



CRASH COURSE ON CRITICAL RACE THEORY

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CENTER
FOR
BIBLICAL
UNITY

LET'S START WITH A DEFINITION

- Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a secular philosophical and social framework that analyzes the power dynamics between the oppressed (non-whites, POC) and their oppressors (whites).

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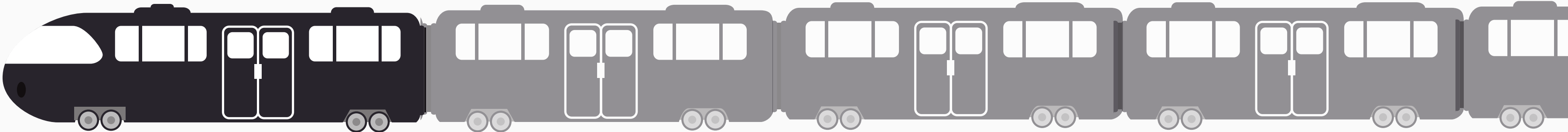
CONNECTED MOVEMENTS

CRITICAL THEORY

CRITICAL RACE
THEORY

FEMINISM

QUEER THEORY



RECOGNIZING CRT

- You hear terms like “woke,” “white fragility,” “white privilege,” “whiteness,” or “social justice”
- White people are described as inherently “racist” and people of color CAN’T be “racist.”
- “White people should be aware of the space they are taking up.”
- “White people should divest themselves from their whiteness.”
- Your pastor claims repentance from racism is part of the Gospel and leads the church in a corporate prayer repenting for “whiteness” and oppression.





KEY BELIEFS & TERMS OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY

summary of the framework

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KEY BELIEFS & TERMS OF CRT

1 All of history consists of an ongoing struggle between Oppressors and the Oppressed. We see this dynamic play out in the founding of American society, government and religion, which were formed on the basis of racism and continue to exclude people of color from meaningful dialogue and power.

2. "Racism" no longer refers merely to individual acts, but to large-scale systems in society (called systemic racism or institutional racism) that produce outcomes that disadvantage the POC.

3. Power must be redistributed from the Oppressors (Whites) to the Oppressed (POC), by force, if necessary.

KEY BELIEFS & TERMS OF CRT

4. Whites lack the ability to see their participation in racism, *unless* they train themselves to see the world through a CRT (or “woke”) lens, which reveals the various forms of racism that continue to oppress people of color.

5. **Eradicating racism** cannot be accomplished without also paying attention to **sexism, homophobia, economic exploitation**, and other forms of oppression or injustice.

KEY BELIEFS & TERMS OF CRT

Whiteness: "Whiteness" refers to the specific dimensions of racism that **serve to elevate white people** over people of color... These processes and practices include basic rights, values, beliefs, perspectives and experiences purported to be commonly shared by all but which are actually only consistently afforded to white people.

Woke: "Woke" as a political term refers to a perceived awareness of issues concerning social justice and racial justice. To "stay woke" refers to a continuing awareness of these issues.

KEY BELIEFS & TERMS OF CRT

White Privilege: Refers to the unquestioned and unearned set of advantages, entitlements, benefits and choices bestowed on people solely because they are white. Generally white people who experience such privilege do so without being conscious of it.

White Fragility: Refers to a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable [for white people], triggering a range of defensive moves. These moves include the outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and leaving the stress-inducing situation.

A black and white photograph of four young women sitting on a wide stone step. They are all laughing and looking towards the left. The woman on the far left is wearing a dark t-shirt and light-colored pants. The woman next to her is wearing a striped top. The woman in the center is wearing a plaid tube top and light-colored jeans. The woman on the far right is wearing a polka-dot long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background is a plain stone wall.

CRT AS A WORLDVIEW

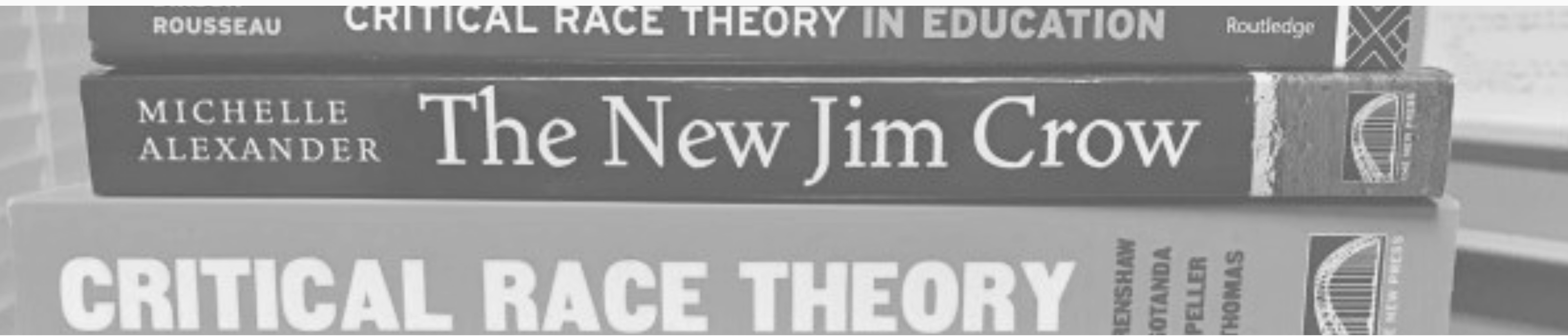
*Critical Race Theory bears the major features of a worldview,
acting as a lens or framework to interpret all of reality.*

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CRITICAL RACE THEORY AS A WORLDVIEW

CRT is the framework that is being put forth in most **colleges** right now (even many Christian colleges). It is the **guiding framework now in many academic disciplines**, especially sociology, social science, psychology, literature, and justice theory.

