Death by 'diversity': American academy falls hostage to social justice fanatics & prematurely slams shut the minds of the nation

by Michael Rectenwald

Reading the news, one might come to believe that US higher education has devolved into nothing more than a "social justice" indoctrination camp and that any deviation from the orthodoxy is impermissible. And one would be right.

The American academy, once deemed "the envy of the world" by some, is anything but that. Far from the bastion of robust

intellectual inquiry for the production and transmission of knowledge and wisdom, the American academy is a veritable indoctrination camp for activism and an echo chamber that allows only the prevailing orthodoxy of "social justice" ideology to be voiced, while dissident views, professors, and students are silenced, persecuted, exiled, and excised.

Forget about "safe spaces" as merely occasional comfort zones for minorities and others; universities themselves are now safe spaces for silencing dissident speech. The teaching at top universities, where this dross is initiated and from which it metastasizes, is that institutions of knowledge production and dissemination are racist to the core and need to be "decolonized." As such, the works of "white men" are gutted, not only from literature curricula, but also from all other fields as well.

History is treated not as a record of the past, open for debate and investigation, but according to the dictates of what should have happened or what might have happened, rather than what did. Inside the classroom, history is decolonized, which means that it is sanitized and distorted. Outside of the classroom, for example, murals of WWII veterans are slated for removal for "lack of diversity."

While statues and other monuments are destroyed by Black Lives Matter and Antifa, the professoriate paints the achievements and failures of the past with the broadest brush—in terms of white supremacy and endemic racism. The English language itself has been deemed "racist," to be replaced by the teaching of the "Black language."

Science too has been invaded by identity politics wokeness, such that the criteria for excellence is diversity, equity, and inclusion, rather than the achievement of excellence in adequate explanations of the natural world. Engineering education is denounced for its "rigor," as such rigor is evidence of the erect status of the patriarchal phallus.

Affirmative action, which in principle is arguably discriminatory and casts undue doubt on the success of minorities, has even breached the medical field and now dominates it. That's cold comfort to patients, who may wonder whether their doctors are qualified to treat them when medical schools now admit and graduate students not on the basis of their "mastery" (a racist word in its own right, we're told), but instead on the basis of their supposedly subordinated status in society.

Thus, diversity of thought in the American academy is virtually non-existent. And where it does rear its ugly head, it is rooted out with ferocity. As a result, students, in general, have become mere phrase repeaters and sloganeers. Academia is now an echo chamber where students and faculty mindlessly recite acceptable mantras. Professors are being exiled for voicing anything that deviates from the woke orthodoxy. The examples are so legion that one doesn't know where to begin.

We are well beyond the closing of the American mind