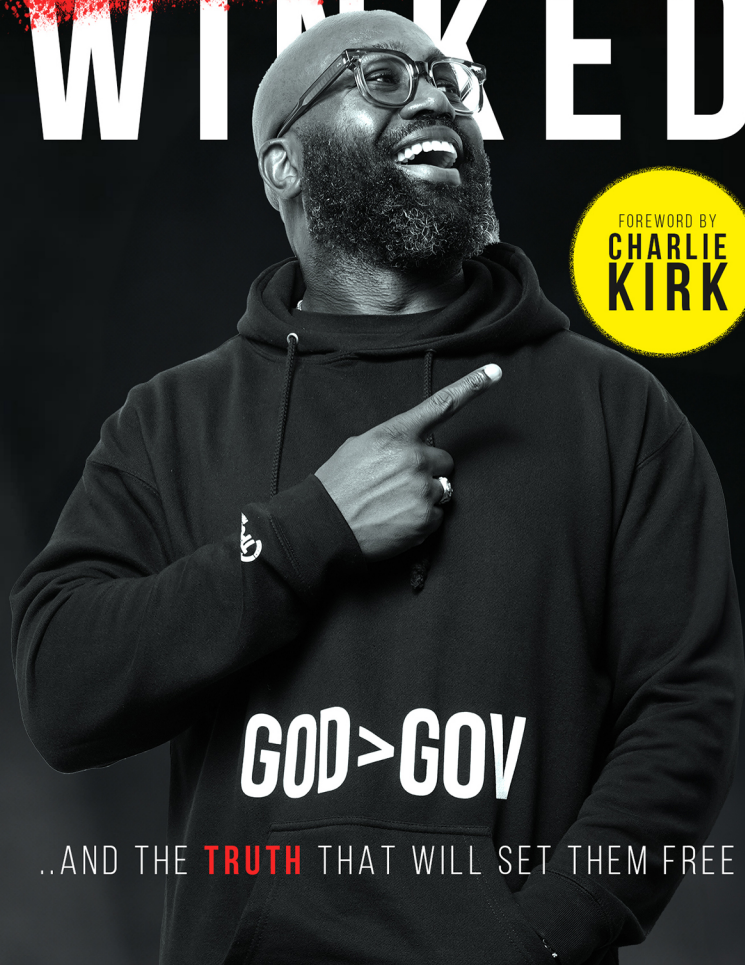


JOHN K. AMANCHUKWU SR.

HOOD WINKED

10 LIES AMERICANS BELIEVE



FOREWORD BY
**CHARLIE
KIRK**

GOD > GOV

..AND THE **TRUTH** THAT WILL SET THEM FREE

CHAPTER 1

LIE #1: AMERICA IS A RACIST NATION

*I will permit no man to narrow and degrade
my soul by making me hate him.*
—Booker T. Washington

It's a bold statement, one as wide as the miles between Portland, Oregon, and Portland, Maine, and as dark as the bloodstained sin of slavery. To say that the United States of America is a racist nation, a country that is irredeemably prejudiced against its own black citizens, is no small thing. Such a notion can't simply be taken at face value. It requires examination and reflection, and even soul-searching.

There are many who want us to believe racism in America is as obvious as gravity, as self-evident as the truths our nation's allegedly racist Founders wrote about in the Declaration of Independence. The country's bigotry runs so deep, they tell us, that the only remedy is to burn down its institutions and start over. These ideas are now widespread, filling our social media feeds and occupying much of the twenty-four-hour

cable news cycle. Our schools have even been infiltrated by the ideas presented in the 1619 Project, and so our youngest and most innocent citizens have learned to parrot adults' talking points about America's alleged systemic racism.

Every time an act that could be construed as racist takes place somewhere within our shores, the mainstream media and politicians in Washington point and scream, "See! This country is racist!" That tactic is used frequently because it is effective. In April 2023, 59 percent of those surveyed by NBC News said American society is racist.⁴

But isolated incidents overflowing from ugly hearts do not characterize the masses. The nature of a nation's soul cannot be determined by its worst examples or an opinion poll.

