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**Black Lives Matter: Renewed Racism in the USA in the
Twenty-First Century**

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Literature and Civilization

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Declaration of Originality

I hereby declare that this submission is my work and that, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material that has been accepted for the qualification of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institution.

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Dedication

A year ago, I almost gave up and dropped out of college, and now I am finishing the final details of my thesis. It is all because of the people who made it seem like a fun thing to do; therefore, I dedicate this work to them.

To my parents for their love and support through every up and down, especially my beloved mother who promised to get me Renault 4 once I get my Master's diploma.

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Abstract

Racism is the belief that certain races are superior or inferior to others; it always leads to discrimination and prejudice. Unfortunately, in the United States of America, black individuals are unfairly paying the price of historical injustices. The current research paper aims to examine how racism started and developed over time in America, as well as how different murder cases started a movement called Black Lives Matter. This is an important topic because it focuses on the historical background of African Americans, providing us with a better understanding of the challenges they went through and how they turned their struggles and suffering into a force to fight racism and obtain their basic rights. To accomplish the study's main objective, a historical method approach was conducted, in which historical articles and documents were examined to gather information. The findings revealed that even though Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery, he did not end racial discrimination against black people, and the issue that started in the 19th century continued to have an impact in the 20th century and the 21st century. The issue of racism and racial prejudice has always been a sensitive topic in America. Racism existed for centuries, and what it did is still impacting black individuals. Therefore, people should read about history and educate themselves about what black people have endured since the moment they were captured by the British colonies, which might help decrease the hate against colored-skinned people.

Keywords: African-Americans, America, Black Lives Matter, Prejudice, Racism.

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List of Abbreviations

ALM	All Lives Matter
BLM	Black Lives Matter
CRM	Civil Rights Movements
DOJ	Department of Justice
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
KKK	Ku Klux Klan
MFA	Master of Fine Arts
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
USA	United States of America
USC	University of Southern California
WLM	White Lives Matter

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Introduction

Racism is a widely spread issue, and its definition differs from one to another. According to the University of Edinburgh, racism is treating people unfairly or badly because of their skin color, ethnicity, nationality, and citizenship. Also is a form of prejudice and discrimination against minorities based on their background. However, it can be direct like using offensive words, or indirect like touching someone's hair or skin because it is different. Moreover, in the American Heritage College Dictionary, racism has two meanings, the first is the belief that a particular race is superior to others, and the second meaning is discrimination based on race. Away from the dictionary definition, Nicki Lisa Cole, a sociologist, defined racism as a range of practices, beliefs, and social relations that maintain a system where some groups have power and privilege while others face oppression. It exists when disparities in power and social status are created by our attitudes and behaviors toward race.

Racism has always been a major issue in the history of the United States; African-Americans are among the minorities who struggled with racial discrimination. First, they have been legally enslaved and used as property rather than human beings for more than two centuries, and then enslaved for a century but under a different name. Looking back through history, black-skinned individuals constantly held less power and were in a weaker position with limited access to education, employment, and opportunities compared to whites. Their past struggles are still serving against them nowadays, the majority of African Americans are poor, uneducated, and with loans.

The history of black individuals in the U.S. is marked with many revolts and numerous uprisings, mainly the Civil Rights Movement (CRM). Due to this movement, black individuals have succeeded in gaining few rights. That was the starting point that motivated and encouraged African Americans to fight to achieve more rights. And soon racism disappeared from the U.S. and the whole world recognized post-racial America. However, this image was crashed in the 21st century and new forms of racism were created. Black-skinned people became a target of police officers, and several unarmed African Americans were unjustly killed. Those incidents touched the hearts of thousands of people in America, and at the same time instilled fear in them as they realized it could happen to them too. Eventually, this resulted in the creation of a new movement similar to the civil rights movement (CRM) called Black Lives Matter (BLM) to put an end to the African Americans struggles.

Unlike the Civil Rights movement the Black Lives Matter was a movement that started online. After the murder of a seventeen-year-old black boy named Trayvon Martin at the hands of George Zimmerman, a Hispanic American night watcher, the court decided that the killer was innocent. The news made a lot of people angry and an activist posted on Facebook the hashtag #blacklivesmatter which went viral (Chase 1093). Two years later, another unarmed black man called Michel Brown was killed at the hands of Darren Wilson, a police officer (Jebadiha422). His murder led the movement to grow bigger, and people took the hashtag #blacklivesmatter to the streets making it their slogan.

The issue of police brutality continued to exist, and the black community became a target for police officers. Years after Trayvon's case, protesters started a new Black Lives Matter wave for another African American, George Floyd, who was murdered by the law enforcement only because of his skin color. Different from previous cases, his murder started huge protests across America and other parts of the world. The recorded video of his brutal death was enough to take thousands of people to the streets to express their anger, not only in the United States but in the whole world. "I can't breathe" were the last words said by George Floyd, and the words that motivated an uncountable number of people to not remain silent.

In the United States, people refuse to admit that racism does exist, assuming that it is a solved problem and a part of history. However, the problem is more serious now. Certainly, the African-Americans have might gained more rights now than they did years ago, yet they are still seen as secondary and inferior to white people. Moreover, the issue of racism is far away from being resolved as black individuals are being killed while walking in the streets only because of their skin color.

This research paper aims to first shed light on the roots of the issue of racism in the United States and how it reappeared again in the 21st century in a different way. Besides, it examines the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement and the reasons that took protestors to the streets despite the spread of a deadly disease. Moreover, it highlights the role of African Americans in exposing the existence of racism in the United States. Also, how law enforcement took on the responsibility to make the lives of black-skinned people much harder and shorter. Next, this paper examines to what extent George Floyd's death has influenced the African-American minority in addition to other minorities, not only in the United States but in the whole world, to speak up and fight to put an end to their struggles. Additionally, it analyzes the nature of the protests in various areas and whether they made a difference or not.

The research paper aims to answer these commonly asked questions: When and how did racism ever start? What are the new forms of racism in the U.S.? When and how Black Lives Matter started? How does Floyd's death influence the Black Lives Matter movement?

In accordance with the research questions, four hypotheses are put forward: Racism started centuries ago, as black people were degraded and treated as property rather than human beings, which resulted in racist beliefs. It is hypothesized that racial profiling, limited access to education and opportunities, health disparities in addition to housing disparities are the new shapes of the renewed racism. It is hypothesized that Black Lives Matter started in 2012 after the shooting of a young black man online. It is hypothesized that the murder of George Floyd had a huge influence on the movement and helped in delivering the message to the world.

To conduct a convenient academic research, the researcher has gathered information and data using online resources as primary sources and printed books as secondary sources. Moreover, a historical approach was used to understand how racism evolved in the United States of America.

The present work is divided into three major parts each discussing a key element in the research. The first chapter is entitled "The Roots of Racial Inequality in the U.S."; it defines racism and its forms. Additionally, this chapter provides a historical background on the rise of racism. The second chapter, under the title "The Emergence of Black Lives Matter and its Counter Movements" represents the rise of a new movement, its goals, strategies, and its achievements. Also, this part discusses the appearance of counter-protests and their ways to fight the movement. Lastly, the third chapter, which is entitled "Daddy Changed the World", first studies the role of social media in helping the movement grow, then the impact of George Floyd's murder globally and how the protests went on various continents.

Chapter One

The Roots of Racial Inequality

It is well known that black people have been dehumanized and discriminated against for centuries. Their history is marked by racial oppression and a continuous struggle for freedom. Historically, from their first day in the American colonies, black people were subjected to enslavement and treated as property by white supremacists. Human enslavement represents one of the darkest chapters in human history. For centuries, millions of individuals were forcibly taken from their homes and sold as property. The transatlantic slave trade, in particular, represents a dark chapter in history, where millions of Africans were forcibly transported under inhuman conditions to work in the Americas. It is important to know this part of their history to understand its impact.

The first chapter will first discuss slavery, more particularly, how it started and how it came to an end, moving to the Reconstruction era and all its attempts to bring equality between white individuals and black individuals. Additionally, this chapter will discuss the creation of Jim Crow Laws that ensured the black's inferiority and the white's superiority, since the whites had much better facilities. However, the black community didn't surrender to the unfair treatment and created what is called the Civil Rights Movement that ended racial discrimination. Also throughout this chapter, the term racism, its forms, and its new shape in the United States will be mentioned

1.2 Slavery Era

Human enslavement occupies a terrible and tragic era in history. Denying someone's freedom, independence and life is the most terrible form of human rights violation. In the 15th century, a terrifying era of enslavement emerged, leaving a catastrophic impact on human history. Millions of Africans have been captured from their home country with no hope of returning. The enslavement of human beings started by the Europeans, they brought black Africans and took advantage of them to work on gold, sugar, tobacco, and extraordinary natural resources in territories that we now call "the Americas"(Eji 2020).

The Transatlantic Slave Trade was one of the world's most violent, terrifying, and horrible periods in human history. Almost 13 million Africans were forced into European ships and trafficked across the Atlantic Ocean to be enslaved, abused, and forever separated from their homes and families. Black people were forced to walk for hundreds of miles until

they reached the coast. Ottobah Cugoano, a young African child, when he was kidnapped said:

“There was nothing to be heard but the rattling of chains, smacking of whips, and the groans and cries of our fellow men. Some would not stir from the ground, when they were lashed and beat in the most horrible manner.”(eji 2020)

Enduring the harsh and inhuman treatment of slave traders during the journey, about 3 million people died during the horrifying journey from shock, illness, or suicide. Africa was completely left exposed to many years of war and violence and the Americas became a place of inequality. Black people were treated really badly when they were enslaved, they were dehumanized, abused, and denied basic freedoms. Laws and political structures were created to codify racial hierarchy and ensure white supremacy; Slavery became a lasting and inherited system shaped by beliefs that emphasized race as a defining factor (eji 2020).

Because the social status of Black people was unclear, and the failed attempts of the British colony to use Indigenous people as forced servants, black people were forced into slavery. In 1641, Massachusetts was the first colony to allow slavery. The other colonies did the same. In 1662 Virginia created a law that extended slavery to the children of slaves, and in 1705 declared all non-Christian entering the colony must be enslaved. By 1750 slavery was allowed in all colonies (eji 2020).

