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The New Social Views on Police Brutality, Post George
Floyd and Partisanship in the American Politics and
Media

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Candidates:

Mr. Abou bakr es seddiq BENSALAH

Miss. Imane GUERRA

Supervisor :

Mr. Youcef BENNAA

Board of Examiners

Dr. HAMMOUDI aboubaker	University of M'sila	Chairperson
Mr. BENNAA Youcef	University of M'sila	Supervisor
Miss. LAOUIDJI karima	University of M'sila	Examiner

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Declaration

We hereby solemnly declare that the work we are going to present in this thesis entitled
**The New Social View on Police Brutality, Post George Floyd and Partisanship in Politics
and American Media**

is our own to the limits of our knowledge , and has not been submitted before to any other institution or university or degree and all sources that we have used and quoted from have been indicated by means of complete references . This work is to be carried out and completed at Mohamed Boudiaf University M'sila , Algeria .

Signature :

Abou bakr

Signature :

Imane.....

Date : 17th June , 2021

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Dedication

This work is dictated to my parents who supported me my entire life and they pushed me to overcome all the difficult challenges in life , and my beloved sisters and dearest brothers , and to all my friends .

Aboubaker .

Dedication

I dictate this dissertation to the deepest love to my father “may Allah bless him with his mercy “, who supported me and encouraged me all his life to be here and because of this he is never really be gone and he is in my heart and prayers all the time . this work is dictated to the warm heart my mother and lovely sisters and beloved brother , and to my dearest friend .

Imane.

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Abstract

This dissertation highlights an important issue which is police brutality against African Americans and how the death of George Floyd influenced political parties and the media. It evokes important questions on the nature of violence practiced against black community, it gives a truthful description of their long history of suffering from racism and brutality of law enforcement in America. This study will also highlights the different reactions to George Floyd protests from both Republicans and Democrats, this paper will contain an analysis of media coverage of the events that followed the tragedy .

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General introduction :

Systemic police brutality is the unjustified and unconstitutional use of force by departments or officers against people based on their ethnicity and religion . Police brutality includes assaults , torture , and unnecessary use of weapons such as batons and guns , those brutal attacks often cause a lot of physical damages to victims and sometimes they can cause death . Ethnic diversity in America is one of the main reasons that increased the numbers of police brutal attacks against native Americans .

Historically black people were the most affected ethnic group from police brutal and unjustified attacks against their community . Racism was the major cause of police brutal attacks which were directed toward black community , they faced all types of discrimination that were enforced mainly by police departments and officers . African Americans dark history with the police started in colonial America when they were treated harshly by slave patrols which were the first form of policing in America as it was stated by Reichel (1992, as cited in Garry Potter , 2013) .

Even when black people became officially free they continued to struggle with police racism and brutality in The Jim Crow Laws Era and from The Ku Klux Klan terrorism which had huge impacts on black community . Black people struggle did not end even after the recent death of a 46 years old African American named George Floyd , the tragedy opened another wound in the heart of every black citizen . Massive number of black people gathered to protest against police brutality and to push for new law enforcement reforms that would protect them from being killed be the police .

Racism and brutality against black people continue to exist and George Floyd murder had huge impact on political parties and American media . BLM protests created new social

views on police brutality and variety of reactions from famous Republicans and Democratic figures , they also had different opinions on how to reform law enforcement in the country . Media were also divided in their coverage on the events and had different reactions to BLM protests and black people fight for equality and social justice .

What motivated us to investigate in this topic is its importance because it is not only the issue of African Americans , it is the issue of every black person in the world . Furthermore the death of Floyd impacted many other thing including politicians and the media coverage of the events was incredible , because his name headlined almost every media in the country . This raised our attention to investigate the nature of police unjustified use of force to brutalize black community .

This study main objectives are to find evidences which prove that there is systemic police brutality against black people who were and still targeted by police departments . We will also analyze the impact of George Floyd death on Republican and Democrats views on racism and brutality of law enforcement . This paper will highlight the major differences in politicians reactions to the protests , but most importantly this study will explain the major differences in Republicans and Democrats police reform bills , in addition to that there will be discussions of their reactions to Capital storming and Derek Chauvin trial . Finally we will analyze the coverage of both right and left media to find the main differences in their coverage .

The questions that will give birth to this dissertation are how did policing started in America ? and how was the relation between black people and the police ? are black people intentionally targeted and brutalized by law enforcement ? many other important questions will be highlighted in this research paper which are how did Floyd death impacted politicians ? what are the major differences between Republicans and Democrats police

reform bills ? and finally how did right wing and left wing media covered the events that followed Floyd death ?

Many researchers have shown interests in investigating policing and relation between law enforcement and black community . Philimon , W (2020) provided many evidences that proved that blacks were always targeted by the police , he provided details on the decisions which had huge impact on black people , and how police took advantage of them to terrorize and brutalize their community , he talked about George Floyd death , but he did not mention how this tragedy influenced political life and American media .

Ramsey , C , H (2014) believed that the most challenging elements for any officer is to protect the constitutional rights of all people to liberty , equality and justice . He added that police leaders should ensure that their officers fully understand the nature and significance of the commitment this brief phrase suggested . Finally he had confidence that they will be remembered positively , and their imprint will be honorable and memorable if they remain true to their service to others , to their oath of office , and ethics of profession . The reality is that African American will never remember officers positively because they do not receive equal treatments as white people .

We used range of methods in this study starting from historical approach which is used to summarize the history of policing and police brutality . Descriptive is also used where we described the relation between black community and law enforcement , we also used historical books to understand the nature of the relationship . Finally we used analytical approach to analyze differences between Republicans and Democrats , and to analyze media coverage of the events following the tragedy .

The first chapter of the study will tackle the history of policing in the United States and history of police brutality against black community starting from colonial America to the

recent death of George Floyd . This part will also include developments in the relation between law enforcement and black people , and how some decisions encouraged police to target black people . Finally in this chapter we will try to state evidences to prove our claim that there is systemic police brutality against black people .

Chapter two of this paper will include an analysis of Republicans and Democrats to the protests . We will try to state the major differences in their police reform bills , there will be parts to discuss the Capitol storming and Derek Chauvin trial and how both parties reacted to them weather they showed support or they were totally opposed. We will also analyze media coverage and how right wing media coverage was very different from the one of the left media .

Chapter One :The History of Policing and Brutality against African Americans

Introduction :

African Americans history was full of suffering from racism and discriminations of white people . The police departments were the worst enemies that black people have ever faced in America because of their use of power to brutalize black community , in addition to that there were many evidences that police were a major supporters for white people , and throughout history police showed no mercy in their treatment of blacks in all parts of the country . African American were targets of the police even though they were free and they had equal rights as white people .

This chapter will highlight a brief history of policing in America starting from slave patrols in colonial times . There will be also discussion of the main events that marked police excessive use of power against black people , furthermore this chapter also includes an analysis of some evidences of systemic police brutality and how the police took advantage of some decisions that encouraged them to target black community . This chapter will also explain how police departments were the main reason behind the increased number of black population in prison .

This chapter also will contain some of the cases that involved unnecessary use of force by police officers against black citizens and the reaction of people to police departments brutality. There will be also short discussions of the acquittals that the court gave to the officers who were obviously guilty of murders , racial profiling , contagious shooting , and the excessive use of force . Finally one of the main objective of the chapter is to show some of the worst crimes that were made by the police officers and department against African Americans .

1 - Slaves patrols

Slave patrols were the earliest form of policing that emerged in the southern states of the united states . Southern states relied on slaves to work in plantation in their lands, but those slave owners lived in fear of slave rebellions . They needed help to control their slaves and to save their properties from revolted slaves , as a result the first slave patrol was established in South Carolina according to Reichel (1992, as cited in Garry Potter , 2013) . Those patrols made to enforce law on runaway slaves to bring them back to their owners .

Potter , G (2013, July) also summarize slave patrols three main functions . For him the primary functions were to chase down , apprehend , and return runaway slaves to their owners , also they provide a form of organized terror to deter slaves revolts and to maintain a form of discipline for slave-workers who were subject to summary justice , outside of the law , if they violated any plantation rules . Patrollers were able to protect slave owners properties and they enforced plantation rules in working places of slaves .

Hassett-Walker , C (2019 , June) also explained in an article the tactics used by patrollers to enforce laws on slaves .

Policing in southern slave-holding states had roots in slave patrols , squadrons made up of white volunteers empowered to use vigilante tactics to enforce laws related to slavery . they located and returned enslaved people who had escaped , crushed uprisings led by enslaved people and punished enslaved workers found or believed to have violated plantation rules . (Hassett-Walker , C , 2019 , " slave patrols " section , para 1)

Slave patrollers had another duty which was to enforce slave codes on black people . Britannica (2020) defined slave codes as a set of rules based on the concept that enslaved people were properties not persons , this article also mentioned that those codes made to protect owners properties from slave violence . Lamm , A (2006) stated that Virginia was

the first colony to adopt such regulations and other colonies quickly made their own codes eventually , because the number of slaves increased and created suspicion and fear among general population and led to a backlash of reactions between white people and it was known as slave codes .

