

WHITE SUPREMACY WORSHIPS WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Julio Noboa Polanco, November 29, 2019

EDITOR'S NOTE: *As 2020 begins, our hope for peace and harmony in the world must remain strong in the face of local and global efforts to revive white supremacist ideology.*

Throughout the world, most particularly in the United States, there has been an unprecedented rise in racism, nativism and xenophobia, especially against the masses of immigrant families escaping death and destruction in their native lands.

Beyond political realities, the ideology of racism has foundations in long-held systems of belief about the unquestioned superiority of Whites and the Western Civilization they created compared to other races or civilizations. More recently, the rise of what is labeled as "white supremacy" has revived that decades-long academic debate about Western Civilization and its place in the context of human history.

In the halls of academia where I worked for over two decades, I observed that White supremacists hold to the unshakable belief that Western Civilization is the highest expression of human intellectual and cultural achievement. At the same time the obvious evils of slavery, domination, exploitation, and environmental devastation that are essential elements of that global civilization, are justified as being only a normal expression of human nature.

There are multiple ways of responding to this very powerful and universal fallacy of White supremacy based on the alleged superiority of Western civilization. One is to point out certain historical and anthropological realities that cannot be denied.

To begin with, comparing distinct and unrelated cultures and civilizations is like comparing apples with mangoes. Each society was born, developed, flourished and decays in response to the specific particulars of their geography, economy and technology that sustained it. Thus, it is very difficult to formulate and apply authentically universal standards for evaluating the value and virtue of any civilization compared to any other.

One obvious result of these differential circumstances that create and develop each civilization is the very duration of each. The Incan civilization developed over generations but the Inca Empire itself extended its dominion for a mere 100 years before being brutally conquered by Pizarro.

By contrast the Roman Empire lasted five centuries before it was finally destroyed from internal decay and from external invasion by vandals and Visigoths. Yet centuries before that the Egyptians had created a civilization and an empire whose royal dynasties lasted over thousands of years.

How can you begin to compare these three very different civilizations with such wide variations and incomparable durations?

Western civilization certainly has tremendous and undeni-

able merit and value and should be appreciated as having made incalculable contributions to human knowledge and technology. Western contributions and achievements have been well documented, widely disseminated and often celebrated as they should.

Still, it is well established that Western Civilization itself has



White nationalists and white supremacists carrying torches marched in a parade through the University of Virginia campus, Aug. 11, 2017.

foundations and profound roots in Non-Western cultures and civilizations, most notably from Egyptian and Mesopotamian sources. White supremacists who consider themselves "Christian" should be reminded that Moses, Jesus and even the Bible itself, as well as their very belief in God, came not from a European culture but from a Semitic people of Mesopotamia, most particularly ancient Hebrews.

It is also worth remembering that our system of numbers, mathematics and algebra that has been used for centuries in the

West comes from the Islamic Arab civilization that also gave us advanced knowledge in astronomy, agriculture and geography.

Another most fundamental reality that White supremacists avoid is that the cradles of human civilization, that is the original cultures that first generated writing, monumental architecture, complex social hierarchies, astronomical knowledge and agricultural systems, were all outside of Europe and created by people of color.

In the Old World these four civilizations were all born and developed along river valleys, namely the Nile River in Africa, the Indus River in India, the Yellow River in China, and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Mesopotamia.

As a humanist and universalist and contrary to white supremacist views, I believe that the entire scope of human culture includes tiny pockets of hunters and gathers as well as great empires and civilizations. Our humanity includes huge continental nations as well as small isolated islands.

In fact, each of these societies constitute a unique piece of the entire panoramic puzzle of human culture. When our society gains a better appreciation of who we are as human beings we will have no further need for ideologies of supremacy based on race, gender or sexual orientation.

BIO: Julio Noboa Polanco is a freelance writer currently living in Costa Rica. A former resident and writer in San Antonio and boardmember of the Esperanza he still writes about social and environmental justice issues.