

# The Disunited Identities of America

by Phyllis Chesler



We are fast becoming the Disunited Identities of America. [American embassies](#) may now fly the gay rainbow flag along with the American flag. What next? A Transgender Flag? A Black Transgender “Sex Worker” Flag? A “Palestinian” Flag? A special flag for American non-binaries and asexuals? How about separate flags for every possible ethnicity that American citizens represent? Better still, a special flag for the illegal/undocumented – they’re here, too.

I happen to like the rainbow flag very much and for more than one reason. I like what rainbows biblically represent, namely, a forever truce between God and humanity. No matter how vain or venal our behavior may be, God is resigned to accepting the fact that we are all made of “crooked timber” and will sin, again and again, but God will never again unleash a deadly flood to destroy all mankind.

Originally, the gay pride/rainbow flag had at least eight colors. Over time, that number has both increased and decreased. Each group, newly self-identified, proudly, the latest victim on the block, adopts a unique color.

Walt Whitman, that very gay male and so-American poet, proclaimed that he (and we all) “contain multitudes.” Why diminish us, why limit us to only one identity and an identity that only proclaims our sexual proclivities – and nothing else, nothing more?


I wrote an entire chapter about the dangers of such balkanization and self-minimization for a book of mine. The publisher (who shall remain nameless) censored it. What I was writing was deemed too “politically incorrect.”

A mighty wind is powering this flag of identity, rending asunder all hope of unity, dividing citizen against citizen, making political alliances difficult if not impossible.

Where is the flag for the victims of sex slavery – that would be female sex slaves, they are the majority, all others, whether male or transgender, however trendy, are in the minority. Where is the flag for rape victims – that too would mainly be female victims of male rape. A flag for the mainly female victims of domestic violence?

Prick us, will we not bleed?

Where is the flag for African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Indian Americans, Native Americans, South Asian Americans – just on and on?

Yes, I know, I’ve been told over and over again, that we  are mighty sinners when it comes to racial integration. That America was founded on slave labor and that we are now at a time of righteous reckoning and reparations. However true this may be, I cannot bear the angry “peaceful” rioters and the intensity of the racialized narrative everywhere I turn.

For example, my hometown newspaper, the *New York Times*, has been on quite a roll. For more than a year, maybe longer, every single day, 3/4 of the stories, at least 1/2 of the op-eds and letters, and perhaps 70% of all photos concern race issues in America. Black and brown faces and issues massively dominate the news, the obituaries, and the arts: Suddenly, playwrights, painters, opera singers, jazz singers, actors, dancers, choreographers, models, fashion designers, cooks, homemakers, business owners are all people of color. Almost overnight, they have replaced the formerly mainly white faces.

Of course, the role once played by black Africans in the black African slave trade, the existence of contemporary black African slavery and anti-black racism among ethnic Arab Muslims is never given as context or perspective.

But, back to my daily morning newspaper. Perhaps this is a rightful introduction to those whose work has formerly been disappeared due to racism? A smart way to normalize and accustom white folk to the reality of a multicolored world? National redemption? What if this message of black and brown primacy is misinterpreted and leads to angry mobs [will be running](#) for governor of California. 'Twas only a matter of time. Jenner's run is part of the celebrity culture takeover/takedown of meritocracy. If you are famous enough and/or trendy enough you can do... anything. Pilot a spaceship, [run a corporate enterprise](#) on diversity training. Run for political office, too.

Just as an old, white, man (wait, that would be President Biden) cannot represent a gay man or a transgender woman – and who looks nothing like a lesbian or like a modest Muslim woman wearing hijab or a Sikh in a turban – now, celebrities who [American Thinker](#).