

Twitter Thread by Sam Haselby

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The whole "South won the Civil War" narrative puts people on fundamentally the wrong scent. It misrepresents the North's goal in the war as anti-racism when it was anti-slavery and it misrepresents who made the world we live in: it sure wasn't the South, it was Northern capital.

It requires real ignorance of the 20th century South to imagine it won the Civil War. Indoor plumbing and electricity only came to significant parts of the South in living memory. It went from one of the richest places in the world to a provincial backwater. That is not winning.

It tells you a lot about the cause of "disinformation" that the people pushing it as a big problem have spent years claiming the South won the Civil War, misleading people about the consequences of the war, the political goals of the North, and who has had and still has power.

The zombie Confederacy thesis is a way to misdirect attention from the long and enduring history of Northern racism. Boston today, for example, is more segregated than the Richmond, Virginia, the Confederate capital. The Northeast is more segregated than the South.

The whole "South won the Civil War" narrative is New Englanders again deploying the Puritans' special skills of literacy and writing toward a narrative that puts them and Northern capital in the most flattering possible light. But this requires major distortions of reality.