In addition to the profits from the trafficking of humans, merchants and businessmen also became very rich by trading raw materials produced by enslaved people. Traders flourished by exporting fish, timber, and rum. They also used the money they earned from the Transatlantic Slave Trade to invest in new industries, such as textile manufacturing(eji 2020).

Figure 01: Slave auction



Source: “Enslaved people were sold to the person who bid the most money, and family members were often split up”

(2024).[A photograph].History.<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery>

1.2.1 The Slave Trade Act of 1807

The Slave Trade Act of 1807 prohibited the importation or exportation of any person of color intending to keep or sell them as a slave. Captains of British ships who were found carrying slaves were to pay a fine for each slave. The Act imposed heavy penalties on international traders but did not end slavery itself or the domestic sale of slaves. Instead, it promoted the expansion of the domestic slave trade in the United States. The slave was treated as property and considered a source of labor that could be bought and sold like any other animal. Slaves were not allowed to have a stable family life or much privacy, the law prevented them from learning to read or write. The owner rewarded the humble slave with favors, while the rebellious slave was punished brutally. The slaves were also kept separated by a social hierarchy, the house slaves were at the top; the trained artisans were next; and the vast majority of field laborers who worked on plantations were at the bottom(Social Welfare History Project n.d).

1.2.2 The Early Slave Revolts

As more Africans were brought to the American colonies as slaves, they kept resisting their enslavement. In 1712, a slave rebellion occurred in New York City; about 25 of the rebellions were armed with guns and knives. On that day nine white slaveholders were killed and about 5 were injured. However, most of the rebels were caught and killed in the

most horrible way as an example for the slaves. In 1739, 100 slaves rebelled in Stono, South Carolina. Those slaves were armed, killing and burning whatever came into their path. 25 white slaveholders were killed but those who were kind to their slaves were relieved. Eventually, those who rebelled were caught and killed by white slaveholders. 1831 revolt in Virginia headed by Nat Turner, an intelligent and gifted man, was the bloodiest for white and black people. 60 white men, women, and children were killed, and about 100 slaves died. Six years before the Civil War there were numerous revolts. In 1856, the excitement started in Texas moving through Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and reached its highest in Kentucky and Tennessee. These revolts led to the death of at least sixty blacks, hundreds were tortured and thousands were arrested (Blakemore).

1.2.3 Free Blacks

Before slavery was officially ended, many African Americans managed to secure their freedom and lived in a state of semi-freedom. In 1860, there were almost 500,000 free African Americans in America. The majority was in the south and the others were everywhere else in the country including the Midwest and the Far West. Many slaves bought their freedom from their owners and many others became free through the slave owner's will. Free Blacks, however, were considered free only in name. They were prohibited from voting, owning property, and freedom of movement while having some access to education. It should be mentioned that free blacks could not defend themselves in court; for example, if a white person accused a free African American of being a slave, the accused couldn't defend himself. Through time, Free Blacks created their own organizations, including churches, schools, and mutual assistance groups. The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church was one of the first of these institutions. The church went through harsh treatment revealing a clear fear of black unity and solidarity (US History 2023)

1.2.4 Civil War and the Abolition of Slavery 1861-1865

The American Civil War was fought in the United States between northern states and southern states. The disagreement over slavery caused such tension that it eventually led to the Civil War. In 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected to be president. Lincoln was against slavery, describing it as a "monstrous injustice." The white southerners thought that Lincoln would destroy their way of life by freeing the slaves. As a result, 11 Southern states seceded from the Union and created the Confederate States of America. Although the president was

against slavery, his primary focus was to save the Union. For him maintaining the union is more important than freeing slaves. However January 1, 1863, Lincoln declared all slaves in the rebellious states were free (Friedman).

1.2.5 The Emancipation Proclamation

Lincoln's strategy to save the Union, by freeing Black slaves the economy of the southern side, also known as the Confederacy, faced significant disruption thus impacting its capability to engage in warfare. After gaining freedom, the former slaves had the chance to join the Union forces, essentially "earning" their freedom through military service. More than 180,000 African Americans served during the Civil War (Friedman).

1.3 The Reconstruction Era

The Reconstruction era is the era that followed the American Civil War, which violently divided the country over the subject of slavery, also known as the time of political, legal, and social re-creation. During this period, the United States government started the job of enforcing Black people's new rights of freedom and citizenship in the South. For the first time in history, black people had the right to vote, own lands, have jobs, and be American citizens. The Reconstruction era represented a turning point in the country's civil rights history. It abolished slavery and the remains of Confederate secession in the Southern states. However, white supremacy continued to exist, the majority of white Americans refused to be equal with the Blacks. They responded to the Reconstruction through the use of force and terror to traumatize Black communities while killing countless Black people. Therefore, the promise of Reconstruction turned into a nightmare (eji2020).

1.3.1 The Negro Church

After the Civil War, black individuals were no longer allowed to enter the white 'churches in the South, which resulted in the invasion of the South by the North organizations. Across the years, members of the church increased from 20.000 in 1856 to 75.000 in 1866, reaching half a million in 1870. The organization served as a guide for free slaves, it taught them how to act, be organized, and be free. However, it was a big responsibility for them since it was the first organization fully controlled by black people in America (Du Bois).

1.3.2 The Negro School

With the church, the Negro school arose. The African Americans themselves started this movement. They started training teachers as a first step and within a few years, dozens of conservative colleges and normal schools with well-trained teachers started to work. By 1877, 571,506 black children attended school. It is worth mentioning that those school teachers had an important role in the Freedmen's Bureau (Du Bois).

1.3.3 Freedmen's Bureau

To ensure that soldier's blood is not wasted, the Freedmen's Bureau Was established. The purpose of it is to protect the African-American community and to ensure their economic and civil rights. Its establishment was a huge challenge socially, it was faced by rejection from the South as well as the North as it was seen as over-paternal. Even though it was regarded as temporary and soon was abandoned, the Freedmen's Bureau achieved a great job (Du Bois).

1.3.4 The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendment 1865-1870

Also known as the "Reconstruction Amendments," ended slavery and ensured various rights to African Americans in the United States. The 13th Amendment of 1865 was the first of three Reconstruction amendments. Except for slavery as a punishment for a crime, the 13th Amendment banned slavery in the United States. It gave the order to free any slaves who had not been freed earlier by the Emancipation Proclamation (Beck).

Three years after the 13th Amendment, Congress ratified the 14th Amendment in 1868, which had a huge impact on American society. It first gave the African-Americans citizenship rights and since every citizen has the right to vote and choose their leader, the Amendment dealt with that. Moreover, the Amendment ensured that every American citizen has equal protection under the law regardless of race (Beck).

The 15th Amendment in 1870 was the last of the three Reconstruction Amendments. It protected the right to vote for people, especially for former slaves. When the piece of legislation was passed, the black community celebrated it throughout the United States. The 15th Amendment was a significant moment in the history of America, as millions of people had the right to vote (Beck).

1.3.5 Black Codes

At the beginning of Reconstruction, when freed slaves tried to be independent and make a living on their own, white landowners designed laws to restrict their freedom and to ensure they were always available to work for low wages. Southern states created Black Codes in late 1865, a series of laws to control blacks; similar to the ones that existed during slavery. Mississippi and South Carolina enacted the first black codes. In Mississippi, they had to show written proof of having a job for the next year. In South Carolina, Black people were forbidden to work in any job except as a farmer or servant, unless they paid a yearly tax. While some states limited the type of property that Black people could own. Additionally, Black people who broke labor contracts were arrested, beaten, and forced to work. However many in the north claimed that the codes went against the basic principles of free labor ideology. White supremacist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan were formed to enforce the Black Codes and instill fear among both Black individuals and any white allies who supported them (History 2010).

1.3.6 The ku Klux Klan

The first part Ku Klux is a Greek word that means circle, the second part Klan means a large group of people. The organization appeared suddenly in Pulaski in 1866, during a period when no other power in the world could stop it from committing crimes in the South (Burton9). When the organization grew throughout the South, they needed a master to lead them. Nathan Bedford Forrest, famous cavalry general of the Southern Army, was elected Grand Wizard of the Invisible Empire. The organization's first purpose wasn't to kill but rather to spread fear among the unruly free blacks and the trouble-making carpetbaggers (Burton 10). They only killed when necessary. A rare instance was the killing of a spy who came from the North. The man was hung on a bridge; thus, the group saved themselves. The KKK members were like ghosts; they were unexpected and would appear from anywhere. They had a way of organizing themselves that made a group of one hundred men seem like a thousand. Even their horse's steps were noiseless (Burton 12). The organization lasted for three years and then disappeared as quickly and silently as it arose (Burton 14).

1.4 Jim Crow Laws and Segregation “Separate but Equal”

White leaders created new laws to strengthen the racial segregation and discrimination known as the “Jim Crow” system. This was between the end of Reconstruction

in 1877 and the and the mid-1960s. It was a system that enforced racial segregation, but not entirely, in southern and Border States. These laws were made to disobey the rights of the black community and ensure their inferiority (Pilgrim).

Jim Crow was more than just laws against black people. It was a way of life and colored people were forced to live in that way. These laws resulted in segregated schools, neighborhoods, means of transportation, parks, and many other public places. They also banned them from any interactions with white people, limited their opportunities, and humiliated them in public, and anyone who dared to act against Jim Crow etiquette was subjected to persecution and even death (Pilgrim).

To see what Black people had to deal with under these laws, it is important to highlight some of these norms. For instance, a black person could not shake hands with a white male and he could not offer his hand or any other part of his body to a white lady because he would be accused of rape. Also, Blacks were not permitted to show public affection for one another, but white people can do so. In addition to that, White people did not use courtesy titles of respect when referring to black people, for example, Mr., Mrs., Miss., Sir, or Ma'am. Instead, black people were called by their first names. On top of that, it was forbidden for blacks and whites to eat together. If they did dine together, the whites would be served first (Pilgrim).

