

Thinking through Monuments

Episode V

Silent Sam

Silent Sam was a statue of a Confederate soldier that stood on the University of North Carolina campus. Established by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1913, the statue was unveiled in a ceremony during which a local industrialist Julian Carr gave a speech espousing white supremacist ideology. For these reasons, the statue has been a point of debate for many years. In 2018, students took matters into their own hands and toppled the statue in the night. Yet, discussions of what to do with the monument still continue.

Behre, Robert. “Behind ‘Silent Sam’s’ Toppling at UNC, a Lesson for South Carolina, Historians Say.” *The Post and Courier*, September 14, 2020.

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Farzan, Antonia Noori. “‘Silent Sam’: A Racist Jim Crow-era Speech Inspired UNC Students to Topple a Confederate Monument on Campus.” *The Washington Post*, August 21, 2018.

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Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee (1807-70), the leading Confederate General during the American Civil War, remains a figure of controversy to this day. This is due to the vast array of statues dedicated to him throughout the country. Now that many are being questioned and torn down, there are arguments being made for and against preserving the statues.

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 ↗ <https://hyperallergic.com/572825/1712-confederate-monuments-remain-standing-in-united-states/>.
- Dafoe, Taylor. “As the Fate of Many Confederate Memorials Remains Undecided, Richmond’s Robert E. Lee Statue Heads to a Virginia Museum.” *Artnet News*, December 23, 2020.
 ↗ <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/robert-e-lee-statue-virginia-museum-history-culture-1934331>.
- Little, Becky. “How the US Got So Many Confederate Monuments.” History.com. A&E Television Networks, June 12, 2020.
 ↗ <https://www.history.com/news/how-the-u-s-got-so-many-confederate-monuments>.

Marches on Washington

Washington DC has long been the seat of political power and influence in the US. It has also been the site of numerous demonstrations for various movements such as women’s suffrage, anti-war protests, and Civil Rights activism. A city of monuments, it has become a prime site for organizing and coalition building.

- Kindelan, Katie. “5 Historic Washington, DC, Marches to Know About.” *ABC News*, January 20, 2017.
 ↗ <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/historic-washington-dc-marches/story?id=44884785>
- Washington DC. “6 Historic Demonstrations that Took Place in Washington, DC.” Accessed July 6, 2021.
 ↗ <https://washington.org/dei/historic-demonstrations-washington-dc#>

Buffalo’s Christopher Columbus Statue

Located on Porter Road in Buffalo, a Christopher Columbus statue in its namesake park was scheduled to be removed and the park renamed in the summer of 2020. However, counter-arguments have been brought forth from the Italian American community to preserve the statue and keep it in a place of prominence.

- Bagwell, Tyler. “What Shall We Do with Our Drunken Sailor, Inventor of Americas?.” *Rise*, July 14, 2020.
↗ <https://risecollaborative.com/rise/columbus-statue-down>
- Besecker, Aaron and Harold McNeil. “Petition Seeks Columbus Statue Removal – Plus Renaming of Buffalo Park.” *Buffalo News*, August 3, 2020.
↗ https://buffalonews.com/news/local/petition-seeks-columbus-statue-removal-plus-renaming-of-buffalo-park/article_164a25d4-2381-5a84-9667-602e2ccf7321.html
- McShea, Keith and Mark Sommer. “Statue Comes Down in Christopher Columbus Park; Name Change Will Follow.” *Buffalo News*, September 4, 2020.
↗ https://buffalonews.com/news/statue-comes-down-in-christopher-columbus-park-name-change-will-follow/article_7011a3f8-c2a6-11ea-b013-1bb8b83406cd.html
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↗ https://buffalonews.com/news/local/education/italian-americans-make-case-for-preserving-columbus-day/article_3cbf37d9-42f1-5c37-8990-5227c96302dd.html
- Watkins, Emyle, and Tyler Weber. “Protestors Call for Removal of Columbus Statue in Buffalo.” *WGRZ*, June 14, 2020.
↗ <https://www.wgrz.com/article/news/local/protesters-gather-around-christopher-columbus-statue-on-sunday-morning/71-5e38aecb-f799-4d85-84a3-bdd937979961>