It's easy to focus on the negative stories. When a young man like Ahmaud Arbery is murdered while jogging in a mostly white neighborhood because his dark skin makes it appear to his killers that he must be a criminal,⁵ it's right to take notice and speak up. It's right to cry, to be outraged, to demand justice. But I am convinced that for every hate crime committed against black people in this country, there are many more acts of kindness going unreported. Love rarely makes the evening news. It seldom goes viral.

In my own life, I have received tremendous blessings from my white brothers and sisters. In fact, it's fair to say I wouldn't be where I am today without the generosity of people that I'm told, every day, must be secretly racist.



AS I WALKED up to the front doors of Cardinal Gibbons High School, I'm not sure what I was expecting to happen. It was a private school, and my family didn't have private-school money. My mom was already performing an impossible feat

by feeding and clothing four children on \$28,000 a year; there was simply no way she could afford to pay that kind of tuition. And yet, the doors of that private Catholic high school were opened to me.

Bishop Michael Burbidge, who oversaw North Carolina's Diocese of Raleigh—and Cardinal Gibbons High School—had implemented a policy: The school would never turn away any student for financial reasons. And so, for my junior and senior years, I received a full scholarship.

But that wasn't all: Every month, Brother Gary, one of the school's administrators, would call me into his office, pull out his old brown-leather wallet, pull out five crisp twenty-dollar bills, and hand them to me. "Go, eat," he'd say. He knew my family didn't have much money, and he wanted to make sure I didn't have to go without.

I'd always smile and shake Brother Gary's hand. I didn't know how to thank him, but I appreciated his kindness deeply. The first time that happened, I was in shock. The next month, when he did it again, I couldn't believe it. After a few more months, I assumed he would eventually stop. But he never did. Every month that I was a student at Cardinal Gibbons, Brother Gary gave me a hundred dollars of spending money just to bless me. And that wasn't all, either! Every year when the fair came to town, he would give me three hundred dollars and tell me to share it with my siblings. At Thanksgiving and again at Christmas, he would send me home with a big basket of food as well.

Not once did Brother Gary hand me a gift in public; it was always behind closed doors, away from the other students. He practiced Jesus's teaching when He said, "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret" (Matthew 6:3–4). It wasn't common knowledge that I was on a full,

need-based scholarship, either. I wasn't treated any differently from anyone else; I was a member of the student body, at home at Cardinal Gibbons. Brother Gary and the other faculty at the school provided for my financial needs, but they also protected my dignity along the way.

There are millions of people like Brother Gary across this land—men and women who are generous and caring, and who don't discriminate based on the color of someone's skin. They see the humanity of every person they meet. They don't always do the right thing, but when they realize they've made a mistake, they try to do better. Kindness is hard to forget, so I think about my years at Cardinal Gibbons a lot these days. I think about Brother Gary and the way I felt the first time he handed me a hundred dollars, no strings attached.

So many voices are telling us America is a racist nation. It's repeated ad nauseam—so often, in fact, that many people assume it must be true. In a study conducted in 2019, 84 percent of black respondents said discrimination was a major obstacle for them, while only 54 percent of white respondents thought discrimination was a problem for black people. Similarly, 83 percent of black respondents said they thought they were generally treated unfairly by the police, while only 63 percent of white respondents believed black people had a tougher time with law enforcement.⁶

At first glance, it may appear these numbers simply reflect lived experiences. For some respondents, that may be the case. However, political affiliation also revealed a vast disparity in the same survey: 84 percent of Democrats said racist and racially insensitive viewpoints have become more common, and 64 percent said such opinions are also more acceptable in our society. Meanwhile, only 42 percent of Republicans said racist attitudes have become more

common, and just 22 percent said they were more acceptable now than in years past.⁷

Some people will look at these statistics and say to themselves, *Well, that proves it! America really is a racist country! After all, why would so many people attest to seeing something that isn't there?* But there's a big difference between people believing America itself must be racist and many people in America actually being racist.

If America were truly a racist nation—one that hated people with brown skin—why would brown- and black-skinned immigrants be flocking to our borders, as they currently are? According to the Pew Research Center, as of 2019, one in ten black Americans—about 4.6 million people—were immigrants, meaning they were born in another country. By 2060, that number is expected to more than double to 9.5 million.⁸ If America were really a racist place, why would the highest median income belong to Asians, rather than white people?⁹ If America were just brimming with white supremacists, bigots, and racist hatemongers, how in the world did the nation elect a black president in 2008? And then reelect him in 2012?