The Supreme Court's decision in the case of Plessey v. Ferguson, which was delivered in 1896, established the "separate but equal" doctrine. The court claimed that the blacks would be separated from the whites but would be equal. There were separate hospitals, separate prisons, separate public and private schools, separate churches, separate public restrooms, and separate public accommodations. The facilities designated for Black individuals were significantly lower in quality, either that or no black facilities (Pilgrim).

Figure 02: The separate but equal lifestyle.



Source: Elliott Erwitt(1950). “Separated water fountains for white and colored people.”
[Photograph].Piqueshow. <https://www.piqueshow.com/home/2017/6/6/separate-but-equal>

1.5 The Civil Rights Movements

Civil Rights are the rights that each person should have in society, regardless of their race, gender, or religion. During the Civil Rights Movement, people worked together to make sure African Americans had the same rights and fair treatment as the whites in the United States. During this period, they protested to change society's rules, laws, politics, and culture to end discrimination and separation.

A group of white and black activists created an organization called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). DuBois and Mary Church were one of the prominent leaders. The members of the NAACP were against Washington’s decision to be patient; they wanted to make a change. To guarantee the African Americans' rights, they relied on protesting, lobbying, and other legal acts (Sirimarco 22). The activists used different methods to end segregation in employment, education, and the military (Sirimarco23).

The NAACP lawyers chose schools as a start to end segregation in public places (Capek 29). In numerous cases, the organization was successful, especially with *Brown v. Board of Education*. The court ruled against segregation between blacks and whites in public schools, but the white supremacists in the South were furious about the decision (Capek 30).

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the greatest achievement of the movement, and the strongest legislation since the Reconstruction era. The act officially ended racial

discrimination at all levels in employment and public areas (Grofman9). However, black and white people along with Martin Luther King continued to demand other rights (Grofman30).

1.5.1 The strategies of Dr.Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X

Dr.Martin Luther King Jr. was a pastor and activist who played a key role in the U.S. civil rights movement from the 1950s until he was tragically killed in 1968. Dr. King strongly opposed unfair laws to bring equality to America and ensure civil rights for everyone. He openly protested to show the significance of non-violent demonstrations. Dr. King helped in establishing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957; a civil rights organization that supports protesting without violence. Malcolm X was also one of the most famous Black Nationalist leaders in the United States. Malcolm disagreed with Dr. King’s approach of non-violent protesting. Instead, he encouraged black people to “fight back” against people who tried to stop them. Malcolm did not want a shared nation between blacks and whites; he wanted a separate nation just for black people. Additionally, Malcolm proposed that African Americans should return to Africa (Edubirdie 2022).

1.5.2 Bus boycott 1955

Rosa Parks, an African American woman, got arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white person on a bus in Alabama. This event led to a boycott in the city. The boycott aimed to show that African Americans were fed up with being treated unfairly. Many people were hurt, and some even lost their lives, but in the end, the positive result was that more individuals began to understand the issues in the South and finally The Supreme Court agreed that having separate seating based on race was against the rules (Britannica 2023).

1.5.3 The Little Rock Nine1957

In September, nine Black students went to Little Rock Central High School, where all the students were white. A big crowd of white people and soldiers blocked them from entering. After discussions involving President Eisenhower and others, the students returned with U.S. soldiers' protection. Despite the ongoing harassment, eight of the nine finished the school year. This incident highlighted civil rights issues(Britannica 2023).

1.5.4 The Sit-In Movement 1960

In that year, Four Black students from North Carolina A&T State University sat at a whites-only lunch counter in Greensboro. They were denied service but stayed seated until closing. The next day, more Black students joined, and the protest grew, filling the store. As those black protestors were arrested, others took their place, leading to continuous occupation. The protest spread to other cities. After months, establishments across the country began desegregating, and the Greensboro Woolworth's started serving African American patrons(Britanica2023).

1.6 Racism in the United States

The term 'racism' is regarded as one of the most complicated terms in sociology. It has many alternative interpretations, such as racial discrimination, prejudice, or both of them. Although racial attitudes and racial behavior are commonly seen as separate both are considered acts of racism. The first refers to prejudice or the way we see or think of others. The second refers to the result of those beliefs, which leads to racist actions. However, racism is seen as a broad concept that includes both actions and attitudes related to race (Barbarin14).

Racism is a form of subjugation in which one racial group exercises control or authority over another. This racial discrimination is supported intentionally or unintentionally by institutional power and authority, giving whites more advantages than minorities. Racism is deeply rooted in all sectors which leads to some people having more privileges than others. Any person of color might hold bias against a white individual, but if institutional power doesn't support their discrimination, the effect of their prejudice is temporary (DiAngelo108).

The common-sense definition of racism according to Bonilla-Silva Eduardo, an American sociologist, is "prejudice, ignorance, or a disease that afflicts some individuals and causes them to discriminate against others just because of the way they look" (21). Even more, Jones Camara Phyllis, an anti-racism activist who specializes in the effects of racism and social inequalities on health, defines racism as "a system. It is not an individual character flaw, a personal moral failing, or a psychiatric illness. It is a system consisting of structures, policies, practices, and norms that structures opportunity and assigns value based on phenotype, or the way people look" (9). The first suggests that racism is related to one's

personality and how individuals treat others based on their characteristics. Conversely, Jones's definition emphasizes that racism is a product of society rather than an individual's creation.

The concept of white privilege has three components: the burden of white men, the curse of God, and the scientific evidence of black subordination. These two philosophies were influential between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Whereas the scientific evidence of race didn't emerge yet in this century (Smith 8). English colonialism and slavery were both justified by the ideologies of the "white man's burden" and the "God's curse." The primary aim of the "white man's burden" philosophy was to civilize and Christianize the "savages" (Africans) through the process of enslavement (Smith 9). In light of this, slavery and colonialism were portrayed as beneficial for humanity.

The second philosophy is god's curse. As the English believed all humans are descended from Adam and Eve, assuming that Adam and Eve must have white skin. Some argued that Black Africans were not humans, while others believed that their skin color changed as a punishment from god (Wood 9). Consequently, the Africans were fooled by this myth and they accepted their destiny as being inferior to whites since it was god's will.

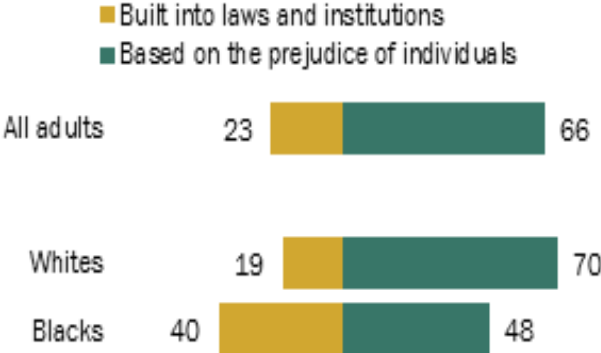
The final philosophy is the scientific justification of white supremacy that emerged in the late nineteenth century. It is considered to be the most effective tactic used to justify anti-Black racism. Over time scientific racism has adopted many forms, all to support white supremacy. Several scientists used their knowledge to support racial inequality, like Louis Agassiz, an American biologist and geologist, who supported "polygenism" which suggested that human races were separate species. This scientific theory is reinforced by pseudoscientific methods such as the measuring of human skulls, or Craniometry. The latter illustrated that white people were biologically superior to blacks (Harvard Library). However, racism exists everywhere, in people's actions, speeches, and institutions.

1.6.1 Individual Racism

This type of racism is defined as treating someone unfairly or disrespectfully because of their race, whether you mean to or not. In simpler terms, it's about showing disrespect. It can happen in everyday situations like avoiding someone on the street, getting watched suspiciously while shopping, or not getting good service just because of your race. It

is about making people feel less important or unsafe because of their skin color, and sometimes it can even lead to hate crimes (Jones).

Figure 03: Survey of U.S adults conducted



Source: “More whites and blacks say individual discrimination is a bigger problem than institutional racism”(2016) Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2016/06/27/on-views-of-race-and-inequality-blacks-and-whites-are-worlds-apart/>

On balance, US citizens believe that discrimination against black people is a bigger problem when it is based on the prejudice of individuals rather than systemic discrimination in institutions. Both black and white people share these beliefs. 70% of whites think that discrimination based on prejudice of individuals is a huge issue. Whereas, only 19% of whites believe that it is more dangerous when it is built into laws and institutions. When it comes to black people, there is a slight difference between the opinions (48% to 40%).

1.6.2 Internalized Racism

It can be described as the acceptance by minority individuals of negative speeches about their abilities and worth. It involves doubting others who share their appearance and doubting themselves. In addition, it gives other people the power to control and limit self-determination, dreams, and self-expression. It manifests as an embracing of “whiteness” (Jones).

1.6.3 Institutionalized racism

The final form of racism occurs within societal institutions. It gives certain people better access to facilities than others just because of their race. This unequal sharing of advantages is noticeable in areas like education, healthcare, housing, and employment. Also, unequal access to power, including disparities in information, resources, and voting rights, is a significant aspect of institutionalized racism. It's crucial to highlight that because of institutional racism, certain racial groups are facing disparities in economic and social status (Jones). The impact of institutional racism is still lasting nowadays, numerous minorities are suffering from poverty, lack of jobs, and poor education, all because of the unfair treatment.

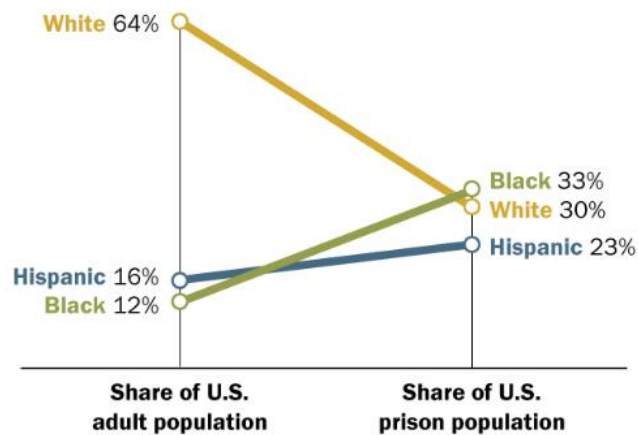
1.7 Re-newed Racism

Racism remains present, but it has evolved and changed over time taking new forms and names, such as “New racism” and “modern racism”. Today it is hard to observe the new racism because it exists in our unconscious lives. These days, people aren't as upfront about their racist beliefs as they used to be in the past. That's because now if someone says something racist, they're more likely to face strong criticism and disapproval from others. Modern racists tend to be more indirect and discreet, first because of the laws and second because of the reaction of society (Kandola).

