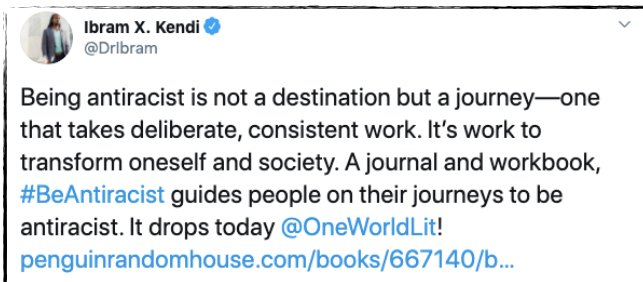


Today's educationalists are tweeting about all manner of things. Math teachers about math, history teachers about history, and unsurprisingly, French teachers about French. For this assignment, Lindsay and I have decided to narrow our scope a little and put the focus on not simply education holistically, but rather anti-racist education & educators specifically. It's an important topic in the *#blacklivesmatter* era and one that can be misunderstood. The theory is that anti-racist education will lead to a more just world for not only people of colour and their own benefit, but for the betterment of everyone.



So off the hop, what does anti-racist mean?

Well, the Oxford Dictionary defines it as “the policy or practice of opposing racism and promoting racial tolerance”. And Ibram X Kendi,

author of *How to be an Anti-Racist* says that “it’s not enough to simply be not racist. The opposite of ‘racist’ isn’t ‘not racist’. It is ‘antiracist’” (North, 2020).

All this to say, anti-racist is active, while *not* racist is passive. Anti-racist requires one to put in the work to tear down racism in all its forms - rather than sitting on the sidelines, simply not really hating anyone.



It's self-evident that being anti-racist is harder than being not racist, and this is where social media comes in.

Would-be reams have been written

about how social media is rotting our brains, but it's also giving us direct access to the people that are at the forefront of the anti-racism movement.

Dr. Ibram X. Kendi is a professor at Boston University, Director of the Anti-Racism Centre, a New York Times #1 Best Selling Author, and one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People of 2020. Kendi “has emerged as one of the most important scholars of his generation” (Sharpton, 2020). Through his books and his Twitter account, he “provides concrete and actionable steps and recommendations that we can all take to wipe out the vestiges of racism and bigotry and strive to be—to use the term Kendi popularized in 2019—antiracist” (Sharpton, 2020). And a quick glance at his twitter page shows both how wide his reach is, as well as how much work there is to do on the topic.

His roughly 326,000 followers on Twitter suggest a widely-cast net. And indeed that dwarfs the numbers of the average user. But when compared to others in the public eye, it’s a little depressing. Kim Kardashian - who is famous for being wealthy on TV - has 66.9 million followers. US President and vile human Donald Trump has 87.2 million followers. And Justin Bieber has an astounding 112.8 million followers - almost four times the population of his home country of Canada. But 326,000 is a start; and on the positive side, the largest following on Twitter belongs to former US President Barack Obama who has more followers than any of the above accounts - coming in at a staggering 123.9 million.

Kendi is focussed, through all his writing and speaking, on advancing the anti-racist movement. He’s written four books on the topic - including a children’s book entitled Anti-Racist Baby. He speaks on the need for education to help in the fight to eradicate racism. He speaks truth to power on the history of where we’ve been. And he speaks with hope about where we can go from here.



- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Let's talk about persecution, and why it animates the tyranny of Trumpism. The historic defense of violent American bigotry is a projection of persecution rooted in a violent denial of reality. 1/13  
160 1K 2.6K
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Slaveholders imagined they were being persecuted by immoral and illegal abolitionists. Read the statements of secession. White male slaveholders imagined they were being persecuted for being seduced by enslaved Black women they raped. Read their fiction. 2/13  
12 85 751
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Ku Klux Klansmen imagined White people were being persecuted by tyrannical Black politicians and voters and landowners and activists. Read the statements justifying their lynchings and massacres and whitecapping. 3/13  
14 53 607
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Jim Crow segregationists imagined they were being persecuted by outside agitators. Read their statements of massive resistance. After the 60s, "not racist" Americans imagined they were being persecuted by affirmative action, welfare fraud, voter fraud, and super-predators. 4/13  
8 57 622
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Today, the red hats, who are mostly but not exclusively White, imagine they're being persecuted by divisive anarchists, critical race theorists, and antiracists of all races. 5/13  
16 72 645
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
None of these racist ideas are inherent. The Trumps of the world produced and circulated these ideas to make people think the problem—and the source of their own struggles—are those bad people as opposed to bad policies; that those bad people are persecuting them. 6/13  
11 59 616
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
And I'm talking about anti-Black racism. Historians of anti-Native, anti-Asian, and anti-Latinx racism; historians of sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, ablism, and capitalism—to name a few—can share similar histories. 7/13  
16 43 540
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Subjugated groups across the board who've been struggling for equal rights and resources and power and justice are framed as persecutors. Police officers imagine they are being persecuted by #Blacklivesmatter. Men: we imagine we are being persecuted by #MeToo. 8/13  
11 76 619

- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Heterosexuals: we imagine we are being persecuted by queer activists demanding marriage equality. Cisgender people: we imagine we are being persecuted by transgender people striving to live and be themselves. 9/13  
10 51 544
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Why do Americans refuse to allow those other people to be free? Why are Americans so threatened by the other group's freedom dreams? Why do Americans so commonly believe that they must lose for the other people to gain their freedom? 10/13  
23 155 839
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Why? Because the slaveholder's mentality is still common. In the slaveholder's mind, the subjected are supposed to submit to inequality and injustice and terror. When we resist, slaveholders' frame us as persecuting them. 11/13  
24 85 674
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram · Sep 27  
Read how slaveholders and segregationists framed Americans fighting for justice. The greater the antiracist resistance, the more power we seized, the more extreme slaveholders and segregationists became in their attacks, in their imaginary that THEY were being persecuted. 12/13  
20 46 542
- Ibram X. Kendi** @DriIbram

Replying to @DriIbram

History explains the present. The slaveholders' worldview is only submission to them or persecution of them. This is the worldview we're facing today. This is the worldview of tyranny and fascism. But history is on our side.

Trumpism won't age well like its predecessors. 13/13

9:02 AM · Sep 27, 2020 · Twitter Web App

93 Retweets 10 Quote Tweets 828 Likes

The brilliance here is that he's addressing current narratives around the nonsensical *all lives matter* racist dog-whistle. He's drawing a parallel between slave owners and their slaves being granted their

freedom, and racist America today crying persecution at the thought of black lives mattering. People who adhere - even in part - to the *all lives matter* narrative - Trumpism as Kendi defines it here - are demonstrably wrong.

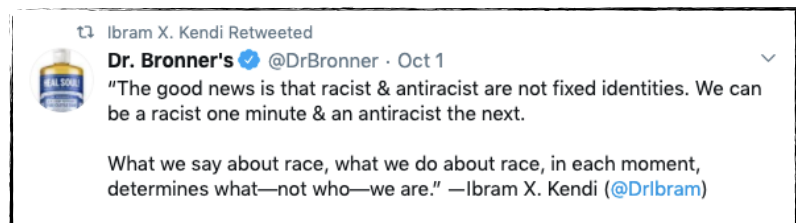
And here's how: either there is a limited amount of freedom to go around, or there is an infinite amount of freedom. If there is a limited amount, then giving more freedom to people of colour would mean losing some of your own as a person who **inherited** a greater share of power. If there is a finite amount of freedom, white people giving up some to correct a systemic imbalance is simply just. Either way it's sliced though, it leads to equality - assuming the people in power aren't awful. And if there's an infinite amount of freedom, then there is no logical reason (that isn't inherently racist) to withhold any of it.



Dr Kendi is an optimist though. He's hopeful. His Anti Racism Centre received a substantial \$1.5 million grant from the The Rockefeller Foundation to fund work in anti-racist research. He believes that education is the way forward.