Is AMERICA RACIST? It's an important question and one we should not wave away lightly. At the same time, I think it might actually be the wrong question to ask. You see, racism is a part of our history, and its effects are still being felt. The chattel slavery of Africans for nearly 250 years is not easily wiped away. Segregation and Jim Crow laws, redlining and unequal protection under the law—these things are racist and ugly, and without a doubt, they have left their scars on generations of black Americans. In this sense, yes, America

has been stained by the sin of racism. There can be no doubt about it. But that doesn't mean the United States has always been uniformly racist or that things haven't improved significantly over time.

Over the course of American history, slavery has been a divisive issue. It was never unanimously celebrated or condoned. There have always been men and women—black and white—who have stood up to oppose the practice.

At our nation's founding, the issue was so explosive it nearly upended negotiations among the thirteen colonies. Many of the men who gathered in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress wanted slavery abolished in an independent America. Thomas Jefferson, who's often touted as a wicked slaveholder by the Left, actually drafted a section of the Declaration of Independence condemning the slave trade, calling it "execrable commerce" and an "assemblage of horrors."¹⁰ The passage was removed to appease slaveholding state representatives in the hopes of creating a final document everyone would willingly sign. However, within the Declaration's wording about "all men" being "created equal," Jefferson and others planted the seeds for the eventual abolition of slavery.

More than four score, that is, eighty, years later, Abraham Lincoln recognized the genius of our country's Founders and saw in the opening lines of the Declaration of Independence the truth that would set the captive African slaves free:

This was their majestic interpretation of the economy of the Universe. This was their lofty, and wise, and noble understanding of the justice of the Creator to His creatures. Yes, gentlemen, to *all* His creatures, to the whole great family of man. In their enlightened belief, nothing stamped with the Divine image and likeness was sent into the world to be trodden on, and degraded, and imbruted by its fellows.

They grasped not only the whole race of man then living, but they reached forward and seized upon the farthest posterity. They erected a beacon to guide their children, and their children's children, and the countless myriads who should inhabit the earth in other ages.

Wise statesmen as they were, they knew the tendency of prosperity to breed tyrants, and so they established these great self-evident truths, that when in the distant future some man, some faction, some interest, should set up the doctrine that none but rich men, or none but white men, were entitled to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, their posterity might look up again to the Declaration of Independence and take courage to renew the battle which their fathers began—so that truth, and justice, and mercy, and all the humane and Christian virtues might not be extinguished from the land; so that no man would hereafter dare to limit and circumscribe the great principles on which the temple of liberty was being built.¹¹

The pro-slavery movement was never monolithic; there were always critics, detractors, and revolutionaries willing to fight to bring freedom to every American. Speaking of the fight for freedom, let's never forget the price that was paid to set black slaves free. Approximately 360,000 Union soldiers gave their lives to end slavery and reunite our severed country,¹² and when you add in all those who were wounded, captured, or missing in action, the number balloons to nearly 600,000.¹³ A racist country doesn't send its young men to die to set black slaves free.

When it comes to the Jim Crow era of America's story, the situation is similar. Very often, white business owners in the South are presented as stone-cold racists who wanted nothing more than to keep blacks away from their lunch counters

and out of their “whites only” restrooms. However, it’s important to remember that Jim Crow was never optional. It was the law of the land, handed down from the state legislatures, which were, in large measure, controlled by Democrats. It was a crime to violate the racist codes. Business owners were not free to disregard the statutes without consequence. Does that excuse segregation? Of course not. Does it mean there weren’t many business owners who were, in fact, racist? Certainly, the answer is no. But it does mean that, once again, painting with a broad brush seems to distort the picture rather than preserve it.

