

## **Supporting Rhodes Must Fall**

**Proposer:** Ross Speer

**Secunder:** Dan Iley-Williamson

### **This MCR Notes:**

1. Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford are calling for the removal of the statue of Cecil Rhodes that overlooks the High Street as part of Oriel College. They have protested against this outside Oriel and have presented a petition calling for the fall of the monument to the Provost of Oriel.
2. That Cecil Rhodes was a man responsible for establishing and entrenching the migrant labour system in Southern Africa and trapping 2 million black South Africans in a geographical system of poverty and exploitation that continues in the present.
3. That Rhodes is known as the forefather of apartheid due to his role in laying the legislative and ideological foundations for South African Apartheid through the Glen Grey Act of 1894.
4. That Rhodes was responsible for the theft of billions of pounds of mineral wealth in his lifetime, including a significant amount of the diamond wealth of Southern Africa.
5. That Rhodes stole approximately one million miles of land and systematically had murdered est. 60,000 people through the establishment of the British South Africa Company's Police.
6. That Oriel College has now said that they will not remove the Rhodes statue, citing financial pressure from potential donors as the reason for this decision.

### **This MCR Believes:**

1. That the veneration and celebration of a racist, colonialist murderer is unacceptable.
2. That the iconography of our University glorifies colonialism.
3. That our iconography should be determined through democratic process that reflects the values, concerns and voice of its student body, in particular students of colour, who continue to be institutionally marginalized within Oxford.
4. That our University should be a supportive environment for all students, including students of colour and students directly affected by the impact of the actions and legacy of Rhodes and other colonialists.
5. That these students should not be alienated by or have to live in an environment which openly glorifies their oppressors.
6. That we should show solidarity with these students as the only way in which we can foster a cohesive, inclusive and just environment in which the welfare of students takes priority.
7. That the efforts of the Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford movement has opened up a productive dialogue which has raised awareness about the actions of Rhodes, allowed space for the voices of students of colour and has facilitated a critical conversation around how we can decolonise our university.
8. That Oriel has allowed money to override morality.

### **This MCR Resolves:**

1. To support the demand of Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford for the fall of the monument to Cecil Rhodes.
2. To condemn Oriel's decision to keep the statue up.
3. To publicise the demands and events hosted by Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford.