



**Your on the
Street Reporter**



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Removal of George from America

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Earlier this month, I wrote an article about the removal of Abraham Lincoln's name from public schools in San Francisco ("Removal of Abe from America," January 5, 2021). At that time, I did not realize other people and their names had been targeted.

In addition, a few months ago, I wrote an article about the clamor from a politically correct clique to remove a statue of Lincoln from the Capitol Hill grounds in Washington, DC ("Statue of Limitations," July 20, 2021).² I am still in a state of disbelief that Lincoln, the man who had no slaves and the person most responsible for abolishing slavery, is on this hit list.

On July 26, 2020 the San Francisco Board of Education voted 6-1 in favor of the removal of the names of George Washington and other well-known people from 44 San Francisco public schools. The rationale of the Board is based on irradicating the history of heretofore honored individuals who had or has, as the Board declared, "broad ties to slavery, oppression, racism or the 'subjugation' of human beings."³

Lincoln, the slayer of American slavery. Washington, the father of our country. Hyperbole? No. Anyone even superficially versed in United States history will support my lofty rhetoric.

One can only imagine what the San Francisco school curriculum contains in relation to Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. It's a good guess the curriculum is less than lofty.

Also on the list are Thomas Jefferson (one of the principal architects of the Declaration of Independence), John Muir (a revered naturalist), Paul Revere (America's first midnight rider), Francis Scott Key (composer of the "Star Spangled Banner"), Spanish priest Junipero Serra (father of California's Spanish missions).

The targets include living people. One cited in the Associated Press release is Dianne Feinstein:

Changing the name of Dianne Feinstein Elementary school, named for the Democratic senator and former mayor of San Francisco, has raised eyebrows. The trailblazing 87-year-old's star has dimmed in recent years, with dismayed liberals joining calls for her retirement last year after she embraced Republican Senator Lindsey Graham at the end of heated confirmation hearings for U.S. Supreme Court Judge Amy Coney Barrett.

It should have raised eyebrows; it should also raise our ire. Senator Feinstein's embracing a political opponent was a gesture of reconciliation. Nonetheless, the name on the school shown in the figure below is to be changed.

The AP also reports that Senator Feinstein came under the political correctness guillotine "because as mayor in 1984 she replaced a vandalized Confederate flag that was part of a long-standing flag display in front of City Hall. When the flag was pulled down a second time, she did not replace it." (In which case, she is probably pilloried by QAnon.)

¹ Thanks to Google for the photos in this article.

² These articles can be downloaded free of charge by going to Blog.UylessBlack.com. Scroll down to "16. Politics in America," then click on the links "Statue of Limitations," "Removal of Abe," and "Removal of George."

³ Associated Press, January 27, 2021 and the source for the other quotes in this report.

One wonders what the new name will be? It's a fair statement to claim that the name of any well-known person will not pass muster with everyone. Some southerners do not have a high regard for Abe. Some Brits, those still longing for the British Empire, are not fans of George. It will be interesting to see what the San Francisco Board of Education (a contradiction in terms) will select for the names of 44 schools.



Figure 1. Alas, we knew her (name) well.

Washington's Legacy

For this article, I am not going to rehash ideas discussed before about the dangers of masking, deleting, or redrawing history. Although tempted to write about Washington's under-appreciated political wisdom and his being a stalwart good man, let's take the tack of examining his standing and influence; not only in America, but the world as well.

Does that mean this writer is ignoring the fact that he kept slaves? No, it means Washington was a man of his times and he must be judged in relation to those times, not the present times. To subject any historical figure of the past to the values of today---even Joan of Arc or Mother Teresa---is a fatuous way to look at life.

If we judge Adolph Hitler and Mao Zedong in the context of the times in which they lived, they come up as political psychopaths. If we judge George Washington and Abraham Lincoln---for that matter, Diane Feinstein---in the context of their times, they come up as people with admirable qualities. Certainly not people whose reputations are stained by having their names sullied.

The names of the members of the Board of Education who voted for this joke are the ones needing to be fixed; not a name fix but a fix of their narrow mindedness and a dismal lack of knowledge about American history.