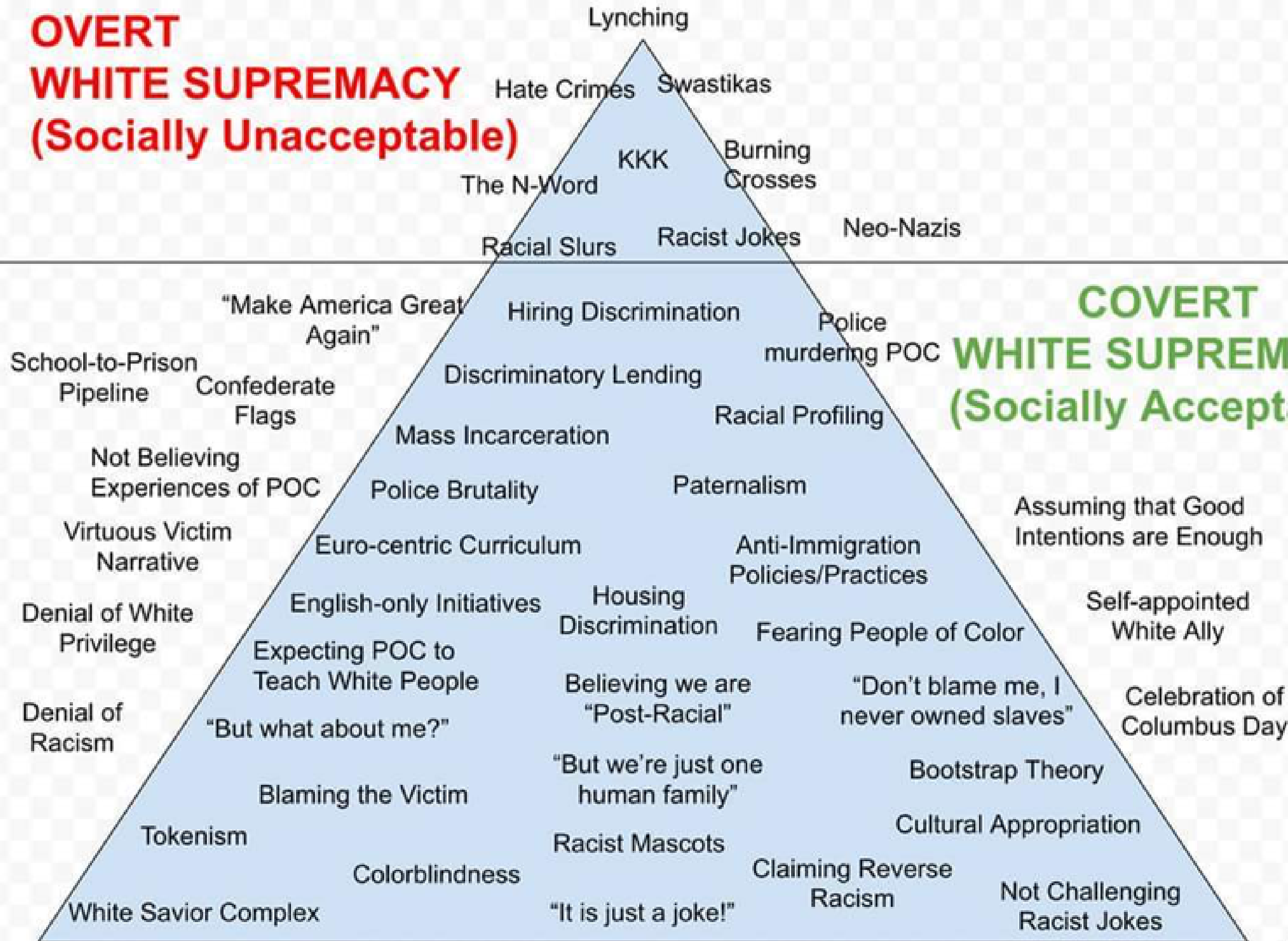
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CRT AS A WORLDVIEW (& GOSPEL COMPETITOR)

- **Prime reality:** materialism; secular humanism
 - Several large evangelical entities and pastors are promoting various aspects and terms related to CRT.
- **Humanity's fundamental problem ("original sin"):** white/male/ straight/Christian; being part of systems of "whiteness"
- **The Law:** "political correctness"; new legalism

**OVERT
WHITE SUPREMACY
(Socially Unacceptable)**



CRT AS A WORLDVIEW (& GOSPEL COMPETITOR)

- **Canon:** books on sociology, Critical Race Theory
- **Nature of human history:** competitive cycle of "oppressed" vs. "oppressors"
- **Solution to humanity's problem ("salvation"):** becoming "woke"; recognizing your own role as "oppressor" in societal "oppression"

CRT AS A WORLDVIEW (& GOSPEL COMPETITOR)

- **Life commitments** (“sanctification”): engaging in social advocacy to overturn “injustice”; convincing others to breakdown “white systems” and divest of “white privilege”
- **Heaven**: bringing the Kingdom of God to earth; equality of outcomes for all

A CHRISTIAN VIEW OF RACE & EQUALITY

How do we **start** with the Bible instead in importing a secular system onto the Bible?

