigration policy has created unfounded fears and a 'nativism' call for America.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Integrated public schools have been supplanted by 'defacto' segregation.

HEALTH CARE: The passing of the Affordable Health Care Act and validated by the Supreme Court sent tidal waves of displeasure throughout conservative America.

911 ATTACK ON AMERICA SOIL Reordered the lifestyle of the American People

These factors changed the country's cultural, political and economic landscape. Together, these forces have created a cultural recipe of fear, insecurity, and frustration for a certain segment of the population comprised of people who believed they were on the losing end of American prosperity. Their political leaders made undeliverable promises to return them to the good old days. In poll after poll, we see shifts signifying the country is headed in the wrong direction, despite the unprecedented progress made during the Obama administration. The unforgivable cultural earthquake was the legalization of gay marriage and its subsequent fallout.

TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN STRATEGY



The engine providing power for Donald Trump's ascendancy strategy as a Republican candidate for the Presidency of the United States is old fashion racism. The Republican Party has been forced to embrace Donald

Trump, along with all of his baggage of xenophobes and racism.

His campaign's slogan, "Make America Great Again", is a racially-charged metaphor for a vision of past glory when white males dominated public and domestic squares. It signals a return to white privilege and power. Trump's language and slogans are craftily designed to objectify and denigrate people and nations of color. Trump's presidential campaign has revealed that masses of white Americans are willing to tolerate bigotry towards peoples of African descent, Native Americans, Mexicans and Islamic nations. His vision of retrieving and

retrofitting the lost period of white supremacy under the guise of the 'Make America Great Again' slogan fares well with certain Evangelical groups desiring theocracy of political dominance.

Trump's campaign provides a mirror for a large segment of the American population to see themselves reflected in "Trump's mirror". They can now take cover behind his race-baiting and fear-mongering campaign, hiding their fears and deep-seated prejudices. Their desperate hope is that Trump will be their 'secular savior of white supremacy'. The populist movement

surrounding Trump's presidential quest has given him the license to break every principle in the Judeo-Christian tradition, as long as he restores power to a fading generation of spiritual and debilitating racists.

Trump understood the festering political, economic, and cultural unrest in a segment of the American population where uneducated, white males could transcend their circumstances and become a part of the country's middle class.

Trump's political genius was to exploit their insecurities and present himself as an untethered successful billionaire strong enough to reshape the economic and cultural landscape of America. His campaign style, at the expense of people and nations of color, has propelled him to the position of the presumptive Republican nominee for President of the United States.

TRUMP EXPLOITS A 'BLACK PRESIDENT' ELECTION

The election of a black president in the United States was a societal earthquake. A black man on the top of the racial pyramid was unacceptable, an antithesis to white supremacy. Trump immediately planted a 'hate Obama seed' with his efforts to de-legitimize the presidency. He practiced "birtherism" by raising the question of the President's place of birth. Followers of this racist theory still believe that President Obama is a Muslim. When President Obama, an

inexperienced African American youngster, was elected President of the United States, a political tide of hate rushed over conservatives and the Republican Party. The political tsunami rearranged the political landscape of Americas conventional politic. Long held white supremacy beliefs about black inferiority were shattered. Racial hierarchical pyramids of power were flipped – the bottom was now in the top tier of world power. President Obama’s election unleashed residual Civil War animosity and right-wing Republicans’ fears of black retaliation. Emboldened, avowed racist began to use all available means to return to their golden days of white supremacy.

Recently, one of my daughters inquired as to why Republicans and conservatives hate President Obama so much, considering all of the positive things he has achieved over the past six years. She continued and named a few achievements: deficit reduction, economy growth stock market, job market growth and the ground-breaking offer to normalize relations with Cuba. Her inquiry required much more than a knee-jerk response. A broad blanket indictment of haters, whether they be conservatives, Tea Party members, right-wing Republicans, or just plain white racists, would be unethical. Mean-spirited treatment towards President Obama during the past six years can only be understood by examining the conflict going on inside their minds and spirits. However, much of the ugliness and contempt manifested toward the President has served to bring to the surface latent concealed scorn for all black people.

These antagonists suffer from a psychological disorder known as cognitive dissonance.

Cognitive Dissonance (Wikipedia) is a mixed feeling of discomfort when there is a conflict between one’s beliefs, behaviors, attitudes and experienced reality. Conservative religious groups that claim to be custodians of the truth and ambassadors of compassion and love while simultaneously leading” Hate-Obama Campaigns” because they inwardly harbor unspoken hidden prejudices against blacks.