African Americans long history of struggle from police started in colonial America during the eighteenth century with slave patrols . with the start of the nineteenth century many things changed in America specially for slaves , and tension between white people and black people increased and was on its highest level . New forms of policing were established during nineteenth century due to immigration and the increased crime rates that led to the creation of the first police departments in America .

2- Creation of the First American Police Departments

America witnessed major changes in the beginning of the nineteenth century due to the industrial revolution and immigration in the north . Many technologies were available at that time such as electricity , and that eventually led to the expansion of cities, in addition to that they built many factories to increase the production of goods , which created new job opportunities , but the massive number of immigrants that were mainly from Germany and Ireland created many problems within the country . Night watch was the only source of protection that citizens had at that time , it existed in colonial America and was made of men volunteers who were responsible for guarding towns from criminals specially at night .

According to Olito , F (2020 , June) This new group of immigrants clashed with original settlers from England and The Netherlands. As the original settlers believed that the new immigrants ruined American society, therefore crime began to rise in America and cities night watch was unable to keep order and protect citizens from criminals . He stated that the first official police force was established in Boston in 1838 as a response , then New York built its own force in 1845 followed by Chicago, New Orleans , by the 1880s almost every major

city in the country had a police force , almost all of the forces had the same structure . They had the same duty which was to prevent crime and maintain order .

Britannica contributors (n . d) article explained the model of policing used in the first established police forces in America :

Those early departments all used the London Metropolitan Police as a model. Like the Metropolitan Police , American police were organized in a quasi-military command structure .Their main task was the prevention of crime and disorder, and they provided a wide array of other public services . (Britannica , n , d " Early police in the United States" section . para 5)

Sir Robert Peel was the founder of the London Police after an act passed by him to the parliament in 1829 . The rising of crime and disorder in London was the main reason of this major step , and Americans were highly influenced by the London Metropolitan Police model of policing and they decided to adopt this model to the new formed forces in America , because they believed that it would be very effective way to reduce crime as well as to maintain order in the country .

Lundman (1980, as cited in Garry Potter , 2013) explained the characteristics of the new established police forces . first of all he mentioned that they were publicly supported and bureaucratic in form , and he added that police officers were full-time employees and not working as volunteers , also departments had permanent and fixed rules, and employment as a police officers was continuous , and finally police departments were accountable to a central governmental authority .

African Americans were not safe from the new formed police forces especially after the 13th Amendment and the abolition of slavery in 1865 . Black people became officially free and they were supposed to be protected by law , at that time there were no more slave patrolling and modern police forces were responsible for the safety and order in cities .

Philimon , W (2020) stated that blacks were still heavily policed by law enforcement officials, especially in areas that passed black codes, or laws that restricted property ownership and employment .

The abolition of slavery did make all black people free but they were far from being free . It actually created new problems that they had to deal with , because southern states relied the most on slaves , as a result they established the Jim Crow Laws as a response to that decision , in addition to that The Ku Klux Klan and other groups were formed in order to terrorized black community . African Americans had a new challenge at that time which was to ask for equality .

3- Policing During The Jim Crow Laws Era

The end of the American Civil War marked the first victory for the former black slaves and started the reconstruction period in America . White people in the south were concerned about finding a way to maintain their dominance and their white supremacy over other races specially Blacks , in 1875 congress passed the civil right of that year which gave all Americans citizens equal rights regardless of their race , for them those rights that were given to blacks would threaten their thrown and they may take away power and wealth from their hand , so that act accelerated the process of passing Jim Crow Laws to prevent black people from enjoying those rights.

Jim Crow Laws were made to legalize segregations based on the concept that black and white communities must not be equal . Tischauser , L , V (2012) in her book *Jim Crow Laws* argued that U.S Supreme Court gave The Jim Crow Laws the legal protection and laid the constitutional foundation of the Jim Crow era , according to her three decisions made in interpreting the legal status of separating people by race which were Slaughterhouse Cases (1873) , Civil Rights Cases (1883) , and Pressy v. Ferguson (1896) . She argued that the

court decisions helped in constructing a segregated society in America and Tennessee 1881 law was the first ever Jim Crow Law adopted in the United States .

Jim Crow Era started after the Supreme Court made it constitutionally legal . Racial segregations were applied mainly in education , voting rights , housing , and transportation , Police officers in that era were responsible for many arrests and attacks against black people who were accused for violating those laws , and the relation between African Americans and the police became more and more complicated . Rosa Parks incident is a perfect example of police treatment of blacks during that period , Rosa refused to give up her bus seat in the colored section to a white passenger , after that she was arrested by a police officer and was charged for violating a segregation law. Black people decided to boycott transportation after the arrest.

Jim Crow Laws had huge impact on African Americans life . Police were one of the main reasons that made that period difficult for black people , they arrested and attacked many black people for violating segregation laws , and they were one of the main tools white people used to maintain their superiority over black community , and those laws were an another example of the antagonism and hate between black community and the police. Many other things happened after the application of racial segregations against African Americans which increased violence against black community .

4- The Ku Klux Klan (KKK)

The foundation of The Ku Klux Klan was one of the unwanted outcomes of the abolition of slavery . Southerners anger increased after losing their power and they were worried about defending their white supremacy , history website editors (2009) noted that the KKK was found in 1865 and extended into almost every southern state by 1870 and Nathan Bedford Forrest was chosen as the first leader or grand wizard of the Klan .

this violent group of white supremacist was found to retain the dominance of the white Americans and they used every way possible to do that .

The KKK members increased and one of their main objective was to prevent newly freed slaves from enjoying their civil rights .The members of the group were highly aggressive and they destroyed black people properties , in addition to that they attacked and tortured many blacks who were accused for doing something for a white men , even though they were protected by law and have civil rights like any other American . The Klan violence caused many deaths among black people and those extremists influenced the life of African Americans .

Lynching was one of the most effective ways that the members of the Klan used to terrorize and torture black people . Abbott, G. (2019) defined lynching in America as a form of violence in which a mob, under the pretext of administering justice without trial, executes a presumed offender, often after inflicting torture . Lynching of Michael Donald the 19 year old African American in Alabama in 1981 by several KKK members is a perfect example of how brutal was The Klan treatment of black people . Michael's body was found dangling on a tree as it was described by Gore , L (2018) .

One of the main issues that existed at that time was police role in protecting black community from The Klan extremism and preventing their practices . Philimon , W (2020) discussed that some law enforcement and other government officials became KKK members, especially in the South . According to Winkle , T (2020) American history included some law enforcement organizations in the early 1900s that were aligned with, and even controlled by the Klan . He added that the Ku Klux Klan sometimes claimed it protected the public when the police could not .

Police officers alliance with the Klan can explain some of the brutal attacks that targeted black people at that time . Black community were and still targets of the corrupted

policing system in America and their issues with the police did not end at that point , white people overpowered black people after the creation of the Klan and . The KKK members were able to destroy black people properties and to kill many of them and police departments did not provide enough protection to black people from the Klan terrorism .

5- The Red Summer of 1919

The twentieth century was not different for black people in America . Racial tension between black and white people was incredibly increased because of The Jim Crow Laws segregations and The Klu Klux Klan terrorism , many black people were forced to move to the north to escape the harsh south which led to a great migration and created many problem between ethnic groups . The Red Summer of 1919 marked blacks brave attempts to defended their community against humiliation and violence of white people .

The term Red Summer was first used by civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson . The story started when black people decided to defend themselves from segregation policies that were enforced in many states , Riots and protests started in many states and lasted over months of bloody fights between the two races and many people died from both sides . Higgins , A (2019) argued that during the Red Summer there was approximately 25 riots and mob violence cases recorded , and 97 lynchings , and the massacre in Elaine , Arkansas that lasted three days in which over 200 black people died .

Chicago riot was one of the bloodiest clashes between white and black people and once again police officer was the reason behind the start of that uprising . The story started when the 17 years old African American Eugene Williams accidentally crossed an invisible line at a beach in Lake Michigan in Illinois which was made to separate black and white sections , group of white people stoned Eugene and his friends which led to his death . The real problem started when a police officer did not arrest the murderer , even though he eye witnessed the

incident and he saw the white man who killed Eugene . That incident was the start of a week of violence and bloody fights that caused many death by the end of that riots .