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CHRISTIAN VIEW OF RACE & EQUALITY

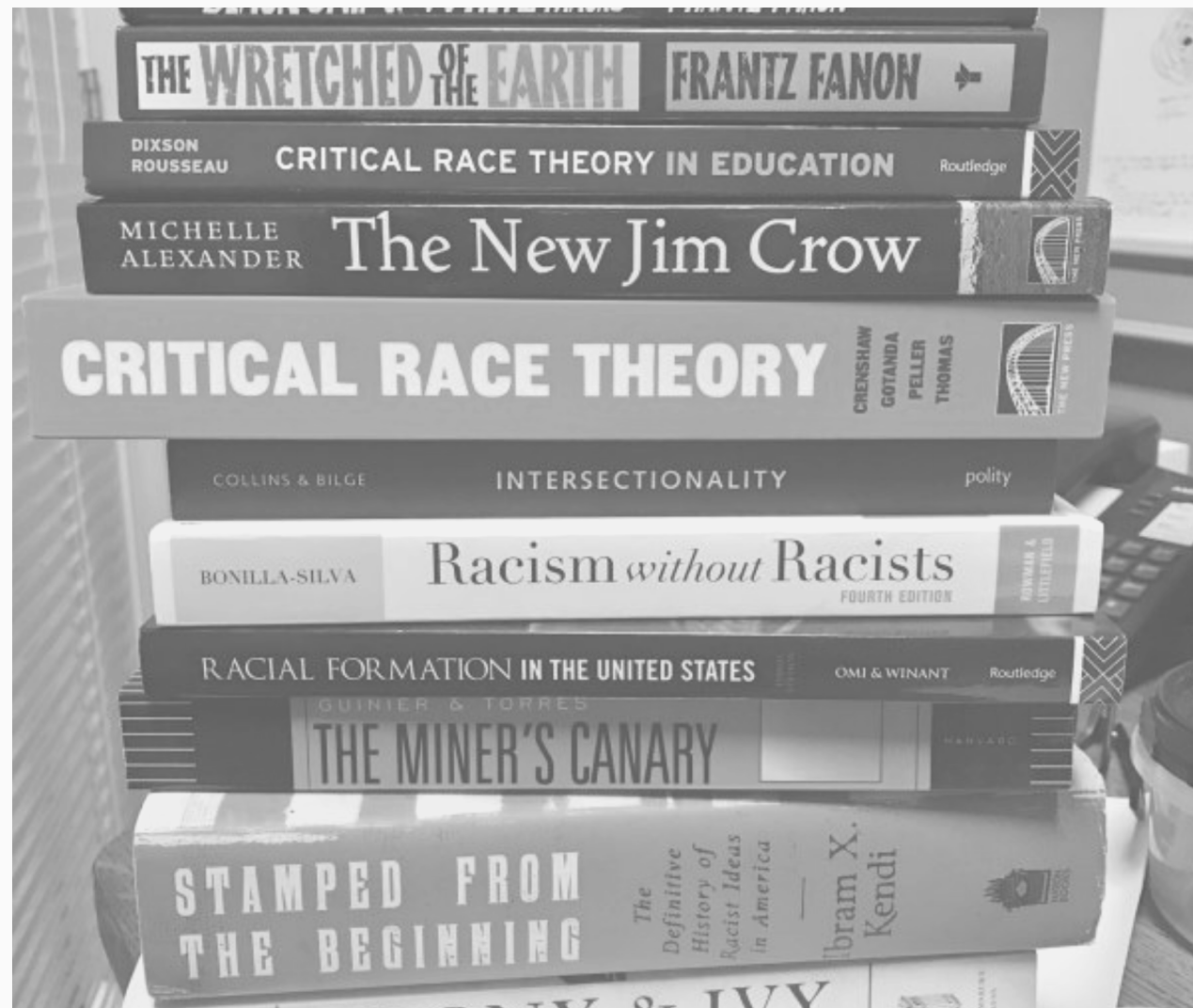
CREATION

Every human being, regardless of ethnicity or nationality, is made in God's image, and as such have equal dignity, value and worth.

Gen. 1:26–27

There is only one race: the human
race.

Acts 17:26



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CHRISTIAN VIEW OF RACE & EQUALITY

FALL

Every human being who has ever lived
inherits from Adam both his sinful
nature and his guilt. This is humanity's
fundamental problem.

Romans 5:12

Slavery and racism are part of living
in a post-Fall world and have been
practiced since ancient times.

Genesis 16

Genesis 37

Exodus 1



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CHRISTIAN VIEW OF RACE & EQUALITY

REDEMPTION

The Gospel is an invitation to all people to become a new humanity.

Ephesians 2:11-22



God wants His people to treat and apply the law equally to everyone, regardless of social status, race or income. We shouldn't treat others with partiality or favoritism.