Trump’s Exploits ‘White Male Anger and Anxiety’

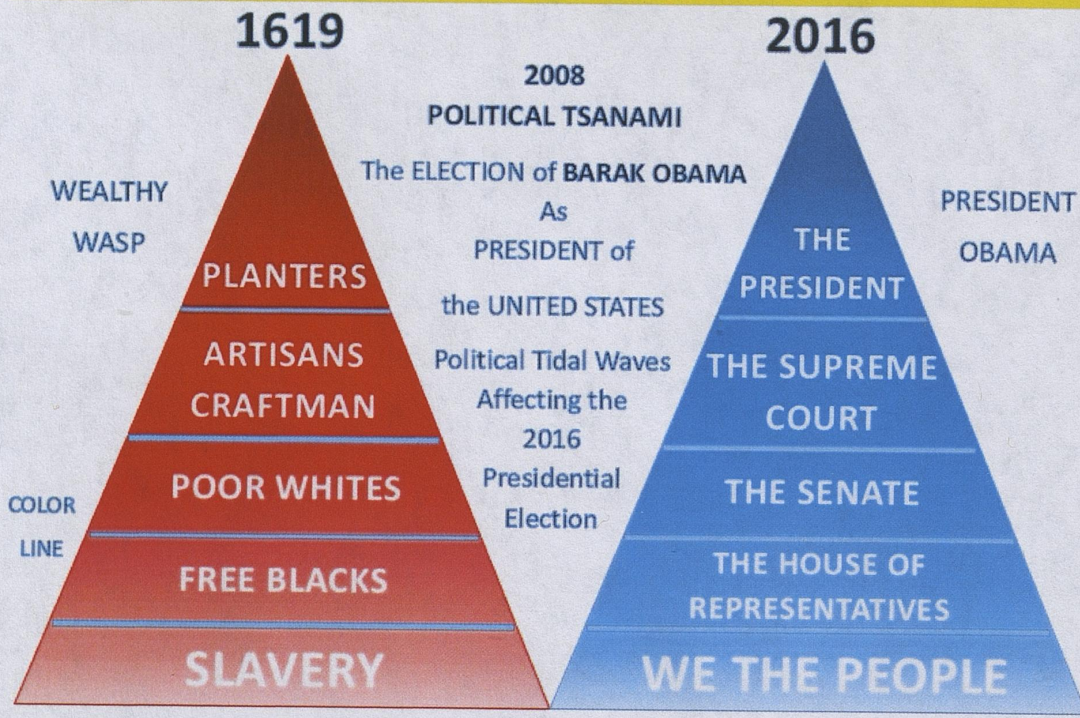
There are many whites who are not racist but still enjoy white privileges. America embraces capitalism as a system founded upon exploiting wages. Wall Street in New York was built by the ruling class and using free slave labor. The Racial Hierarchy Model exploits poorer whites with the false impression that people of color will forever be economically at the bottom of them in American society. Blacks place in the social and economic hierarchy provided them with a sense

of entitlement. A globalizing, sluggish economy and replacing advances made by women and people of color have altered their socioeconomic status in the work place.

These jobs were gone never to return. I witnessed these changes in Huntington, West Virginia, where the three major plants were shut down. Mines were slowing down or closing, and factory workers in Ohio and Michigan were being laid off and returned to rural West Virginia. This trend started in the 1960s. Most of these workers did not have any alternate skills, and yet they witnessed a multi-racial Millennial Generation doing well in the workplace. Being born white and male, they were entitled to a good job to support their families. They were caught between two revolutions, the Industrial Revolution and the Information/Technological Revolution, and became angry, aggrieved, entitled white men. This cohort was ripe for a Trump exploitation and promises to "Make America Great Again".

REPUBLICAN NULLIFICATION STRATEGY: POLITICAL LYNCHING

RACIAL POLITICAL HIERARCHY



President Aborted Political Lynching by his Genius

For the past seven years, the Tea Party and the Republican Party have engaged in a nullification strategy to stop all the President's proposed legislations. Their contempt and hate for President Obama uncovered personal racial prejudice by nourished by uprooting nourished myths of black inferiority.

Republican leadership continues engaging in political lynching. Although President Obama has been one of the most brilliant, deliberate powerful world leaders. However, there are those who hold him in contempt because of his color. All efforts have been made to distort his legitimacy, especially by blocking most of his efforts to govern America. Mitch McConnell, the new "Confederate" leader from Kentucky, vowed to keep President Obama out of the White House for a second term and continues using ugly politics to deny him the power to govern. The conservatives psychologically were left uncomfortable holding contradictory cognitions.

