Twitter Thread by ■■Hashtag Not My Pillow



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The White House just released details about building the National Garden of American Heroes — or as I prefer to think of it, the Social Studies Hall of Fame.

Some notes on what Trump won in his war against symbols:

Last summer, Trump gave a July 3 address at Mount Rushmore. His speech dwelt on vandalism and symbolism. He compared the effort to suppress BLM protests to America's participation in WWII.

That was the roll-out for the National Garden of American Heroes: https://t.co/pSoQPopEop

Trump signed another executive order on June 26 on monuments and memorials. This order spelled out severe consequences for people accused of destroying federal *and even state* memorials, including sentences of up to 10 years. https://t.co/XfrdVAnczW

Trump's order on monuments was hugely consequential. Lawfare obtained a DHS document authorizing "expanded intelligence activities necessary to mitigate the significant threat to homeland security" — domestic surveillance of BLM — rooted in this order. https://t.co/dyqQ1CsUIG

Then-AG Bill Barr also found in the White House executive order on monuments the authority for "Operation Legend," the deployment of federal law enforcement to Portland and other cities. https://t.co/GKXfBjWxvP

The Trump administration used the destruction of Confederate monuments during BLM protests in June as pretext to federalize law enforcement in Portland, Albuquerque, Kansas City, and Chicago in July over the objections of state and local leaders. https://t.co/GKXfBjWxvP

BLM protesters who toppled Confederate monuments in June were met with a staggering federal response in July.

Right-wing extremists who colluded to capture Gretchen Whitmer were arrested in October. But the Michigan plot didn't trigger the same response. https://t.co/BlXYJq5lYr

Incredibly, in light of the attack on the Capitol, the White House *still* points the finger at the left. Today's order on the National Garden of American Heroes unironically says, "America has come under attack in recent months and years by a

dangerous anti-American extremism."

> Across this Nation, belief in the greatness and goodness of America has come under attack in recent months and years by a dangerous anti-American extremism that seeks to dismantle our country's history, institutions, and very identity. The heroes of 1776 have been desecrated, with statues of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin vandalized and toppled. The dead who gave their lives to end slavery and save the Union during the Civil War have been dishonored, with monuments to Abraham Lincoln, Hans Christian Heg, and the courageous 54th Regiment left damaged and disfigured. The brave warriors who saved freedom from Nazi fascism have been disgraced with a memorial to World War II veterans defaced with the hammer and sickle of Soviet communism.

This new White House order on statues is a master class in trolling. It cites the razing of the White House in 1812, the assassinations of Lincoln and MLK, and even 9/11. It presents the National Garden as a response to an attack of similar scale: toppled monuments.

> The National Garden is America's answer to this reckless attempt to erase our heroes, values, and entire way of life. On its grounds, the devastation and discord of the moment will be overcome with abiding love of country and lasting patriotism. This is the American way. When the forces of anti-Americanism have sought to burn, tear down, and destroy, patriots have built, rebuilt, and lifted up. That is our history. America responded to the razing of the White House by building it back in the same place with unbroken resolve, to the murders of Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr., with a national temple and the Stone of Hope, and to the terrorism of 9/11 with a new Freedom Tower. In keeping with this tradition, America is responding to the tragic toppling of monuments to our founding generation and the giants of our past by commencing a new national project for their restoration, veneration, and celebration.

Here's the full rundown of the Social Studies Hall of Fame: https://t.co/5P7n8G5zkJ

> (b) Section 3(c)(i) of Executive Order 13934 is amended to read as follows: “The National Garden should be composed of statues, including statues of Ansel Adams, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Muhammad Ali, Luis Walter Alvarez, Susan B. Anthony, Hannah Arendt, Louis Armstrong, Neil Armstrong, Crispus Attucks, John James Audubon, Lauren Bacall, Clara Barton, Todd Beamer, Alexander Graham Bell, Roy Benavidez, Ingrid Bergman, Irving Berlin, Humphrey Bogart, Daniel Boone, Norman Borlaug, William Bradford, Herb Brooks, Kobe Bryant, William F. Buckley, Jr., Sitting Bull, Frank Capra, Andrew Carnegie, Charles Carroll, John Carroll, George Washington Carver, Johnny Cash, Joshua Chamberlain, Whittaker Chambers, Johnny “Appleseed” Chapman, Ray Charles, Julia Child, Gordon Chung-Hoon, William Clark, Henry Clay, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Roberto Clemente, Grover Cleveland, Red Cloud, William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody,

Hannah Arendt is on the list, which is hilarious, a sublime troll. https://t.co/EKNDJoWVPT

> Hannah Arendt.
>
> No, seriously; *Donald Trump* has executive-ordered the construction of a federal statue of Hannah Arendt.https://t.co/T845wWE56E
>
> — Jacob T. Levy (@jtlevy) January 18, 2021

It goes without saying that the White House dictated the design for all 250 statues in the National Garden, a meek vision of authoritarian-realism. Kitsch over modernism: https://t.co/pSoQPopEop

On one hand, the National Garden of American Heroes smooths the edges of American history, offering Christopher Columbus and Andrew Jackson as the same class of beloved characters as Betsy Ross, Emily Dickinson, and Alex Trebek. (With affirmative action for Rehnquist and Scalia).

The more important reading of the National Garden of American Heroes — consistent over White House actions since June 2020 — is the evocation of Black Lives Matter protests as a national tragedy, on par with 9/11 or the assassinations of Lincoln and MLK. https://t.co/2zwBCQ8KRT

Lot of names to hate-read on Trump's 250 Americans list but the standouts to me are Rehnquist and Scalia. Other Supreme Court Justices who don't make the cut: Story, Holmes, Brennan, Hughes, O'Connor. Obviously Warren is out but Scalia beat freaking John Marshall!

FIRST LOOK at National Garden of American Heroes. Collect them all!!


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