James 2:1–6a, 8–13

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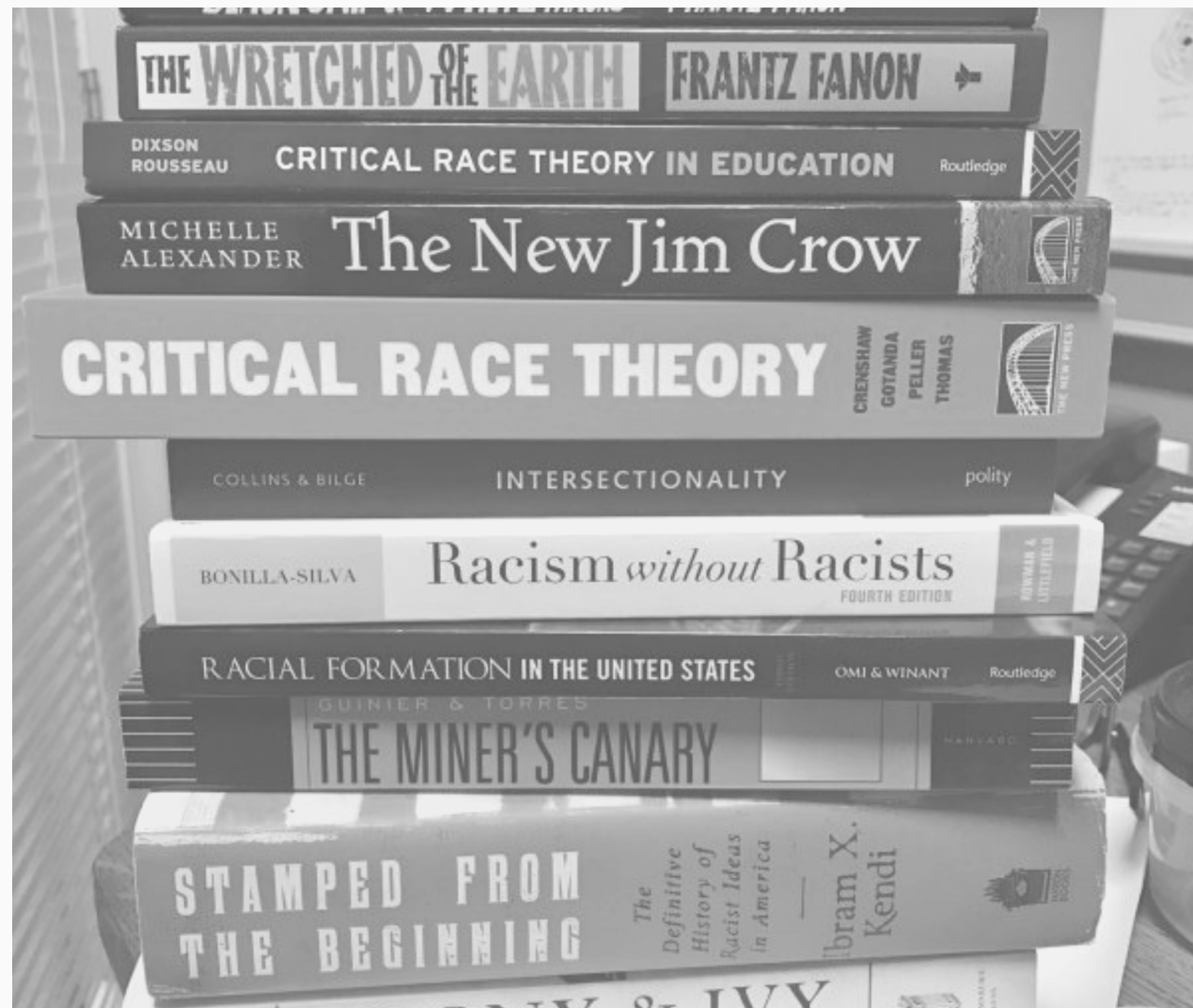


CHRISTIAN VIEW OF RACE & EQUALITY

GLORIFICATION

Members of every
race and ethnic group
will be in heaven

Revelation 5:9–10



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WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS VULNERABLE TO FALLING INTO CRT?

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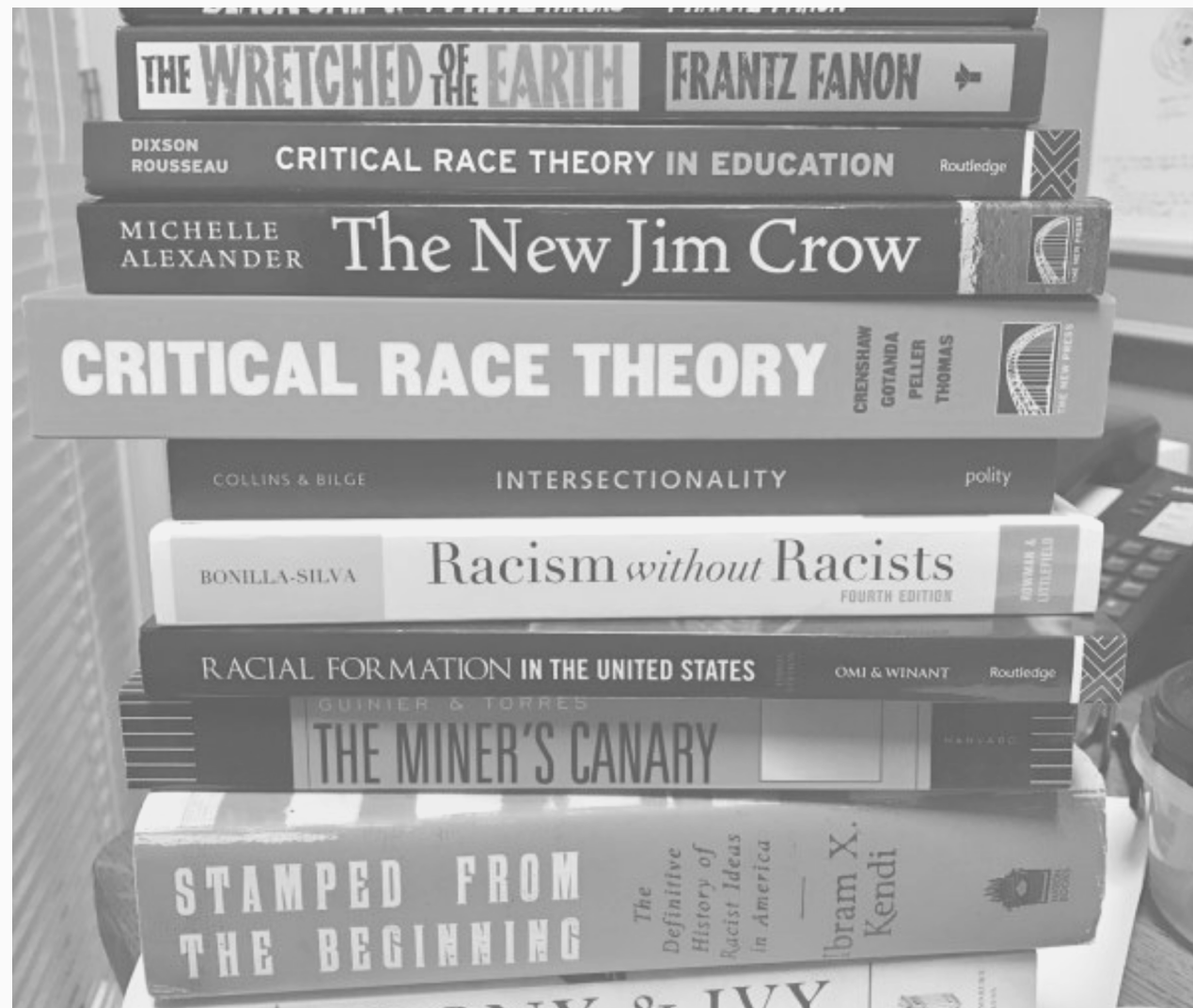
WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS VULNERABLE TO CRT?

