

Annotation Guidelines (use each of these at least once):

- Underline the *major points*
- Highlight parts that are *confusing or unknown* to you (then look those up and comment to *show your new understanding*)
- Add a comment to write out *questions* you have while reading.
- Add a comment to note what *surprises you or catches your attention and why*

What Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court Nomination Means for the 2020 Election

Source: [Deirdre Walsh, NPR.org, September 27, 2020](#)

Supporters and opponents of Amy Coney Barrett's nomination to the Supreme Court wasted no time launching a high-pitched battle over her confirmation, with just 37 days until the election.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has the support of Republicans to move forward with the confirmation process and confirm Barrett on the Senate floor before Nov. 3, barring any development in her vetting.

But in a flurry of emails, interest groups representing pro- and anti-abortion rights, gun issues, health care and more pledged to fight hard — making the Supreme Court an issue that could be front and center in the closing days of the presidential election.

It also means it will likely be a central issue in key Senate races around the United States. Control of the chamber is in play this election, and Republicans are fighting off stiff challenges in several states where the issue is beginning to pop up in ads.

Recent polls have shown Democratic nominee Joe Biden ahead of President Trump, but the focus has largely been on the president's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Changing the subject to the future of the court and the prospect of a 6-3 conservative majority could help energize Republican voters in key swing states and inject new urgency into the election.

A rally of liberal groups in front of the Supreme Court was scheduled for Sunday afternoon, and senators who expected to be on recess for the final fall stretch to campaign will return to the Capitol early this week instead to handle a confirmation process that will take center stage, with efforts to put together another coronavirus relief package fading.

Barrett is expected to begin meeting with senators early this week, and the Senate Judiciary Committee is slated to begin hearings on Oct. 12. The panel is expected to hold four days of hearings with time for the traditional day of opening statements, questioning of Barrett and testimony from outside witnesses. That doesn't leave a lot of time for the panel to finish the FBI background check and review answers to the committee's lengthy questionnaire that nominees submit ahead of the hearings.

The FBI on Friday noted that the scope of such a background investigation is requested by the White House.

"The FBI works background investigations through its established investigative process, and as expeditiously as possible, while ensuring that the background investigation is accurate and complete," according to a statement from the bureau.

"This should be a straightforward and prompt confirmation. It should be very easy — good luck," Trump said in announcing his pick at his Saturday event at the Rose Garden, but the crowd of supporters laughed. "It's going to be very quick. I'm sure it will be extremely noncontroversial. We said that the last time, didn't we?" Barrett is Trump's third Supreme Court nominee. His last pick was Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who came under additional scrutiny over a sexual assault allegation.

But while Trump is predicting expediency this time, senators on both sides of the aisle and outside groups gearing up for a contentious process have no illusions that it will be easy, even with the outcome not really in any doubt.

Mike Davis, the founder of the Article III Project, a group created to support the president's judicial nominees, said the night before Barrett's nomination was announced that his group would "take off the gloves, put on the brass knuckles, and punch back on the left's attacks on President Trump's next Supreme Court nominee — a fight that will make Kavanaugh's look like a walk in the park."

As Barrett acknowledged Saturday, she would be filling the seat left by the death of a trailblazing woman — Ruth Bader Ginsburg — who became a pop culture icon on the left, with the nickname the "Notorious RBG." GOP supporters of Barrett were already trying to frame her pick as appealing to women. The Senate Republicans' campaign arm began selling T-shirts with "Notorious A.C.B." emblazoned on them.

Conservatives are focusing on Barrett's record as a federal judge and the fact that she received support from three Senate Democrats when she was confirmed to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017. They are embracing her as a justice in the mold of Antonin Scalia, for whom she clerked. Barrett said on Saturday about Scalia, "His judicial philosophy is mine too."

For McConnell, who is balancing concerns about control of the chamber with his chief goal of remaking the federal judiciary, the possibility of confirming Barrett, who would install a conservative majority on the court potentially for decades, is incentive to push ahead.

But a Washington Post-ABC poll released on Friday shows that there could be backlash to the vote this close to the election. Fifty-seven percent of those polled said the nomination of a justice to the high court should wait until after the election, and 38% backed action now by the president and the Republican-controlled Senate. Trump was eager to make the issue a staple of his stump speech: He appeared at a rally on Saturday night in Middletown, Pa., in front of a large red screen that said, "Fill That Seat!" And he touted his slew of judicial appointments, each one a life term.

Democrats, who recognize they don't have the votes to block Barrett's confirmation, are pivoting to make the debate about health care and the future of the Affordable Care Act. A case pending before the high court's fall session has the potential to dismantle the law, and Senate Democrats one after the other pointed out that Barrett has publicly opposed the law and argued that adding her to the court in the middle of a pandemic risks coverage for millions of Americans.

"The deadly COVID-19 pandemic has killed more than 200,000 Americans in a matter of months. Yet, instead of addressing the many life-and-death issues facing working families during COVID-19, Trump and the

Senate Republicans are focused on jamming through this nomination in a transparent grab for power so they can achieve their long-sought goal of repealing the Affordable Care Act and ripping away healthcare from millions—including every COVID-19 survivor who now has a pre-existing condition," Illinois Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth said in a written statement announcing she was a no vote on the nominee.

Outside groups framed Barrett as potentially casting the deciding vote on the court on the ACA. Demand Justice, a progressive group formed to oppose the president's nominees, dubbed Barrett "anti-ACA Amy Coney Barrett" and argued that the process moving ahead to hearings in weeks was unfair. Saturday night, the group projected the words "SAVE HEALTH CARE" on the side of the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation, a liberal group focused on equal rights and social justice, told NPR before the president made his Barrett nomination official that Ginsburg's death was a "wake up call" that would help put the issue of health care front and center for many who may have taken the issue for granted.

"I know that it's energized our side. ... None of us wanted this to happen, but it does make very visual trends that we knew was there. Those of us who are very active knew that this is an extremely important election," Smeal said.

Smeal's group joined with other women's organizations to create a super PAC called Vote for Equality that is setting up efforts on college campuses in seven states with competitive Senate races to attempt to educate younger voters about the legal issues that could end up before the Supreme Court.

