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Erasing Jefferson with Newspeak

George Orwell was prescient.

He warned us, in 1949, about "Thoughtcontrol," and foreshadowed the use of "Newspeak," a perversion of language that allowed the government to control the masses and subtly control the human mind.

The word "bad" was replaced by "Ungood." Really bad was Double Ungood.

The Texas Board of Education is the largest purchaser of textbooks in our country. It is, therefore, able to have such clout with publishers that its requirements and criteria usually are carried throughout textbooks everywhere. Economically, the publishers are supposedly forced into doing this because it would be too expensive to change the templates used by the biggest buyers for subsequent purchasers.

Texas has just decided to omit all references to Thomas Jefferson in its schools' textbooks. Texas has decided, by fiat, that one of the greatest minds our world has ever known, no longer exists. I cannot conceive of a justification to control anyone's thought process, and it is just as reprehensible that any person — even worse, any governmental entity — would attempt to erase the existence of even the lowest plebeian. Thinking about the eradication of the legacy of Thomas Jefferson literally makes me sick to my stomach.

Despite the fact that Jefferson was the most likely of all of the founders to support radical change and revolution against tyranny, he is being erased by factions of our society whose general political viewpoint would be most consistent with his philosophy. The extreme elements of our society who now claim to want revolution are most similar to many of those who now wish to rewrite our history to eradicate Jefferson entirely.

Jefferson's quotes also have been abused and misused by malicious splinter groups, the most widely known example of that

being the quote on Timothy McVeigh's shirt. This is Double Ungood.

No public school boards ever should be permitted to exclude facts or to write fiction, since such acts of omission and commission are the absolute antithesis to a true education.

Jefferson did say "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education."

Members of the Texas Board of Education have committed the most despicable tyranny in claiming they can rightfully erase Jefferson because he believed in the Separation of Church and State.

We can never be a free society if such actions are allowed to continue.

We will never escape tyranny if the ultimate powers of society are not truly enlightened with a full education permeated by truth followed by an enlightened exercise of our citizens' control.

Although some supposedly "fair and balanced" talking heads would have us conclude the state is in the best position to tell us whom or what we should worship, and why, I have perceived no greater threat to our democracy than the one now looming before us.

Orwell must be spinning.

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