Barrett , C (2020) mentioned that Governor Frank Lowden ordered the state militia to enter the city to stop the riot after the police failed to stop the chaos . According to Bates , K ,G (2019) police inaction did not surprise John Russick the Vice President for Interpretations and Education for the Chicago History Museum , he described the white police in Chicago at that time as the tool of white supremacy , he added that all the tools of power in 1919 were in the hands of white . John description can explain how important the police was for white supremacy which it might be a perfect explanation for most of their brutal attacks on black people .

The Red Summer ended and hundreds of black people died in that period in order to defend themselves from white supremacy . White people realized that blacks were able to defend and protect themselves and they were ready to fight back whenever they were attacked or threatened by whites . For the police it was a very difficult challenge to protect people from such violent and brutal confrontations . Many people suspected the police for being corrupt and racist because of their actions during riots .

6- The Watts Riots and the Foundation of the First SWAT Teams in America

The Watts Riots story started when a police officer attempted to arrest 21 year old African American Marquette Frye in the Watts neighbourhood in Los Angeles for being suspected of driving while intoxicated . Frye actually resisted the arrest and many people gathered and joined the scene , back up officers arrived and the fights started and lasted for six days to end police mistreatment of black people . Nearly 14,000 members of the California National Guard were called to contain the situation and protect police officers from rioters . The riots damages estimated to more than 40 million dollar and 34 deaths .

Watts Uprisings made Chiefs and officers worried about their safety because of the uprisings and their failure to stop most of them . They started to think about new programs or tactics that would protect them from danger and put an end to any blacks revolts . The Official Site of The Los Angeles Police Department (n , d) pointed out that the special weapons and tactics (SWAT) originated in the late 1960s due to several incidents against civilians and police officers around the country , and it also referred to Officer John Nelson who introduced the concept to inspector Darryl F . Gates who approved the concept and the city of Los Angeles found the first SWAT team in America .

The main objective behind forming SWAT teams was to militarize police tactics and to give assistance in order to stop any uprisings . The Official Site of San Marcos Police Department (n,d) summarized the main equipments and duties of SWAT teams , they can perform high-risk operations regular officers can not do , furthermore They have special equipments including heavy body armours , shields , rifles , grenades , and snipers . SWAT teams duties included : hostage rescues , counter-terrorism operations , serving high risk arrest .

The foundation of those SWAT teams was one of the reasons that many other riots started in the country later like the one in Detroit and in New York . Black people confronted with more weapons which led to more violence and more use of the excessive force by police officers , but the bright side of that decision in that states were able to break up many uprising and save many properties from being destroyed by rioters . Finally African Americans did not give up and always fought back despite they were very weak compared to the powerful SWAT teams .

7- The War on Drugs

In the late 1960s the illegal use of drugs increased in America and young people were the most effected by drugs . Richard Nixon was the president at that time and his administration was worried about availability of drugs and the increased number of dealers and users , in June 1971 President Nixon declared a war on drugs to combat illegal use of drugs and to increase incarceration and penalties for using it , but the outcomes of this campaign affected the communities of colour specially black people .

President Richard Nixon ordered to establish Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide assistance to his campaign against drugs . The main objectives of the new established force was to enforce laws and regulations that were made to combat drug dealers and users in the country . DEA officers were responsible for arresting drugs traffickers and they sometimes cooperated with other local enforcement officers during investigations . Since its creation in 1973 the number of arrests and prison population was incredibly increased during the following years .

The impact of the campaign on black community appeared immediately after its start of the campaign . Philimon , W (2020) argued that the war on drugs increased the number of arrests and resulted in harsher prison sentences and it targeted black people , he also mentioned the confirmation of former Nixon domestic policy chief John Ehrlichman that the effort was designed to impact black families . Pearl , B (2018) discussed the fact that black Americans are nearly six times more likely to be arrested for drug-related offenses and nearly 30 percent of all the arrests are for black people .

Mandatory minimum sentences were created by congress in 1986 and 1988 to control the possession of drugs and guns . The court was the responsible of giving those sentences to convicted person for their crimes , if the crime is drug possession the judge should consider the type and the weight of the drug before giving the mandatory sentence for the offender .

The application of those sentences had huge impact on the number of black people in prison . Pearl , B (2018) pointed out that black persons are twice likely to receive a mandatory sentence for their crimes than a white persons and they are also less likely to receive a relief from it than white persons .

The war on drugs campaign and the application of the mandatory minimum sentences were among the most influential decision on black community . Black people arrests were heavily increased as well as the population in prison due to those decisions that were made to hurt their community . Police were allowed to stop and frisk persons based on suspicion that a crime was committed and they had the right to question them , some racist officers used that advantage when they entered black people neighbourhoods to search for drugs dealers and users to arrest them .

8- Rodney King Beating in 1991

Rodney Glen King was an African American activist and he was a victim of police brutality by Los Angeles police officers on March 3 , 1991 . Rodney was beaten by LAPD officers after a high speed chase then he was arrested for driving while intoxicated , but George Holiday witnessed the incident and videotaped the savage beating of Rodney by the LAPD officers who used their batons to beat him , all African Americans viewed the tape that showed other officers watching the beating and did no thing to protect the victim . Rodney suffered fractured bones and some brain damages after the brutal attack .

LAPD reputation was in real danger after the beating because people started to see it as a racist organization that used its power to brutalize a black person . Four officers were charged for assault and the use of excessive force , but according to Sastry , A and Bates , K , G (2017) in April 29 , 1992 a year after the officers were charged a jury consisted of 12 persons found that the officers were not guilty , The acquittals were announced around 3 p.m ,

shortly after the court announced the verdict riots started in LA against the decisions of that trial and black people were very upset and outraged because they wanted justice for Rodney .

The questionable decisions of that trial did not hide the reality that what most of people around the world saw was definitely a crime. Thomas Bradley the Mayor of LA reacted to the verdict at a press conference “ our eyes did not deceive us we saw what we saw what we saw was a crime ”, also President George H . W .Bush spoke to the nation in May 1 , 1992 after the riot started and reacted to the beating and he said : “ what you saw and what I saw on the TV video was revolting I felt anger I felt pain I thought how can I explain this to my grandchildren ” . Media of all over the world supported Rodney and black people after the announcement of the verdict and the image of the American police departments changed in the eyes of people around the world .

President Bush in his speech promised that he will use whatever force needed to restore order in LA . He ordered 3000 National Guard officers and another 2200 were ready to provide support , he also ordered the justice department to dispatch 1000 federal riot trained law enforcement officials and these officials included FBI and SWAT teams , special riot control units of the US Marshal Service , the border patrol , and other federal law enforcement agencies , he added that another 1000 federal officials were ready to support if they were needed , finally he directed 3000 members of the 7th infantry and 1500 marine and he federalized the National Guards in order to restore order in LA .

After the violence and chaos ended black people were still angry and frustrated and wanted justice for Rodney . Police departments main concern was to save their reputation after peace returned to LA . The trial of the four officers showed the world the reality of law enforcement in America , ever though President Bush promised his people for better future in his speech when he said “ after peace is restored to Los Angeles we must then turn again to the underlying causes of such tragic events , we must keep on working to create a climate of understanding and

tolerance a climate that refuses to accept racism , bigotry , anti-semitism , and hate of any kind anytime anywhere ” .

9- The Crime Bill of 1994

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 is the largest crime bill in the history of America . President Bill Clinton signed the bill in September 13 , 1994 after it was passed by congress and became officially a law . According to Lussenhop , J (2016) the bill implemented many things like the "three strikes" mandatory life sentence for repeat offenders, and provided money to hire 100,000 new police officers, also \$9.7bn fund prisons , and an expansion of death penalty-eligible offences. Finally it dedicated \$6.1bn to prevention programmes that were designed by experienced police officers .

The Crime Bill was the solution provided by congress to reduce crimes that were constantly increasing in America and the situation was out of control . The bill added federal penalties for many crimes and as a result prison population was incredibly increased specially black people who were victims of mass incarceration , Philimon , W (2020) explained that the crime bill resulted in many more arrests to black people by law enforcement officials , he also said that the nation prison population climbed from roughly 500,000 to more than 2.2 million from 1980 to 2015 and that black people made up 34 % of the population , even though 13 % of the Americans are black people according to the U.S. Census .

Police officer became harsher than before when it comes to dealing with crimes specially when dealing with black suspects . The Crime Bill also motivated some law enforcement officers to target more black people and to arrest them for a potential crime . The stop and frisk strategy also encouraged officers to question and search more black people properties without any evidence that the person really committed a crime , also the "three strikes" mandatory life sentence also had a huge impact on black people who had more than

one offense . Black politicians were so upset that the bill did effect their community more than it did for white people and other races .

Black people believed that the Crime Bill was made to target their community and it was a conspiracy to send as many blacks as possible to prison and prosecute them harshly . The problem was that police exploited the power and advantages given by the bill to target more and more black people and racism re-emerged in a different way . Racial profiling was also one of the issues that appeared after the bill was passed and blacks believed they were targeted and discriminated because of their ethnicity .