Biden's running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and will get the chance to question Barrett, a moment that will likely get wall-to-wall national television coverage. But with little ability to alter the outcome, she may use the opportunity to highlight the issues she thinks are at stake in the election and spend less time drilling down into controversial topics that divide voters whom the Democratic ticket is hoping to attract.

The two Democrats still in the Senate who backed Barrett's 2017 nomination to the federal bench—Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia—said they would vote no now because of how Senate GOP leaders are handling the process.

"I cannot support a process that risks further division of the American people at a time when we desperately need to come together. I will not vote to confirm Judge Coney Barrett or any Supreme Court nominee before Election Day on November 3rd. I urge my Republican friends to slow down, put people before politics, and give their constituents a chance to vote," Manchin said.

Possible Response Questions (choose at least one to guide your response):

- What are your thoughts about the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett and how her nomination might affect the election? Explain.

What are your thoughts about how any nomination to the Supreme Court could have a direct impact on you, personally? Explain.

- Pick a word/line/passage from the article and respond to it.
 - Discuss a writing choice made by the writer in this piece that you think is good/interesting. Explain.
-

EQ: How do Americans bring about change?

Use Jim Crow and CRM as ex.

Then give list of movements they can choose to explore

- What was/were the cause(s) of the movement?
- What were the symbols that represented the movement?
- Which of the movements' leaders stand out to you the most and why?
- What strategies did leaders use in order to achieve their goals?
- What were the influential events of the movement?
- What was the backlash to the movement?
- What were the initial results?
- What do things look like for this movement in 2021?

Assessment: One Pager (template) (digital, PP, poster, etc.)

<https://www.bremertonschools.org/cms/lib/WA01001541/Centricity/Domain/222/APUSH%20New%20Deal%20One%20Pager%201617.pdf>

Movements:

Women's suffrage, Women's rights (70s), Women's march (today),

- Museum Exhibit on Suffrage
<https://www.loc.gov/exhibitions/women-fight-for-the-vote/about-this-exhibition/>
- Timeline (only goes to 1966)
<https://www.womenshistory.org/resources/timeline/womans-suffrage-timeline>
- Timeline (goes to 2017)
<https://www.usnews.com/news/the-report/articles/2017-01-20/timeline-the-womens-rights-movement-in-the-us>
- The complexities of the women's movement:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/15/arts/design/womens-suffrage-movement.html>
- The Women's March
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/creating-icons/women%E2%80%99s-march-2017>

Back to Africa

- Marcus Garvey
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/garvey-biography/>
- Liberia <https://www.history.com/news/slavery-american-colonization-society-liberia>
- The TYOR movement in 2019 <https://newafricanmagazine.com/17835/>

“American Indian Movement” and Native Activism

- Native American Activism
<https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/native-american-activism-1960s-to-present/>
- <https://eji.org/news/history-racial-injustice-native-american-activism/>

- AIM timeline
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/aim-occupation-of-wounded-knee-ends>

Black Lives Matter

- <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/03/us/george-floyd-protests-crowd-size.html>
-

#Me Too

- <https://metoomvmt.org/>
- <https://www.vox.com/identities/2019/10/4/20852639/me-too-movement-sexual-harassment-law-2019>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-53269751>

LGBTQ+

- <https://www.history.com/topics/gay-rights/history-of-gay-rights>
- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/stonewall-milestones-american-gay-rights-movement/>
- Harvey Milk <https://milkfoundation.org>
- Sip-In
<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/21/nyregion/before-the-stonewall-riots-there-was-the-sip-in.html>

Environmental Movement

- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/earth-days-modern-environmental-movement/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200420-earth-day-2020-how-an-environmental-movement-was-born>
- <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/earth-day-50-why-legacy-1970s-environmental-movement-jeopardy-n1189506>

Chicano movement

- <https://www.history.com/news/chicano-movement>
- <https://www.facinghistory.org/books-borrowing/chicano> (scroll to bottom to stream videos)
- <https://library.tamucc.edu/exhibits/s/sts/page/chicano-movement>
- <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-25/chicano-movement-generation-in-search-of-its-legacy>

Anti-war movement

- <https://www.npr.org/2011/04/15/135391188/whatever-happened-to-the-anti-war-movement>
- <https://libguides.msubillings.edu/c.php?g=902156&p=6492403>

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/24/opinion/vietnam-antiwar-movement.html>

Asian-American movement

- <https://www.dartmouth.edu/~hist32/Hist33/Uyematsu.PDF>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2018/09/27/647989652/if-we-called-ourselves-yellow>
- <https://densho.org/asian-american-movement/>
- <https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/asianam/primary-easia>

Antifa

- <https://www.nytimes.com/article/what-antifa-trump.html>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/the-rise-of-the-violent-left/534192/>
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-is-antifa-a-look-at-the-movement-trump-is-blaming-for-violence-at-protests>

Black Power

- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/foundations-black-power>
- https://www.amistadresource.org/civil_rights_era/black_power.html
- <https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/the-black-power-movement>
- <https://www.history.com/news/black-power-movement-civil-rights>
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/02/01/black-lives-matter-black-power-movement/78991894/>

March for our Lives

- <https://marchforourlives.com>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/21/us/march-for-our-lives-explainer>
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/march-for-our-lives-student-activists-showed-meaning-tragedy-180970717/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u46HzTGVQhg>

Occupy Wall Street

- <http://occupywallst.org>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/06/the-triumph-of-occupy-wall-street/395408/>
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-leadership/what-is-occupy-wall-street-the-history-of-leaderless-movements/2011/10/10/gIQAwkFjaL_story.html

Abolition

- <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/abolitionist-movement>
- <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african-american-odyssey/abolition.html>
- <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam005.html>
- <https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2013/januaryfebruary/feature/the-agitator>

Temperance

- <https://prohibition.themobmuseum.org/the-history/the-road-to-prohibition/why-prohibition-happened/>
- <https://www.wctu.org/>
- <https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/n/nation/>