Republicans, by their actions, fan the dying embers of racism, sexism, homophobia and classism. Their resistance to the President's programs, even

when they originated from them is transparent racism. **Oprah Winfrey said it best when she stated, "President Obama is disrespected because he's black."** The hatred surfacing from the far conservative right is surprisingly symbolized by the outburst from Senator Joe Wilson of South Carolina. When the President was speaking during a Joint Session of Congress, Wilson yelled out, "You're a liar!" This serves as an example of contempt towards all blacks for their historical successes including slavery, sharecropping, legalized segregation and social/institutional discrimination.

Racism's Last Stand

America is a country founded on white male supremacy and now faces a paradigm shift of political and cultural dominance. Fear is gripping conservatives, who now face losing their white entitlement power and privileges. Conservatives commentators and Fox news feed red-meat conspiracies to evangelical theocrats, Obama haters, and fear-driven xenophobes. They are frustrated with unsuccessful efforts to roll back demographic forecasts that minorities will soon hold the balance of power. Emerging trends provide clues to the cultural shock waves that will alter traditional centers of political entitlement and financial power.

I am not going back to the days of my segregated past. My patience is exhausted accepting bigotry toward my race or any other ethnic or religious group in the world. I don't blame a demagogue like Trumps for creative an atmosphere of 'permissive hate.' I blame his followers who give him a hall pass and then hide behind his venom. Christians know his message is antithetical to the teachings of the Bible.

Despite recent racial setbacks during this presidential political campaign, I am convinced that my children and grandchildren are committed to continue the struggle for justice. They must be aware of the existing color line and be mindful of the price paid by abolitionist during slavery. "If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Men may not get all they pay not get all they pay for in this world, but they must certainly pay for all they get" Frederick Douglass.

TRUMP.S PHENOMENON IMPACT

I have respect for Abraham Lincoln's Republican Party. My middle name Herbert was given me in honor of President Herbert Hoover. I have voted for Republican Governors when their values were aligned with mine. My mother inspired me, and my 10 siblings, to seek and pursue justice. While she was keenly aware of our segregated culture, she taught us to be respectful of everyone but at the same time to tolerate no "racial foolishness" from anyone. When my oldest brother, John, was drafted to serve in World

War II, the local Greyhound Bus Station's waiting room was segregated with areas for Colored and Whites. My mother, along with the principal of the local elementary school, led a protest by allowing her son John, and directing other black draftees, to sit in the white section. She could not conceive sending her oldest son to war from a



segregated bus station. It was not long after her defiant act, that the signs for seating sections and water fountains were removed. After returning home from military service, John was unable to attend the University of Kentucky, which was segregated. However, years later, he became the first African American Vice President of the University, which named one of its newest dormitories 'John T. Smith,' in his honor. Upon graduation from Dunbar High School in Lexington, Kentucky, I was forced to

"If I could have convinced more slaves, I could have freed thousands more"
Harriet Tubman

I enrolled in Indiana University in Bloomington because the great University of Kentucky across town would not accept Blacks as students.

America is a country founded on white male supremacy and now faces a paradigm shift of political and cultural power. Fear is gripping conservatives, who now face losing their white entitlement power and privileges. Conservatives, evangelical theocrats, and Obama haters are making last stand with Trump. They

The Color Line's Movement toward destiny's redemptive correction is manifest in today in America's political turbulent and in her colorline polarized social order.

These tensions with destiny have disrobed White Evangelical pious superficially forcing transparency leaving Black Evangelicals recalling their biblical justification of slavery.

White Evangelicals relentless support of Donald Trump's race-based policies reveals their willingness to indulge in the complicity of hatred, white supremacy and dehumanizing policies toward people of color. They use the tools of the federal government to protect their own authority and advance their moral agenda. Evangelicals are pragmatic rather than purist as they seek capital power and political control of the judicial system of American ensuring victory over their narrow xenophobic views.

Emerging trends provide clues to the cultural shock waves that will alter traditional centers of political entitlement and financial power. I applaud the Black Lives Matter movement for their bold, 'In Your Face' approach to resisting institutional and systemic racism. Obama's presidency defied all traditional wisdom and demonstrated a new multicultural minority political base that has changed the political landscape. We have come too far to go back now. I challenge my family - struggle and eliminate the 'Effect of the Color Line' in your lives.