Twitter's CEO Jack Dorsey got in on the act as well, donating \$10 million to Kendi's centre - granting him the ability to continue the necessary work. And necessary it is. One of the greatest mistakes we've made a society is to allow people to say, "it's just my opinion" and leave that unchallenged. Writer, comedian, and avid tweeter Ricky Gervais has said:



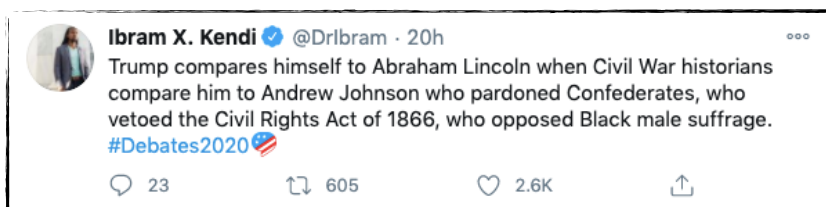
On Twitter, Kendi speaks in aphorisms. This style lends itself well to media where one must adhere to a strict character limit. And this leads naturally and necessarily to readers of his tweets to construct their own meaning from his words. This is cognitive constructivism.

“Cognitive constructivism states knowledge is something that is actively constructed by learners based on their existing cognitive structures. Therefore, learning is relative to their stage of cognitive development. Cognitivist teaching methods [therefore] aim to assist students in assimilating new information to existing knowledge” (McLeod, 2019).

People will read a Tweet about Trump or about George Floyd will make their own meaning of what he’s saying. If they hold to a world view in which Trump is a saviour and Biden is the Devil incarnate, then Kendi’s tweet will be seen as apocryphal; his ideas as radical and dangerous.



If however, one reads one of Kendi’s tweets about Trump or about George Floyd, and if said person is a proponent of the Black Lives Matter movement, they will then view the tweet as worthy of praise; perhaps even revolutionary. Perspective is everything in Constructivism and in life.



In his books however, Kendi is of course not limited to poetic, attention grabbing thought nuggets of 140 characters. He’s free to

elaborate as he sees fit. In *How to be Anti-Racist* (2020), Kendi speaks on the divide in education around standardized testing. He recounts how as a university student he spent \$1,000 to take a Graduate Record Exam preparation course whose teacher boasted of a 200 point boost to the students’ GRE scores. He found the claim to be outlandish, but as the course progressed, he realized that the professor hadn’t claimed that she would make the students smarter, or more knowledgeable — just that they’d learn *how* to

best take the test. (Kendi, pg 100). He likens it to weight lifting and the difference between brute strength and proper form.

But he also reflects on his privilege to be able to afford the \$1,000 to enrol in such a course. And the privilege of his mostly white classmates. Kendi settles on the fact that he's going to get a 200 point boost on his GRE solely because he can afford to spend \$1,000 for that boost. "The use of standardized tests to measure aptitude and intelligence is one of the most effective racist policies ever devised to degrade Black minds and exclude Black bodies" (Kendi, pg 101). He seeks to reimagine the public school system, wondering, What would happen "if we measured intellect by an individual's desire to know? What if we realized the best way to ensure an effective educational system is not by standardizing our curricula and tests, but by standardizing the opportunities available to all students" (Kendi, pg 103). In his novels, he's able to delve deeply into a topic and present it from a variety of angles. It's a more nuanced approach.

And in long form writing, he's is also able to bring in people who may not have initially agreed with him.



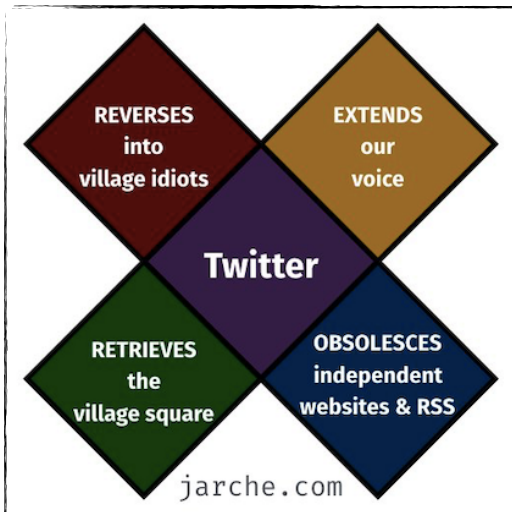
And ever the educator, Kendi amplifies voices who extol critical thought, seeking to help readers "to



make the appropriate modifications to their existing intellectual framework to accommodate [new] information" (McLeod, 2019). It's a noble goal — but a difficult one to achieve online.

In a perfect world, the comments section would be a place to share ideas and come to new and deeper ways of knowing. But as anyone who has ever clicked on the *view comments* button online is aware, this is not the case. And not by a long shot. A place that could have been a haven for intellectual debate and discussion, for Piagetian meaning-making, is nearly always nothing more than a cesspool of vitriol and anger — or a resonant echo chamber, depending on the clientele.

