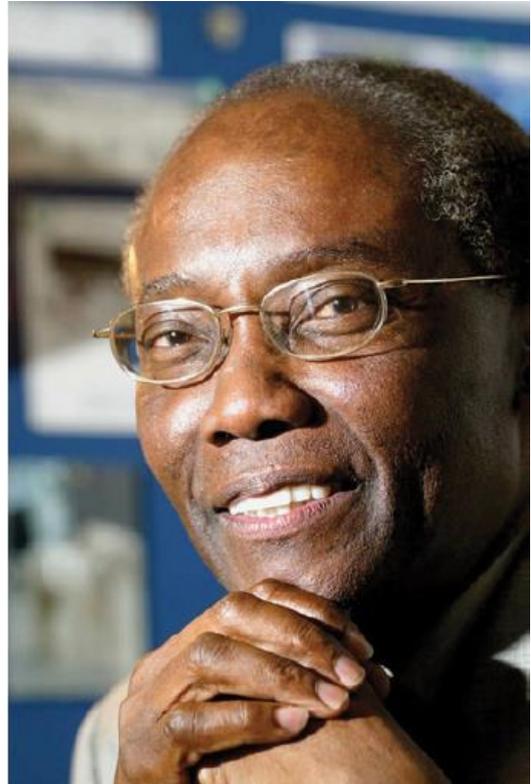


Historical deception: “Pride can temper Shame”

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The debate and actions that are associated with Charlottesville, Virginia, USA are well known. It is known that in 2017 white supremacists protested successfully against proposals to remove the statue of General Robert Edward Lee. General Robert E. Lee commanded (1862-1865) the **pro-slavery** army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War. Such protests are not new. For example, in May 2017, Robert E. Lee's stature was removed in New Orleans. Cecil Rhodes statue was removed in South Africa on the 9th April 2015.



Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902) has been described as an Imperialist, Colonialist, Racist, Businessman and Politician. He exercised cruel control over the lives, lands and the resources of African people in Southern Africa. Oxford University students have tried and failed to secure the removal of Rhodes' statue at Oriel College, Oxford University. Oxford University, like many other institutions in Western Europe and Britain, has received slavery-derived money. The slavery in question was chattel slavery wherein a black slave under the law, was 'property and had no right to life'. That is why this slavery, which was practiced for over 300 years, was abolished legally by Britain in 1838 and by the USA in 1865 after the American Civil War.

Regarding Oxford University, it received £10,000 from the legacy of the notorious slave owner, Christopher Codrington (1668-1710). Codrington owned a large number of slaves in Barbados. In today's money, this sum has a value of about £8M. The grand Codrington Library at All Souls College, Oxford University, was built with this money between 1716-1751. To show the **terrible nature** of this slavery, Professor Sir Tom Devine, the historian, has stated that, "On the Codrington plantations in Barbados between 1741 and 1746, 43% of all African Negroes died within 3 years of arrival". In 1833, when British slaves were **emancipated**, Sir John Gladstone a slave owner from Leith and Fasque, and the father of the British Prime Minister, William Gladstone, received **compensation** of about £83M in today's money for his 2,508 slaves...the slaves received another five years of slavery and

not one penny. Now, I have been asked if statues and monuments which are associated with cruel deeds of the past should be knocked down. My view is that they should remain as evidence of the terrible deeds of people that directly or indirectly, consciously or unconsciously, turned other people into chattel slaves. Edinburgh Council, to its credit, is considering the re-writing of the plaque of Henry Dundas whose statue stands, about 42 metres high, in St Andrew Square in Edinburgh. In addition to other political deeds for which he has been criticised; Dundas, the 1st Viscount Melville, **delayed** the abolition of the British Slave Trade for 15 years (1792-1807), causing thousands of black people to be transported into slavery. He also prolonged slavery by using military force against slaves fighting for their freedom in San Domingo and against the Maroons in Jamaica in the 1790s.

Sadly, it is now being suggested by an academic that such cruel practices of the past can be viewed in a positive way. Professor Nigel Biggar, an Oxford academic, in an article in The Times newspaper (November, 2017), stated that he is developing research which is linked to his advice: "Don't feel guilty about our colonial history". ***In this article he invented the deception that, "pride can temper shame"***. I will not quote the examples he gave because, they are illogical. However, I have made it clear to him that this defence of "colonialism" cannot be researched because it is subjective and untenable and that in many ways historical evidence, such as the N-word, indicates that colonialism and racism go together. Evil and cruelty cannot be "tempered" (balanced) by so-called prideful deeds, based mainly on self-interest. Although I agree with the formation of "Slavery Educational Trusts" to deal with the cruel consequences of chattel slavery, these should never be regarded as a 'prideful temper' which balances the horrors of a 'shameful slavery'. I am not sure how Biggar's project is progressing. However, although Oxford University, with its benefits from Codrington's slavery supports Biggar, a large group of Oxford University academics has criticised Biggar's project, stating that it "asks the wrong questions, using the wrong terms, and for the wrong purposes". Indeed, two of our MPs (Rees Mogg and Johnson), contrary to Biggar's advice that "colonial" life was acceptable, have inferred with disdain that the UK should never never become a "colony" of the EU...

The historical lesson here is that we must see and speak out honestly against the consequences of past cruelties which must be addressed in the best possible way, rather than devising falsehoods to try and change what cannot be changed...history. Many of the prejudices of today are based on the cruelties of the past. Historical truth gives children the sense of belonging they need to succeed. Historical deception about a cruelty of the past such as chattel slavery, becomes part of that cruelty. Historical deception should not happen in any society. (March 2018)