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Fantasy racism: Magic the Gathering bans 'controversial' playing cards

12 Jun, 2020 00:51 / Updated 1 year ago



FILE PHOTO. © Reuters / Scanpix Denmark / Sarah Christine Norgaard



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The ongoing international surge of things that might be potentially considered

racist has now reached the world's highest fantasy trading card game. Its makers have announced that they will ban a set of the most controversial cards.

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“The events of the past weeks and the ongoing conversation about how we can better support people of color have caused us to examine ourselves, our actions, and our inactions,” MtG makers Wizards of the Coast said in a [statement](#) on Wednesday.



The seven cards eliminated from the MtG roster going forward are Invoke Prejudice, Cleanse, Stone-Throwing Devils, Pradesh Gypsies, Jihad, Imprison and Crusade. They will be removed from official databases and prohibited in *“all sanctioned tournament play.”* Their ban is just a *“first step,”* as the company added on Twitter that *“there's much more work to be done.”*

these cards have been banned from play and scrubbed from the magic the gathering website for being racist obviously pic.twitter.com/S17QMtQjZ2

— DB (@Just_someNobody) [June 11, 2020](#)

In addition to some of their names considered to be ‘politically incorrect,’ some of the fans have objected to descriptions of their effects as well.

For example, the ‘Crusade’ card has the effect of empowering *“white creatures”* and ‘Cleanse’ describes the effect of removing *“creatures of colors of magic schools in the game, not anyone’s race.”* Meanwhile, the card ID number for

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'Invoke Prejudice' happens to be 1488, a number given symbolic significance among US neo-Nazis.

The ban quickly became a controversial topic, with critics calling Wizards overzealous.

Tim Pool 
@Timcast

lol the woke left has now become identical to the christian right of the 90's

mtg.gamepedia.com/Unholy_Strength

ol for the
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vil; such
eatures



A comparison of the Alpha and edited 4th edition.

nged due
to public outcry.

Magic: The Gathering 
@wizards_magic

There is no place for racism in our game. For Magic, our first step will be to change today. There's much more work to do. Read here:



Depictions of Racism in Magic
There is no place for racism in our game.
magic.wizards.com

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Others argued that the cards were “*historical*” to the game, but can be seen as “*quite frankly, racist*” in the present climate.

The publisher of Magic: The Gathering [@wizards_magic](https://twitter.com/wizards_magic) is straight up banning a group of historical cards from play because, quite frankly, the cards are racist and one was illustrated by an actual Nazi. <https://t.co/VQp1QMgZBS>

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Ken Schwanksta
@schwanksta

TIL Magic: The Gathering had a racist card whose id was literally 1488. [twitter.com/kensweet/statu...](https://twitter.com/kensweet/status/12681488)

10:20 PM · Jun 10, 2020



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The most unusual take belongs to the Scottish YouTuber Count Dankula, who thanked Wizards for taking the cards off the market – as the ban would vastly increase their value as collectibles.



Count Donkeybus
@CountDankulaTV



Wizards are banning MTG cards that have racist imagery.

I already bought a bunch from the market just as this happened, the value of them is already going way up.

Thanks Wizards, your virtue signalling earned me a profit.



By Wizards of the Coast
[Archive](#)

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Today, we will be changing the multiverse ID and removing the Gatherer card image for the card Invoke Prejudice, originally printed in 1994. The card is racist and made even worse by the multiverse ID it was unfortunately codified with years ago. There's no place for racism in our game, nor anywhere else.

But to that point, it should never have been published nor placed in the Gatherer. And for that we are sorry. The events of the past weeks and the ongoing conversation about how we can better support people of color have caused us to examine ourselves, our actions, and our inactions. We appreciate everyone helping us to recognize when we fall short. We should have been better, we can be better, and we will be better.

To that end, we will be removing a number of images from our database that are racist or culturally offensive, including:

- Invoke Prejudice
- Cleanse
- Stone-Throwing Devils
- Pradesh Gypsies

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12:00 PM · Jun 11, 2020



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The ban comes amid a wave of similar censorship by corporations eager to show their support for Black Lives Matter, a US movement for “*racial justice*” that has organized protests over the fate of George Floyd, an African-American man who died last month after a Minneapolis, Minnesota police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.



Molson Hart
@Molson_Hart



Much talk of how Magic the Gathering is a racist game.

In chess, there are black and white anthropomorphic pieces. White goes first.

Within 10 years, will the rules or availability of black/white sets change to address this characteristic of chess?



148 votes · Final results

10:06 PM · Jun 11, 2020



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Netflix pulls TWO MORE shows to appease 'racial justice' warriors & Black Lives Matter

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Romantic Republicans seeking a return to Cold War aggression are deluded – no-one values America's tarnished values anymore

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