The rub is that while Kendi, through his books, can offer a more nuanced approach that could perhaps bridge an ideological gap and bring a new person into the discussion, it's rare that a person will invest the \$20-\$30 and many, many hours into reading a book from an author that they don't agree with. How many liberals out there have read a Ben Shapiro or a Sean Hannity book? And while his tweets are accessible to anyone with an internet connection, it's certainly a near impossible task to effect any change in another's world view on the basis of tweets alone. If that is the goal in using this medium, there's been a miscalculation.



But no discussion of media and messaging would be complete without speaking of Marshall McLuhan who famously declared the medium itself to be, in fact, the message (1967).

“Media ecology theory is the study of media, technology, and communication and how they affect human environments” (West & Turner, 2014). What’s interesting with respect to Twitter - and the internet overarchingly - is do they constitute an environment? Does an environment have to be a

physical place, or can it be a virtual one that exists on servers and in the ether? I would posit that they themselves are indeed environments, but just a sort of environment. As the physical world is another sort of environment. We could further say that human relationships are an environment unto themselves as well. So how are any and all of these affected by Twitter?

Lyndsey and I took particular interest in the uppermost squares in the tetrad presented above. I’ve long said that the democracy of the internet is both a blessing and a curse. It’s excellent that brilliant thinkers can extend their voices and advance ideas of social justice, the same extension is given the village idiot who uses his platform to deal in untruths. Sad!




# Education and its accessibility

Ibram X. Kendi Retweeted

**Robert James** @rob\_rota · Oct 14

With an open mind and open thoughts racism can be beat. @Dribram explains from his own experiences and not only teaches but gives readers, ideas and thoughts for themselves that will help you become an antiracist. #COM384 @LisaBrockTpa

racism lives is to understand the h  
people have failed to create antira  
racial history of failure is to ur  
egies. To understand failed solu  
d their cradles: failed racial ide  
s of race as a social construct (as  
of racial history as a singular  
ed to a duel of antiracist and ra  
m as rooted in ignorance and  
-interest)—all come together t



10 15 111

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22

On Wednesday at Boston's School Committee meeting, I issued a statement supporting the suspension of the standardized admission test for Boston's exam schools. Thank you @attorneytanisha for reading my statement. Here's an abridged version @GlobeOpinion.



Transform Boston's exam schools into opportunity schools - The Bos...  
There's something wrong with the test and the admissions policies, and not with Black and Latinx children.  
bostonglobe.com

28 72 461

Ibram X. Kendi Retweeted

**Dr. Colette Harris Mathews** @drclhm · Oct 20

@CornelWest @Dribram @HenryLouisGates Blessed by intellectual royalty this afternoon! DuBois Virtual lecture was accessible to many! Anti racism explored in a broader context!



8 8 103

Ibram X. Kendi Retweeted

**Boston Globe Opinion** @GlobeOpinion · Oct 23

"What is always best for the community is admission policies that create equal opportunity for all." Read @Dribram's statement to @BostonSchools Committee on suspending the test for Boston's three exam schools. #bospoli



Transform Boston's exam schools into opportunity schools - The Bos...  
There's something wrong with the test and the admissions policies, and not with Black and Latinx children.  
bostonglobe.com

6 10 22

Ibram X. Kendi Retweeted

**Mark Anthony Neal** @NewBlackMan · Oct 24

'To tell the truth about standardized tests is to tell the story of the eugenicists who created and popularized these tests in the United States more than a century ago.' -- @Dribram

bostonglobe.com/2020/10/22/opi... via @BostonGlobe



Transform Boston's exam schools into opportunity schools - The Bos...  
There's something wrong with the test and the admissions policies, and not with Black and Latinx children.  
bostonglobe.com

3 72 279



# Truth and Lies

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22  
Every time Trump uses his hands you know he's lying. #Debates2020

187 578 4.5K

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22  
If you trust that Trump's health care plan is going to be "beautiful," then you need some damn health care. #Debates2020

25 246 2K

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22  
"I'm the least racist person in this room," Trump said.  
The heartbeat of racism is denial. #Debates2020

163 2.8K 13.1K

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22  
"Nobody has done more for the Black community than Donald Trump."  
Nobody has lied more about the Black community than Donald Trump. #Debates2020

100 2K 10.4K

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 15  
Before we talk truth to power, we must talk truth to ourselves. Cube is lying to himself that he can get Trump to deliver Black progress in exchange for Black votes when Trump hasn't brought progress for his own supporters. The process starts brother by talking truth to yourself.