Tea Party

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-11317202>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Tea-Party-movement/The-2012-election-and-the-government-shutdown-of-2013>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/a-history-of-the-tea-party-movement-3303278>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tea-party-supporters-who-they-are-and-what-they-believe/>

Disability Rights Movement

- <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/sitting-disability-rights-section-504-protests-1970s>
- <https://www.nps.gov/articles/disabilityhistoryrightsmovement.htm>
- <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/8-ways-which-americans-disabilities-act-changed-everyones-lives>

Standards: Historical Thinking and Communicating Learning

Year [1]	Month [2]	Day [3]	Time [4]	Start Month [5]	End Month [6]	Start Day [7]	End Day [8]	Display Date [9]	Headline [10]	Text [11]	Media [12]	Media Credit [13]	Media Caption [14]	Media Thumbnail [15]	Type [16]	Group [17]	Background [18]	
2020	3	11							NYT editor issues official "clarification"	In journalism, a clarification is a formally published note, but not as serious as a "correction". Jake Silverstein clarifies the questionable passage in Nikole Hannah-Jones' essay and states that the NYT Journalists stand behind the claim. Source link: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/magazine/and-wonder-to-the-1619-project.html	https://observer.com/	Photo Credit: Arman Dzdizovic						https://cdn.cjr.org/
2020	4								The National Association of Scholars creates "The 1620 Project"	Based on the premise that the Pilgrims arrived in 1620, the historians in the NAS compile essays and resources (online and in print) to refute the ideas of the 1619 Project. Source link: https://www.nas.org/topics/1620-project	https://images-na.ssl-	Photo Credit: Amazon					https://cdn.cjr.org/	
2020	7	26							Senator Tom Colton targets 1619 Project curriculum	The Arkansas senator introduced a bill that could restrict funding to schools that use the 1619 Project as a part of their curriculum, calling the project "a distortion of American history." Source link: https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2020/07/26/bill-by-colton-targets-curriculum-on-slavery/	https://webco.media.g	Photo Credit: Arkansas Democrat Gazette					https://cdn.cjr.org/	
2020	9	17							President Trump creates "The 1776 Commission"	In an executive order, Trump initiates the commission to look at implementing a "patriotic education" in order to combat education from the "radical left". Link to the transcript can be found here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-white-house-conference-american-history/	https://www.youtube.co	Video Credit: PBS News Hour					https://cdn.cjr.org/	
2020	10	6							The NAS calls for Pulitzer Prize to be revoked	Citing controversy and questionable claims, the scholars of the NAS ask the board members that awarded Nikole Hannah-Jones a Pulitzer Prize to take the award back. Source link: https://www.nas.org/docs/article/pulitzer-board-must-revoke-nikole-hannah-jones-prize	https://1.bp.blogspot.co	Photo Credit: Wikipedia					https://cdn.cjr.org/	
2020	10	9							NYT journalist Bret Stephens publishes op-ed against the project	The opinion piece published by Stephens shocks readers and critics to see <i>The New York Times'</i> own journalist disagreeing with the 1619 project. Stephens goes further to question the ethics and journalistic integrity of Hannah-Jones. Source link: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/09/opinion/nyt-1619-project-criticisms.html	https://static01.nytl.com	Photo Credit: The New York Times					https://cdn.cjr.org/	
2020	10	13							Executive editor of the NYT speaks out	Dean Baquet issues formal note to journalists and NYT colleagues defending the ethics and integrity of the 1619 Project. Source link: https://www.nyco.com/news/a-note-from-dean-baquet-on-the-1619-project/	https://g24wmg695112	Photo Credit: The New York Times					https://cdn.cjr.org/	

[1] (Required, except for 'title' type)

[2] (Optional)

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[9] (Optional) Overrides TimelineJS date formatting and displays the contents of this cell instead.

[10] (Optional)

[11] (Optional)

[12] (Optional)

can be a link to:

youtube, vimeo, soundcloud, dailymotion, instagram, twit pic, twitter status, google plus status, wikipedia, or an image

[13] (Optional)

[14] (Optional)

[15] (Optional)

Link to a image file. The image should be no larger than 32px x 32px.

[16] (Optional)

This indicates which slide is the title slide.

You can also set era slides but please note that era slides will only display headlines and dates (no media)

[17] (Optional)

Groups are a way to show events that are related to one another

[18] (Optional)

Change the slide background by entering a hexadecimal color (#333333) or an image url (<http://knightlab.northwestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/front-page-image.jpg>)

Document A

CHOOSE A DIFFERENT CARTOON BELOW TO ANALYZE



THE IRISH DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THAT WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH.