Asserts a strong commitment to the affirmation of human dignity and racial equality

Seeks to exegete culture in order to identify injustices that still need to be corrected

Provides research or data that helps us look deeper at social inequalities

Seeks to augment the understanding of American history to form a more complete narrative



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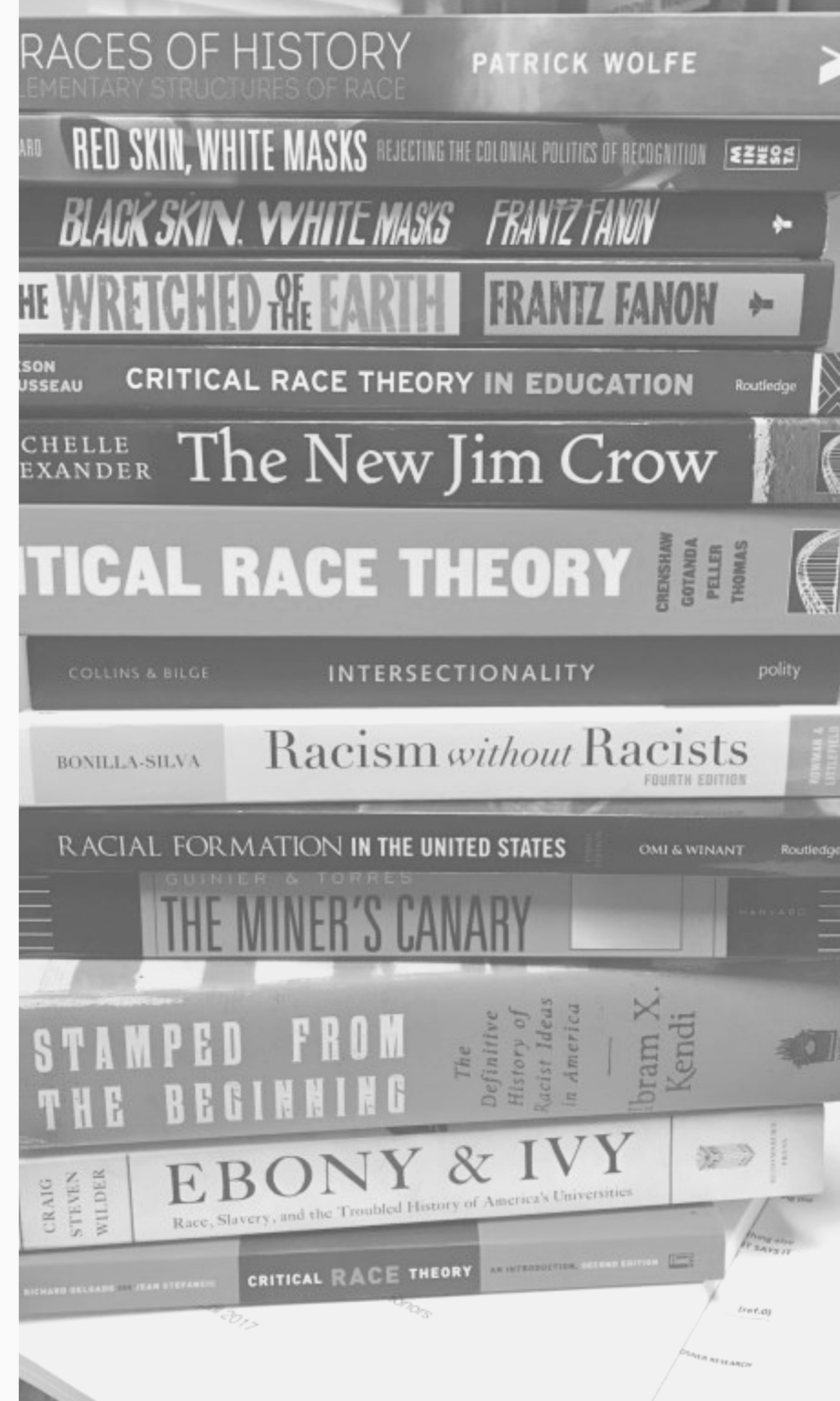
CRITICAL CONTRADICTIONS