1.7.1 The Justice System

There is a huge difference between how black people and white individuals are treated in front of the court. A Sentencing Commission report examining the difference in federal court sentences found that black male criminals spend longer time in prison than white male criminals for committing the same crime. Besides, black people are more likely to be imprisoned or die during encounters with the police compared to white people in the U.S.A. according to a research made by Pew Research Center (Hartman, Hart, Marte& Schneider).

Figuer04: U.S adult population and U.S prison population by race origin (2017)



Source: Blacks make up larger shares of prisoners than of the U.S. population (2017). Pew Research Center <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/04/30/shrinking-gap-between-number-of-blacks-and-whites-in-prison/>

Figure one demonstrates the difference between races in prison in the U.S.A. Although adult black individuals represented only 12% of the population in the U.S., they made the biggest population in prison with 33%. However, while adult white individuals represented 64% of the population, they only made 33% of prisoners.

1.7.2 The Health Section

The health section is no exception, In the United States black women face a higher risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes compared to white women. Even newly born blacks are exposed to racism, infants born to black mothers are more likely to die before their first birthday compared to infants born to white mothers. Here the disparities in access and the quality of healthcare play a significant role in influencing the results (Hartman, Hart, Marte& Schneider).

The impact of racism on black individuals is unacceptable. When compared to their White counterparts, the black community experiences higher rates of illness like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, asthma, and heart disease. Additionally, the life expectancy of black Americans is four years lower than that of White Americans. The COVID-19 pandemic came to expose racism in the health sector, the disease impacted negatively on black people more than it did to white people (Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. 2023).

Ken Alltucker, a health reporter, wrote an article about racism in the health sector. In his article, at a Pennsylvania hospital, a Black nurse said her colleagues routinely refused to give pain medication to black patients. Moreover, the majority of the workers in hospitals, nursing homes, urgent care centers, mental health and addiction treatment centers plus school health centers said that they witnessed discrimination Acts against black people in their workplace. Discrimination against black patients is a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

1.7.3 Educational section

Racism has reached the educational section, and the inequality between races has a strong impact. The majority of black children attend segregated or underfunded schools which can affect their outcomes and leave them struggling with enduring social and economic disadvantages for life. The majority of jobs in the U.S.A. require a college degree, leaving no choice to students but to take student loans for college. The majority of black students need student loans compared to white students. This can be because of many factors, one of which is that black students are more likely to come from poor families. Eventually, they end up with heavier debt which makes it harder for them to build wealth and the money problem lasts for generations (Hartman, Hart, Marte& Schneider).

Getting a good education and graduating from college begins to seem a bit more like a fantasy for people of color, it is not because they are uninterested but the path to achievement is hard. Black individuals face struggles daily from their first day in school. One of those difficulties is the presence of law enforcement in schools, which are often called upon to discipline black students on school grounds. Also, any simple fight caused by black students will result in taking them to the justice system. Another difficulty is that those schools attended by black people are chronically underfunded; this results in bringing teachers with no experience or no license (Ben and Jerry's, n.d)

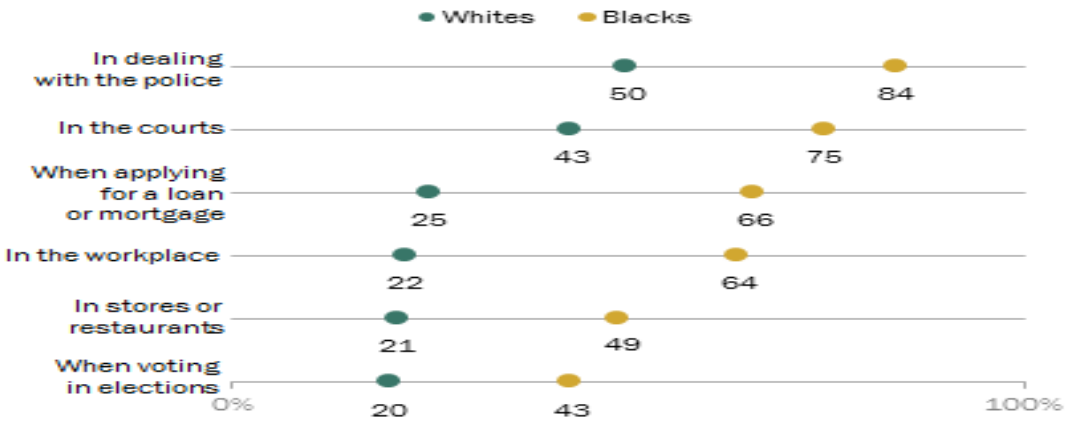
1.7.4 Neighborhoods

In many parts of the country, black and white people live in very different neighborhoods. This isn't just by chance but because of policies made by those in charge. These policies were designed to prevent black individuals from owning homes in white neighborhoods. Besides banks that showed bias against people of color who were seeking loans to purchase homes and strategic placement of interstate highways. It made it easier for

white people to distance themselves from people marked by unemployment, poverty, and violence (Sharkey, Taylor, and Serkez).

Black neighborhoods in the United States have long been deprived of the investments and resources that are traditional in white neighborhoods, including Well-resourced schools and investments in public services such as healthcare, transportation, and green places. Instead, they have faced injustices and disadvantages like housing discrimination, aggressive policing, and prosecution(Sharkey et.al).

Figure 05:Blacks are treated less fairly than whites in the U.S



Source: “Perceptions of how blacks are treated in the U.S. vary widely by race”.(2016) Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2016/06/27/on-views-of-race-and-inequality-blacks-and-whites-are-worlds-apart/>

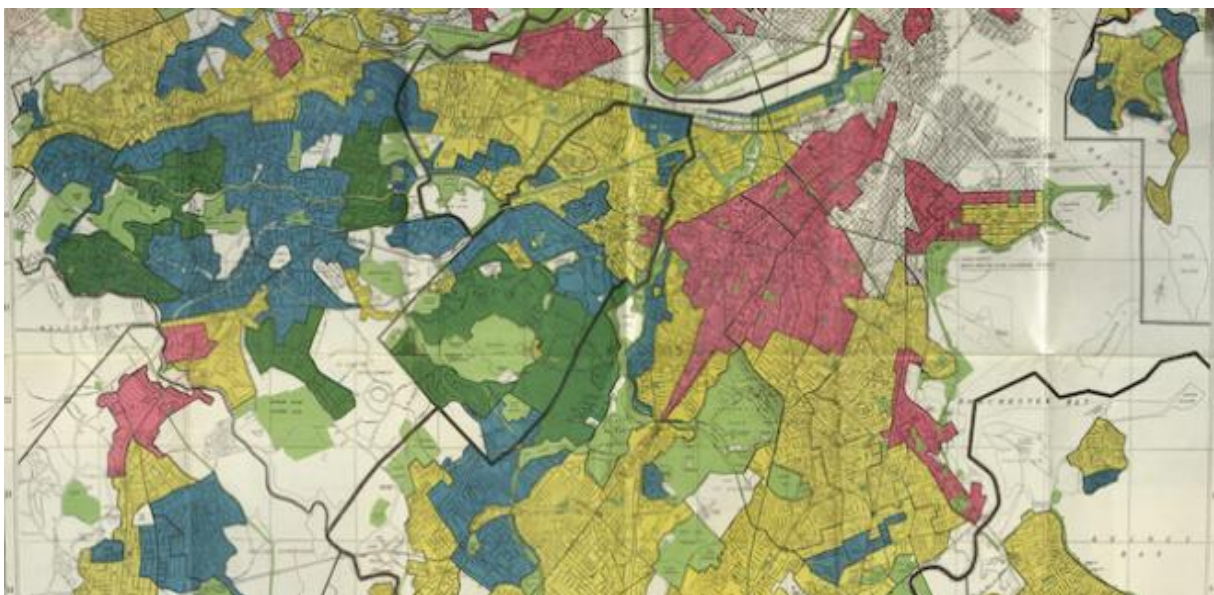
The above survey findings show the difference in treatment between white and black individuals in the U.S.A. The survey reveals that black and white adults have distinct perspectives about how life really is for Blacks in the US. For example, by significant differences, the black community thinks black people are treated unfairly in dealing with the police more often than whites do (a difference of 34 percentage points), in the courts (32 points), when applying for a loan or mortgage (41 points), in the workplace (42 points), in stores or restaurants (28 points) and when voting in elections (23 points).

1.7.5 Redlining

Redlining is the discriminatory practice of denying financial services like mortgages, insurance, and loans to residents of certain areas rather than on an individual's qualifications. These neighborhoods are marked with a red line on maps, so the lenders avoid them. The black community is the most affected by this illegal practice, as lenders would often lend money to lower-income white people but not to middle- or upper-income blacks (Hayes). In each city in the United States of America, neighborhoods were graded and shaded as follows:

- Grade A: "Best" (shaded green). This grade represented the lowest default risk.
- Grade B: "Still desirable" (shaded blue). This grade represented an acceptable risk.
- Grade C: "Declining" (shaded yellow). This grade represented a high risk.
- Grade D: "Hazardous" (shaded red). This grade represented a dangerous risk.

Figure 06: The shading of neighborhoods in the United States of America



Source: Garrett Dash Nelson. (2021).[A map]. "Redlining, Race, and the Color of Money".https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/redlining-race-and-the-color-of-money/

Homes in redlined neighborhoods were often aged or situated near unappealing or unhealthy industrial zones. Consequently, these houses were deemed to have little value. Over time these redlined neighborhoods had the highest numbers of African American inhabitants

because financial services like mortgages and loans were denied to Black communities. If any of these inhabitants wanted to borrow money the banks charged them higher interest rates to make sure they got their money back if things went wrong. This made residents in these neighborhoods struggle to build wealth or cover additional expenses like college education and passing down inheritance to the next generation (Carbajo).

