Are we **really** moving toward greater racial equity?

1. Is our fight for racial equity a “long, slow, but always upward pull?”

Progress!
2. Is much of our “progress” surface level and symbolic, while deeper, underlying inequalities persist?
3. Worse yet, does this narrative of continual “progress” act to shield and uphold oppressive structures?

Healthcare: Black women die at 3x the rate of white women during childbirth.

Education: Black girls are over 500% more likely to be suspended than white girls and punished harsher for the same behavior.

Housing: Only 13% of the population is Black, and yet they represent over half of homeless families with children.
**Answer Key:**

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<th>No</th>
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What does this mean & what can we do about it?
The Myth of Inevitable & Linear Progress Causes Harmful Behavior

The perception of racism as over or as inevitably dying out has prevented us from challenging our own assumptions and ‘common sense’ wisdoms, many of which act to maintain oppressive status quo.
This Belief in Inevitable Progress Upholds Harmful Structures

It strengthens the assumption that the theories of change we’ve use to enact progress (i.e. liberalism) are effective.

In reality, these structures lack key mechanisms for making necessary changes.
The Failures of Liberalism

Liberalism assumes that change can be made within existing power structures – incrementally, through long legal battles.

Its aim is to end surface-level discrimination, rather than completely shift current racial power dynamics.
Combatting Racism Requires “Sweeping Changes”

An interrogation of existing

“common knowledge” power structures historic narratives

and more.

In other words, it means challenging everything about how we think and act.

Critical race theory provides the tools needed to develop these criticisms.
In this Guide to Critical Race Theory, We’ll Cover:

- What CRT is
- Why CRT is Needed
- Popular Criticisms & Our Responses
- The Need for CRT in Education

Sources:


