

Nicholas A. Panuzio
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Truth or Untruth?

Every Republican whether supportive of Donald Trump or not, should be outraged at the comments by Hillary Clinton that Republicans are becoming a party of “Racists.” Nothing could be further from the truth.

The history of the Democrat Party has been one of support of slavery and segregation. The beginning of the Democrat party occurred in 1800 with the election of Thomas Jefferson. The party sought to encompass the views and participation and ideas of all Americans. The Democrat Party of the founders like Thomas Jefferson began to change after the election of Andrew Jackson in 1828. Jackson, while a good President, began to make a huge amount of money in open land deals. As a result, the Democrat party became stronger for control through a centralized government. Until Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican, all of the Presidents were segregationists and many were slave owners.

A little known truth is that the Republican Party, from its inception in 1860, has been the leader for African-American civil rights. Abraham Lincoln stood up for the elimination of slavery in his famous Lincoln-Douglas debates. A well-known fact is that with the Emancipation Proclamation, effective on January 1, 1863, he also freed the slaves.

On January 31, 1865, the 13th amendment was passed by the Republican House and the Republican Senate, seven days before Lincoln was killed. It was passed over Democrat opposition.

For about the next fifty years, most African Americans were Republicans. Our local leaders, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman were Republicans. With the exception of Andrew Johnson and Grover Cleveland, eight Presidents were Republicans.

In 1912, Democrat Woodrow Wilson, a southerner who was elected Governor of New Jersey after he served as president of Princeton was elected President. He was born in Virginia and spent much of his time in South Carolina and Georgia. He received some support from African American leader William Monroe Trotter in the campaign of 1912. When he won, Wilson segregated the Federal government, and threw Mr. Trotter out of the oval office. Once again, a Democrat President was in favor of segregation.

The Democrat Party used the segregationists in the south to win elections for thirty-five years from Franklin Roosevelt to Lyndon Johnson with the exception of Dwight Eisenhower.

A Republican Eisenhower was the first President since Reconstruction days to propose a civil rights bill that created the Civil Rights Commission and protected the right to vote. The law passed the Congress led by Republicans.

In 1954, the Supreme Court led by Republican Earl Warren, issued the ruling desegregating the schools. When President Lyndon Johnson, a former segregationist from Texas, pushed a strong civil rights bill in 1964, he could not get it passed. The Republicans only had thirty-three Senators, but ninety percent of them voted for the bill, and it then passed.

Through the latter part of the twentieth century, Republicans always supported civil rights legislation. During the same period of time, the Democrat Party began the Federally-run programs most of which were created to help poor people in the cities. When more fortunate city dwellers began to leave, the poor and elderly could not move out of cities that were failing. The only help to the cities came from a Republican President Richard Nixon in the form of General Revenue Sharing, Community Development Block Grants, Clean Water and Clean Air acts. These programs returned the money to the local communities for management.

Today, the poor are limited in using their abilities to plan for themselves. School Choice, a program which allows parents to choose the schools their children attend, is blocked by Congressional Democrats. Opportunities for development of small minority businesses are delayed or unfunded. This country has been denied the potential contributions of many minorities by denying support for the individual initiatives that are the backbone of America.

Republicans have always and will always stand up for the individual rights of Americans despite all of the usual attacks by the Democrat Party. It is shown in the history of the Republican Party, and the actions of today's Republicans.