



BODHI BE
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MAKE AMERICA GREAT

I did not participate in the rape and pillage and genocide of the Americas or the destruction of much of the forests, fauna and wildlife of this beautiful country. Nor did my parents or grandparents. Beyond them, I do not know. I do know I come from the white races of Europe, maybe the Caucasus Mountains, and before that, I don't know. I do know that I come from the race of peoples who started this country by killing, subjugating, and tyrannizing native peoples and destroying their cultures, people that were here long before we got here. I do know that we, the people I come from, built an economy on the backs of slaves, thousands and thousands of whom died on the tortuous boat ride over. I know that black children were born into this life never to experience life other than as someone's property. For a long time, I felt deep shame as a person with white skin, though I surely don't consider myself a "white person". What I found was that shame didn't serve me or anyone else and was a draining and energy depleting experience. I then discovered the power and importance of grieving.

The past is by no means gone. It reverberates as a beating drum playing underneath, around and through our culture. It plays through an undercurrent of shame and shadow that accompanies us. It plays out as white privilege and white superiority and the notion that we are a "white Christian" country. When we stop, we all know it's true. Until we, as the white people of this country, turn and face what we have inherited as our story we will never be a great country. We owe our ancestors to make this right. We owe the peoples of the world to make this right and prove we are the model for the world. Until there is deep regret, remorse, atonement, redress, reparation and repayment, we will continue to be a racist country in the eyes of the world and our fellow men and women. This is not about a "police problem". This is a systemic problem embedded in our story about ourselves, which makes it almost invisible in its pervasiveness. The real question is will we rise to this moment, while it's so very present in the eyes and ears of the world, and come to our knees in all humility and start the process of reconciliation. This, in my view, is what can truly make America great.