1.8 Conclusion

Concluding this chapter, we have explored the complex history of slavery, the struggle for equality during Reconstruction, and the era of Jim Crow Laws. Despite the injustice and discrimination, the black community's strength led to the emergence of the Civil Rights Movement. Throughout this chapter, racism, its impact on society, and how it manifested itself again in the 21st century, have been discussed. However, this new generation in the U.S.A. like the previous generation refused to stay silent about their denied rights and started a new movement called Black Lives Matter which will be discovered in the coming chapter.

Chapter two:

The Emergence of Black Lives Matter and its Counter Movements

America has experienced numerous protests and movements, each with its own goals and strategies. The Civil Rights Movement, as an example, made remarkable success in fighting for equality for the African-Americans. However, the Civil Rights Movement isn't the only movement that stood against racism. Various other movements continue to push for meaningful changes in the society.

This chapter will discuss the movement called "Black Lives Matter". Throughout this chapter, the reasons that pushed the African-Americans to create this movement will be mentioned. Since the movement started online, it is important to talk about the hashtag #Blacklivesmatter and how it helped the movement grow. Additionally, this chapter will explore all aspects of this new movement such as the founders, tactics, and goals. It also tackles the opponent's strategies to bring down the BLM movement. In particular, the ALM counter-argument, the counter-protests "blue live matter" and "white lives matter".

2.2 Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is the slogan for the Black community. The BLM movement or movement for black lives was created to bring attention to the human rights violations against black people in America. This social and political movement used many ways and strategies to mobilize as many black individuals as possible around the country and all around the world. With the availability of the internet, black people chose social media to express their anger about racism against the black community. Soon #BlackLivvesMatter gained support from black individuals and allies both in America and all around the world (Ashburn-Nardo et al, 698).

Figure 01: The Black Lives Matter slogan

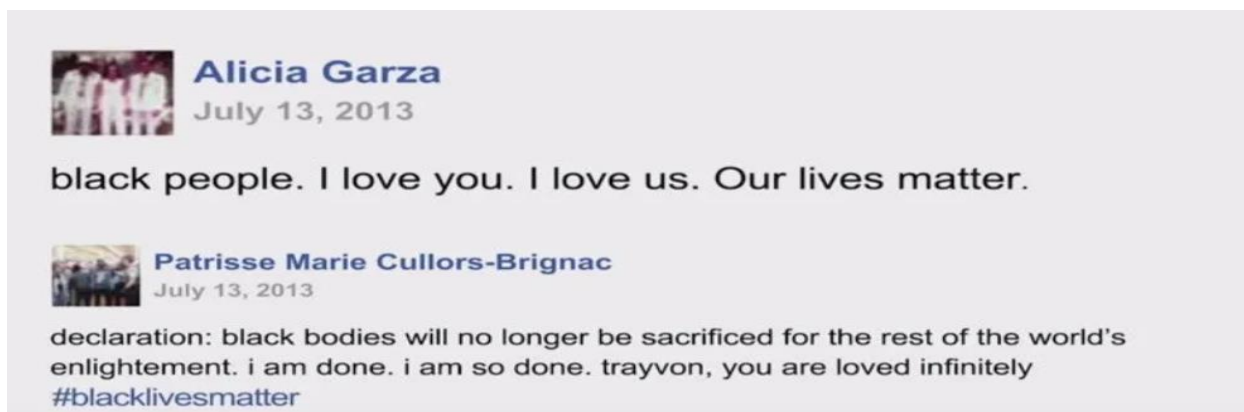


Source:DPG.(n.d.). #Blacklivesmatter [Photograph]. Retrieved from <https://dpglaw.co.uk/blacklivesmatter/>

2.2.1 From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Lives Matter Movement

Nobody could have guessed that a post on Facebook could make such a significant impact. It began due to frustration over the murder of an innocent young boy. Despite the presented evidence, the jurors declared the murderer not guilty and released him. The decision left many feeling angry. In 2013 Alicia Garza, a domestic worker rights organizer, posted on Facebook telling her readers that she loves them and that “Our Lives Matter” PatrisseCullors, an anti-police violence organizer in Los Angeles, California, responded to the post with the hashtag “#BlackLivesMatter.” Then Opal Tometi, an immigration rights organizer, added her support, and a new organization was born (Ruffin).

Figure02: The post of the co-founder Alicia Garza on Facebook



Source: The next big thing (2017#blackhistorynbt spotlight on | aliciagarza, opal tometi, &patrissecullors".[Photograph]. Retrieved from <https://nbttheshow.com/2017/02/27/feb-26-blackhistorynbt-spotlight-on-alicia-garza-opal-tometi-patrisse-cullors/>

The incident started on February 26, 2012, when Neighborhood guard volunteer called George Zimmerman followed a black man because of his suspicious appearance; a boy called Trayvon Martin was walking to his father's home after buying snacks in Sanford, Florida. George called the police station to report the situation about the suspicious man, although the operator told him to stay in the car. He left the car and followed the little kid. Trayvon's friend noticed that the guard was following Trayvon, he called and told him to run. The little kid tried to survive with his own life, but George with one bullet in the chest ended his life. (Faust. et al 241). The only evidence of what happened between George and Trayvon was the recording of the call which started with a cry for help and ended with a gunshot (Chase 1093). On the 19th of March the Department of Justice (DOJ), along with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) announced the start of investigations about the incident. Three days later, there were 1.3 million signatures on a petition on Change.org calling for the arrest of George Zimmerman. One month after the death of the young boy, people started protesting all around the country. Finally, on the 11th of April Zimmerman was found guilty of second-degree murder (Chase 1093). However, Zimmerman fought for his innocence and the court declared that Zimmerman is not guilty and considered the killing of the little boy a self-defense act (Chase 1094).

The judgment was shown on TV. Everyone across the country was watching and waiting for the final decision. Alicia Garza, a local organizer with the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NADW), was watching the TV from a bar. After the decision was announced she posted on Facebook "Black people I love you. I love us. Our lives mattered" Then her friend, prison-reform activist, Patrisse Cullors, commented with #BlackLivesMatter, and then the third co-founder mentioned all her friends in the Facebook post. The hashtag was shared by everyone and quickly it went viral. (Arnold 9).

Another unarmed black teenager was killed by a policeman in August 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri. Michel Brown was killed by a police officer Darren Wilson. The details that led to the shooting remain unclear, all that we have from that day is the police testimony. As stated in the report Officer Darren tried to tell Michel and his friend to walk on the sidewalk. When they didn't respond Wilson got out of his vehicle. There was a struggle and Michael insulted the officer. Michael tried to grab Wilson's gun, and a shot was fired. Michael then ran, and when Wilson warned him and saw him trying to reach his waistband, he fired several shots. Brown kept moving toward Wilson, and when he was less than 10 feet away, Wilson shot him in the head (Jebadiha422). Following his death, Black Lives Matter activists

organized a bus ride to take six hundred black people to support on-the-ground efforts in Ferguson and St. Louis. Their instant support to the young African American Ferguson networks brought BLM to a global spotlight. The movement gained more strength in 2015 more than 2,000 “freedom fighters” attended the first National Convening of the Movement for Black Lives in Cleveland (Arnold 10).

George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was arrested and killed in 2020, Minneapolis. As it was reported, Floyd used a counterfeit \$20 bill to buy cigarettes. When the shop manager suspected him, he immediately called the police. Floyd was cooperating with policemen; however, he refused to get in the police car because he was claustrophobic. Eventually, he was pulled out of the car, and Officer Derek Chauvin used his knee on his neck to pin him on the floor for almost ten minutes. The video of Floyd’s last moments was widely spread, which made people immediately go to the streets, chanting “Black lives matter” and “I can’t breathe,” the last words of Floyd. The protests started in Minneapolis and by the beginning of June people from all around the country started protesting. The trial was on TV because of the lockdown, the jury found the policeman Derek Chauvin guilty of all the charges against him, and his violent attack caused the death of George Floyd while trying to arrest him (“History.com”2021).

2.2.2 The Founders of BLM

Morris and Staggenborg, define leader(s) as “... strategic decision-makers who inspire and organize others to participate in social movements”. Certainly, a leader gives hope and pride to the movement's members (Morris and Staggenborg, 2004). The Black Lives Matter was co-founded by three black community organizers: Alicia Garza, PatrisseCullors, and Opal Tometi. They were inspired by the African-American Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power Movement, the 1980s black feminist movement, PanAfricanism, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Hip hop, LGBT social movements, and Occupy Wall Street(Black Lives Matter).

Scott Walter, the president of Capital Research Center, wrote about the co-founders of the Black Lives Matter Movement and their different backgrounds. He states that Tometi, the daughter of Nigerian immigrants, was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. She has a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in communication and advocacy. Before joining BLM Tometi worked for 8 years as executive director at the Black Alliance for Just Immigration.

The second co-founder is Patrisse Khan-Cullors. According to her book *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*, she was born in Van Nuys, California, and raised in a Hispanic community near the San Fernando Valley. Her mother was thrown away by her family because she got pregnant at the age of 15. Cullors graduated with a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from the University of Southern California (USC) (Walter).

Alicia Garza was born in San Rafael, California. She studied at the School of Unity and Liberation where she participated in a “training program for social justice organizers”. Her parents are “solid liberals” who were not involved in politics, yet her mother inspired her very first activism when she was in middle school. Garza was sent to Ferguson after the death of Michel Brown which led to the transformation of BLM from a hashtag to an organization (Walter).

All three women have been engaged in activism from the beginning. However, they aren't just working for better police training or more Black representation in jobs; they want to change society.