In nearly every area that can be measured, the circumstances of black Americans have improved over time. In 1964, just 27 percent of black Americans over the age of twenty-five had a high school diploma, but by 2015 that number had risen to 88 percent.¹⁴ College graduate rates have also increased. In 1980, only 10.5 percent of black people in the United States had completed college,¹⁵ but today 45.9 percent have a college degree.¹⁶ When it comes to income, there is still a considerable disparity between white and black households, but the wealth of black Americans continues to rise:

The Black middle-class has also grown substantially since 1967. Using the three middle income groups from Census (\$35,000 to \$100,000), it has more than doubled in absolute terms from 2 million to well over 4 million. It has shrunk slightly as a proportion of the total, but of course for good reason: more Black families are above \$100,000. If you prefer to change the definition of middle class slightly, say to the range of \$50,000–\$150,000, it looks even better: it grew from 1.3 million in 1967 to 4.5 million in 2021, more than tripling! And by this second definition, it grew in percentage terms too (28% to 44%).¹⁷

It's worth asking: Would a racist country really allow black Americans to achieve the American dream? As Dennis Prager has suggested, "The left-wing charge that America is a racist country is the greatest national libel since the Blood Libel against the Jews. America is, in fact, the least racist multiracial, multiethnic country in world history."¹⁸



I UNDERSTAND A bit about upward mobility. When I was a child, my mother moved our family to Raleigh, North Carolina, where, for several months, we lived in a homeless shelter. After that, we moved to the projects. And from there we moved into a Habitat for Humanity house. My mom was able to improve our situation through hard work and a little something called never giving up—and she was sustained by her faith in Jesus. Sometimes she worked as many as sixteen hours a day to make sure we had a roof over our heads and food in our bellies. Because of my mom's diligence, my siblings and I developed a strong work ethic. Today, we are all comfortably middle class, and our families are thriving.

Of course, there are many black Americans today who believe the lie that America is racist, and that it's this racism that has kept them from success. It's not just black Americans who believe this, either; there are plenty of people from every race perpetuating this dangerous propaganda. It's easy to see why the Left pushes the race card every day of the year. They might as well shout, "America is broken, and the deck is stacked against you! You'll never succeed on your own! But if you vote for us, we'll give you everything you need!" Incidentally, this is also the reason the media depicts the GOP as a party that's intrinsically racist—never mind the fact that

it was the Republican Party that ended slavery and its members who voted in higher percentages than Democrats for the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Democrat Party uses (and abuses) their black voters. But why—oh, why?—do people fall for it? If Democrat policies actually improved the lives of black Americans and other minority groups, our nation's Democrat-run cities would be bastions of opportunity and prosperity. But of course they're not. There were 774 murders in Chicago in 2020.¹⁹ Of those, 95 percent of the victims were people of color!²⁰ And if statistics hold true, 70 percent of the people who murdered them were also people of color.²¹

The notion that America is a racist nation is not just a lie; it's also a temptation. Think about it for a moment: If the education system is out to see you fail, and the banking system is out to keep you poor, and the real estate market means to keep you in the projects, then your life is not your responsibility. In other words, if America is hopelessly racist, anyone who's not white is a victim—and in our society today, victimhood has tremendous power.

Being a victim is a mindset, a way of thinking that affects every part of life. If we accept the false premise that America hates brown and black people, then we fall into the trap of victimhood, and everything in our world can be viewed only through that lens. It's a truly diabolical trap.

But there is hope. There is a way to remove the shackles of victimhood and counter the lies being shot at us rapid-fire from leftists seeking to unravel the very fabric of our society. The lie of America's persistent and unbridled racism may have the power to transform free people into victims—most lies from the pit of Hell are quite potent, after all—but the truth is more powerful still. The truth has the power to set captives free, to change the world and bring light to the darkness.

No matter how hard the race-baiters and pot-stirrers may try, they cannot change the nature of things. They cannot transform a person's identity, and they cannot bring peace through the division and chaos they sow. The most they can do is blind people, at least temporarily. But God's Word declares the truth from beginning to end. It has not been changed to fit a political agenda, and it stands as an invitation to walk a better path, to know the living God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Bible declares that all people were created as God's image-bearers. Therefore, every single human being has value—black and white and every shade of melanin in between. God loved us so much that while we were slaves to our sins, caught in open rebellion against our Maker, Jesus died for us. He did this to bring us home to God, that we might live out our intended design as His sons and daughters. Those of us who know Christ have been adopted into royalty, given a priesthood, and commissioned as ambassadors of Heaven. If we know this—and I mean really know it, deep down in the depths of our being—it affects how we live out our days in this fallen world.