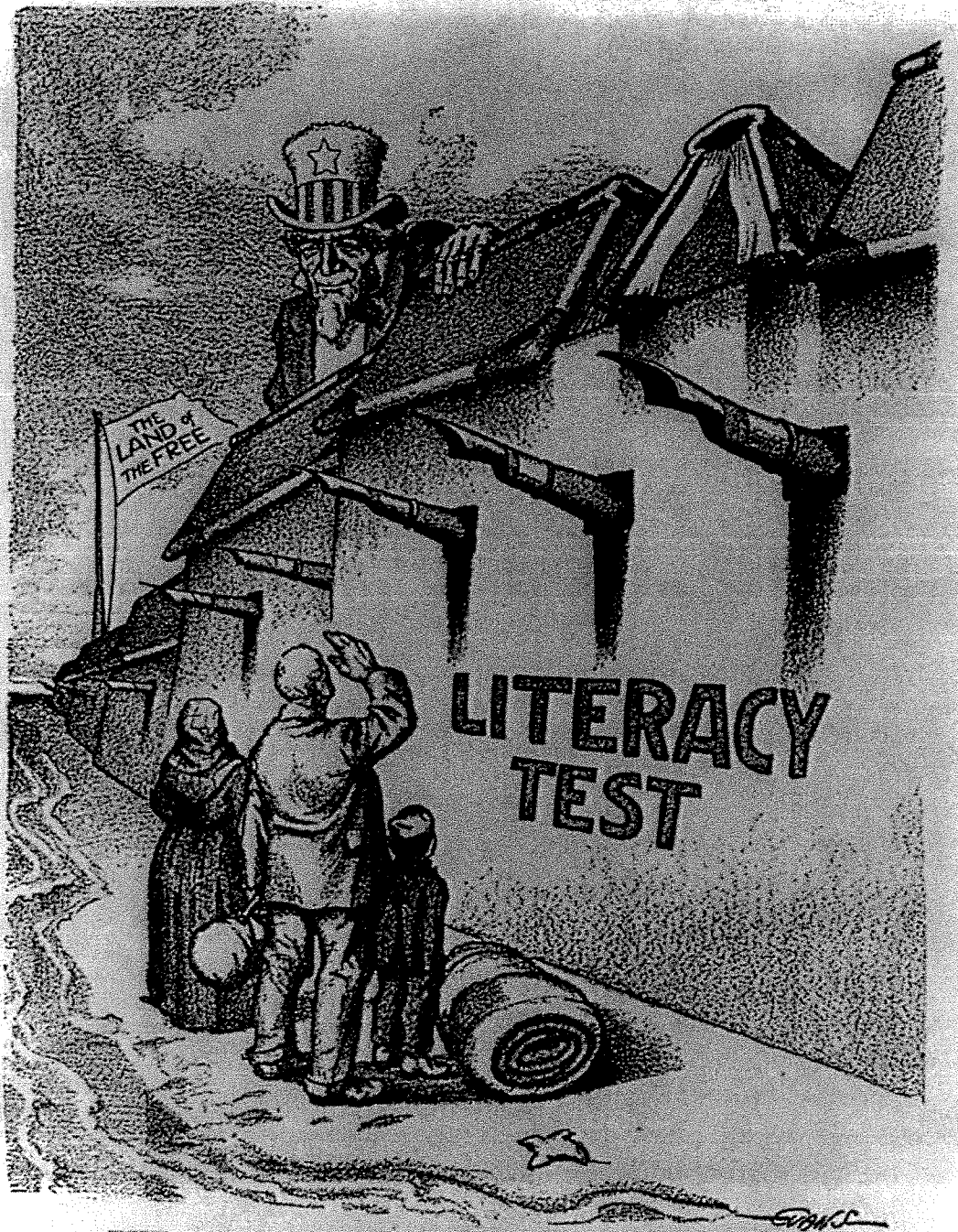
Title: "The Irish Declaration of Independence That We are All Familiar With,"

Published in *Puck* Magazine, May 9, 1883.

Artist: Frederick Burr Opper, 1857-1937

[CLICK HERE](#) for context

Document B



**THE AMERICANESE WALL, AS CONGRESSMAN
BURNETT WOULD BUILD IT.**

UNCLE SAM: You're welcome in—if you can climb it!

Title: The Americanese wall - as Congressman [John Lawson] Burnett would build it

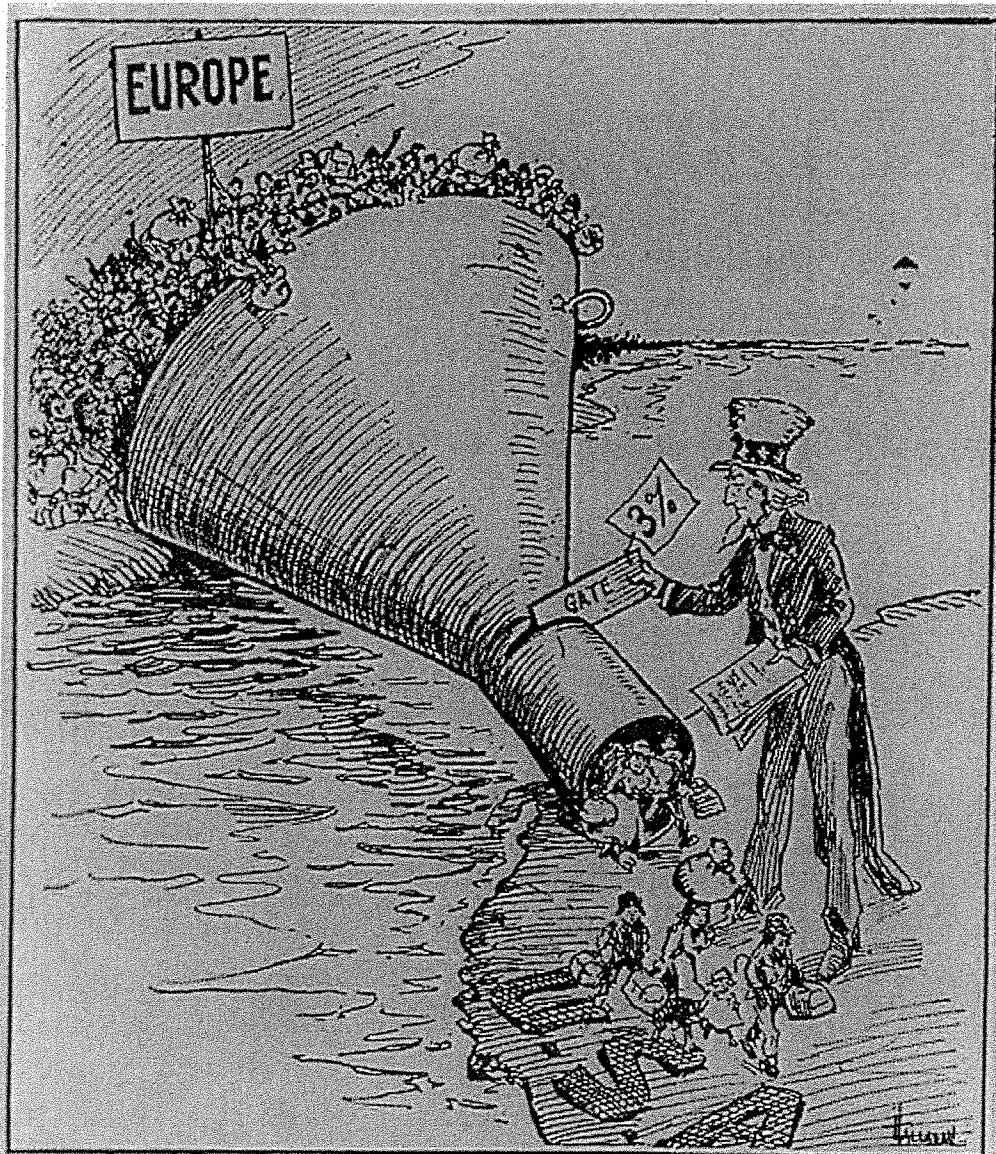
Published: in *Puck Magazine* March 25, 1916

Artist: Raymond O. Evans.