2.2.3 Strategies and Tactics of the Black Lives Matter Movement

The black lives matter movement used many tactics to facilitate the growth of the movement. It has also applied the old tactics of the previous movements such as direct confrontation, boycotts, and protests. Especially the tactics of mobilization used by the Civil Rights Movement, However, the BLM used the new technologies to enhance its impact. Unlike the Civil Rights Movement, the BLM has the privilege of using social media platforms, which made the movement reach millions of people in a very short time. Whereas a speech in the CRM could reach hundreds, now with podcasts, smartphones, and social media it could reach millions of people. (Strickland 72)

The BLM activists have used social media platforms to provide black communities a place to share their stories freely. BLM activists used the hashtag fully aware of the power of social media in reaching thousands of people. Indeed, the hashtag was used approximately 17,002 times per day according to Pew Research (Faye 261). However, BLM communication strategist Matthews stated that there is a variation in strategies across the country each city has its own strategy and BLM accepts all those different approaches. She

said “We're all anchored in what we believe to be the right thing to do. Some of us choose reform while others want abolition. They're fundamentally different concepts with divergent strategies for winning” (Bhambhani, 2016). Each city in the US has its own strategy and way to protest but they all went to the streets for one object which is justice for the black community.

In addition to the hashtag, other strategies were used to gain the attention of the dominant society such as the direct staring into the police eyes. The daring “look back” act by the BLM protestors symbolizes a rejection of police harassment. Since making eye contact with police has been dangerous for black individuals historically, BLM protestors used it as a sign of power and to show the world that they are not afraid anymore. Another tactic used by the protestors was the “Mirror Casket” created in 2014. Activists carried a coffin covered with broken mirrors to the police station and policemen were forced to see themselves in the broken mirrors, realizing the fear faced by black communities. (Yoganathan2020).

2.2.4 The goals of the movement

Goals are what give meaning and purpose to any movement. Those goals can be political, cultural, social, or all together (hailee22). As he explains in his thesis, a movement with political goals focuses on making changes through the legal system. They usually use strategies like lobbying, political advocacy, and legal actions to make changes within government and law. Social and cultural goals seek to change the way society functions. It is more difficult to achieve those social and cultural goals since they target the values, norms, and beliefs of the society (Hailee 22).

Black Lives Matter is a movement that seeks to bring attention to how black people are treated in society. As it is known, BLM's goal is to end police brutality and systemic racism. Alongside addressing police brutality, the movement called for better police training, and to punish police when they do something wrong or any unethical behavior they engage in during their duties. Additionally, it seeks to fight the excessive presence of police in minority's neighborhoods (Britannica).

However, ending police brutality is one of many goals pursued by the movement. The protesters are also fighting for their civil, social, political, legal, economic, and cultural rights as human beings. Good education qualities, mental and emotional health

support, and job opportunities are a part of human rights, but for black people, it is something they must fight for in a country where white people hold power (Tometi and Lenoir).

The remarkable aspect of the movement is that it took a different approach from the Civil Rights Movement. While the Civil Rights Movement aimed to present black people in a charismatic way to give a better picture of the blacks to the white people, The Black Lives Matter Movement highlights the significance of every black individual regardless of their gender, social class, and status. The BLM aims to destroy that image, they want every black individual to be respected, heard, and valued in society (hailee22). Both Black Lives Matter and the Civil Rights Movement want to end racism; however, CRM focuses only on the legal grounds of racism, While BLM targets social and cultural racism (Hailee 32).

2.3 Police brutality

For generations, black Americans have lived in constant fear of the police, knowing that encounters with law enforcement could turn deadly. Numerous black individuals have been killed, imprisoned, or mistreated by police officers without doing anything wrong. Walker defined police brutality as "the use of excessive physical force or verbal assault and psychological intimidation" (579). Moreover, police brutality takes forms such as the use of excessive force; when an officer uses physical violence with someone who is cooperating. Also unlawful arrest of individuals by Police officers for no reason at all. Another form of police brutality is killing individuals in a situation that doesn't require the use of deadly force (Brown).

According to new research by The Lancet Medical Journal, about one in every 1000 Black men are killed by the police in the USA making them 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police compared to White men. Black women face similar risks; they are about 1.4 times more likely to be killed by police than white women (Naghavi1239). Based on recently published data, 2023 recorded the highest number of police killings. At least 1,232 people were killed by policemen, with 290 of them being Black. Black individuals represented 23.5% of victims despite making up only 14% of the population. Black people are more likely to die while fleeing. From 2013 to 2023, 39% of black individuals who were killed by law enforcement had been trying to escape, either running or trying to drive away (Levin).

Black women are also victims of many forms of abuse by police officers. Numerous black women have been killed due to the use of force by law enforcement officers.

While several deaths of black males being killed by police have received a lot of attention on media platforms, incidents involving the shooting of Black females receive less attention. When a woman encounters a police officer she is more likely to be sexually assaulted than to be killed, and in many cases, women never receive justice for the crime committed against them. Malissa Williams, a 30-year-old woman, was brutally murdered by the police in 2012 as a result of the use of excessive force. Rekia Boyd, a lady who was killed by a police officer who was not on duty, was another black female victim of police brutality. As a matter of fact, in February 2015, the hashtag #SayHerName was created to raise awareness of anti-black violence and bring attention to black women who are killed by police officers and go unpunished (Lawson, Madison 3-6).

All in all, police officers have killed uncountable African Americans without any real reason. The names mentioned above, in addition to other victims, were killed only because of their skin color.

2.3.1 Police Training

In many neighborhoods where police are everywhere, people often see their local cops as an "occupying force." This makes sense when you look at where many U.S. police officers are trained. Thousands of American Law enforcement officers are trained by the security forces of Israel, the country that has been killing, abusing, and occupying Palestinians for decades. Over the past years, local police officers from dozens of departments from across the U.S. have gone to Israel to learn about its policing. It all began after the 9/11 event, the terrorist attack in the US. The U.S. participated in exchange programs with Israel since it considers itself a world leader in counterterrorism (Speri).

The shooting of unarmed individuals by law enforcement is higher in the states where police officers are trained by Israeli forces. Georgia State, for example, participated in the "police exchange" program with Israel. At least 1,700 participants from Georgia have been trained. The state was experiencing a more rapid rise in officer-involved shootings than the rest of the country. Hundreds of individuals were killed by police in Georgia State and almost half of them are either unarmed or shot in the back. However, colored people are the victims, and as Dawn O'Neal, formerly Black Lives Matter Atlanta, said As long as these programs exist," O'Neal said, "as long as police are sent into war zones to train, there will continue to be Tamir Rices and Trayvon Martins. There will continue to be Kathryn

Johnstons.” (qtd in Shaahshahani and Benshushan). Despite the way the Policemen are trained in the US, they will always be a threat to the African American minorities.

2.3.2 Racial Profiling

The term Racial Profiling is defined by Harris, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, as the police practice of stopping black and brown drivers more frequently for minor traffic violations. These stops are often seen as an excuse to investigate other crimes, even when there's no evidence. In other words, law enforcement often uses race, ethnicity, or religious appearance as an indicator of suspicion. The African-Americans are the target of this tactic, as they are considered to be criminals. However, the data from various cities across the US shows that white individuals stopped by police are more frequently involved in crimes compared to black individuals. This is a surprising result for many who believe that police should focus on minorities. It is important to note that many American police departments have made efforts to prohibit it, but the unfortunate reality is that racial profiling continues to be an issue in the U.S. (Harris).

2.4 Negative Critics of the Movement

As Black Lives Matter gained international attention for its advocacy against police violence towards the black community, Opinions about the movement vary widely with some supporting and others criticizing, it is even been labeled as a terrorist organization. The critics have targeted the Black Lives Matter organization for its focus on queer rights, and its efforts to combat violence against the black queer community. The movement's critics were both white individuals and black individuals. NAACP leaders complained about the techniques of the movement, he saw them as direct action, while the previous Black Panther Party chairperson, Elaine Brown, accused the movement of having a plantation mindset (Arnold 14).

Starkes Taleeb and Gavin McInnes examine the movement in their book Black Lives Matter, questioning whether the movement is a lie or they misunderstand it. According to them, Black Lives Matter chose to emerge in the light of Trayvon Martin's case, while thousands of blacks were murdered years before. Moreover, during the 503 days between Trayvon's death and Zimmerman court, many African Americans were killed, yet their killer wasn't Zimmerman; it was a black man. BLM didn't react to the death of those lost lives (43).

Many see the blacks as a community of criminals. Hence they have no right to protest against police violence, and there is no need for the creation of an organization to defend criminal's rights. Black people are the poorest minority in U.S. society; therefore they go to poor schools or drop out at an early age. Within society, those social indicators put black individuals at risk of being criminals. Hence, they are more likely to be arrested by law enforcement than any other minorities (Cooper).

The black community is portrayed as a violent group towards law enforcement and white people. Their true nature was revealed at night, as they used to protest peacefully in the daytime playing the victim role While engaging in acts of property destruction, theft, and arson at night. However, Black Lives Matter like any movement is vulnerable to criticism, yet it has its way of defending its actions (Gale 2023).

2.4.1 Black Lives Matter Counter-protests

In a society dominated by white people, any demand for equality is often faced with hate. Both the Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter have faced significant opposition. The dehumanization and violence against black communities are what resulted in the creation of such movements. Yet, some parties see it from a different perspective; white identity politics emerges as a response to movements like Black Lives Matter. Eventually, the Whites were aggressively opposing Black Lives Matter and created many movements as a response. Among these are All Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter (Smith).

2.4.1.1 White Lives Matter

White Lives Matter (WLM), an opponent of the Black Lives Matter Movement, was created by white individuals. Rebecca Barnette is the founder of White Lives Matter; it emerged in 2015 after Black Lives Matter. Rebecca's main aim is to create a better place for white people. The goal of this group is "the preservation of the white race from discrimination caused by the non-white immigrants and interracial marriage" (Stack). For them, other minorities were a threat to the white race. Moreover, the election of Barack Obama was perceived by many white individuals as more beneficial for the black community than for white people (Stack).

The Southern Poverty Law Center, an organization that tracks the extremist groups in America, declared the White Lives Matter as a hate group. Moreover, the director of the intelligence project at SPL Centre states, "They're against integration, immigration. This

is standard white supremacist stuff” (Stack). These ideas support harmful beliefs, it is crucial to confront them.