**Ice Cube** @icecube · Oct 15  
Black progress is a bipartisan issue. When we created the Contract With Black America we excepted to talk to both sides of the isle. Talking truth to power is part of the process.

146 413 2.8K

**Ibram X. Kendi Retweeted**  
**Jonathan Metz** | #WithBidenWeCan @JonathanMetz · Oct 23  
It is a misconception to think of disinformation as purveying distorted information—all too frequently, it propagates undistorted racism. My latest, @BostonReview, with refs to @Dribram @DrPhilGoff @RevDrBarber



**The Politics of White Anxiety**  
Trump is the latest in a long line of politicians who have leveraged the fear of white voters. A new path forward must address the structures ...  
bostonreview.net

5 74 190

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 25  
They are not news sites. They don't even try to report the truth. They are the walking dead, attacking and killing science and truth and facts. They want us all to be the walking dead.



**Conservative News Sites Fuel Voter Fraud Misinformation**  
Breitbart, The Washington Examiner and others amplify false claims of rampant cheating in what a new Harvard study calls a "propaganda ...  
nytimes.com


19 90 687

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Sep 29  
"He's a racist and he's xenophobic." Trump finally said something that wasn't a lie. #PresidentialDebate2020

23 92 853


## Taxes and Economics


 Ibram X. Kendi Retweeted

 **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**  @AOC · Sep 29 ...

 US House candidate, NY-14


The nerve of people who ask "how are you going to pay for it?" whenever we propose building advanced public education, healthcare, & climate infrastructure yet defend a system where Trump pays \$750 in taxes and Amazon pays none is beyond me.

 17K  106.5K  456.5K 




 **Ibram X. Kendi**  @DriIbram · Sep 27 ...



Now we know what he hid from his own middle and low income supporters: While they struggled to pay bills, he paid less fed income taxes than nearly all of them. What a con.

He "paid \$750 in federal income taxes" in 2016. He often paid nothing. [#TrumpTaxes](#)





Trump's Taxes Show Chronic Losses and Years of Income Tax Avoida...  
The Times obtained Donald Trump's tax information extending over more than two decades, revealing struggling properties, vast write-...  
[nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

 286  584  2.3K 





 **Ibram X. Kendi**  @DriIbram · Sep 27 ...

Many Americans trust Trump with the national economy when [#TrumpTaxReturns](#) show he's wrecked his own economy time and again. We can only imagine where he'd be if he didn't receive nearly half a billion dollars from his daddy.

 **Ibram X. Kendi**  @DriIbram · Sep 27

Now we know what he hid from his own middle and low income supporters: While they struggled to pay bills, he paid less fed income taxes than nearly all of them. What a con.

He "paid \$750 in federal income taxes" in 2016. He often paid nothing. [nytimes.com/interactive/20...](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/20...)


 323  223  1K 

# Voting and voter suppression

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 16

"The greatest myth of the 2016 election is that the polls got the election wrong. What if the polls did not get it wrong? What if the GOP game of voter subtraction got it right? What if the GOP game is even stronger in 2020?"

My latest @TheAtlantic. 1/4



A Campaign of Voter Subtraction  
Trump's Republican Party must subtract votes in order to survive.  
theatlantic.com

6:51 AM · Oct 16, 2020 · Twitter Web App

718 Retweets 98 Quote Tweets 1.7K Likes

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 16

Replying to @Dribram

"Republicans are subtracting untold numbers of individual votes as they suppress the overall Democratic vote. GOP voter subtraction preceded Trump, but not as the GOP's sole lifeline. Trump has alienated almost everyone except his shrinking base." 2/4



A Campaign of Voter Subtraction  
Trump's Republican Party must subtract votes in order to survive.  
theatlantic.com

2 57 189

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 16

"Trump's game of alienation has made voter subtraction the existential game of the Republican Party. Subtracting voters at any cost is all that is saving the Republican Party from political death. Republicans must kill votes in order to survive." 3/4