[CLICK HERE for context](#)

[CLICK HERE to read about the symbol of "Uncle Sam"](#)

Document C



THE ONLY WAY TO HANDLE IT.

1921 Political cartoon created for commentary on the Immigration Act of 1921

Library of Congress

[CLICK HERE](#) for context

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about the symbol of "Uncle Sam"

Document D

To Whom it may Concern: This is a Liquid Washing Compound, and is FULLY GUARANTEED BETTER THAN ANYTHING EVER OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC; its constant use will not injure the clothes nor turn them yellow. For sale by the Gallon, Half-gallon and Quart. TRY A SAMPLE AND BE SURPRISED.

THE MAGIC WASHER

Manufactured by
GEO. DEE, Dixon, Illinois

DO NOT USE THIS
IF YOU WANT TO BE DIRTY

THE CHINESE MUST GO

We have no use for them since we got this WONDERFUL WASHER. What a blessing to tired mothers: It costs so little and don't injure the clothes.

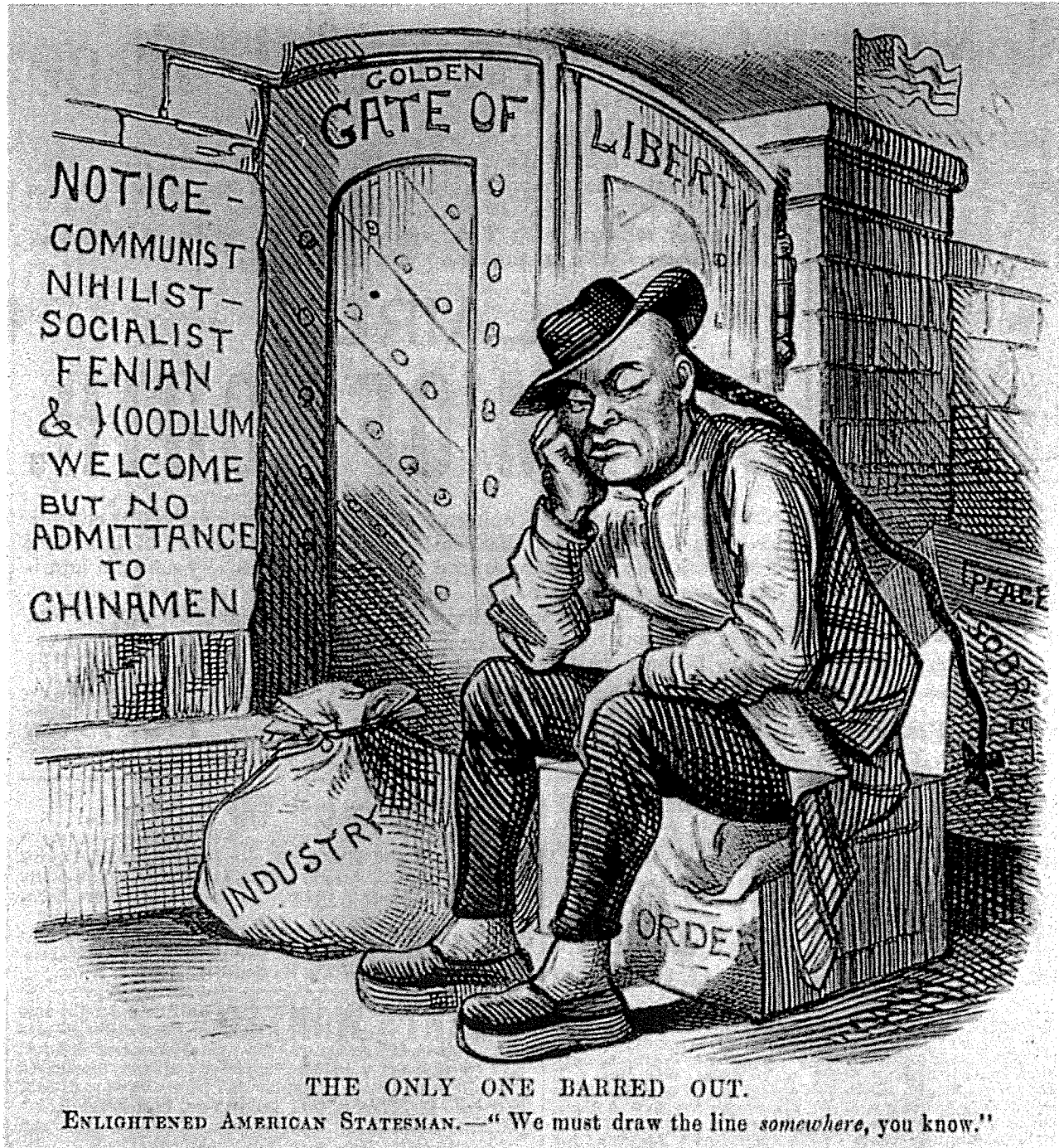
Title: The magic washer, manufactured by Geo. Dee, Dixon, Illinois. The Chinese must go

Published by: Shober & Carqueville Lith Co.

Advertisement, 1886

[CLICK HERE for context](#)

[CLICK HERE to read about the symbol of "Uncle Sam"](#)



Title: The only one barred out Enlightened American statesman - "We must draw the line somewhere, you know."

Published in New York, 1882

Artist: Frank Leslie

[CLICK HERE](#) for context

Document F



Title: "Every dog (no distinction of color) has its day"

Text at bottom reads: "Red Gentleman to Yellow Gentleman. "Pale face 'fraid you crowd him out, as he did me."