BETWEEN CRT AND THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

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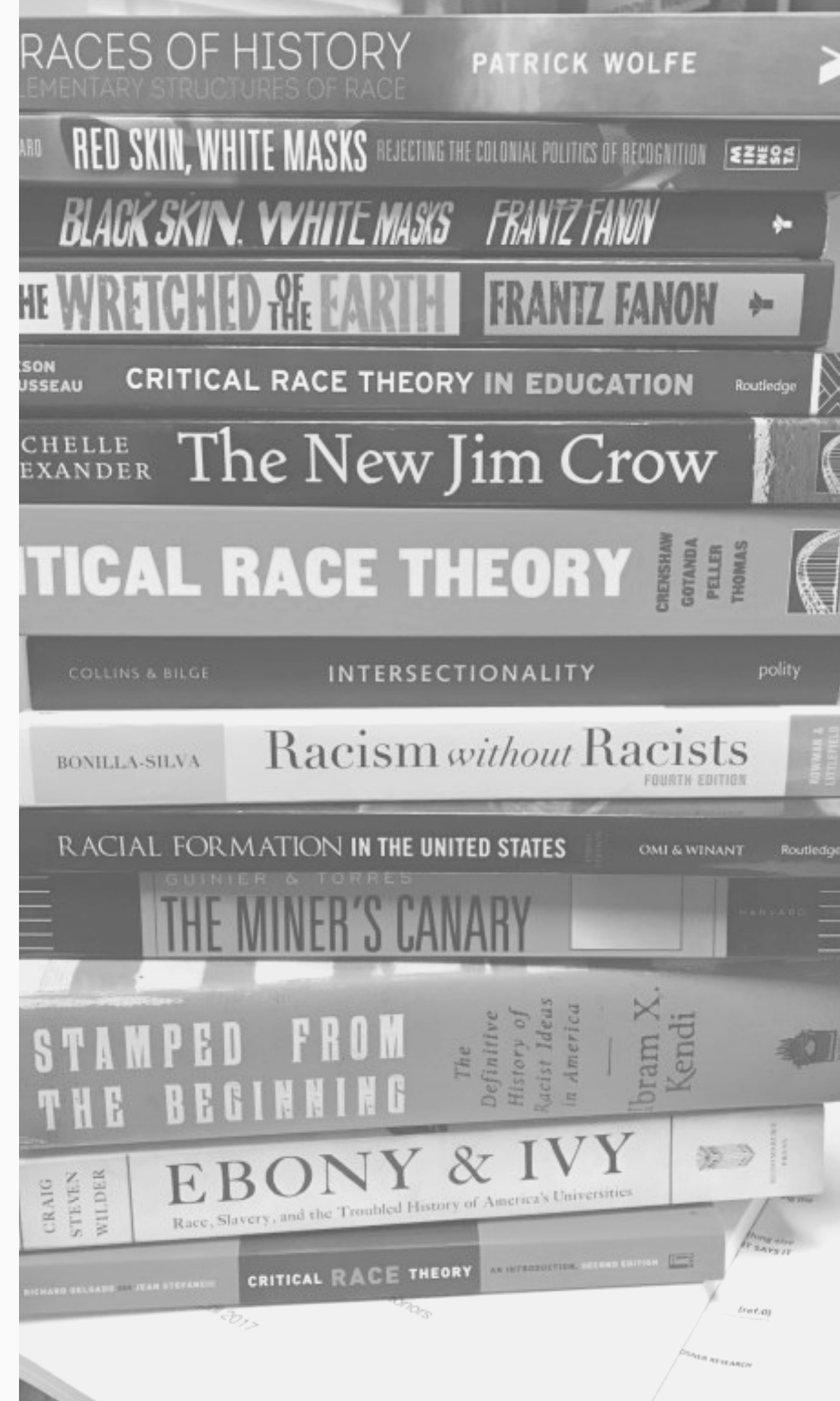
CRITICAL CONTRADICTION OF IDENTITY

- CRT separates all of humanity into two categories: Oppressed and Oppressor.
- Historic Christianity says that all of humanity is either "in Adam" or "in Christ." And as Christians, we are called "brothers and sisters."
- Trades partiality toward one group to another group.



