Supreme Court expansion could follow
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President Trump last week said his administration would be taking action to promote a &#65533;pro-American curriculum&#65533; in U. S. schools in an effort to counteract what he called &#65533;left-wing indoctrination&#65533; in education.

Speaking at the National Archives Museum, Trump said he intends to sign an executive order to create the &#65533;1776 Commission&#65533; to encourage schools to teach a positive view of American history. The commission&#65533;s name appears to be a dig at the 1619 Project, a series of essays published last summer by the New York Times Magazine that argue slavery and racism are foundational elements of American history. Trump also took aim at critical race theory, an academic discipline focused on systemic racism.

In his speech, Trump called these views an &#65533;ideological poison&#65533; that threatened to erase the &#65533;miracle of American history&#65533; from U. S. education. The 1619 Project offers a free curriculum that has been utilized by some schools. Earlier this month, Trump threatened to defund schools that do so. Federal agencies were also recently barred from holding diversity trainings that rely on critical race theory. Trump isn&#65533;t alone in his criticism of efforts to center race in U. S. history. Many conservatives have taken aim at the 1619 Project and critical race theory for what they see as an overemphasis on slavery that paints America&#65533;s founding principles in a negative light. This focus will further the racial divide in the country, they say.

Trump&#65533;s critics say he is looking to paper over American history to prevent the country from reckoning with the darker parts of its past, which ultimately serves to keep systemic racism in place. "What he's arguing for is to indoctrinate our children in a approved, patriotic history that actually obscures the role of slavery, " said Nikole Hannah-Jones, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her work on the 1619 Project. Trump&#65533;s declaration was also seen by some critics as the same sort of propaganda that authoritarian regimes practice.

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