Artist: Thomas Nast
Published in *Harper's Weekly Magazine*, Feb. 8, 1879

[CLICK HERE for context](#)

Document G

Judge



THE IMMIGRANT.

Is he an acquisition or a detriment?

Title: The Immigrant. Is he an acquisition or a detriment?

Published: in *The Judge* magazine Sept. 19, 1903

Artist: Victor F. Gillam

[CLICK HERE](#) for context

[CLICK HERE](#) to read about the symbol of "Uncle Sam"



Published on Other Words at otherwords.org on July 19, 2010

Artist: unknown

[CLICK HERE](#) for context



Title: Trump Invokes Travel Ban

Published in *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 2017

Artist: Rob Rogers

[CLICK HERE for context](#)

[CLICK HERE for the poem engraved on the Statue of Liberty](#)

How the 1619 Project took over 2020

By Sarah Ellison *The Washington Post*

Oct. 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. CDT

One morning in mid-September, Nikole Hannah-Jones woke to a text message from a friend noting an unusual event on President Trump's schedule: the first "White House Conference on American History."

It might have sounded banal, but Hannah-Jones, a staff writer for the New York Times Magazine, sensed a subtext immediately: This was about her and the project she says is the most important work of her career. Sure enough, that afternoon, Trump thundered from a lectern at the National Archives Museum that "the left has warped, distorted and defiled the American story with deceptions, falsehoods, and lies. There is no better example than the New York Times's totally discredited 1619 Project."

You've probably heard of it by now. The 1619 Project has emerged as a watchword for our era — a hashtag, a talking point, a journalism case study, a scholarly mission. It is the subject of dueling academic screeds, Fox News segments, publishers' bidding wars and an upcoming series of Oprah-produced films. It is a Trump rally riff that reliably triggers an electric round of jeers.

And now, at the nation's most significant moment of racial reckoning since the 1960s, it's become one of the hottest culture-war battlefields, where the combatants include turf-guarding academics, political ideologues angling for an election-year advantage — and the fearlessly spiky journalism superstar who willed the entire thing into existence.

All of this can make it easy to forget what the 1619 Project was — basically, a collection of smart, provocative magazine articles about the ways slavery shaped our nation. And by the time Hannah-Jones found her work under near-daily attack from brand-name intellectuals, the president of the United States and, as of last week, even the Times's own opinion section, it was already more than a year old.

In December 2018, Hannah-Jones was rushing to finish a book project before the end of a temporary leave from the Times — but another deadline kept nagging at her.

She had been thinking about August 1619 ever since discovering the date in high school, on page 29 of Lerone Bennett's "Before the Mayflower." That was when the White Lion merchant ship brought more than 20 enslaved Africans to the shores of Virginia — a rarely noted milestone that probably marked the beginning of chattel slavery in the mainland English colonies.

Now the 400th anniversary loomed. "And I was wondering, what I should do with that?" Hannah-Jones said in a recent interview.

Back at work, she told her colleagues she wanted to mark the occasion with a special issue dedicated to slavery's impact on modern society. "It didn't take very much convincing," said Jake Silverstein, the magazine's editor in chief. Hannah-Jones convened a multidisciplinary group of scholars — Pulitzer winners and Ivy League stars among them — to steer her thinking and brainstorm topics.

Seven months later, the 1619 Project had expanded to include a broadsheet section of the newspaper, a podcast series and a collaboration with the Pulitzer Center to develop a free school curriculum. Hundreds of

thousands of extra copies were shipped to libraries and museums. The issue's 10 essays about the legacy of slavery, most penned by Black writers, ranged energetically from sugar consumption in America and modern-day traffic patterns in Atlanta to the U.S. failure to guarantee health care to its citizens; they were interspersed with poems and short stories by artistic luminaries such as Jesmyn Ward, Barry Jenkins and Lynn Nottage.

The night before publication, a standing-room audience crowded into a 378-seat auditorium at the Times. "What if I told you," Hannah-Jones began, "that the year 1619 is as important to the American story as the year 1776?"

Silverstein was no less bold in his editor's note. The barbaric system that would endure in the United States for 250 years after the White Lion's arrival "is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that," he wrote. "It is the country's very origin."

The 1619 Project was an immediate sensation. Hannah-Jones, who would win a Pulitzer Prize for her introductory essay, needed an assistant to handle all the speaking requests. Silverstein recalls the rapturous crowds that would deliver a "laying on of hands" as she walked into their midst. Educators were thrilled by how their students connected with it, writing their own essays and creating art inspired by it.

"It resonated with many of our students that we are part of America, and instead of being ashamed of our history in this country, we can see our great contributions to it as African Americans," said Janice Jackson, chief executive of Chicago Public Schools. "I was incredibly proud as a Black woman when I read that essay."

Sean Wilentz remembers the Sunday morning in August when he walked down his driveway to pick up his Times. The Princeton historian was intrigued to see an issue of the magazine devoted to slavery; his most recent book, "No Property in Man," explored the antislavery instincts of the nation's founders. But then he started reading Hannah-Jones's essay.

"I threw the thing across the room, I was so astounded," he recalled recently, "because I ran across a paragraph on the American Revolution, and it was just factually wrong."

Long before "1619" was vibrating on the lips of President Trump and leading GOP lawmakers, objections were brewing among serious liberal academics. Hannah-Jones's 10,000-word essay opened with her father's roots in a Mississippi sharecropping family before blossoming into a panoramic take on the nation's history. In the passage that so enraged Wilentz, she asserted that "one of the primary reasons the colonists decided to declare their independence from Britain was because they wanted to protect the institution of slavery" at a time when "Britain had grown deeply conflicted over its role in the barbaric institution."

This, Wilentz argues, is patently false: Other than a few lonely voices, England remained committed to the slave trade in 1776. The abolitionist movement didn't take hold in London for more than a decade — and then it was inspired by anti-slavery opinions emerging from America.

Wilentz was impressed by some of the 1619 Project's essays, but in November, he critiqued Hannah-Jones's piece in a public speech. And he contacted other prominent academics, whose complaints about the project were chronicled by the World Socialist Web Site. Eventually, four agreed to join Wilentz in writing a letter to the Times, criticizing the project's "displacement of historical understanding by ideology."