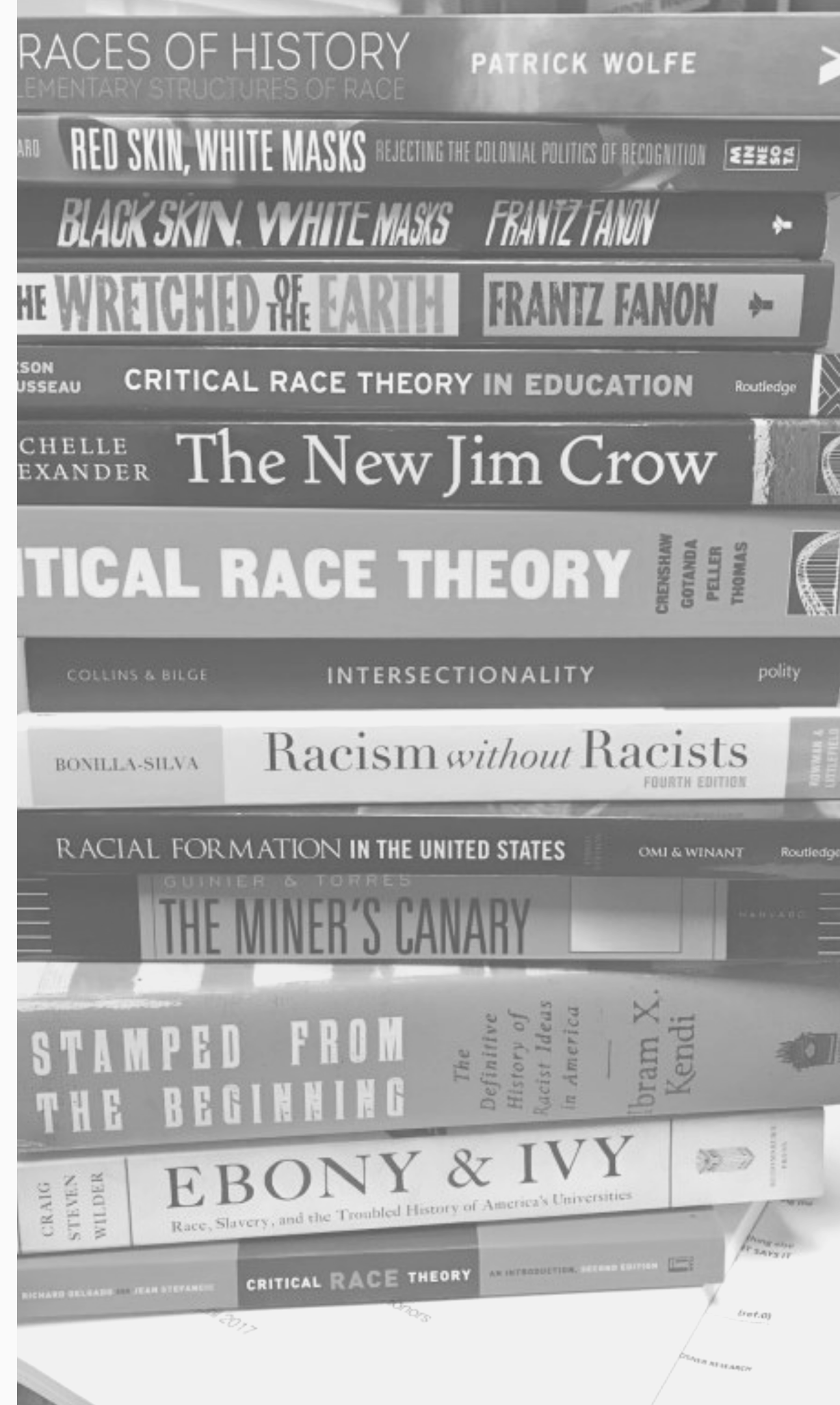
CRITICAL CONTRADICTION OF IDENTITY

- CRT tells white people that they "occupy space" and that "whiteness (Western European culture) is wicked."
- Historic Christianity says that all humans are created in the image of God with dignity, value, and worth.