2.4.1.2 Blue Lives Matter

The Blue Lives Matter Movement or a movement for police lives emerges as a response to criticism of law enforcement following the murder of Michel Brown. It stands for police officers who were killed while doing their duty. Trump promised that if elected he would make the death penalty mandatory for those who killed police officers. The US president has no such right, but Trump like any white supremacist was furious about the Black Lives Matter Movement. This movement complains about the hardship of being an officer, as they are a target of the black community. For them, the Black Lives Matter movement emerged as a war on cops. In 2016, sixty-six police officers were shot dead in their workplace as revenge for their violence towards the black community (Smith).

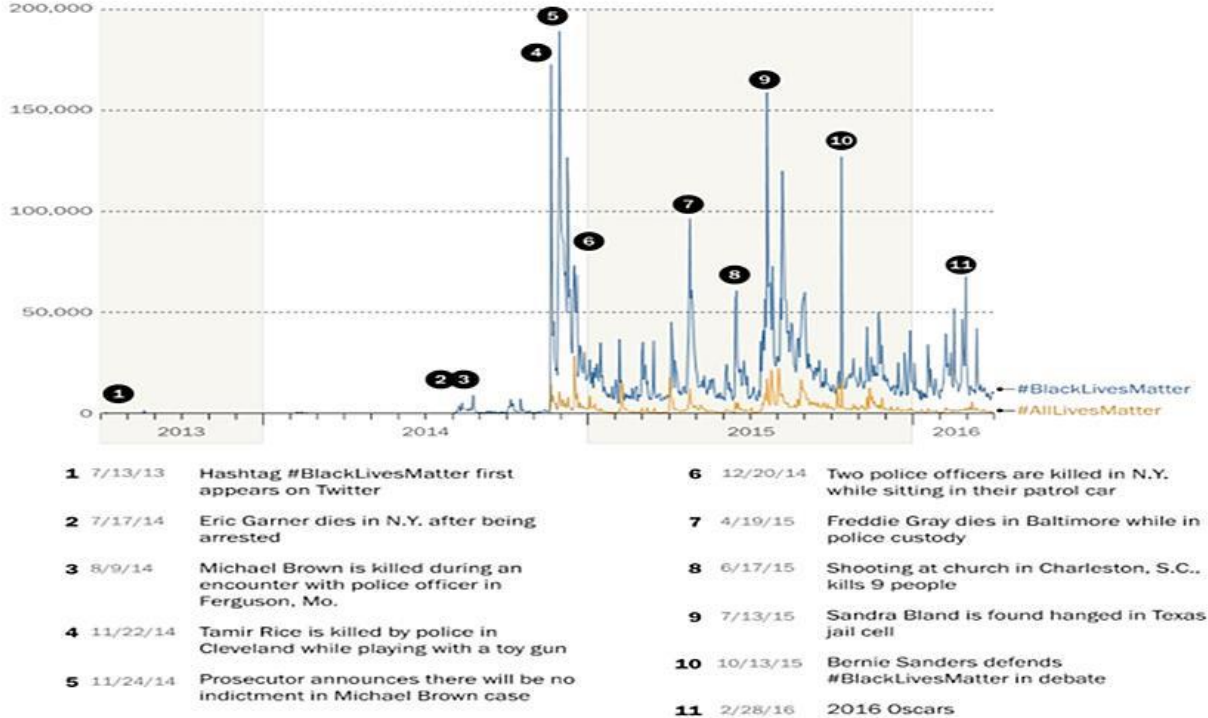
The murder of the two police officers in Ferguson, Missouri increased sharply the use of the hashtag Blue Lives Matter on Twitter, and the hashtag was used all around the country not only in Missouri. Even though the number of deaths is low, the Blue Lives Matter hashtag has been used more than 3000 times. The slogan was on the top on Twitter platform as @BarryGadbois tweeted: “Cops have a right to defend themselves and an obligation to protect you. #BlueLivesMatter#Ferguson”. Apparently, the movement trying to say that the policeman's safety comes before anyone’s safety. Moreover, the hashtag was also used to criticize President Obama. However, the movement was trying to steal the attention from Black Lives Matter and the success of its hashtag (BBC News).

In her article “Blue Lives Matter was never about cops”, Charlotte Matherly argues how Blue Lives Matter was never about protecting the men and women in blue, but rather about protecting white supremacy and the institutional oppression of Black Americans. The Republicans argue that blue lives are in a similar danger as black lives. However, Police officers chose their job. They have been trained knowing they’re in a dangerous job. A Black person doesn’t choose to be black. Yet they are murdered simply for their skin color, No one murders a cop just because of their blue uniform (Matherly).

2.5 All Lives Matter vs Black Lives Matter

As the BLM hashtag became more popular, hashtag #Alllivesmatter started to gain traction. All Lives Matter was a response to bring down BLM, claiming that BLM wants Black people to be more important than anyone. In fact, the topic caused conflicts and created debate; All Lives Matter claimed that the Black Lives Matter movement is trying to put black people above everyone by making “why don’t ___ lives matter?” as an argument While ignoring the fact that BLM is trying to bring equality for everyone and not put black people above anyone (Knight).

Figure 03: Number of Twitter posts mentioning both ALM and BLM tags: July 2013 to 2016



Source: Pew Research Center

As the figure shows, the number of tweets that have been posted including both ALM and BLM tags from July 2013 to March 2016. As it clearly appeared the Black Lives Matter hashtag has appeared before the All Lives Matter hashtag. The latter appeared with the killing of Tamir Rice, a twelve-year-old black boy, in 2014 and later it was used along with the use of #blacklivesmatter. The hashtag BLM was used eight times more than the All-lives Matter hashtag. However, the latter was used whenever there was a post about BLM.

The All Lives Matter used the violent protests and property destruction as an argument against the Black Lives Matter protestors. However, many pieces of research proved that 93% of BLM protests have been peaceful. The only reason that pushed the BLM protesters to use violence, is the force used by law enforcement to stop the protests (Knight).

According to Orbe, the “All Lives Matter” slogan may appear humanistic. However, it is misleading because it promotes both colorblindness and white supremacy ideologies. In contrast with the Black Lives Matter slogan, which highlights racial inequality (Orbe 9). The allies of ALM argue that by creating a movement that focuses only on African Americans, people are creating racial division and causing more problems (95). However, #AllLivesMatter is preferable to #BlackLivesMatter within the context of post-racial America. The idea that black problems are everyone’s problems and all lives are concerned with the same problem of police brutality is a lie since black people are not equal to white people (97).

ALM supporters don't understand that BLM isn't against ALM, but it's emphasizing the need to prioritize Black lives right now. This conflict between BLM and ALM was explained by Knight:

“A way to understand this is to think of a burning house. Firefighters are going to focus on the house that is on fire, instead of hosing down every house in the neighborhood. ALM followers are using the false pretense of caring for all lives to squash a huge progression in society”

(Opinion Black Lives)

The above description gave a clear picture of how All Lives Matter supporters trying to take attention from Black Lives Matter, acknowledging the bad circumstances of the black community.

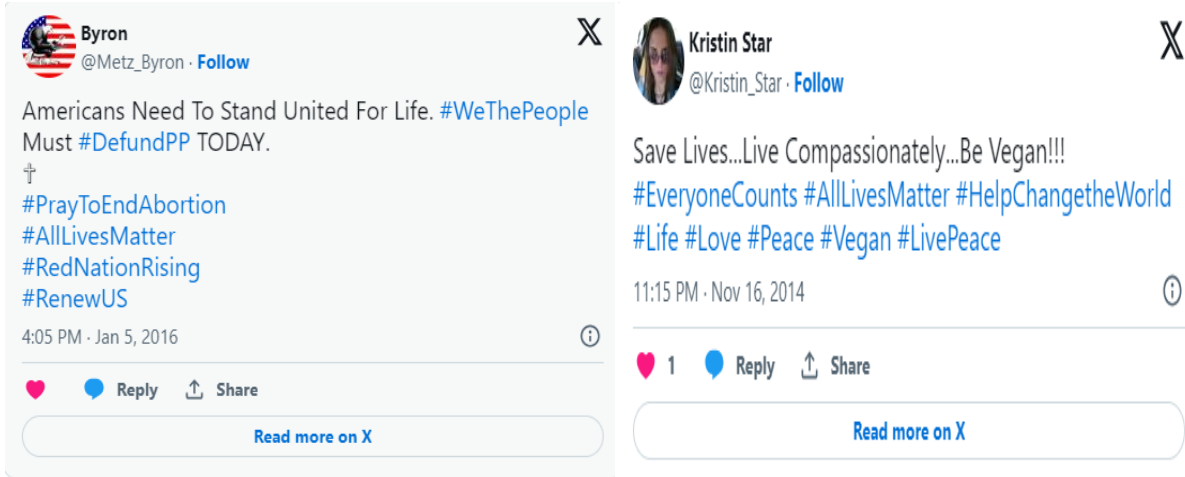
Figure04: The Debate between ALM and BLM in Three Pictures



Source: Lopez, German. “Next Time Someone Tells You ‘All Lives Matter’ Show Them This Cartoon”. *Vox*, 4 Sept. 2015, www.vox.com/2015/9/4/9258133/white-lives-matter.

Another point to consider is the hashtag, #AllLivesMatter wasn’t only used to oppose BlackLivesMatter supporters; it has many other uses in other contexts. According to a study made by Pew Research Center, (11%) tweets with #AllLivesMatter were used by people opposing abortion and the wrongdoing committed by health services. Moreover, the hashtag was also used by vegetarians. 7% of tweets were used to promote animal rights; supporting vegetarianism (Pew Research Center).

