

## BUUF Racial Justice Ministry Video of the Month March 2021

**Birth of a White Nation (2014). Jaqueline Battalora. 36:46.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM6ehzu3p4c>

### Information about the presenter

Jacqueline Battalora, Ph.D. is an attorney and professor of sociology at Saint Xavier University in Chicago and a former Chicago police officer. She is the author of *Birth of a White Nation* (2013) and is a frequent speaker, author, trainer and consultant on the subject of workplace and educational inclusion.

### Information about the video

The video presents a lecture, excerpted from a longer lecture, in which Dr. Battalora provides the early legal history to support the following 3 assertions: (1) “White” people did not exist before 1681. (2) Any claim that the group called “white” people is derived from biology is a lie. (3) White supremacy has been embedded in the United States from its founding, as a matter of law. The period she describes in her lecture is the 17<sup>th</sup> century in colonial America, primarily the colonies of Maryland and Virginia.

### Questions to consider and discuss with others

- At the beginning of her lecture, Dr. Battalora claims that white supremacy has been “embedded in the United States from its founding, as a matter of law.” Did she support this claim to your satisfaction? What was the strongest part of her lecture? What parts of this history would you like to know more about?
- The following questions look for connections between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries on the premise that knowledge of the past often provides informs the present:
  - Dr. Battalora describes a “divide and conquer” strategy” used by white landowners following Bacon’s Rebellion to divide white and black laborers and reduce the political power of the working classes. Do you think this strategy is still being used? What evidence have you seen?
  - Dr. Battalora refers to a “socio-economic ladder” to describe the status of landowning elites and labors. If you were to draw this “socio-economic ladder” as it is today, what would it look like?
  - Dr. Battalora does not use the phrase “male supremacy” but she describes laws that benefit men over women. What signs do you see of this white male supremacy today, in law, organizational policy, or social custom? In what ways has this changed during your lifetime?