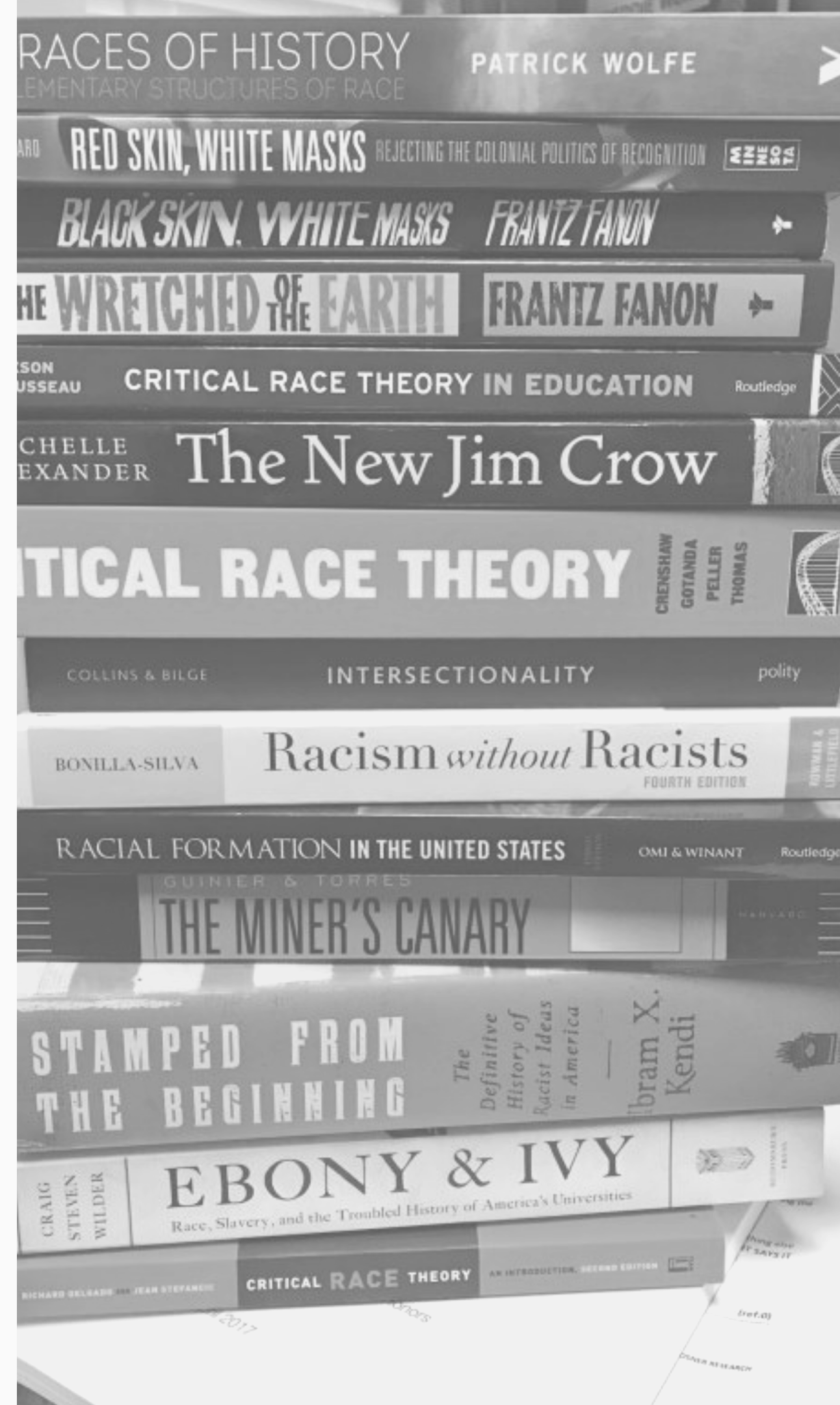
CRITICAL CONTRADICTION OF TERMS

- Some Christian leaders influenced by CRT redefine critical biblical terms, including original sin (e.g., only Whites can commit the sin of "racism."), repentance, and forgiveness
- Historic Christianity says that that all humans are fallen and polluted by sin.



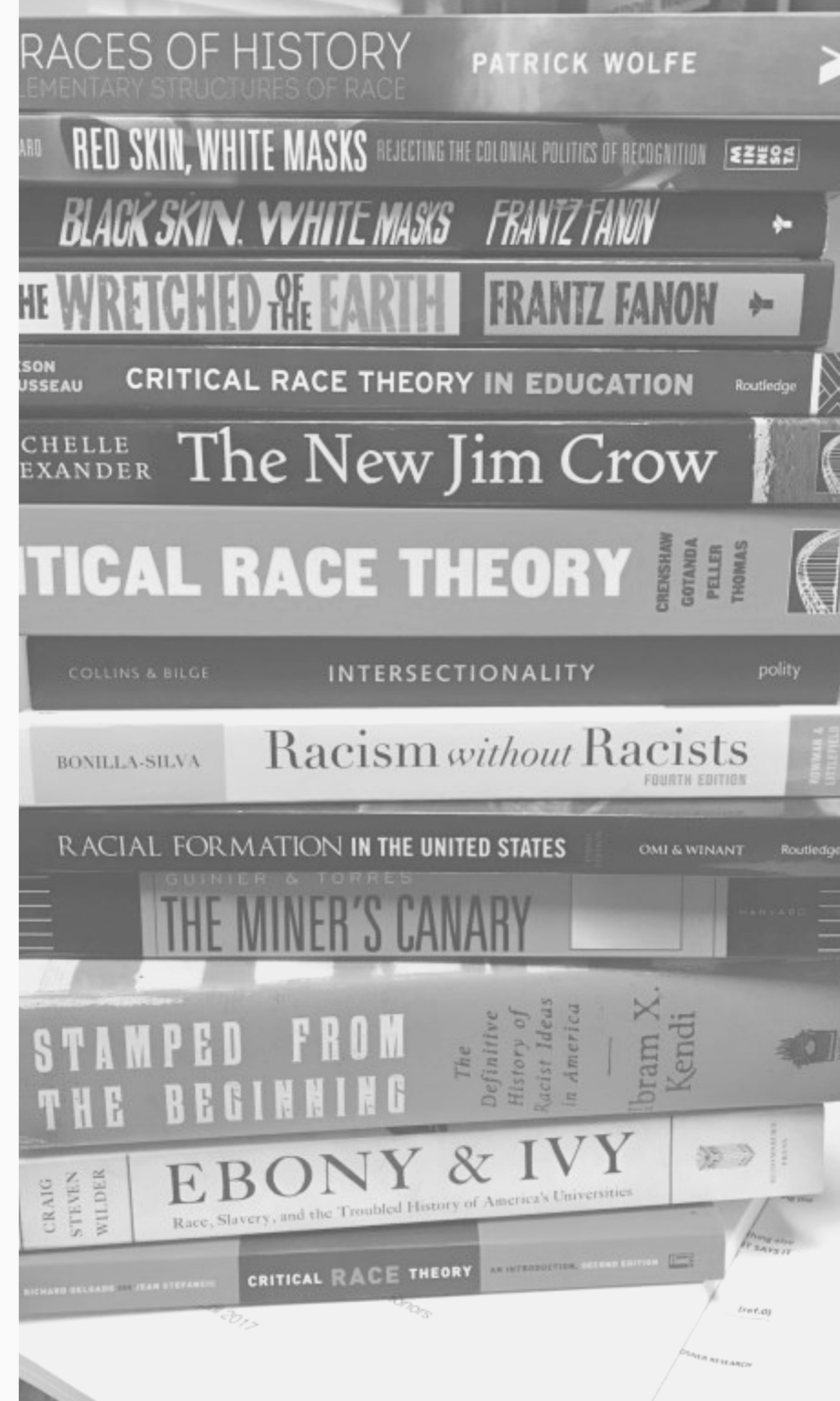
CRITICAL CONTRADICTION OF HISTORY

- CRT seeks to holds the current generation accountable for the sins of previous generations.
- Historic Christianity says each of us will be held accountable for our own sins at the judgment.



CRITICAL CONTRADICTION OF UNITY

- CRT tells white people to “divest” themselves from “whiteness” (recognize and separate themselves from systems that perpetuate oppression) before unity can be achieved.
- Historic Christianity says the foundation for unity among humans has already been accomplished through the work of Jesus.





AVOIDING TWO EXTREMES

On one end: Those who believe racism to be a thing of the past, removed from our government or church life. Incidents of racism are rare and isolated.

One the other end: Those who believe that racism still permeates almost every system in our society, and that many things are rigged to benefit whites and push down people of color.



1 CORINTHIANS 10:3–5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.