

## 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/mBMA5rlwj](https://pic.twitter.com/mBMA5rlwj)

— 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/zirKlip3BR>

— 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.)



**Dinesh D'Souza**  @DineshDSouza · 2h

...

Replying to @SmartAssForReal @dangit\_kyle and 2 others

My show is 2 weeks old and already one of the top podcasts in the world



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.

... won, blacks would have equal access to them. Blacks had tied themselves to the Republican party, the party of Lincoln and civil rights laws. The **Democrats** were the party of slavery and **segregation**. As Goodwyn puts it, "in an era of transcendent white prejudice, the curbing of 'vicious corporate monopoly' did not carry for black farmers the ring of salva-

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.

# “A Reign of Terror”

The Civil War ended in 1865, but violence remained widespread in large parts of the postwar South. In the early years of Reconstruction, violence was mostly local and unorganized. Blacks were assaulted and murdered for refusing to give way to whites on city sidewalks, using “insolent” language, challenging end-of-year contract settlements, and attempting to buy land. The violence that greeted the advent of Republican governments after 1867, however, was far more pervasive and more directly motivated by politics. In wide areas of the South, secret societies sprang up with the aim of preventing blacks from voting and destroying the organization of the Republican Party by assassinating local leaders and public officials.

The most notorious such organization was the [Ku Klux Klan](#),

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

## The Rise of Jim Crow

But these visible successes of middle-class African Americans enraged white supremacists, who denied any possibility of class solidarity across racial lines. Serious antiblack riots broke out at Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1898 and in Atlanta in 1906. Several states adopted new constitutions that disfranchised black voters by means of literacy or property qualifications (or both), poll taxes, and other clauses implicitly aimed at black voters. The new constitutions contained "understanding clauses" or "grandfather clauses" that enabled registrars to register white voters who were unable to meet the new requirements. In *Williams v. Mississippi* (1898), the U.S. Supreme Court upheld these disfranchisement clauses on the grounds that they did not discriminate "on their face" against blacks. State Democratic parties then established primary elections in which only whites could vote.

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.

## JIM CROW AND THE NEW RACIAL ORDER

The Democrats sacrificed the rights of African Americans in their efforts to win over white Populists. In the South, Democratic lawmakers legalized segregation in public places, passing city ordinances that restricted where blacks could sit on street cars and trains and forbade them from using certain water

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.

**SEGREGATION AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT** When Louisiana imposed its Separate Car Act in 1890, New Orleanians of color formed a citizens' committee to fight the law. They recruited Homer Adolph Plessy, a man "white enough to gain access to the train and black enough to be arrested for doing so." The East Louisiana Railroad Company supported them because the act "saddled their employees with the burden of becoming the state's race policemen."<sup>51</sup> When Plessy boarded the whites-only car, he intended to spark a test case and win it. But in 1896 the Supreme Court ruled in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that segregation was legal, as long as the accommodation provided for blacks was equal to that provided for whites. In practice, that equality was a fiction.

Legal segregation went hand in hand with a movement to push African Americans out of politics. It started with the Mississippi voting law. A more robust black polit-

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?



## The Free and the Unfree: A Progressive History of the United States, Third Revised Edition Paperback – August 1, 2001

by Peter N. Carroll (Author), David W. Noble (Author)

★★★★☆ 3 ratings

[See all formats and editions](#)

**Paperback**  
**\$31.00**

20 Used from \$3.27

4 New from \$20.80

The founding Fathers based the American system on principles of equality and freedom, but often people who made America their home faced inequality, injustice, and legal discrimination. **The Free and the Unfree** documents what happened when Native Americans, African Americans, immigrants,

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.

Reconstruction ended when northerners abandoned the cause of former slaves and Democrats recaptured southern politics. Between 1868 and 1877, and especially after the Depression of 1873, economic issues supplanted Reconstruction as the foremost issue on the national agenda. The biggest threat to Republican power in the South had been the violence and intimidation of white Democrats. Only the presence of federal troops in key southern cities prevented Reconstruction's quick collapse. But the United States never committed the personnel required to restore order and guarantee black southerners the rights promised by the Fourteenth Amendment.

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/eacYPdHfu0> <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/xM8PjTcelU>

— Kevin M. Levin (@KevinLevin) [January 23, 2021](#)