

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 968

To prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 25, 2021

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

## A BILL

To prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Combating Racist  
5 Training in the Military Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The founding principles of the United  
9 States include the belief, enshrined in the Declara-  
10 tion of Independence, that “all men are created

1 equal” and “are endowed by their Creator with cer-  
2 tain unalienable Rights”.

3 (2) The United States commitment to the equal  
4 dignity and natural rights of all mankind is the  
5 strongest possible defense against racism and op-  
6 pression of all kinds.

7 (3) The mission of the United States Armed  
8 Forces is to “support and defend the Constitution of  
9 the United States against all enemies, foreign and  
10 domestic” and “bear true faith and allegiance to the  
11 same”.

12 (4) To carry out this mission, the Armed  
13 Forces must train leaders who love the United  
14 States, its citizens, and the aforementioned founding  
15 principles.

16 (5) Anti-American and racist theories, such as  
17 “Critical Race Theory”, teach that the United  
18 States is a fundamentally racist Nation, that the  
19 Constitution is a fundamentally racist document,  
20 and that certain races are fundamentally oppressive  
21 or oppressed.

22 (6) Such theories encourage people to judge  
23 and treat others differently on the basis of their  
24 race, rather than treating them as equal citizens and

1 human beings with equal dignity and protection  
2 under the law.

3 (7) Anti-American and racist theories, such as  
4 Critical Race Theory, teach students to distrust and  
5 even hate their country and fellow citizens.

6 (8) The United States Armed Forces should not  
7 promote or otherwise encourage anti-American and  
8 racist theories that demoralize and divide its mem-  
9 bers while undermining its mission to “bear true  
10 faith and allegiance” to the Constitution.

11 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROMOTION OF ANTI-AMERICAN**  
12 **AND RACIST THEORIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Armed Forces  
14 and academic institutions operated or controlled by the  
15 Department of Defense shall not promote the following  
16 anti-American and racist theories:

17 (1) Any race is inherently superior or inferior  
18 to any other race.

19 (2) The United States of America is a fun-  
20 damentally racist country.

21 (3) The Declaration of Independence or the  
22 United States Constitution are fundamentally racist  
23 documents.

24 (4) An individual’s moral character or worth is  
25 determined by his or her race.

1           (5) An individual, by virtue of his or her race,  
 2           is inherently racist or oppressive, whether con-  
 3           sciously or unconsciously.

4           (6) An individual, because of his or her race,  
 5           bears responsibility for the actions committed by  
 6           other members of his or her race.

7           (b) PROMOTE DEFINED.—In this section, the term  
 8           “promote” means the following:

9           (1) Including theories described under sub-  
 10          section (a) or materials that advocate such theories  
 11          in curricula, reading lists, seminars, workshops,  
 12          trainings, or other educational or professional set-  
 13          tings in a manner that could reasonably give rise to  
 14          the appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or  
 15          endorsement.

16          (2) Contracting with, hiring, or otherwise en-  
 17          gaging speakers, consultants, diversity trainers, and  
 18          other persons for the purpose of advocating theories  
 19          described under subsection (a).

20          (3) Compelling members of the Armed Forces  
 21          to affirm or profess belief in theories described  
 22          under subsection (a).

23          (4) Segregating members of the Armed Forces  
 24          or other individuals by race in any setting, including  
 25          educational and training sessions.

1 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

2 (1) PROTECTED SPEECH NOT RESTRICTED.—

3 Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict  
4 the protected speech of members of the Armed  
5 Forces or any individual.

6 (2) ACCESS TO MATERIALS FOR THE PURPOSE

7 OF RESEARCH OR INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Nothing  
8 in this section shall be construed to prevent individ-  
9 uals from accessing materials that advocate theories  
10 described under subsection (a) for the purpose of re-  
11 search or independent study.

12 (3) CONTEXTUAL EDUCATION.—Nothing in this  
13 section shall be construed to prevent the United  
14 States Armed Forces and academic institutions op-  
15 erated or controlled by the Department of Defense  
16 from stating theories described under subsection (a)  
17 or assigning materials that advocate such theories  
18 for educational purposes in contexts that make clear  
19 the United States Armed Forces and Department of  
20 Defense does not sponsor, approve, or endorse such  
21 theories or works.

○