It didn't go over so well.

“We perceived it right away to be an attack on the project,” said Silverstein. He questioned why they didn’t just contact him or Hannah-Jones directly to offer thoughts on how to “strengthen this historical analysis” as he said other readers had.

Wilentz, in turn, was stunned by Silverstein’s response letter, which was published alongside the scholars’ in December and was longer than their own — a major tell, in his view, that the Times knew it had gotten something very wrong even while it appeared to dismiss the complaint and avoided addressing many of its points. “Holy smokes,” he thought. “This is war!”

Wilentz, who is White, had not succeeded in getting any Black historians to sign on to his letter. But some shared his concerns. Leslie Harris, a history professor at Northwestern who has written extensively about colonial slavery, was contacted in 2019 by a Times fact-checker asking if preserving slavery was a cause of the Revolutionary War. “Immediately, I was like, no, no, that doesn’t sound right,” Harris recalled. She thought the issue was settled — until she was a guest on a radio show with Hannah-Jones and heard the journalist assert that the colonists launched the revolution to preserve slavery. Taken aback, she was unready to argue but retreated to her car nearly in tears: A fan of the 1619 Project’s mission, she knew the claim could be consequential. “Given how high-profile this was, if this was really wrong, it was —” she paused, punctuating each word. “Really. Going. To. Be. Wrong.”

Wilentz pressed his case, publishing a 5,000-word essay in the Atlantic in January detailing the errors he saw in Hannah-Jones’s take on the revolution as well as her description of Abraham Lincoln as hesitant about emancipation. Harris took a different tack: Her March essay for Politico noted those points but also took a shot at the Wilentz letter-signers, arguing that their brand of scholarship had for too long overlooked the role of race and slavery in American history — a lapse for which the 1619 Project was compensating. None of this discussion eluded the Pulitzer judges. Historian Steven Hahn, who served as the board’s co-chair, told The Post he supported the main thrust of Hannah-Jones’s essay — that Black people have been at the forefront of fighting for true political democracy — but had reservations about how she put together her argument, particularly the passage about the Revolutionary War. He laid out his concerns to his fellow board members. The majority still voted to give her the prize.

“Any serious historian would have questions about some of the claims and how they were made,” Hahn said. He was “appalled,” though, by the Wilentz letter: “It was pedantic — a big-shot historian saying ‘Who the hell are you?’ ”

Both Wilentz and Harris feared that this very public discussion had opened the door to a backlash. Wilentz said he warned Silverstein about this when they met for lunch in January to discuss their differences — that Republicans would run against the 1619 Project in the fall election.

Silverstein laughed it off. But within weeks, an attorney for the president was referencing the 1619 Project to attack House Democrats’ rationale for impeachment.

When she joined the New York Times in 2015 after working for Pro Publica and newspapers in Raleigh and Portland, Ore., Nikole Hannah-Jones was skeptical that she would fit in. Her hair is dyed firetruck red, her nails are long and acrylic, and she frequently wears a necklace that spells “Black girl magic” in script.

“This has been a conscious choice my entire career,” she explained. “I was not going to try to adapt my sense of style to mainstream expectations.”

In fact, the Times has embraced her, and she is considered by colleagues and rivals to have influence beyond her title. In 2017, she received a coveted MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant for her work chronicling the persistence of racial segregation. “I’ve teased her that the New York Times has many people who think they are geniuses,” said Dean Baquet, the paper’s executive editor, but “she’s the only person who has been officially declared one.”

She was raised in Iowa by a Black father and White mother, a dynamic that inspired her to cover race as a journalist. When her maternal grandparents learned their daughter was dating a Black man, “they initially disowned her, and did not re-own her until my older sister was born,” she said. “They loved us very deeply. But they were also prejudiced against other Black people who were not related to them.” Her choice, she realized, was to identify as mixed-race or Black. “Your mom is White, and I’m Black, but you’re Black,” her father told her. “Our country is going to treat you as Black and that’s who you are.” She embraced the identity, she says: “Why would I want to lay claim to people who wouldn’t lay claim to me?”

At the Times, she emerged as a prolific tweeter who has amassed nearly half a million followers, in part by sparring gleefully with critics. When the New York Post blasted protesters for toppling statues of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington as well as Confederate generals, it used the headline “Call them the 1619 riots” — and Hannah-Jones tweeted, “It would be an honor. Thank you.” Her response spurred a half-dozen articles by conservative critics expressing outrage. This past summer, she retweeted a wild conspiracy theory suggesting that a spate of urban fireworks was part of a plot to destabilize the Black Lives Matter movement. She later deleted her tweet and called it irresponsible.

Baquet noted that her magazine role allows her to express “more opinions and have more edge” than most reporters. Yet he has counseled her to draw some lines and pick her battles on social media.

“Dean has never told me I cannot be on Twitter, but he has suggested that maybe I need to chill,” Hannah-Jones said. “I know that sometimes what I have tweeted has hurt the work I am trying to do.”

After six months of defending the 1619 Project, Hannah-Jones and Silverstein received an email that convinced them that they had a problem.

Other scholars had weighed in since Wilentz — notably a group of Civil War historians who echoed his concerns about the description of Lincoln’s views and disputed another essay’s linkage of slavery with capitalism. Silverstein responded with a point-by-point dismissal. But the letter on Feb. 19 was from Danielle Allen, a prominent African American classicist and political theorist at Harvard, who also quarreled with the slavery-loving-colonists-spurred-to-war trope.

“If it instead said, ‘some colonists’ or ‘one of the primary reasons motivating influential factions among the colonists’ it would be correct,” she wrote. “But as it stands the sentence is false.” Allen — a former chair of the Pulitzer Prize board and a contributor to The Washington Post opinion page — warned that while she was now sharing her criticism privately, she might feel compelled to go public.