Biblical Implication -Trump Phenomenon

JOTHAM'S FABLE - Judges 9:7-21

Gideon conquered his enemy but refused to reign as king. Abimelech, one of seventy sons, decided he should be declared king. He paid to have his 68 brothers executed, leaving him and his youngest brother Jotham eligible for kingship. Jotham escaped to Mt. Gerizim and uttered this fable.

"Once the trees went forth to anoint a king among them; each tree refused protecting its own identity and self-interest.

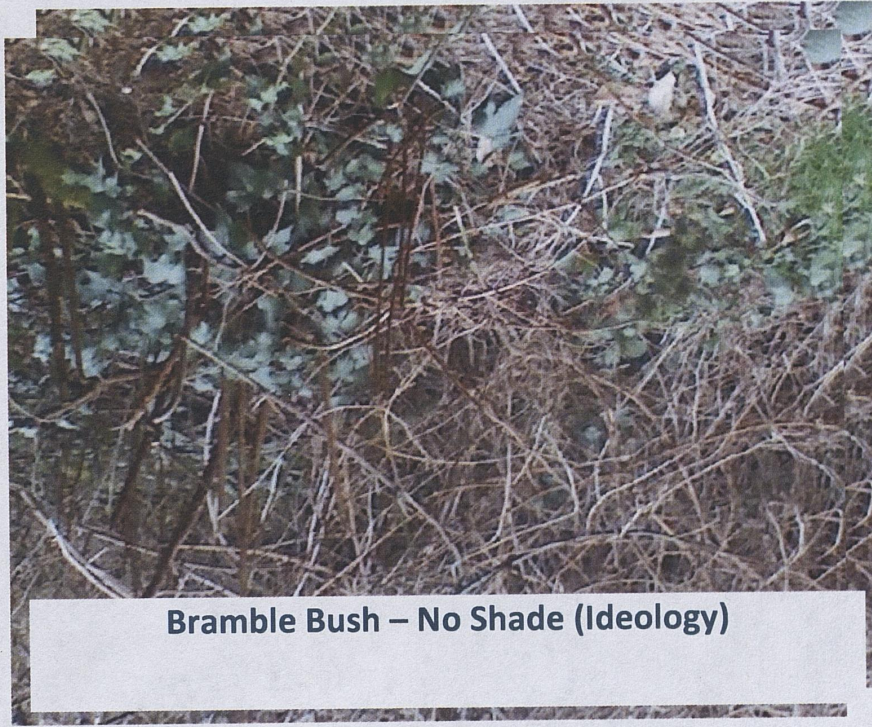
Each tree wanted to keep its given identity base to maintain self-interest. Only one candidate was left to be considered – a 'bramble bush' a windblown dry bush with no capacity to protect and provide shade. The bush was chosen King of Shechem that lacked ideological or moral roots

- **The Olive Tree** refused to protect its fatness, which honors gods and men.
- **The Fig Tree** refused to give up its sweetness and good fruit.
- **The Vine** refused so it could continue providing wine, which cheers gods and men.
- **The Bramble Bush** - Thistles Blown Weed- Trump Chosen

