Twitter Thread by Kevin M. Kruse



Kevin M. Kruse
@KevinMKruse

In case you missed it, my creepy stalker @DineshDSouza is back, repeating his bizarre claim that "progressive historians" never write about how the Democratic Party was the party of slavery, segregation and white supremacy.

Let's all dig in on this

> Progressive historians like Kevin Kruse say the 1776 Commission Report leaves a lot out. Yes, but not half as much as these guys leave out themselves to protect their party's horrific history of enslavement, lynching, segregation & mass murder. @KevinMKruse @rauchway @KevinLevin pic.twitter.com/mBMAt5rIwj
>
> — Dinesh D'Souza (@DineshDSouza) January 22, 2021

It's a laughable claim, as anyone who took US history in college or even high school knows, but it seems D'Souza never did that.

He's been pushing it for years, and whenever I ask him for examples -- like this thread from July 2018 -- he runs away.

https://t.co/c8H4pw8b3b

> Please name the textbooks that attribute segregation laws to anyone other than Southern Democrats. https://t.co/zirKIip3BR
>
> — Kevin M. Kruse (@KevinMKruse) July 30, 2018

D'Souza has repeatedly promised he'll show examples of this trend he insists is incredibly widespread -- examples that are surely at his fingertips! -- but it's been years now.

(He *does* apparently have plenty time to tell everyone else in his replies how very important he is.)

Perhaps we can all help D'Souza out here by identifying any "progressive textbooks" that do, in fact, acknowledge the Democrats' past ties to slavery, segregation and white supremacy.

That way, he can rule those suspects out and move more quickly on to the others.

I'll start.

Howard Zinn probably looms large when people think of leftist histories of the US, so let's start there.

"Democrats were the party of slavery and segregation."

Huh, seems like Zinn gave up the secret. Well, he's probably the only one.

How about Eric Foner?

He's a huge name and his textbook is one of the more widely used ones. I bet *he* hides the Democrats' ties to --

Yikes, the Klan was effectively the "military arm of the Democratic Party in the South."

Huh. That seems bad.

OK, OK, that's two.

OK, let's try Liberty, Equality, Power, the textbook that several of my former colleagues like Jim McPherson and John Murrin and huge figures like @glgerstle wrote.

They're suspiciously progressive, so I bet they hid the Democrats' role in Jim Crow and ... nope.

Three for three

Hmm, let's try David Henkin and Rebecca McLennan, two historians from the godless leftist world of UC-Berkeley.

I bet *they* can be counted on to hide the Democrats' very secret --

Goddammit.

Well, let's try These United States, a recent textbook by progressive historians @GilmoreGlenda and @TomSugrue.

I'm sure *they* hid Democrats' role as the party of white supremacy in the South, because --

Nope.

All right, I bet I can find an example for D'Souza if I look for a textbook that *explicitly* identify themselves as "progressive histories" because they'll surely be in on this very real scam and ...

Damn, really?

Maybe it's a generational thing?

I bet younger leftist scholars like the ones behind the online textbook of @AmericanYawp are pushing this thing. Dinesh always knows what the kids are up to, right?

Well, let's see and ... no.

Well, crap.

Zinn. Foner. McPherson, Murrin, Gerstle, et al. Henkin & McLennan. Gilmore & Sugrue. Carroll. Even the Yawp crew.

They *all* let this really big secret about Democrats' history with slavery and segregation right out of the bag.

I'm not sure where else to look.

Maybe you all can help @DineshDSouza out by providing screenshots here of more books that actually acknowledge this very secret history, so he can cross those off his list too.

Historians, add your own work! Everyone else, check your libraries.

Weird, I write about Democrats being segregationists in my book. And you wrote about Democrats' support for slavery in *your* book?

Hmm, it's almost like D'Souza doesn't know what the hell he's talking about.

https://t.co/eacYPdHfuo https://t.co/TgK9Tm66mJ

> I still don't know why @DineshDSouza tagged me. I include two chapters in _Searching For Black Confederates_ in which I analyze how southern Democrats embraced the memory/narrative of the "loyal slave" to reinforce white supremacy during the Jim Crow-era. https://t.co/siX8iM9SAP https://t.co/xM8PjTceIU
>
> — Kevin M. Levin (@KevinLevin) January 23, 2021