10- Police Shooting of Amadou Diallo in 1999

In February 4 , 1999 four Street Crime Unit officers from the New York Police Department shot the unarmed and innocent 23 years old immigrant from Guinea named Amadou Diallo 41 times and 19 shots hit his body . The four officers suspected Amadou for carrying a gun and after his death the only thing they found is his wallet , the officers involved in the shooting faced second degree murder and racial profiling offenses and their trial moved to Albany and the four officers were acquitted from all the charges after the jury found them not guilty .

The death of Amadou Diallo opened a new wound in the bodies of all African Americans in the country . It also reopened the issues of racism , police brutality , and racial profiling against their community , The court controversial decision when they announced that the officers were found not guilty and the acquittal of the officers eventually led to massive protests when thousands of angry and frustrated voices asked for justice to Amadou . The Street Crime Unit was disbanded in 2002 due to the contagious shooting of Mr Diallo and their excessive use of power when dealing with black people .

The NYPD had to deal with the angry and peaceful protesters and to react to people opinions after the savage shooting that had not any acceptable justification . People started to

talk again about local police departments and many of them accused department of being racist and brutal against African Americans , the tragedy showed people once again the reality of police department . Officers used their power to discriminate black people and they were not punished harshly by the court even though they were obviously guilty and they had to be treated as criminals .

Conclusion

Police departments had a long history of racism and brutality against black Americans who lived in fear of law enforcement officers . They killed and tortured many blacks without committing any crimes , and statistics also showed the huge difference in the numbers of black and white people in prison , this numbers can confirm the claim that blacks were targeted by the system and police were the tool they used to brutalize black community . Finally it was not an easy task for black people to deal with police departments and officers who intentionally destroyed and brutalized their community .

The story did not end and the murder of George Floyd opened new wound in the heart of every black citizen in America . For more than three centuries the strongest nation in the world was not able to establish a legislation to reform law enforcement and to protect black community, black people decided to protests and fight for justice , and they hope that they will force new reforms that would protect black lives from police departments and officers brutal attacks against them .

Chapter two : The New Social Views on Police Brutality post George Floyd and Partisanship in Politics and the Media

1- Introduction

On May 25 , 2020 the 46 year old African American George Floyd was arrested after passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a grocery store in Minneapolis . Four police officers arrived at the scene and Derek Chauvin was the one who knelt on Floyd neck for more than nine minutes which led to his death , videos of the arrest showed Floyd telling officer Chauvin that he can not breath , and he kept his knee on his neck even when he was unresponsive . Officer Chauvin charged with second degree murder while the other three officers charged with aiding and abetting murder .

Massive number of black people spread quickly across the streets of the United States to protest against police brutality and to ask for justice and equality . The protests started in almost every place in the country and they appeared more racially diverse , but those protests became more and more violent and police officers had many confrontations with protesters that led to hundreds of injuries from both sides , and it was a very difficult challenge for President Trump and his administration to stop the violence and to satisfy the outrage of all black people at the same time . One of the main reasons that made it so difficult is that America was still struggling with the pandemic that caused them unbelievable economic damages .

The Black Lives Matter Movement returned to the headlines and gained international attention after the death of Floyd . The movement started in 2013 as a hashtag then after the acquittal of George Zimmerman who killed the 17 year old African American Trayvon Martin

, it gained popularity and expanded to become a national network that protest and defend black community . This social movement had a very crucial role in George Floyd protests because it defended black community against racially motivated police brutality and gave them powerful push to gain new social reforms.

The death of Floyd and protests also had a huge impact on the political life in the United states . Republicans and Democrats reacted differently to the tragedy and to systemic police brutality that became the subject of any media in America , they also had different reaction to the violence that the protests witnessed , in addition to that President Trump controversial actions were one of the top issues that attracted the attention of both politicians and the media . This compilation of reactions created a new social views on police brutality that became the issue of all Americans not only black community .

Media was the most powerful weapon that black people benefited from in order to stop police brutality and to protest racial injustice against their community . Media from different places in the world showed their support to the Black Life Matter Movement , and they covered the protests and black people new fight for social justice and equality . Some media also started to talk about the history of the policy brutality to remind people of the crimes that were committed against African Americans for more than three centuries .

1- Republicans and Democrats reactions to George Floyd Death and BLM protests

George Floyd death had huge impacts on both Republicans and Democrats who were clearly divided in their reactions to the ongoing protests and their law enforcement reform bills . Major figures from both parties exchanged their reactions to protests and to the main issues which were racism and police brutality , both sides believed that law enforcement reforms should be applied immediately , but violence in the protests and law enforcement reforms created different reaction and debates between Democrats and Republicans . They

were obviously divided when it comes to their responses to the violence and their proposals to reform law enforcement agencies .

Trump and his administration focused on stopping the violence and vandalism that dominated many protests . Trump , D (2020) had a very controversial respond in twitter to the chaos in most of the states and he tweeted “ when the looting starts, the shooting starts ” , he threatened to use the 1807 Insurrection Act which allows him to call military power to restore order in the country , Trump continued to insult and disrespect protesters and described them as thugs and he was ready to use whatever power available against them to stop violence. He also accused Democrats of taking advantage of the BLM protests for political gain .

Many Republicans followed trump and his administration and focused on stopping violence and restoring order and neglected the issues that motivated protesters . Republican Senators and lawmakers agreed that the priority is to stop violence immediately . Blackburn , M (2020) Republican Senator from Tennessee tweeted “ America will not standby as Antifa and other terrorists burn our cities ” , Cotton , T (2020) another Republican Senator from Arkansas also tweeted “ Anarchy , rioting , and looting needs to end tonight If local law enforcement overwhelmed and needs backup let’s see how tough these Antifa terrorists are when they are facing of with the 101st Airborne Division We need to have zero tolerance for this destruction ” .

Trump and Republicans threatened people that other countries would take the advantage of the protests if violence do not stop . Cornyn , J (2020) Senator of Texas tweeted that foreign foes are taking advantage of divide over race . According to Dugyala , R (2020) National security adviser Robert O’Brien spoke to ABC and mentioned that he saw tweets from the Chinese taking pleasure and solace in the chaos in America. He also mentioned

Zimbabwe and Iran , he added that there may be some Russian activists playing a role but it is different from China

On the other hand Democrats focused more on the social injustice and the need of new law enforcement reforms that would end systemic police brutality against black people . Democrats also criticized Trump administration for threatening protesters to use power to restore order and for neglecting the main issue which is police mistreatment of black people , unlike what Republicans mentioned Democrats were against the violence in BLM protests , Caldera , C (2020) stated that multiple Democrats and black leaders spoke against violence at Black Lives Matter protests and urged them not to shift their focus from justice to violence.

Biden , J (2020) The Former Vice President and the current US President who is a famous Democrat reacted in a statement to the protests and he said : “ Every person of conscience can understand the rawness of the trauma people of color experience in this country, from the daily indignities to the extreme violence, like the horrific killing of George Floyd ” . He also mentioned that protesting such brutality is right and necessary , but he added that needless destruction and violence that endangers lives is not . Finally he argued that protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason they protest .

Many other famous Democrats expressed their support to the peaceful protests including the current Vice President Kamala Harris . She defended peaceful protests and condemned the violence and vandalism that dominated most of the protests . Obama , B (2020) the former President spoke about the protests and he mentioned that they represent frustration over a decades-long failure to reform police practices , he also said that protesters deserve respect and support not condemnation . Finally Obama argued that violence should not be excused or rationalized and asked people to not participate in it .

In the wake of the protests House and Senate Democrats unveiled their proposal to reform local law enforcement departments on June 8 , 2020 . According to Grisales , C and Davis , S (2020) The Congressional Black Caucus and the House Judiciary Committee, as well as Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California designed the plan of the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 . The proposals aimed to impose new police protocols to limit their excessive use of force and to combat racial profiling and investigate police misconducts . This plan also banned chokeholds and no-knock warrants that were heavily used by officers against black people and it required states to report use of force to the Justice Department .

On June 16 , 2020 President Trump signed an executive order to track misconducts of law enforcement officers after both parties demanded legislations to reform law enforcement . Trump discussed in a press conference that with his order chokeholds will be banned except if the officer life is in risk , he added that they will look for new advanced and powerful less lethal weapons to help them prevent fatal confrontations , but according to Breuninger , K (2020) Trump administration rejected protesters and activists calls to defund the police , he also discussed that Trump comments which opposed the radical and dangerous efforts to defund, dismantle and dissolve police departments .

One day after President Trump executive order Senate Republicans unveiled their proposal to reform law enforcement in the United States . According to Grisales , C and Naylor , B (2020) Senator Tim Scott, the black GOP member led the charge for legislation with the hopes that it will act effectively on police misconduct, dangerous practices and concerns of systemic racism , the proposal will increase federal reporting of the use of force and no-knock warrants and also increase penalties for false police reports . The legislation encourages chokeholds bans except if deadly force is authorized .

