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No, they're not erasing history

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Editor, Casa Grande Dispatch:

I am writing in response to the Tuesday letter to the editor from a Mr. (Tom) Miller blaming liberals for erasing our history. He claimed that he learned in his American history classes that liberal Democrats originally built the Confederate statues and plaques causing so much public angst these days. He says he was taught that these statues and plaques somehow are historically important. I think Mr. Miller slept through his American history classes.

As we consider the recent uproar, we might wonder why we don't see any statues or plaques honoring Japanese Admiral Yamamoto or German General Rommel? I haven't come across any monument honoring Benedict Arnold either. The answer is of course obvious: America does not honor our enemies or traitors.

The statues in question have no historical value. They were put up decades after the Civil War ended. They do not commemorate a location or event — they were erected to promote racism. They were erected not by a political party but by groups who stood for segregation and Jim Crow morals. Any American history class that ignores these facts is teaching “fake history.”

Today's effort to purge our public areas of racist reminders does not erase history — it aims at opening peaceful and positive outcomes. It is not a tactic of any political party. It comes from the emotions of a nation, a people and a dream of tolerance and love. We should look forward to this chapter of American history.

Ralph Atchue

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