**Black History is for Everybody**

Howard Zinn’s “A People’s History of the United States” offers multicultural perspectives of American history. It gives us a look into how Black and other people of color experienced events in the US. For instance, the perspectives of the enslaver, the enslaved, and the indigenous would all differ from each other. Hence, the importance of examining history and its consequences from multiple angles.

A school in Utah, whose student population is nearly 70% White, gave parents the option of allowing their children to participate in Black History Month activities. After a public outcry, the option was removed. The great-grandparents of the director of the school were among the tens of thousands of Japanese people (and their descendants) interned in camps during World War II in the US. In the Midwest and the South, Republican lawmakers are currently crafting legislation to prevent the teaching of the 1619 Project, a study that examines American slavery and its generational effects.

*What is so dangerous about learning about Black people?*

I asked students in my Introduction to African American Studies class “Why is Black History/Heritage Month for everybody?” Here were some of their insightful responses (I’m paraphrasing some of them).

“American history doesn’t exist without Black history.”

“It shines a light on our contributions and lets people know we’re more than our struggles.”

“It allows Black people to feel a little appreciation in such a hateful world.”

“It helps us to learn the entire truth.”

“It helps others understand why we are as we are.”

“It helps us to learn what it means to be Black.”

“It gives us different perspectives for learning science, art, poetry, etc.”

“Why can’t we get along? Because we don’t know Black history!”

*The article below lends credence to the sentiments of so many people:*

Isn’t 400 Years Enough? The failure to appreciate Black history

leaves our nation incomplete.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/10/opinion/black-history-month.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>