Democrats and Republican proposals had different protocols to overhaul police department and the table below will highlight the major differences in both proposals .

	Democrats Justice in Policing Act	Republicans Justice act
Chokeholds	The Justice in Policing Act will ban the use chokeholds and carotid holds and will exploit law enforcement funding for both state and local agencies to establish a law to ban the use of those tactics .	The Republican proposal encourages chokeholds bans except when a deadly force is authorized and will exploit certain Justice Department funds on police departments to establish new law to restrict the use of those tactics .
No-knock warrants	This act will ban the no – knock warrants for all federal drug-related cases and will condition law enforcement funding to ban no-knock warrants at local and state level .	The Justice Act will limit no-knock warrants and require state and local law enforcement agencies to report the use of it to the Department of Justice that will make a public report .
Police misconduct and use of force databases	This act will create National Police Misconduct Registry that will contain complains , discipline records and termination records for all federal , state , and local officers . It will also require states to report to the justice department any incident that involved the use of	This act will require law enforcement agencies to search in the system before hiring any officer and review records related to him . It will also require state and local governments to report all the incidents that witnessed use of force and resulted in serious injuries and

	force against a civilian or a officers and to report the reason force was used .	death to the FBI each year .
Federal Civil Right Law	The Democrats bill will amend the federal civil right law that control police misconduct and prosecutors will not be responsible for proving that officers actions were wilful and officers will be charged for recklessly putting a civilian life in danger .	On the other side Republicans bill did not amend that particular section of the Federal Civil Right Law .
Qualified immunity	Democrats bill will amend the federal misconduct statutes to facilitate the process of finding officers who are liable for the violation of civil rights which will make them think before using their power .	Republicans did not amend it and they presented an alternative which they called a decertification process for officers involved in a misconduct .

Democrats bill faced opposition from Republican who were not ready to vote for such laws . Republicans already attacked Democrats for their campaign to defund the police and accused them for being responsible for the ongoing violence, they also argued that Democrats bill will reduce the protection of law enforcement officers , but Republican bill leader announced that he will look forward to find a middle ground with democrats , and he described the issue of qualified immunity as a poison pill that will force new efforts to pass a

broader bill , he discussed that they can do both supporting law enforcement officers and people of color at the same time . Finally White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told reporters that Trump had total support to Republican bill .

Republicans bill also faced opposition from Democrats and they did not join Republicans and refused to vote for it . The main thing that Democrats criticized was that the bill did not touch the problem of qualified immunity , the Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer and two Democratic senators Cory Booker and Kamala Harris sent a letter to the majority leader Mitch McConnell and told him that they will block the Republicans bill because it had inadequate response to systemic racism of the police , they added that they need serious solutions that will require bipartisan discussion to figure out new strong reforms . finally they argued that they need to solve police misconduct not study it .

The impact of the protests extended to the presidential elections that ended with the victory of Democratic nominee Joe Biden who became the 46th US President . Trump and some Republican senators reactions to protests were the main reason that led to their defeat in the election , because they already referred to protesters as criminal mobs , radical rioters , and thugs . Trump also threatened to use whatever power necessary to stop them from protesting , those comments were seen irresponsible and somehow racist . Trump lost the support of many states and the support of all black people and even the support of people of other races and his campaign faced a huge step back .

Democrats on the other hand benefited from the outcomes of Trump and Republicans comments to gain more support for their campaign . Democratic nominee Joe Biden criticized Trump for his comments and his actions against protesters , he responded to Trump and said that the words of a president can inspire at their best and they can incite at their worst . Many Democrats followed Biden and showed a huge support to protests and all African American

and condemned the violence that dominated the protests, Democrats' efforts to defund the police was also one of the main reasons that increased the number of supporters to the Democratic campaign in the election. Biden got the support of many states and the support of the black community and people of other races.

The protests of George Floyd opened the issues of racism and police brutality again and had a huge impact on the political life in America. Democrats took the opportunity to gain more political support while Republicans were affected by protests and they lost the support of many states which led to their defeat in the elections, now it's time for Biden administration to find new legislation and reforms that would end police brutality against blacks or at least control law enforcement officers' practices. Many black people and black activists had confidence in Biden's project to reform the police and ending the systemic brutality of state and local police departments.

2- The Storming of The United States Capital

On January 6, 2021, thousands of Trump supporters gathered to protest against his defeat in the presidential election. Protesters supported Trump's false claim that the election was stolen from him and they rejected the victory of Joe Biden. Trump spoke to them and encouraged them to walk to the Capitol. Rioters had numerous violent confrontations with officers and they forced their way through police defensive lines and advanced and entered the US Capitol Building to stop the congress from confirming Biden's victory. Trump eventually told protestors to calm down and to leave the building peacefully.

State and local police officers with the help of thousands of National Guard troops, FBI agents and US Secret Service were not able to protect the building from being stormed. Many people started to imagine police treatment if it was a Black Lives Matter protest or if it was a protest by people of black skin. Biden, J (2020) reacted to police failure and said "no

one can tell me that if it had been a group of Black Lives Matter protesting yesterday , they would not have been treated very very differently than the mob of thugs that stormed the Capital ” , he also said “ we all know that is true and it is unacceptable ” . Finally the president words reflect the reality of how different is the treatment of black people from whites .

According to Walker , J (2021) a survey posted by YouGov found that almost half of Republicans supported the protests that led to the storming of the Capital while almost all of the second half were strongly opposed to the protests . The survey also found that more than two-thirds of Republicans felt that the protests were not a threat to democracy while the others felt the opposite , Walker , J (2021) also posted that the *The New York Times* reported in the wake of the protests that there were some Republicans who discussed the possibility of removing the President under the 25th Amendment, even though he still had less than two weeks before the White House officially remove him . Republicans were divided some of them support protests while the others were against Trump and the violence in the protests .

Many Trump long time supporters criticized his actions and believed that he is responsible for everything . Cotton , T (2021) the senator of Arkansas stated that it is time for the President to accept the results of the election and stop misleading people , Burr , R (2021) senator of North Carolina also criticized Trump and blamed him for the mob violence that the protests witnessed , and he stated that the President bears the responsibility for everything happened in the protests . Christie , C (2021) the former New Jersey Governor mentioned that violence was the result of the President words , he also criticized Trump efforts to calm down protests and he argued that they were not good enough . Trump , D (2021) attacked his Vice President in a tweet and said that he had not the courage to do what is needed to protect his country and constitution .

YouGov survey also found that the majority of Democrats believed that those riots were a threat to democracy and were totally opposed to mob violence in those protests. They also agreed that if protests were black they would receive different treatment by police and the National Guard, they also criticized Trump for encouraging violence based on a false claim and believed that he should accept his defeat, Democrats also believed that Trump is responsible for all the violence. The survey showed that Democrats were not divided at all concerning this issue and they agreed on almost everything.

The events of January 6, 2021 showed the world the reality of policing in America. They also showed that blacks and whites never had the same treatment by the police, and that many law enforcement officers really treat people based on their ethnicity, sex, and culture, in addition to that the events opened new discussions concerning the issue that has never ended which is systemic police brutality against the black community. Finally, they confirmed that the policing system in America needs more and more changes to end the issues between law enforcement agencies and the black community.

3- Republicans and Democrats Reactions to Derek Chauvin Trial

On April 20, 2021, Derek Chauvin was found guilty of murdering George Floyd. Chauvin was charged with second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter, and he left with handcuffs and his hands behind his back. The trial left behind many reactions, especially from Democrats and Republicans, and American media also joined the debate by sharing their opinions on the verdict against officer Chauvin. The verdict opened new debates between politicians as well as media.

Republicans had different reactions to ex-officer Derek Chauvin's guilty verdict. Many of them welcomed the verdict and trusted the criminal justice system, while others thought the jury did not take the right decision. Graham, L. (2021) Senator of South Carolina was one of

the supporters and reacted to the verdict and said “ I accept the jury verdict and leave it up to the court ” . Ernst , J (2021) who is a famous Republican also reacted and she believed that the jury did its job and expressed her agreement to the verdict , Hawley , J (2021) Senator of Missouri commented “ to trust the judgement of juries ” . Scott , R (2021) Senator of Florida showed his agreement and believed in the judicial system in America .

Democrats also had different reaction to the guilty verdict against Derek Chauvin . Many of them believe that the verdict is a step forward in overhauling law enforcement while many others believed that the verdict will not bring him back . Biden , J (2021) addressed the nation after the verdict and said “ today’s verdict is a step forward ” , he added that he will act quickly to sign the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to restore trust between law enforcement and communities and to fight police misconduct . Harris , K (2021) also reacted and thanked the jury and said that the verdict brought sigh of relief but it can take all the pain .

