

The Origins of DEI

I thoroughly enjoyed Jeff Minick's "Code Crimson: It's Time to Take Control of DEI" and thought I'd share my own thoughts on DEI in Alabama. It was previously published a few weeks ago in my local weekly, the Northport Gazette.

Many, if not most, of you have heard of DEI, or diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Alabama Legislature recently passed a bill in late March that goes into effect in October 2024 banning DEI at public universities and colleges.

Gov. Kay Ivey said she would "continue to value Alabama's rich diversity," but she vowed to stop DEI supporters and proponents from pursuing a "liberal political movement counter to what the majority of Alabamians believe."

Let's use the metaphor of the "level playing field." Two football teams play and the best one (at least that day) wins. The field and rules are the same for both teams. The best team wins, the win goes on their record, and they move along to some championship.

On the other hand, what if you changed the rules a bit? The teams play as usual, one scores more than the other, but at the end of the game they both walk away with a victory. Everyone is a winner. There are no losers in the game. That is equity.

Now, let's explain equity another way. To be admitted to an institution of higher learning—colleges and universities—you had to have excellent credentials, principally scholarly ones (grades and examinations), but jocks also had a leg up, and there were other sources of determining your fitness for admission, like extracurricular activities, and so on.

There were two principal ways of measuring your fitness: your high school academic record and your achievement test scores, like ACTs or SATs, for example. These measurements

high school records, extracurricular activities, the greater your chance of being accepted.

Today, entrance examinations—ACT, SAT, etc.—are no longer required according to the principles embraced by DEI and the principle of privilege.

Applicants for admission are measured in a "holistic" fashion, which principally takes into account such elements as sexual preferences, race, ethnicity (Hispanic, African, etc.), and other factors not principally determined by tests and examinations. You are "privileged" or given privileges (based on race, ethnicity, sexual preferences, etc.) and so admitted by measuring factors other than your intelligence as shown by your test scores.

You with me here? The practitioners and proponents of DEI purposely disguise their standards to meet their goals. What are those goals? Basically, the leveling of society and following the political model of socialism or communism, rather than, let's say, freedom, liberty, and democracy, for example. Don't know what countries embrace or practice socialism or communism? Try Cuba, Venezuela, Russia, and China, for starters.

We got rid of a privileged society when we threw out the British in 1776 and eventually established a Republic with a Constitution. The privileged king and nobles were stripped of their powers and titles, and the freedom and rights of the individual were in the future to be determined by merit rather than privilege.

In the simplest fashion, it's what you did rather than how you were born that was to be the determining factor in your lives.

Did our new system work perfectly? Hardly. Just study the origins and aftermath of the Civil War for one of the many elements that almost ended our republic. One hundred years after that war ended in 1864, we passed through another historical

black Americans through to their full rights as citizens.

These struggles and others tested the validity of American freedoms and the rights of individuals to rise above their circumstances and triumph in the worlds of industry, science, and economics, for example. We were able to protect the world during the two world wars of the twentieth century from the incipient dictatorships of totalitarian regimes such as Nazi Germany, bent on exterminating the Jewish people by murdering millions of Jews for example in the 1930s and 1940s.

Let me finish with a quick condemnation of the world of equity. I have a stepdaughter who is a plastic surgeon and a son who is a corporate jet pilot.

Do you want a surgeon operating on you who made it to the operating room for some DEI reason (sexual preferences, race, ethnic background, etc.) other than that she was the best in her class and learned her trade (UAB and University of Michigan, if you are interested) with distinction?

Or how about pilot in the left seat (pilot's seat) of the jet flying you across the Pacific who got there because of what he looked like, rather than by mastering the skills of a pilot, someone who won't have to turn to his co-pilot when the engine starts sputtering and ask her, "Uh, can you find the operating manual, dear, something's wrong. We appear to be going in the wrong direction—down!" No, you want your surgeon and pilot to be the best trained in the land, if not in the world. They got there the old fashioned way, via merit.

Take your pick.

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There were two principal ways of measuring your fitness: your high school academic record and your achievement test scores, like ACTs or SATs, for example. These measurements fall into the category of merit. The higher you scored in exams,

your chance of being accepted.

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Lawrence Clayton
Alabama



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I'm a long-time subscriber and frequently distribute copies of The Epoch Times at patriot events here in NE Wisconsin. I knew Jeffrey Tucker once, back in the day, when I was president of The Heartland Institute.

The Lost Dream of Home Ownership

Jeffrey Tucker's article titled "Your New Life of Housing Rental" (published in the May 22-28 edition), on how home ownership is no longer highly valued in America, was spot on.

Libertarians rightly lament the loss of freedom that may follow from everyone living in apartment buildings. But as I walk around my small town in Northeast Wisconsin, I have to wonder at how we ever got so enamored with single-family

windows, or even just a coat of paint. I wonder what's going on with that.

Maybe it's a successful son or daughter visiting mom and dad. But I see it all the time. I think those car and truck owners live in those dilapidated old houses. People spend more on their cars these days than on housing, and way more than we could afford to spend 20 or 30 years ago. "Keeping up with the Joneses" now means getting the latest