A child of the King cannot be a slave or a victim. Not really, anyway. Any suffering or injustice they experience in this world will be swallowed up by Christ's victory. They have hope beyond what they can see with their eyes. Caleb and Joshua knew this. If you recall, these two men were among the twelve Israelite spies sent to investigate the land of Canaan, the land God had promised to His people (see Numbers 13). While the other ten spies returned quaking in fear and defeat, complaining about the giants of the land, Caleb and Joshua saw the opportunity through the lens of God's goodness to their people and declared their trust in His promises. They held tightly to the truth of God's word, pushing aside every

lie of the enemy—even when those lies seemed to be true. Decades later, the other ten spies were dead and buried; only Caleb and Joshua entered the land of promise.

But many Christians have not learned how to walk in faith; they don't know what it is to keep their eyes fixed upon Jesus. That is why the Bible tells us, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). The battle is not really *out there*. It's not against another race or a political party or even a system that may discriminate against us. The real battle is in the mind, so it is essential that we fill our minds with the truth. If we do, there's no lie big enough to take us down.

This can be seen throughout American history. Consider the life of Booker T. Washington, for example. He was born a slave and lived through some of the most difficult years of racism and prejudice our country has ever known. But he refused to give up and consign himself to a life of destitution. Washington was industrious and never backed down from a challenge. It was his Christian faith that kept him going, and he died a very wealthy man. Against all odds, he made his own success because he believed what God said about him, not what other people wanted him to believe.

In 1895, Washington delivered a speech at the Atlanta Exposition. He declared that African Americans should focus on vocational education. Learning Latin and Greek served no purpose in the day-to-day realities of Southern life.

African Americans should abandon their short-term hopes of social and political equality. Washington argued that when whites saw African Americans contributing as productive members of society, equality would naturally follow.

For those dreaming of a black utopia of freedom, Washington declared, “Cast down your bucket where you are.” Many whites approved of this moderate stance, while African Americans were split. Critics called his speech the Atlanta Compromise and accused Washington of coddling Southern racism.

Still, by 1900, Washington was seen as the leader of the African American community. In 1901, he published his autobiography, *Up from Slavery*. He was a self-made man and a role model to thousands. In 1906, he was summoned to the White House by President Theodore Roosevelt. This marked the first time in American history that an African American leader received such a prestigious invitation.²²

Washington’s life created no small measure of controversy. By refusing to stand up against every racial injustice black Americans in the South faced in his day, some believed he was merely an apologist for the white majority. But I don’t see things quite that way. Yes, I believe strongly we should stand up against any and all bigotry. However, Washington understood the best way to elevate the status of his brothers and sisters throughout the South was not to fight a second Civil War—one they would likely lose—but to encourage and inspire people of color to make the most of their lives with the resources at their disposal—and those resources certainly included the good gifts the Lord had given them. He also understood that even though America was not a perfect nation, it provided opportunities other lands did not. And so, he allowed his gratitude and his self-determination to chart his course. You be the judge: Did it work out well for him?

I imagine that if Washington could have looked down the corridors of history to our day, tears would well up in his eyes for all that black Americans have accomplished. There's still more room to grow, of course. But the path forward is not paved with discontent; it is built on the optimism that can come only when we believe what God has declared about our worth, not what the denizens of dark corners of humanity have said about us.



THERE'S A STORY my wife, Crystal, tells about a home she never lived in. In the 1980s, when Crystal was a young girl, her father wanted to buy a new house for their family in a beautiful little neighborhood in Rockingham, North Carolina. He made an appointment with a real estate agent to look at homes in that subdivision, but the agent kept trying to steer him away from that particular neighborhood. No matter what he said, she would insist on looking at other properties.

Crystal's father decided that if the agent wouldn't take him to look at those houses, he would go on his own. So, one day he drove out to the neighborhood to look around. Within a few minutes, he was greeted by another agent who worked for the homebuilder. She was even more gruff than the first agent! It was then that he got the message: his black family was not welcome in that neighborhood.

One day, years later, when the family was driving through that part of Rockingham, Crystal's dad pointed out the subdivision and told about his experience there years earlier. But rather than being angry, he was smiling as he reminisced. Why? Because he realized that God had blessed him in such a way that he could now buy all the homes in that little subdivision if he wanted to.

There are—and always have been—bigots in this country. But the story of America is the story of a people trying to live up to the ideal that “all men are created equal.” This isn’t a perfect place, but it is a good place filled with good people. And thanks be to God, it is still a land of opportunity for men and women of every color.