Smith , T (2021) a Democrat senator from Minnesota told reporters that the verdict was a moment of accountability and a real relief but there is much work to be done to address the systemic inequity . Walz , T (2021) Minnesota Governor said that justice will come through real systematic change to prevent this from ever happening again . Booker , C (2021) Democratic Senator of New Jersey said in a statement that this verdict did not and will not fix what is deeply broken in that system . Bass , K (2021) Congresswoman said “ We need to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act , and put it on President Biden's desk ” , she added “Because that will be the first step to transforming policing ” .

The verdict created very controversial reaction from both parties . Republicans were divided many of them accepted the verdict and they trusted the judicial system while the other group believed that Derek Chauvin did not have a fair trial and he did not deserve to be convicted with all those charges . On the other side Democrats believed that the jury did take

the right decision and the trial did give a sigh of relief , but they agreed that there is so much to be done and the verdict was just a small step forward .

4- Media Coverage and reactions to the Protests and Police Brutality

George Floyd name was mentioned in millions news item just few days after his death in the hand of officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis , Minnesota . All famous American media spoke about the tragedy and they covered the protests that followed his death , media from all over the world also covered the protests and talked about racism and police brutality which were the main issues that they covered in their posts . The impact of the protests on media was unbelievable and media actually gave huge support to protesters which helped them to make their voice heard and to explain what they really want to change after the tragedy .

As it was expected famous American media were sharply divided in their coverage of the events that followed the death of George Floyd . Media shared different reactions to the protests many media focused on why people were protesting while many other media focused more on rioting and looting , media were also attracted by the debates between Democrats and Republicans , furthermore almost every media in America commented on Trump actions during protests many of them criticized him while some others showed support for the former President .

American media are classified to right and left wing media and sometimes people referred to them as conservatives and liberals . Right wing or conservatives support Republicans and Donald Trump while the left wing are known for their support of Democrats . Floyd death created different reactions among both conservatives and liberals famous media . The left media showed more support to black community instead of talking about violence and riots that took place in many states while right media defended law enforcement and focused on rioting and violence .

4-1 - Right Wing Media Coverage of George Floyd Protests

Right wing media coverage of George Floyd protests was characterized by their use of words that refers to violence such as rioting , looting , chaos , and vandalism . Conservative media focused more on violence than the main issues which were racism and systemic police brutality , furthermore they supported Trump and his Republican allies and supported their police reform bill , they also opposed Democrats bill and criticized their efforts to defund the police . Some media actually defended Derek Chauvin and accused left media for making him a racist killer .

Fox News is the most famous conservative media in the United States . It is also a big supporter for Trump and Republicans , most of the articles that were posted in Fox News about George Floyd protests focused on rioting and the looting and always reminded people of the damages which were made because of the violence in the protests . They also criticized The Justice in Policing Act of Democrats . Fox News defended law enforcement agencies and officers and showed their support despite the hate and antagonism they faced from other media in America and all over the world .

Durschlag , J (2021) published an article in Fox News and criticized President Biden for ignoring the 1 billion damages of the riots in the protests . Another article in Fox News explained Floyd past criminal history and reminder people that he spent 10 months in jail for selling crack . Owens , C (2021) an author and conservative analyst reacted to Derek Chauvin verdict in an interview on Fox News channel and described it as mob justice , she added that Democrats will do everything they want because media support them which will give them more power . Fox News authors and reporters showed support to officer Chauvin and believed that media pressure was the reason behind this unfair decision .

The American Spectator is another famous conservative media which criticized BLM protests and the violence that dominated most of them . This media criticized the left for making people kneel in the protests and making them look like serfs and wanted people to stand and take responsibility for their actions . Kengor , P (2021) who writes in this media criticized Democrat socialists and believed that they do not want just to defund the police and what they want is no more policing. Cashill , J (2021) published an article in the American Spectator media arguing that the left turned Derek Chauvin into a racist killer , he concluded his article and accused Democrats and their media allies of justifying the 2 billions damages and the dozens of lives lost by overcharging the four officers and turning a veteran cop to a villain .

Many other right wing media joined Fox News and The American Spectator and focused on the violence in protests . They did not give big importance to the reasons why they are protesting and motivated them . They also defended law enforcement officers and criticized Democrats who wanted to defund the police , in addition to that they argued that Derek Chauvin did not had a fair trial , and they believed that the jury was under pressure from media and Democrats . Most of them also agreed that President Biden should not neglect to mentioned the damages that estimated over 2 billion dollar .

4-2- Left Wing Media Coverage of George Floyd Protests

Left media coverage of the events was very different from right media coverage . Left medias focused more on why people are protesting and the need of immediate reforms , they also focused on racism and systemic police brutality , in addition to that they criticized police use of power against demonstrators . The left also covered protests around the world such as the ones in Britain , France , and Germany . They also supported Democrats efforts during protests and condemned the violence in protests .

CNN showed a huge support to BLM protests in America and all around the world . They also focused on the frustration that black people went through and the solidarity of protesters , they also supported Democrats reform bill and their campaign to defund the police . CNN authors also criticized police use of power against unarmed protesters to stop them . CNN also reacted to Trump supporters who stormed the capital and focused on the violence and riots and explained how they should be treated as a threat . CNN also covered Chauvin trial and the joy and happiness of African Americans after the verdict was announced and considered it a victory for black people .

MSNBC also supported BLM protest and focused on the main issues addressed by protesters which were racism and brutality of law enforcement officers . MSNBC published a video which showed police officers attacking unarmed protesters using batons and tear gas in many places including New York , Los Angeles , Indianapolis , Chicago , and Philadelphia . Reid , J (2021) who is MSNBC commentator criticized police reaction to Trump supporters and said “ Guarantee you if that was a Black Lives Matter protest in DC there would already be people shackled, arrested or dead ” . MSNBC reacted to Chauvin trial and believed that the guilty verdict did bring relief , yet there is much work to be done to reform policing system in the US .

ABC also covered most of the events in the protests and showed huge support to demonstrators . Brown , C (2021) published an article in ABC and explained how Police response to pro-Trump protesters was different to Black Lives Matter , he also believed that it is safer to be white and wrong than it is to be black and right . ABC shared different reaction to Chauvin trial and Republicans comments on the verdict and how it brought sigh of relief to black community and gave them hope of better future .

Left wing media played a crucial role in supporting black people and motivated them . They also showed the world the bitter reality on law enforcement in America , and they agreed that there is much work left to achieve justice in America , they also believe in President Biden and Democrats to achieve this goal , and Chauvin guilty verdict was just the start and they need to keep ongoing to overhaul policing system and racism and brutality against African Americans .

Conclusion

George Floyd protests were one of the greatest and largest demonstrations that America have ever had . African Americans once again gathered to fight for justice and to stop racism and brutality of law enforcement officers , black people this time got the support of millions of people around the world who protested to support them and asked for justice to Floyd . Despite Derek Chauvin was found guilty on April 20 , 2021 , but that will take the pain that every black person have tasted because of police departments and officers .

Many politicians and media agreed that the jury did its job and Chauvin got what he deserves . They also believed that this was the first step and that America will move forward to establish a legislation that would guarantee that black people will be treated the same way as white people . President Biden promised that he will do his best to restore trust between law enforcement and communities and to make sure that something like that would ever happened again to any other black citizen .

General conclusion

Our work showed that black people were victims of many brutal attacks from local police departments and officers . This study also collected many evidences starting from slave patrols in colonial America to the tragedy of George Floyd , those evidences confirm that there is a systemic police brutality against people of black skin , department and officers antagonism and hate was obviously seen during the Jim Crow Laws and the Ku Klux Klan era , even The Red Summer of 1919 was an important part in African Americans history with law enforcement because it showed people the different treatment that black people got from the police .

The War on Drugs and the Crime Bill of 1994 were made to control the increasing numbers of crimes but they affected blacks more than any other race in America . Blacks were more likely to receive mandatory minimum sentences for their crimes than whites which means more time in prison , and they increased the arrests among black people . It was obvious that those two decisions encouraged law enforcement agencies to target more and more African Americans and number of black population in prison . The confirmation of former Nixon domestic policy chief John Ehrlichman that the effort was designed to impact black families is one evidence that can easily prove that blacks were targets of the system .

Rodney King beating video in 1991 by LAPD officers was a clear evidence of systemic police brutality against blacks . Police departments excessive use of power to brutalize against blacks community was also seen when four NYPD officers shot Amadou Diallo 41 times based on suspicion that he carried a gun , but the only thing they found was his wallet , it was also obvious that if Rodney or Amadou were whites they would receive different treatment .

Finally any persons in the world can not deny the fact that officers involved in Rodney beating and Amadou were obviously guilty but the verdict said otherwise .

