

I'm writing to respond to the article in your recent issue celebrating Law Day, May 1st ("How the Rule of Law Has Shaped and Continues to Shape America," *Social Education*, March/April 2021).

Given the current political climate, where we have had almost ceaseless news about Black people being murdered by officers of the law, choosing to celebrate Law Day, and encourage others to do so, is reprehensible. The article itself is fine and well written, and I appreciate the recognition of the racial dynamics in it. But the magazine itself has sections encouraging educator involvement and support of this day, with zero context about why educators (if they're any good) might choose to explicitly not celebrate the U.S. legal system right now.

It's especially reprehensible for a social studies magazine to do this without also acknowledging that May 1st is also **May Day**, a historic and worldwide labor rights day. It's one thing to write about the history of Law Day—which would perhaps be fine if it was alongside an article about May Day, or if the article about Law Day included at the very least a recognition that it

shared the date with May Day. But there was zero mention of May Day as also happening on May 1st, which utterly baffles me at best. What social studies curriculum, or teachers, would focus on "law day" and not at least also talk about May Day?

It is urgent that we as teachers working to engage students in the realities of American history and current life highlight not the oppressive power structures that are quite literally killing people in the streets and locking them up for years on end, but people's movements that demonstrate solidarity and collective change.

Writing about Law Day in 2021, and advocating for its recognition, was a gross oversight at best. But doing so without recognition of another key day in U.S. and global history is an unethical choice that harms movements of change in this country.

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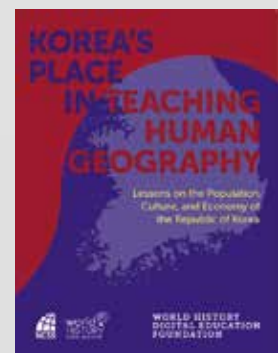
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