No matter about these people. Let's take a glimpse into Washington's greatness, keeping in mind what he had to say (and practiced continuously) about humanity and his role in governance:

“In politics as in philosophy, my tenets are few and simple. The leading [tenet]... is to be honest and just [to] ourselves and to exact it from others. ...If this maxim was generally adopted, wars would cease, and our swords would soon be

converted into reap hooks and our harvests be more peaceful, abundant, and happy.”⁴

These statements reflect the life-long behavior of Washington. He guided our nation through a revolutionary war and through its first fragile years as a republic. For these truly monumental feats, five historical revisionists act as if he was simply immaterial to this nation. It would be funny if it were not so sad.

If Nothing Else, a Logistical Problem⁵

For this discussion, we can assume the world at large is paying attention to the names fiasco of the San Francisco Board of Education. The name changes needed for monuments, schools, rivers, statues, dams, buildings, on-and-on are practically incalculable. Below are a few examples of the reverence other countries have for this man, and consequently for America:

- George Washington, a small town in Cuba's Villa Clara Province
- George Washington Avenue (*Spanish: Avenida George Washington*) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- George Washington Avenue (*Polish: Aleja Jerzego Waszyngtona*) in Warsaw, Poland
- George Washington Roundabout (*Polish: Rondo Jerzego Waszyngtona*) in Warsaw, Poland
- George Washington Street (*Serbian: Улица Џорџа Вашингтона/Ulica Džordža Vašingtona*) in Belgrade
- New Washington, a small town in Aklan Province, Philippines
- Washington Avenue (*Italian: Viale Washington*) in Rome, Italy
- Washington Avenue (*German: Washington Allee*) in Hamburg, Germany
- Washington Island, a coral atoll belonging to Kiribati
- Washington Street in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom
- Washington Street (*French: Rue Washington*) in Paris, France; 8th arrondissement
- Washington Street (*French: Rue Washington; Dutch: Washingtonstraat*) in Ixelles, Brussels-Capital Region
- Washington Street, Cork, in Cork, Ireland
- Washington Park (*Spanish: Parque Washington*) in Barranquilla, Colombia
- George Washington Street (*Ukrainian: Вулиця Джорджа Вашингтона*) in Lviv, Ukraine
- Washington Place, a village in Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Cape Washington, in Antarctica

What are nations to make of America denigrating its foremost patriot who is much admired in many countries? Along with the January 6 assault by American citizens on their *own* Capitol, it is a good guess that other nations are thinking along the lines of disbelief, followed by derision; followed by moving away from association with such a fickle country. Followed by, “Humph, all along, just another third world country, just one with nukes and a big budget.”

Why have these countries venerated American forebears? It is not because we revere these figures. It is because Washington, Lincoln, and other heroes offer a beacon, a guiding light on their struggle to achieve what America has achieved. Even America's enemies have marveled at our way of life.

By our dismantling our history, we suggest that our past struggles are not of value because they do not represent the values of the present times. Not only does America risk taking

⁴ Key-in <Quotes of George Washington>.

⁵ The list in this report is sourced from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_memorials_to_George_Washington.

down the history of its struggles for others to emulate, we discourage them from even thinking about it.

If America, still the world's leader, does not honor its heroes, why should others? Our behavior erodes our international standing, reputation, and influence.

If you think US relationships with other countries are not vital to our well-being, I've a bridge up north you would be gullible enough to buy.

This list of foreign sites is a very small example of the American municipalities, institutions, forts, estates, geographical places, parks, neighborhoods, transportation systems monuments, schools---well, you name it---named after George Washington. There are many hundreds of them (see footnote 5).

Here is more of the Board's resolution: The historical figures are linked to "the subjugation and enslavement of human beings; or who oppressed women, inhibiting societal progress; or whose actions led to genocide; or who otherwise significantly diminished the opportunities of those amongst us to the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Dianne Feinstein has oppressed women? That's the first I've heard about it.

The San Francisco Board of Education President Gabriela Lopez has assured us: "I want to ensure people this in no way cancels or erases history."

Great. My mind is now at ease.

Hm. Not quite. I suspect the Board is looking for other places in San Francisco in which not to cancel or erase history. Maybe they have Washington Park Square (as seen in Figure 2) in their gunsights.



**Figure 2. Washington Park Square:
In the crosshairs of historical revisionists.**

What's next in the politically corrects' world of illusions? Don't hold those dollar bills in your pocket for too long. They could end-up being counterfeit.