We Are Southrons!

By Derrick Stoff
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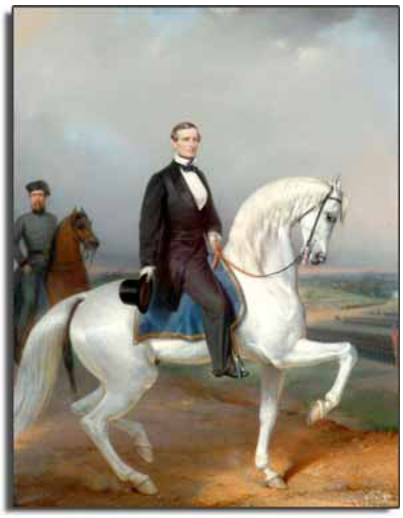
When did it become evil to celebrate one's heritage?

When did it become wrong to admire the rich history for which your ancestors fought and died?

When did it become a horrible atrocity to realize the heritage of your people was just and good?



In this whirlpool we call life, we sometimes find ourselves questioning the things we have held dear to us for many years, often because a new wave of thought and feeling sweeps over us. Is it so difficult to take a moment to educate yourself to see things for how they really are and not for what someone else tells you about them? Is it so hard to enlighten yourself even a little? For if you do, you will know what truly went on in history and no longer have to question the "if, ands, or buts."

I ask you, truly, please do this before you dare bash the cause which we as Southrons fight for each and every day, the right which is not always ours: the right to celebrate our ancestors without the unholy chastisement of the masses of people who are either too ignorant or unconfident of themselves to learn the truth and maybe—just maybe—free their minds for once.

Many of us spend each and every day loving our heritage and loving that specific part of who we are. It does indeed define exactly who we are, and at times it's very sad.

Why has a once great symbol of states' rights now become the epitome of all that is wrong with the world?

The "War of Northern Aggression," as it is sometimes called, is really more "The Second War of Independence." Is not independence a worthy cause for which to fight?

Have we not been desecrated long enough by this intense and deeply ignorant hatred towards our people?

We are Southrons!

We are the people who have fought and will always fight for our homelands, our families, our sweethearts, and wives. We are not backwards, we are not inbred, and we are not stupid! Our art, literature, and music are far superior to anything produced by the North (or can you spell Thomas Wolfe, Flannery O'Connor, and William Faulkner?).

We are Southrons!

We demand before God to be treated with the respect which we have shown to others, and we ask for no pity in our cause, but only respect, honor, and dignity!

How dare anyone ever question the contributions of the Southron leaders!

How dare anyone say that the great Jefferson Davis or Alexander Stephens fought in vain!

How dare anyone say that secession is against the laws of our great country when indeed, we were not the first to try it, the North was! (Or do you not remember the Hartford Convention of 1814?).

History is written by the conquerors. But the conquered will yet be heard in the matter. How is it we must be scrutinized and downplayed by an ignorant public when we ourselves are not to blame for the insolence of the uneducated?

How dare you threaten me because I display a sign of my country's pride upon my chest?

How dare you threaten my livelihood because you feel miffed about the cross or the flag upon my chest, my collar, or my back?

How dare you even think of besmirching the heritage which is rightfully mine, while you yet flaunt your own?

We Southrons do not lash out at you because of your heritage and we ask that you do the same. We are a distinct group of people. We have our own music, our own culture, our own foods, and our own literature and music. We have never questioned the various foods you eat, the clothes you wear, or the flag you fly. Why do you question ours?

As a final thought, above all other things, do you feel you are better than we? Do you feel you have anything over us? Or is it just that you don't feel obligated to learn about a culture which superseded your own and has flourished since before the start of the United States of America? Or do you find yourself oblivious to your own heritage?

We are Southrons!

Art Credit: R. W. Norton Art Gallery, Shreveport, Louisiana

About the Author

Derrick Stoff is obviously a Fire Eater. Enough said.

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