On the practical level we attempted to highlight the impact of the tragedy on the political life in America the major debates between Republicans and Democrats after Floyd death . This paper highlighted their reactions to the protests and their police reforms proposals , we searched for major differences in their reactions and in their reform bills . We also highlighted Republicans and Democrats reactions to Trump supporters who stormed the capital and their reactions to the recent verdict against Derek Chauvin who was charged for killing George Floyd .

So , we found that most of Republicans comments and tweets on protests focused mainly on violence and rioting the dominated BLM protests . They also focused more on how to restore order than to respond to black people demands , they gave priority to the nation security and law enforcement officers safety . On the other side Democrats focused on African Americans demands and how to overhaul policing in America , they also focused on how to end racism and brutality of state and local police department that is why they introduced the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act .

Throughout this study we also found that Republicans bill focused on restoring order and trust between black community and law enforcement agencies . It limited the use of chokeholds and no-knock warrants , but in the same it did not amend officers qualified immunity which means they were still thinking of ways to protect officers . Democrats bill banned the use chokehold and no-knock warrant , and it did amend officers qualified immunity which protect officials from civil suits . Both of them did not agreed on one bill and the qualified immunity was one of main reasons that they did not reach an agreement .

In addition to that we found that Republicans had different reaction to protests that were held by Trump supporters that led to the storming of the capital building . Republicans were divided many of them supported protests while many others were strongly opposed to the violence and considered it a threat to democracy . On the other side almost all Democrats opposed the violence and criticized police inactions to stop the violence ,they agreed that if they were group of blacks protesting there would be different consequences . Capital storming was an important part of our research because it showed the world the blacks and whites are treated differently by law enforcement agencies and officers .

During our research we found that most Republicans accepted the guilty verdict against officers Chauvin who murdered George Floyd . They trusted the judicial system and believed that it was the right decision . Democrats also accepted the verdict and considered it a step forward in their campaign to overhaul policing system , but they also believed that it will not take all the pain and bring back George to his family . They argued that there is much work left to overhaul law enforcement and restore trust between officers and communities .

After analyzing right and left wing media coverage of the events we found that right media like Fox News and The American Spectator focused on violence and rioting . They also defended Republicans and law enforcement officers including Chauvin which they believe he deserve new trial , conservative media also criticized President Biden for neglecting to talk about damages which were the result of mob violence . Right media coverage was very different from the left CNN , MSNBC , and ABC were among media that showed huge support to black community and focused on the main issues which were racism and police brutality , they supported Biden and Democrats during all the events that followed Floyd death . Finally they accepted Chauvin verdict and believed that it was a good start to stop racism and brutality against black community .

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List of definitions :

racial profiling : is the act of suspecting , targeting or discriminating against a person based on his ethnicity or religion rather than individual suspicion .

contagious shooting : is a sociological phenomenon observed in military and police personnel , in which one person firing on a target can induce others to begin shooting even if they do not know why they are shooting .

Slaughterhouse Cases (1873) : was one of decision by US Supreme Court that held that the privileges or immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution only protects the legal rights that are related to federal US citizenship and not those that are related to state citizenship .

Civil Rights Cases (1883) : was another US Supreme Court decision , in which the court declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional , which helped in legalizing The Jim Crow Laws .

Pressy v. Ferguson (1896) : it is a legal can in which US Supreme Court codified the constitutional doctrine for racial segregation laws “ separate but equal ” , segregated facilities served black people separately from whites but equally to them .

Incarceration : the act of putting or keeping a person in prison or in places used as prison .

Mandatory minimum sentences : is a type of criminal sentencing that involves fixed fines and prison sentences depending on the type of the crime .

Stop and frisk : is a policing practice in which a officer stop a persons and search for drugs , weapons or any other prohibited items based on suspicion .

Bigotry : the fact of having and expressing strong and unreasonable beliefs about a race or a religion .

“ three strikes ” mandatory life sentence : this law increases the prison sentences of persons convicted of a felony who have been previously convicted of two or more violent crimes , and limits their ability to receive a punishment other than a life sentence .

Mass incarceration : the imprisonment of a large proportion of a population this term used particularly to refer to the significant increase in the rate of incarceration in the United States in the late 20th century .

Aiding and abetting murder : is to assist , support , encourage , incite , or induce someone to commit a crime .

Police misconducts : refers to inappropriate conduct and illegal actions taken by a police officer in connection with their official duties , it includes racial profiling , police brutality , and unwarranted searches .

Chokeholds : a tight grip round a person neck and it is used to restrain them by restricting their breathing .

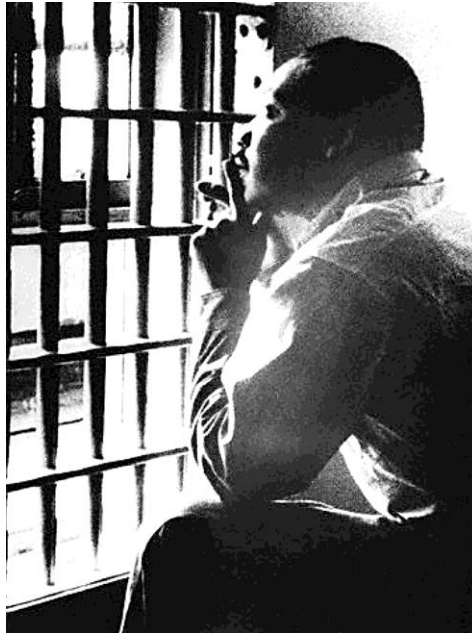
No-knock warrants : is a warrant issued by a judge that allows law enforcement officers to enter a property without any notification .

Qualified immunity : it is a legal principle that grants government officials performing discretionary functions immunity from civil suits unless an official violated clearly established statutory or constitutional rights .

Second-degree manslaughter : is when a person continues with a reckless act that he is aware of committing, and he consciously neglect the potential risks to others .

List of Appendices

Appendix A : Martin Luther King Letter from Birmingham Jail (1963)



1/ extract from MLK letter from Birmingham Jail in 1963

Before closing I feel impelled to mention one other point in your statement that has troubled me profoundly. You warmly commended the Birmingham police force for keeping “order” and “preventing violence.” I doubt that you would have so warmly commended the police force if you had seen its dogs sinking their teeth into unarmed, nonviolent Negroes. I doubt that you would so quickly commend the policemen if you were to observe their ugly and inhumane treatment of Negroes here in the city jail; if you were to watch them push and curse old Negro women and young Negro girls; if you were to see them slap and kick old Negro men and young boys; if you were to observe them, as they did on two occasions, refuse to give us food because we wanted to sing our grace together. I cannot join you in your praise of the Birmingham police department .

Appendix B : Changing Numbers of Incarcerations for Drug Offenses



1/ The Changing Racial Dynamics of the War on Drugs , by Mauer , M (2009)

Mauer , M (2009) explained the changes in the number of drug offenders in state and federal prisons based on ethnicity between 1999 to 2005 in his article . The tables below explain the huge differences in both state and federal prisons .

TABLE 1: DRUG OFFENDERS IN STATE PRISON BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 1999-2005

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Change, 99-05
All Drug Offenders	251,200	251,100	246,100	265,000	250,900	249,400	253,300	0.8%
White #	50,700	58,200	57,300	64,500	64,800	65,900	72,300	42.6%
White %	20.2%	23.2%	23.3%	24.3%	25.9%	26.4%	28.5%	
Black #	144,700	145,300	139,700	126,000	133,100	112,500	113,500	-21.6%
Black %	57.6%	57.9%	56.8%	47.5%	53%	45.1%	44.8%	
Hispanic #	52,100	43,300	47,000	61,700	50,100	51,800	51,100	-1.9%
Hispanic %	20.7%	17.2%	19.1%	23.3%	20%	20.8%	20.2%	

TABLE 2: DRUG OFFENDERS IN FEDERAL PRISON BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 1999-2005

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Change, 99-05
All Drug Offenders	71,757	76,041	80,888	84,674	89,325	91,646	95,211	32.7%
White #	16,492	17,547	18,303	19,346	20,539	21,176	22,251	34.9%
White %	23%	23.1%	22.6%	22.9%	23%	23.1%	23.4%	
Black #	31,097	33,068	35,537	36,718	38,341	39,353	40,812	31.2%
Black %	43.3%	43.5%	43.9%	43.4%	42.9%	42.9%	42.9%	
Hispanic #	23,095	24,337	25,939	27,388	29,010	29,493	30,279	31.1%
Hispanic %	32.2%	32%	32.1%	32.4%	32.5%	32.2%	31.8%	

