

The woke left captured the Smithsonian. America needs a patriot to take it back

The left views the Smithsonian Institution as one of the greatest tools at their disposal to indoctrinate American citizens

Fox News By Douglas MacKinnon, July 24, 2026



Contrary to what some on the right may believe, we are not winning the war against DEI placements and promotions, and we are not winning the war against the greater "Woke" ideology. Both have been placed in faux hibernation by a far-left playing the long game.

Actually, the game may not turn out to be that long at all. Many on the left are planning to double and triple-down on the "Woke" gameplan should the Democrats take back part or all of Congress in November and the [White House](#) in 2028.

Should you need a very recent reminder of how insidious and embedded DEI appointments combined with the "Woke" theology can be, I encourage you to watch the smug and condescending testimony given by National Museum of [American History](#) Director Anthea Hartig in response to a number of sane and pragmatic questions asked of her by Congressman Brandon Gill of Texas. While Gill put on a masterclass on exposing merit and nation-destroying "wokism," I can assure you that the seemingly self-righteous and arrogant Hartig was mentally drumming her fingers while thinking: "We are just going to wait you and the Trump administration out and then reinstall "Woke" and DEI across the government and private sector spectrum."

[REP GILL CHALLENGES 'GENUINELY INSANE AND OBJECTIVELY OFFENSIVE' DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS AFTER VIRAL HEARING](#) [Video](#)

One of the most dangerous programs Congressman Gill exposed was something called the "MASS Action Toolkit." MASS standing for "Museums as Sites for Social Action." A far-left, anti-Trump propaganda narrative created by museum professionals around 2017 to turn their workplaces into hubs of woke activism and "resistance." The Smithsonian staff heavily promoted it as part of their DEI initiatives.

The obvious question then becomes how best to combat a war that we are losing. First, acknowledge we are losing. Next, see the strategy of the left for what it is. They are playing the "wait you out" game. Next, pick high profile battlefields subverted by the left and decisively win back that terrain.

And with that strategy in mind, I can think of no better place than the Smithsonian. The greater museum of the American people has been deeply infiltrated by the left. They have, year-by-year, step-by-step, turned it into a toxic cauldron for "Social Justice."

WATCH: 'SHOCKING' BEN FRANKLIN SMEAR LEAVES SMITHSONIAN CHIEF WITH 'NO REGRETS'

[President Trump](#) has the power to help reverse that. While he can't directly appoint someone as the head of the Smithsonian, he can exert sustained pressure on the 17-Member Board of Regents to make it happen.



Video

And he does need to make it happen as fast as humanly possible.

To millions in our nation and billions around the world, the Smithsonian Institution is the face of "America." It hosts over 20 million visitors per year while also "educating" over 20 million

students per year. It is one of our nation's most important megaphones and no one understands that better than the woke, Socialist and Marxist subversives who have infiltrated every building and hallway within the institution.

TRUMP HAILS AMERICA AS 'MOST EXCEPTIONAL NATION EVER TO EXIST' IN MOUNT RUSHMORE SPEECH

They view the Smithsonian Institution as one of the greatest tools at their disposal to indoctrinate American citizens and global visitors against the values and traditions first articulated by [our Founding Fathers](#) and then outlined in our founding documents. I say that as one who authored a book titled: "The 56 – Liberty Lessons from those who risked all to sign The Declaration of Independence." A book with the express purpose of protecting our Founding Fathers from the smears and cancellation by the left.

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But I also say that as one who – as with the fight against wokism and DEI – believes we are losing the battle to protect the names and reputations of men such as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. Just as we are losing the battle to prevent the far-left from erasing and then "reinventing" our shared [American history](#).



The Smithsonian Institution being "Ground Zero" for the vilification of our nation and those who strongly believe in its exceptionalism. It is for that reason that I believe we need a high-profile "America First" name to take over that institution and proclaim: "The cancellation of our Founding Fathers and the reinvention of our American history ends now. Today." [Video](#)

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[President Trump](#) must find a new leader for "The Nation's Attic." One who does recognize the courage, sacrifice and genius of our Founding Fathers and one who does deeply believe in our exceptionalism.

An American Patriot who will step into the Smithsonian Institution and on day one, begin to throw out the far-left garbage filling every nook and cranny of those buildings. He or she should do so as if our very future depends upon it. Because it does.

Douglas MacKinnon is a former White House and Pentagon official and author of the book: ["The 56 – Liberty Lessons from those who risked all to sign The Declaration of Independence."](#) Follow him on X: [@DougofSkye](#)