

U.S. Army Destroys North/South Reconciliation

“Actions speaks louder than words.” The recent action of destroying the North/South Reconciliation monument in Arlington National Cemetery by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Congress demonstrates this ancient truth. The Arlington Reconciliation monument was endorsed by Presidents McKinley and Wilson because it demonstrated the South’s loyalty to the United States after the disastrous blood letting of the “Civil War.” The South’s patriotic zeal during the Spanish-American War (1898) was recognized by Northerners. The *Albany Journal* of New York acknowledged the patriotic contribution made by Southerners. The *Journal* observed that, “...the honors of the war are being carried away by the sons of the South.... Sons of the South are showing the same acts of heroism that they have always shown in time of war, and, unless the sons of the North bestir themselves the honors of this conflict may go to the Southland.” The South’s dedication to the U.S.A. has been demonstrated in every war since the South’s surrender at Appomattox. Today, sons and daughters of the South represent a large percentage of our volunteer military—much greater than the South’s proportion of the population. Yet, our reward is to be stigmatized as racists and traitors by people who hate the conservative, Constitution-loving South. Why would the Woke U.S. government destroy a beautiful monument that was honored by presidents of the past?

Authoritarian rulers hate ancient monuments that remind people of heroic traditions that free people should emulate. It is a constant public reminder of the cost of freedom and the sacrifice that people are often called upon to make in defense of freedom. When the Soviet Communists occupied the Baltic States they removed ancient monuments, prohibited the display of national flags, and removed the money then in circulation containing images of ancient heroes. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan, they destroyed ancient Buddhist monuments. Authoritarians detest anything that might cause people to question authoritarian rule. The recent attack against monuments across the South is carried on by individuals, groups, and politicians who detest the conservative South. They have the backing of monied individuals, the media, postmodern academia, and the ruling political class. The South has no spokesmen to give a counter-argument. The South is convicted in the court of

public opinion without being allowed to present its defense—a court system fitting for authoritarian regimes.

Why are Southerners who love their heritage, honor their ancestors who served honorably during the “Civil War,” and who can trace their lineage back to “Civil War” and Colonial days, why are we branded as traitors and racists? President Eisenhower did not think we were traitors. He kept a photo of General Lee in his office while president and defended his action by noting that General Lee was an honorable man. President Kennedy spoke highly of the sons of the South and recognized the national kinship between the North and South. Yet, today we are branded as traitors and racists. We are not allowed to have a monument in the public square! Why? Because Southerners are the only American group who are not allowed to define who we are, what our ancestors fought for and what we stand for today. In Woke America, Southerners who love their heritage are defined by those who hate us. It would be like allowing neo-Nazis to define what Jewish culture is and whether its symbols and monuments should be allowed in the public square or allowing white-supremacists to define what Black culture is and whether its monuments should be allowed in the public square. “With liberty and justice for all?” Not if you are a traditional conservative Southerner.

What does the destruction of Arlington’s Reconciliation monument mean? It means that the healing (reconciliation) never occurred as far as America’s Woke political and military class are concerned. After Appomattox the South tacitly agreed to never again raise the call for Southern independence, to forgo centuries of conflict like the way the Irish responded to English invasion and occupation of their homeland. The secessionists’ South became the patriotic South that provided the nation’s military with unnumbered troops and officers. Presidents since the Spanish-American War have recognized the outpouring of Southern blood in defense of our mutual country. They even annually placed a wreath at the Reconciliation monument but no more. It has become apparent that the only way the conservative, Constitution-loving, South will be accepted in Woke America is if we renounce our conservative political and moral principles and embrace leftist Woke ideology—this we will not do!

The North/South reconciliation bargain is now broken. We, the Constitution-loving South did not break the bargain, but a bargain broken by one party is broken completely. Since traditional Southerners are no longer wanted in the military, and since America's political class demands our removal—perhaps it is time for conservative Southerners to rethink the North/South bargain.

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