TABLE 5: BLACK PROPORTION OF DRUG ARRESTS, EXCLUDING MARIJUANA POSSESSION, 1999-2005

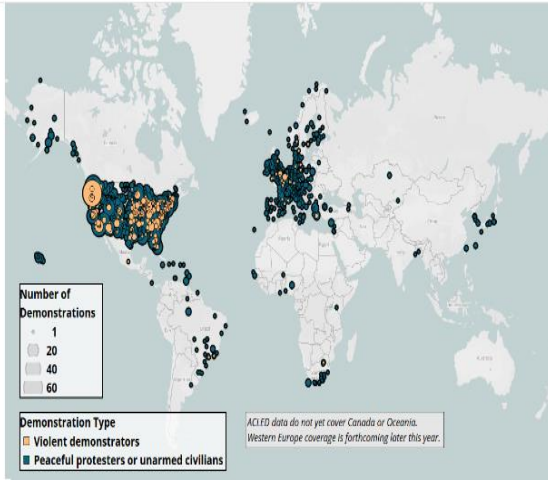
Year	Black %
1999	40.1
2000	39.3
2001	39.1
2002	35.8
2003	33.8
2004	33.1
2005	33.2

Appendix C : Police Officers Attacking Rodney King and his Pictures after the Beating

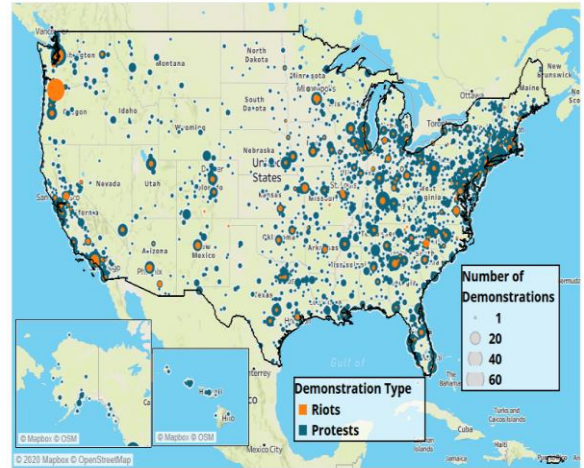


Appendix D : statistics and facts about BLM protests

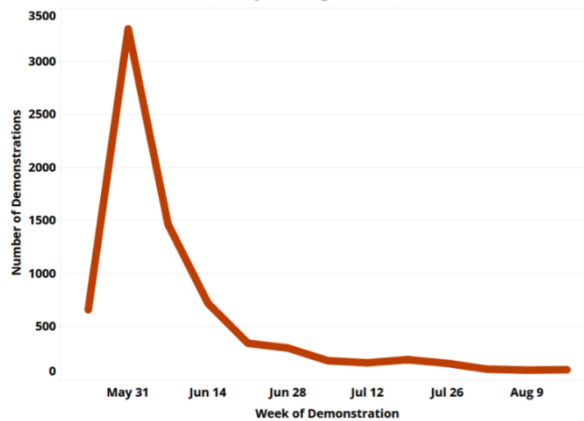
Global Demonstrations Associated with Black Lives Matter (BLM)
by Demonstration Type
(24 May - 22 August 2020)



Demonstrations Associated with Black Lives Matter (BLM)
by Demonstration Type
(24 May - 22 August 2020)

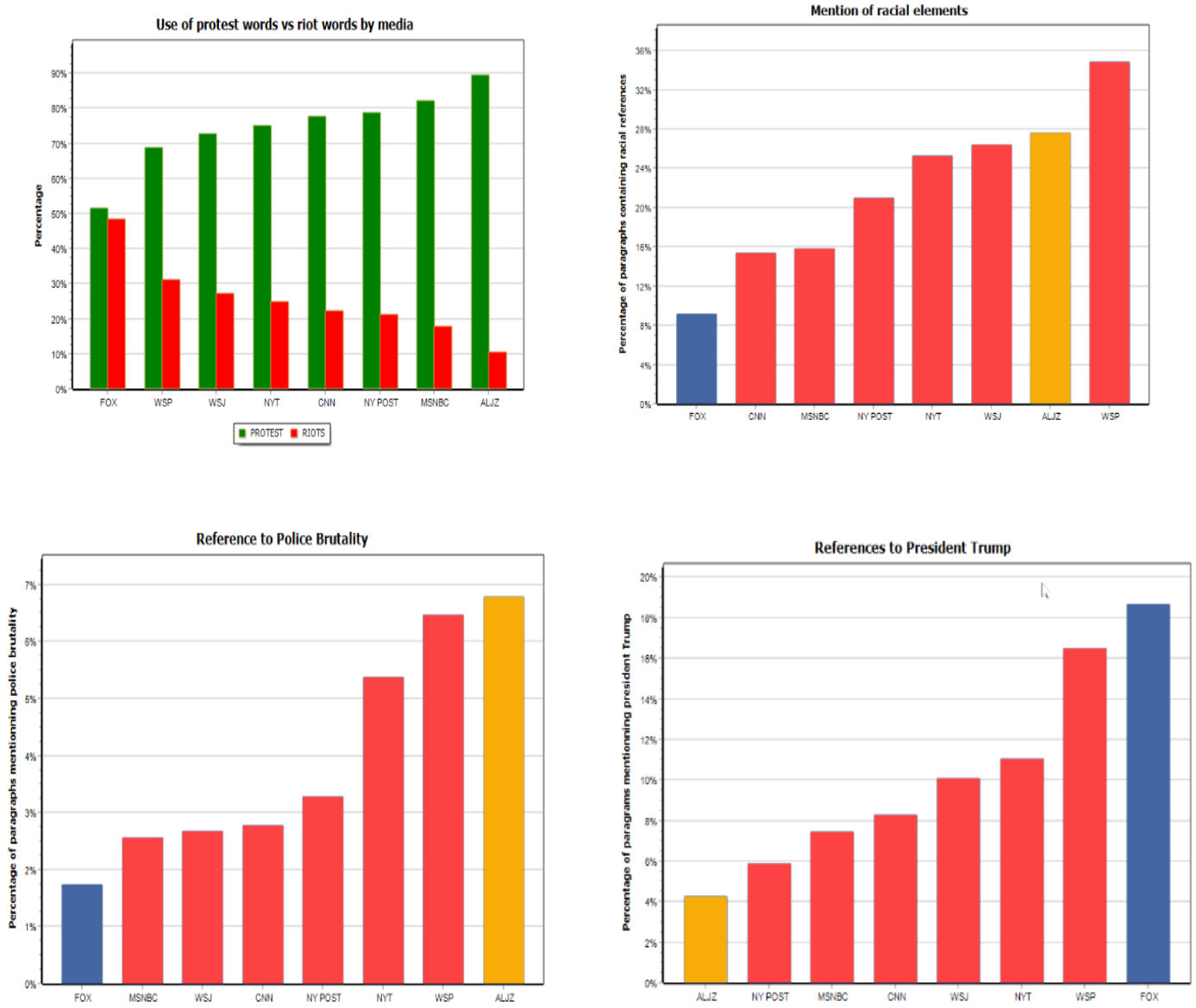


Number of Demonstrations Associated with Black Lives Matter (BLM)
(24 May – 22 August 2020)



ACLED (2020) article show statistics about demonstrations and violence in America after Floyd death . The maps and the graphic above are taken from the article and they show the numbers and types of demonstrations from the 24th of may to the 22nd of august 2020 . The maps also shows the number of the global protests which are associated with BLM protests while the graphic explain changes in the number of demonstrations in that period . The maps can explain the great support black people had from different parts of the world specially in Europe and Latin America .

Appendix E : Content Analysis of Media Reporting on Protests



The graphics by : <https://provalisresearch.com/>

Provalisresearch (2020) analyzed the content of famous media after the death of George Floyd and the start of the protests . Statistics showed that FOX used the word riots more than other media , FOX was the last one in mentioning racial elements and referring to

police brutality , and they referred a lot to President Trump . On the other hand CNN and MSNBS content was different than FOX which is a right wing media , in CNN and MSNBC coverage there is huge difference between the use of the word protests and riots , they also referred to police brutality more than FOX did in their reports . Finally they did not refer to President Trump like FOX did in their reports .

: ملخص

يسلط هذا العمل الضوء على اهم الأحداث التاريخية وهي عنف ووحشية الشرطة ضد السود في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية و الذي يعود اصوله الى بداية القرن الثامن عشر منذ ان كان السود لا يزالون عبيدا , كما ان هذا البحث سيتناول قضية مقتل جورج فلويد و التي أثارت ضجة كبيرة في الشوارع الأمريكية و ادت الى انقسام وسط السياسيين و الصحافة , و هذا البحث يلخص اهم الآراء و حوارات حول مشكلة العنصرية و عنف الشرطة و كذلك كشف حقيقة الاعتداءات المتواصلة التي يتعرض ذوي الاصول الأفريقية في امريكا و ابرز الحلول التي قدمها الجمهوريين و كذلك الديمقراطيين و كذلك الكشف عن اهم الاختلافات بينهم .