



The CATHEDRAL of
ST. PHILIP
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Myths America Lives By: A Dialogue on White Supremacy

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The Five Myths

1. ***The Myth of the Chosen Nation*** – the notion that God chose the US for a special, redemptive mission in the world.
2. ***The Myth of Nature's Nation*** – the conviction that American ideals and institutions are rooted in the natural order of things, that is, God's own intentions as revealed at the dawn of creation.
3. ***The Myth of the Millennial Nation*** – the notion that the US, building on the natural order, will usher in a golden age for all humankind.
4. ***The Myth of the Christian nation*** – the claim that America is a Christian nation, consistently guided by Christian values.
5. ***The Myth of the Innocent Nation*** – that conviction that, while other nations may have blood on their hands, the nobility of the American cause always redeems the nation and renders it innocent.

As U.S. citizens, from different ethnic backgrounds, who have peered so deeply into our racial divide and considered most recently a fresh perspective,

(1) what prescriptions do we have – what specific steps can our fellow citizens take on the ground today,

(2) individually or separately, and

(3) collectively or together, as racial communities on either side of the divide -- to renew these myths for a more viable future and flourishing nation?

... over ...

Resources

Richard T. Hughes PhD, *Myths America Lives By: White Supremacy and the Stories that Give Us Meaning* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2018)

Richard T. Hughes, "American Myths in Eclipse," Yale University, "Reflections" (<https://reflections.yale.edu/article/spirit-and-politics-finding-our-way/american-myths-eclipse>)

Richard T. Hughes, "Escaping the Web of White Supremacy," *The Cresset*, Advent-Christmas 2019 (Vol LXXXIII, No. 2, pp 4-8) (http://thecresset.org/2019/Advent/Hughes_A19.html)

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (NY: The New Press, 2010)

Carol Anderson, *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (NY: Bloomsbury, 2016)

Molefi Asante, *Erasing Racism: The Survival of the American Nation* (NY: Prometheus, 2009)

Jacqueline Battalora, *Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and Its Relevance Today* (Strategic Pub. & Rights Agency, 2015)

David Billings, *Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life* (Roselle, NJ: Crandall, Dostie & Douglass, 2016)

James Cone, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2012)

Michael Eric Dyson, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* (St. Martins, 2017)

Robert Jones, *The End of White Christian America* (NY: Simon & Schuster, 2016)

Ibram X. Kendi, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (NY: Nation Books, 2016)

Nell Painter, *The History of White People* (NY: Norton, 2010)

Catherine Meeks, *Living Into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America* (NY: Morehouse, 2016)

Akiba Solomon & Kenrya Rankin, *How We Fight White Supremacy: A Field Guide to Black Resistance* (Bold Type Books, 2019)

Jim Wallis, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to A New America* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2017)

An **audio recording** of today's dialogue will be available in the next week on the Cathedral's Race and Healing webpage:

<https://www.cathedralatl.org/education/race-and-healing/>

Also on that webpage, you can subscribe to the Cathedral's Race and Healing notices.

Thank you for coming!