



## Tom Cotton's Disgraceful Slavery Rhetoric

August 3, 2020



Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton is among the many well-educated members of the U.S. congress. However, when he claimed that “slavery was a necessary evil,” his ignorance and arrogance were starkly revealed. President Abraham Lincoln viewed slavery as an evil that must be solved but he never would have seen it as a “necessary evil.”

Unlike Lincoln, Cotton does not take to heart the principles of our founding fathers and Constitution. Though the founding fathers were divided on the issue of slavery, with some of them having owned slaves

and others being opposed to it, there is no evidence documenting that any of them argued slavery in the US was a "necessary evil."

At minimum, Cotton's decency is in scarce supply—something that should trouble all Americans and legislative leaders regardless of political party. We should no longer tolerate and remain silent about such dangerous rhetoric.

Moreover, Cotton's pitching a bill to prohibit use of federal funds to teach the 1619 Project is silly, exposing a total lack of awareness of the purpose of history. Contrary to Cotton's inaccurate declaration, the 1619 Project is not "a racially divisive, revisionist account of history that denies the noble principles of freedom and equality on which our nation was founded." Moreover, it does not "indoctrinate young Americans with this left-wing garbage."

This kind of inflammatory and culturally divisive discourse only exacerbates our current racial problems. Cotton is an example of why graduating from Harvard does not mean one is an intelligent, sensitive and astute public servant worthy of office.

*Rick Cherwitz,  
Austin, TX*