On March 11, the Times ran a “clarification” — a journalism term of art considered less grave than a correction — and added two words to the story specifying that slavery was a motivator for “some of” the colonists. Hannah-Jones still sees no problem with her original text. She says she never intended to suggest that “every single colonist” was driven to preserve slavery. But “it became clear that if we didn’t clarify it in some way, it was going to dog us for eternity.”

But a clarification would hardly settle the controversy.

A conservative group called the National Association of Scholars had announced a “1620 Project” to highlight the contributions of the pilgrims who arrived in Plymouth Bay that year. And as the racial-justice protests of the summer renewed interest in the Times project — and the Pulitzer Center (no relation to the prizes) announced that 3,500 classrooms across the country were using its curriculum — it landed on the radar of Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.).

A rising-star conservative, Cotton had tangled with the Times earlier in the summer when his op-ed calling on the military to quell what he called “rioters” and “criminal elements” attached to the summer’s street protests triggered a mass uprising of Times staffers. (“As a Black woman, as a journalist, as an American, I am deeply ashamed that we ran this,” Hannah-Jones tweeted.) The opinions editor resigned amid the furor, and Cotton’s jabs at the paper helped his campaign raise \$1.3 million.

In July, Cotton proposed a bill to bar federal funds from schools that used the 1619 curriculum — “a radical work of historical revisionism aiming to indoctrinate our kids to hate America,” he called it. “The entire premise” of the Times project, he told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, “is that America is at root a systematically racist country to the core and irredeemable.”

In that interview, though, Cotton seemed to condone the Founding Fathers’ view of slavery as “the necessary evil upon which the union was built,” setting off a day-long news cycle in which he insisted his words were taken out of context and was pilloried by Twitter critics, including, yes, Hannah-Jones.

And then, a couple weeks ago, Hannah-Jones deleted almost her entire Twitter feed.

The 1619 Project was no longer just a team of journalists’ attempt to grapple with uncomfortable history. By the time Trump had attacked it, it had become a historic controversy in its own right, subject to scholarly dispute and debate and small-bore analysis.

It didn’t help matters much when it began to appear that the Times was backing away from some of the project’s bolder claims.

It started when Hannah-Jones took to Twitter to scold conservatives for misrepresenting the 1619 Project — which, she insisted “does not argue that 1619 is our true founding.”

But . . . hadn’t she claimed exactly that?

A writer for the Atlantic launched a massive Twitter thread noting all the times when Hannah-Jones had said, in essence, that 1619 was the nation’s true founding. That’s what prompted her social media self-purge, she told The Post, so her tweets could not be “weaponized.” Meanwhile, the libertarian journal Quillette noticed that the Times had removed a phrase from the 1619 Project website describing the date as “our true founding.” But no clarification was issued, leading critics to suggest the Times was trying to wipe clean its history without owning up to its mistakes.

Silverstein explained that the altered words were from display text penned by a digital editor that they were “continually having to write and revise” for different platforms “to hone how we are rhetorically describing the project.”

He also acknowledged amending some of the prose in his own editor’s note: It had not initially appeared online, he said, and when they added it to the site in December, “we made a few small changes to improve it” — not to backpedal, but to thin out rhetoric that seemed in hindsight like “too much flourish.” The paper’s standards department agreed that no acknowledgment of the changes was necessary.

Hannah-Jones, meanwhile; protested that critics were taking her own flourishes too literally — why could she not speak metaphorically of 1619, in the same way that Barack Obama had eulogized John Lewis, the late congressman, as a “founding father”?

“Those who’ve wanted to act as if tweets/discussions about the project hold more weight than the actual words of the project cannot be taken in good faith,” she tweeted. “Those who point to edits of digital blurbs but ignore the unchanged text of the actual project cannot be taken in good faith.”

Last week, the National Association of Scholars doubled down by calling on the Pulitzer board to revoke Hannah-Jones’s prize, taking particular aim at “surreptitious efforts” to alter it post-publication. Then on Friday evening came the most stunning slam of all:

“For all its virtues, buzz, spinoffs and a Pulitzer Prize . . .” wrote the columnist Bret Stephens, “the 1619 Project has failed.”

What made this attack different? Stephens is a Pulitzer-winning columnist for the New York Times opinion section, where he published the piece.

He defended the project against critics who claimed it rejected American values. But he suggested its small errors had accumulated via the authors’ “monocausality” — an insistence on seeing everything through the lens of slavery. And he questioned Hannah-Jones’s elevation of 1619 even as a metaphor.

“1776 isn’t just our nation’s ‘official’ founding,” Stephens wrote. “It is our symbolic one, too. The metaphor of 1776 is more powerful than that of 1619 because what makes America most itself isn’t four centuries of racist subjugation. It’s 244 years of effort by Americans — sometimes halting, but often heroic — to live up to our greatest ideal.”

Times leadership took pains to praise the 1619 Project this weekend. They maintained that Stephens’s criticism represented not an institutional scolding of the project but commitment to thoughtful debate. “The Times’s openness to hear and tolerate criticism is the clearest sign in its confidence in the work,” acting opinions editor Kathleen Kingsbury said.

Hannah-Jones, though, was livid, and let Kingsbury and Stephens know it in emails ahead of publication. On the day the NAS called for the revocation of her Pulitzer, she tweeted that efforts to discredit her work “put me in a long tradition of [Black women] who failed to know their places.” She changed her Twitter bio to “slanderous and nasty-minded mulattress” — a tribute to the trailblazing journalist Ida B. Wells, whom the Times slurred with those same words in 1894.

On Tuesday morning, Baquet put out a public statement welcoming the opinion team’s right to challenge the newsroom’s work but pushed back on Stephens’s criticism of the project’s journalistic standards. “The project fell fully within our standards as a news organization,” he wrote. “In fact, 1619 — and especially the work of Nikole — fill me with pride.”

Hannah-Jones has fiercely defended the 1619 Project. But today, she acknowledges that for all the experts she consulted, she should have sat down with additional scholars with particular focus on colonial history, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, to better reflect the contention in the field.

"I should have been more careful with how I wrote that" passage about the revolution, she says, "because I don't think that any other fact would have given people the fodder that this has, and I am tortured by it. I'm absolutely tortured by it."

