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Why GOP Attempts to Sanitize History Will Fail

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In March, U.S. President [Donald Trump](#) issued an executive order titled [Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History](#), targeting the Smithsonian Institution and its museums—including the National Museum of African American History and Culture—for promoting “divisive narratives.” In doing so, Trump continues a pattern of erasing federal websites about notable [African Americans](#) and undermining institutions that honor our full national story.

Trump’s campaign echoes other recent efforts to whitewash the past. For example, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves proclaimed April as [Confederate Heritage Month](#), and recognized [Confederate Memorial Day](#) as a state holiday—one of several Southern states that continue to honor the Confederacy. These endeavors are part of a coordinated attempt to revise the Confederacy’s racist history and diminish the impact of slavery in the Civil War.