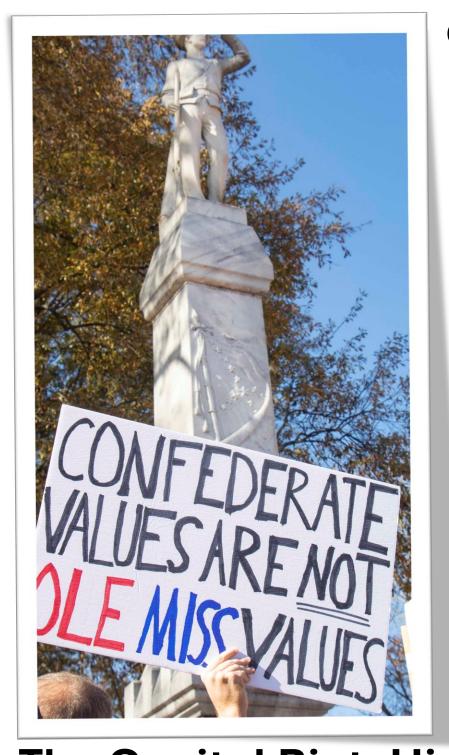
Potsdam STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Contemporary Issues in Public History

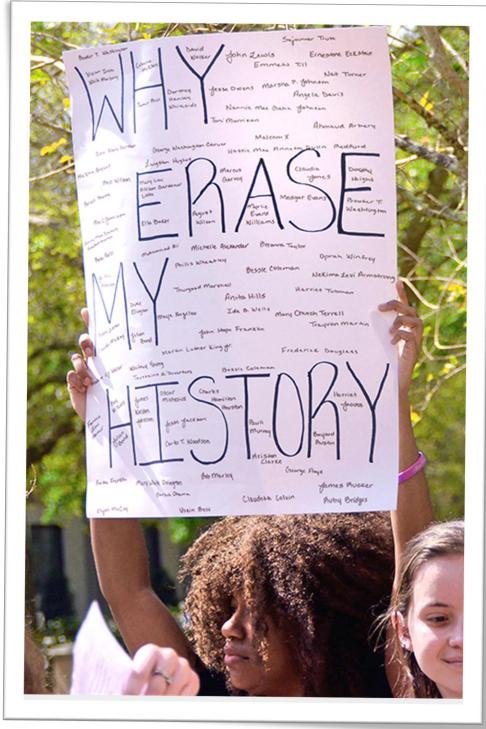
Monuments, Memory, and Power

Confederate Monuments: Symbols



or Scars?

Across the U.S., monuments honoring Confederate leaders have sparked protests and removals. Critics argue these statues glorify racism and were erected to intimidate during Jim Crow. When supporters claim they represent heritage. The debate shows how physical symbols of history can divide people, depending on who feels represented or even erased.



Textbook Wars: What Should Kids

The Capitol Riot: History in Real Time

Across the U.S., monuments honoring Confederate leaders On January 6, 2021, a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol to try to stop the certification of the presidential election. It shocked the country and the world. But even now, people can't agree on exactly



what happened. Some call it an attack on democracy, others say it was a protest over the election. News coverage, museums, and politicians all tell the story in all different ways. Even though it's semi recent, it's already being debated like any other historical event. How we remember January 6th will shape what people think about, protest, and democracy.

Learn? In classrooms across the country, people are fighting over what gets taught. From slavery and civil rights to gender identity and systemic racism, some want schools to avoid "touchy" topics. Others say avoiding hard truths that erases key parts of American history. These fights play out in school board meetings, legislation, and banned book lists. At the center is a core question, Whose version of history gets passed on? Public education doesn't just teach facts, it shapes memory, values, and identity. That's why debates over textbooks are really debates about the future, and what kind of country we want to be.