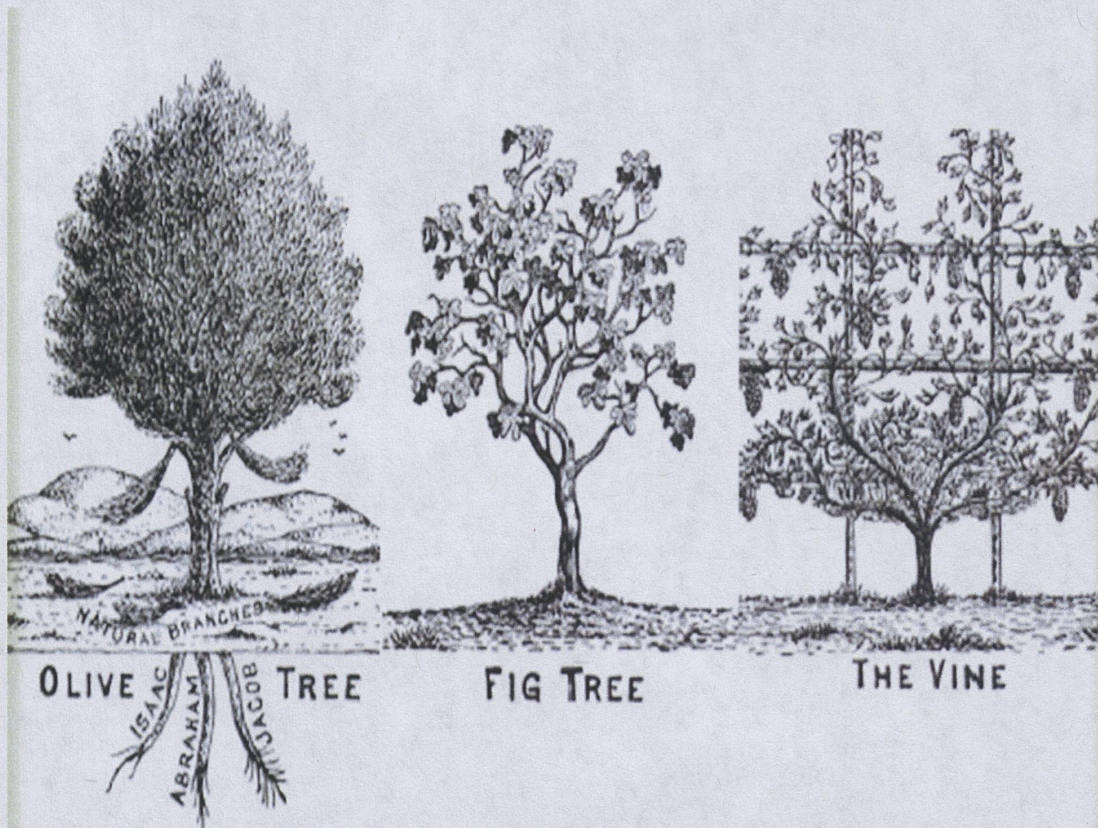
Trump's Promises

- **Trump, like Abimelech, offers undeliverable promises such as the return to pre-industrial factories and coal mining hey-days.**
- **Trump, like Abimelech, demands trust in his shadow, although his bramble bush has no leaves and no shade for protection.**
- **Trump, like Abimelech, appeals to those looking for a king to restore America to the era of white entitlement and victory over people of color.**

Abimelech was crowned king of Shechem. Three and a half years later, he led the nation to destruction. But God's intervention through this generation will determine a different ending.



Bramble Bush – No Shade (Ideology)



OLIVE TREE: Evangelical coalition leadership in quest of theocracy dominance over secular society – willing to subjugate Christian principles to maintain power.

FIG TREE: Elected Officials, Tea Party, and Republican Nullification Party – disregarding traditional principles to maintain power in office.

THE VINE: A Segment of people gripped by fear, infected with the bigotry virus, and insulated by Xenophobia nativism. Vines are nourished by red meat radio and cable news pundits.

A Call to Action

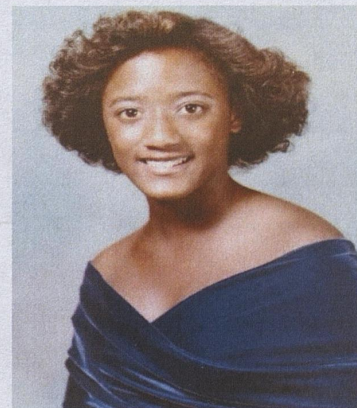
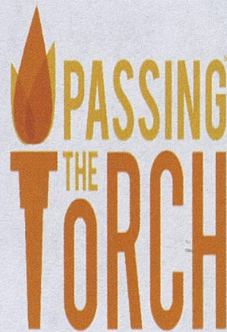
Each of us has the responsibility to make our communities and our society more peaceful and more just. The moral arc toward justice is not going to bend without each of us becoming involved. We begin by voting in November...

1. We launch a campaign to strongly urge Congress to make a renewed Section 4b a national priority and defend voting rights across the nation.
2. We must identify and resist any discriminatory practice with an action plan.
3. We must create a Student Loan Barter Program for existing student and permit student loans to be refinanced at a lower interest rate.
4. We must establish a Marshall Plan to reclaim our inner-cities
5. We must establish a mechanism to utilize millions of retired persons to assist inner city families with parenting skills and provide positive male role models.
6. We must release non-violent offenders from prison and employ them in rebuilding the infrastructure of American.

My Five Daughters



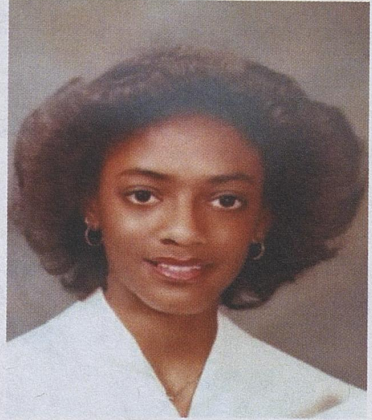
Jacquelyn



1Debbie Selena



Caroline



Stephanie



Kristen