



THE
AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION

Conservative Action Starts Here – bringing you CPAC, principled advocacy and political activism

August 18, 2021

Stephen Squeri
CEO, American Express Company
200 Vesey Street
New York, NY 10285-3106

Dear Mr. Squeri,

On behalf of millions of conservatives around the world, but especially those in the United States, the American Conservative Union (ACU) is writing to thank you for giving us one of the best examples of hypocrisy we have ever witnessed among woke capitalists. Despite being one of the world's premiere for-profit companies, you have attempted to indoctrinate your employees to hate capitalism through a racist "critical race theory" (CRT) program.

American Express (AmEx) is a financial services company that is distinctly American. It's in your name! Years of brilliant marketing and premium services catering to the wealthiest of Americans have landed you at the top of the Dow Jones Industrial Average for 2021. In the last quarter alone, you booked a \$2.3 BILLION profit. AmEx is THE example of a successful capitalist company that prospered by providing excellent, but expensive, services to those Americans who valued your services and met your standards.

The benefits of capitalism extend to your own your personal compensation, valued at more than \$24 million in 2020. After working hard at AmEx for 33 years, your success in steering this great capitalist company lands your net worth around \$100-\$200 million. Rather than using AmEx's capital to worsen racial animus and teach employees to hate America, perhaps you could use immense wealth to help communities of color achieve success under the American capitalist system from which you have benefited so greatly. In any case, the wealth

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you earned under capitalism is all yours to spend as you choose. For now, you do not have to redistribute your wealth according to the increasingly socialist agenda.

Because you, AmEx, and your enormous customer base have benefited greatly from capitalism, it is shocking that you invited Khalil Muhammad, great-grandson of Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad, to lecture your employees. His lecture, and AmEx's larger CRT training, asserted that capitalism is based on "racist logics and forms of domination" and that AmEx should begin to "price" customers based on the color of their skin.

According to the [New York Post](#), AmEx's CRT training also instructed employees to assign themselves a position in "the hierarchy" and determine whether they qualify as an "oppressor" or as the "oppressed." Training also included restrictions of free speech that barred white employees only from uttering the phrases "we are all human beings" and "I don't see color."

We understand that you are under immense pressure to cave to the woke dogma of a radical, socialist bloc of political operatives. But your instinct for personal survival has led you to legitimize a movement that seeks to destroy the American values that make AmEx's success possible. Marxism is dangerous and America's business leaders have a responsibility to denounce it.

Equally dangerous to our American way of life is the Left's nefarious initiative to weaken the security of our elections. We find deeply troubling the fact that AmEx joined a cluster of American corporations in boycotting candidates for office who expressed concern over the security of our elections. In fact, AmEx made the broadest [pledge](#) of any of the companies, saying you would pull funding for officials who attempted to "subvert the presidential election results and disrupt the peaceful transition of power." Your pledge has been construed to apply to anyone who supports voter ID, not just those who voted against certifying the 2020 presidential election.

In light of these Marxist trainings and attacks on election security, we write to you on behalf of millions of Americans to warn you that ACU will be hostile to your public policy goals in every federal and state legislative body through our scoring of every lawmaker in America. We will aggressively highlight your embrace of CRT and illegal voting each and every time you try to enlist help from conservative elected officials.

To avoid this unpleasantness, AmEx should:

1. Renounce racist CRT ideologies and all related versions that seek to disparage employees and customers on their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.
2. Renounce your pledge to boycott the campaigns of politicians who support voter ID.
3. Make up for your wrongdoing by allowing pro-America voices to have equal time in front of employees.

We suggest you reach out and respond, or we will assume that AmEx has become an arm of a new, radical Democrat party and we will have no choice but to fight you at every turn.

Sincerely,

The American Conservative Union