A Campaign of Voter Subtraction  
Trump's Republican Party must subtract votes in order to survive.  
theatlantic.com

4 122 320

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 16

"Republicans are waging a mass movement of voter subtraction, primarily subtracting Democrats and some of their own voters too. Ignoring this movement and studying the polls is like trying to predict the outcome of a battle by studying only one side." 4/4



A Campaign of Voter Subtraction  
Trump's Republican Party must subtract votes in order to survive.  
theatlantic.com

10 73 244

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 16

In addition to supporting campaigns, considering donating to the organizations protecting voters from GOP voter subtraction and suppression, namely @fairfightaction and @NAACP\_LDF and @LawyersComm, to name a few.

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 16

"The greatest myth of the 2016 election is that the polls got the election wrong. What if the polls did not get it wrong? What if the GOP game of voter subtraction got it right? What if the GOP game is even stronger in 2020?"

My latest @TheAtlantic. 1/4 theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/...  
[Show this thread](#)

9 61

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22

According to @pewresearch poll earlier this month of registered voters, here are the margins of support.

Black women: Biden +85  
Black men: Biden +77  
Latina women: Biden +44  
Latino men: Biden +24  
White women: Trump +3  
White men: Trump +12

[docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/...](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/...)

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22

Trump is trying so hard to collect Black male votes. But in the end, he will fail. Black men will have the second highest voting percentage for Biden behind Black women. #Debates2020

92 243 941

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 22

Voter subtraction by subtracting polling places. This is great reporting on a national crime.

**Cameron Joseph** @cam\_joseph · Oct 22

Just dropped a big investigation with @VICENews: The U.S. will have almost fewer 21,000 Election Day polling places in 2020 than four years ago.

That's a 20% drop from 2016.  
[vice.com/en/article/pkd...](https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkd...)

[Show this thread](#)

22 402 1.2K

**Ibram X. Kendi Retweeted**

**Stephanie Sipe** @StephanieSipe · Oct 16

"When a party is losing votes in droves, the path to victory is ensuring that the opposing party is also losing votes in droves. When you can't add enough votes to win, you subtract enough votes to win... It is voter subtraction."

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram · Oct 16

"The greatest myth of the 2016 election is that the polls got the election wrong. What if the polls did not get it wrong? What if the GOP game of voter subtraction got it right? What if the GOP game is even stronger in 2020?"

My latest @TheAtlantic. 1/4 theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/...  
[Show this thread](#)

2 32 190

**Ibram X. Kendi** @Dribram

Democracy is the objective. It is the only way to bring liberty, peace, and prosperity to all people.

But some people are thwarting democracy, concerned only about securing liberty, peace, and prosperity for themselves.

**Mike Lee** @SenMikeLee · Oct 7

Democracy isn't the objective; liberty, peace, and prospesity are. We want the human condition to flourish. Rank democracy can thwart that.

7:02 AM · Oct 8, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Jarche, H. (2017, April 05). Tetrads for sense-making. Retrieved October 24, 2020, from <https://jarche.com/2017/04/tetrads-for-sense-making/>

Kendi, I. X. (2020). *HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST*. New York, NY: One World.

Lexico. (2020). Anti-Racism: Definition of Anti-Racism by Oxford Dictionary on Lexico.com also meaning of Anti-Racism. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.lexico.com/definition/anti-racism>

McLeod, S. (2019). Saul McLeod. Retrieved October 23, 2020, from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/constructivism.html>

McLuhan, M. (1967). National Broadcasting Company & McGraw-Hill Book Company. This is Marshall McLuhan: The medium is the message. New York: NBC.

North, A. (2020, June 03). What it means to be anti-racist. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from <https://www.vox.com/2020/6/3/21278245/antiracist-racism-race-books-resources-antiracism>

Sharpton, A. (2020, September 23). Ibram X. Kendi Is on the 2020 TIME 100 List. Retrieved October 21, 2020, from [https://time.com/collection/100-most-influential-people-2020/5888207/ibram-x-kendi/?utm\\_source=twitter](https://time.com/collection/100-most-influential-people-2020/5888207/ibram-x-kendi/?utm_source=twitter)

West, R.; Turner, L. H. (2014). *Introducing Communication Theory*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education. pp. 454–472.