Figuer:05 The various uses of #AllLivesMatter hashtag



Pew Research Center (2016). How the #AllLivesMatter hashtag was used: a more even mix of support and criticism. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2016/08/15/the-hashtag-blacklivesmatter-emerges-social-activism-on-twitter/>

2.6 BLM Achievements

Since the creation of BLM, the organization has had many impacts that have positively influenced society. The BLM brought attention and raised public concern to an issue that has existed for decades. Additionally, the organization gained attention from powerful government leaders such as former President Obama who frequently invited representatives of the group to the White House in 2016. Black Lives Matter allows for more

people to become aware of the issue and take part in solving the issue by no longer tolerating the unjust aspects of everyday culture (Iorio 2)

According to Sayed, an antiracist activist, the movement has an impact that is still lasting till nowadays. The movement accomplished one of its main goals by getting the policeman who killed George Floyd into prison. This is considered to be a big step since it is very rare to have a police officer charged with racist violence and murder in U.S. Furthermore, the movement changed the way people talk and understand racism, making them more confident in discussing such a subject. The movement created a new layer of society that is not afraid of challenging racism within society (Sayed).

Additionally, President Donald Trump created a nationwide database to track police officers with a history of misconduct. The order requires keeping records of criminal convictions, dismissals, and civil judgments against law enforcement officers who used excessive force (BBC News).

The widespread protests and the commitment to the movement produced real results which is called "Next Level Activism": economic collective action, Black empowerment, and political participation. Initially, it put pressure on consumers, corporations, and organizations to support as well as financially commit to racial equality. Furthermore, BLM has continued fighting for black solidarity and empowerment within the black community. It is considered a part of the cultural shift. Finally, BLM encouraged more people to engage in the political process, especially during the 2020 election, which heightened awareness of the movement. (Bowman Williams et al 16,17).

Furthermore, BLM protests have achieved success in the educational section. School districts in many cities are implementing policies to ensure fair opportunities and treatment for everyone, regardless of their race. Also, School administrators are changing their curricula to include more diverse authors, histories, and subjects; including teachings that don't support racism. It's also worth mentioning that many monuments honoring slaveholders have been removed since the start of the protests (Menjivar).

2.7 Conclusion

Finishing up this chapter, we have delved into the creation of a movement called Black Lives Matter. Individuals who were brave enough to speak, the strategies that have been used to make the movement successful, and the purpose of the creation of the movement

have been discussed in this chapter. Moreover, the challenges that have been faced by the protestors and the creation of counter-protests were mentioned. And finally, the current chapter examines what people have gained from those demonstrations.

Chapter three

Daddy changed the world

The death of George Floyd has encouraged the whole black community in addition to other minorities from all around the world to raise their voice and talk about their struggles and not remain silent. The world witnessed an unexpected wave of anger and solidarity against the unjust killing of black people by law enforcement. However, his death also brought attention to other minorities and their struggles.

The third chapter will first talk about the role of social media and how it helped in conveying the voices of black individuals in the United States to the rest of the world. Then it will examine the impact of George Floyd's death in many continents on black people and other minority communities. Additionally, this chapter will examine the nature and aims of the protests that occurred in different countries and cities. Also, how the government and law enforcement attempted to suppress the demonstration by applying laws and force.

3.2 The Role of Social Media Platforms

Unlike traditional media, the different available social media platforms allow everyone to post the unfiltered reality they experience in everyday life. The BLM started online, and due to the use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and especially Twitter the protests took place in all the states of America, as well as in over 20 countries worldwide. In 2020, following the death of George Floyd, countless videos and pictures of police brutality and racism were posted. Each share and repost brought hundreds of views hourly (Illingworth). The countless shares of those videos helped inform people from all over the world about the dangers African Americans face in their daily lives.

Social media platforms have a much bigger role than just posting pictures of people's lives or communicating with friends. As Alice Gawthrop, Digital Media and Marketing Assistant, said :

“We are used to using social media to share pictures of ourselves holding our dissertations and stories of our pets being cute, but lately, social media has once again revealed its capacity for more than just posting pretty pictures.” (AliceGawthrop).

Social Media has a big credit in the spreading of BLM all around the world. Without the platforms, the story of George Floyd wouldn't be heard even by the other states

in the US, and George Floyd unjustly killed by the police would have probably become just another forgotten case. In addition, the spread of the video of Floyd's murder helped raise awareness about racism and gave people who believed that racism was a part of the past, real evidence that it still exists(Gawthrop).

3.3 International Protests

George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis in May 2020 started the biggest protests for racial justice in the US since the Civil Rights Movement. And the movement echoes went beyond the expectations, it inspired people from other countries to step out and talk about racism. Four years ago, many countries experienced some of the largest protests in their history, as a result of the video of Floyd's brutal murder by police officers. However, in some countries they had their own George Floyd; a black individual murdered by law enforcement in a brutal way (Silverstein).

In the same vein LynseyChutel, a South Africa-based journalist, said in a recent interview "There is a George Floyd in every country". In other words, black individuals are being murdered without committing any crimes all around the world. Moreover, both the protestors from the US and other countries shared the same message: Black Lives Matter (Westerman et.al).

3.3.1 Black Lives Matter in Europe

The demonstrations against the injustice killing of George Floyd quickly spread to Europe and many other parts of the world. Despite the strict lockdown instructions, protests took place in almost every European country. The largest protests took place in the capital cities, thousands of people gathered in London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, Stockholm...etc. However, in the majority of countries, the protests were peaceful, whereas in the other countries, there was violence. Police responded to the chaos caused by protestors with violence which caused more deadly incidents (Walfisz).

The protestors across Europe shared the same aim. They all went to the streets in solidarity against the death of George Floyd in the U.S., to demand justice for the wasted lives of black people in their country, to fight police brutality, and to ask for the basic rights of the black community (Walfisz).

3.3.1.1 The Protests in the United Kingdom

In 2020, The United Kingdom had the largest Black Lives Matter protests in the world after the United States. Even before the death of George Floyd, people were already protesting for a death in their own country. Her name is Belly Mujinga, black transport worker women in London, who died from Covid-19 after saying that a white man spit on her at work. Mujinga's case, like many black cases, was closed by police stating that there is a lack of evidence. This incident started the first wave of protest in the UK, but the protests in the USA made the movement grow bigger. It is less common that England is a racist country. The organizer of the London protests shared her opinion about racism in England, saying that the country is not openly racist, but rather secretly racist (Silverstein).

In a matter of days, London's protests grew rapidly from 20 individuals to more than 20,000 people in the streets. Some celebrities had a crucial role like the actor John Boyega who gave impassioned speech to protestors. The protests weren't fully peaceful, protestors and police fought at some points. Some statues were torn down like Edward Colston, a slaveholder, and other statues were vandalized like Winston Churchill, the ancient Prime Minister. Within months the government asked for a report to examine racism within institutions in the UK. However, when the report was published in March 2021, activists were shocked because it denied the spread of racism within the system (Silverstein).

The protests didn't have any positive impact, they only made it worse in the United Kingdom. A few days after the release of the report, Parliament introduced a bill that gave police greater power to restrict protests. The bill allowed police officers to use any kind of violence to control protestors. This resulted in the death of Sarah Everard, a 33-year-old woman after officers used heavy-handed methods to break up a vigil. However, this bill didn't scare the protestors it only made them angrier and inspired a new wave of protest with new slogan "Kill The Bill" (Silverstein).

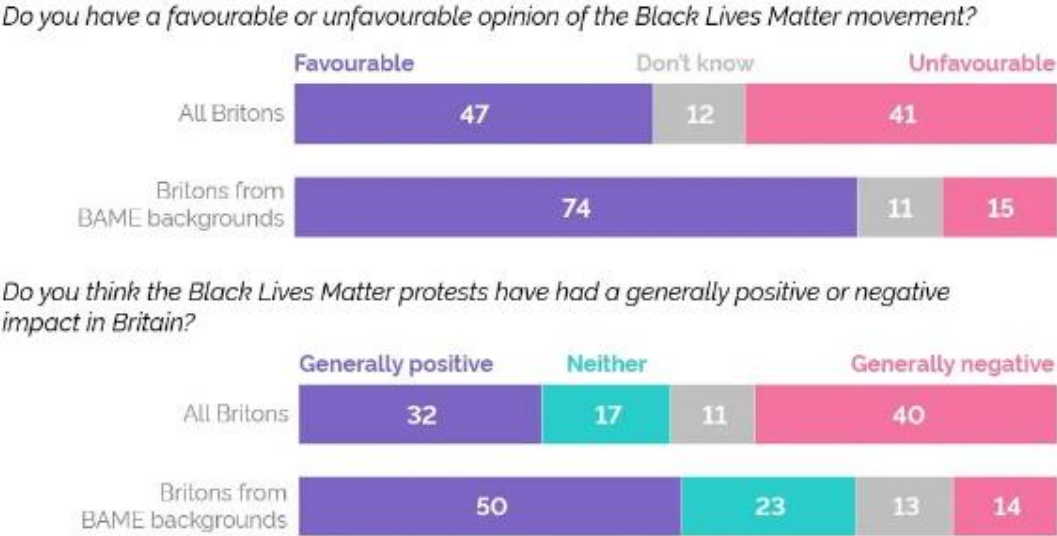
The second wave of protests called for attention to the problem of violence against women. Hundreds marched shouting "Sisters united will never be defeated" and "Justice for Sarah." The protests were sparked by the murder of Sarah Everard by a police officer while walking back home in the evening. The accused officer had been involved in exposure incidents just days before her death. Moreover, activists' request for a socially distanced vigil on Saturday was rejected because the U.K. was under a national coronavirus lockdown. Despite the rejection, hundreds of people mainly women, showed up at a park near where

Everard was last seen in south London. It took the police only one hour to arrive at the park to stop the peaceful protests (Ott).

The movement in the United Kingdom didn't have one leader or specific organizer to speak for the black community. The author Charlotte Gill in his article tried to investigate the organizers. He mentioned that it is hard to tell since the movement is split into many groups such as Black Lives Matter Leeds, All Black Lives UK, and Black Lives Matter UK. The latter is the most famous one in UK, and their aims are to end imperialism, capitalism, white-supremacy, patriarchy and systematic racism in Britain and around the world. However, the organizers chose to hide their identities for their own safety (Gill).

Although the protests were against the unjust killing of innocent people, the British had different opinions about the movement. Some found it necessary while others completely disagreed.

Figure 01 The British opinion of The Black Lives Matter movement



Source: Nolsoe.E.(2020).What's the legacy of this year's Black Lives Matter protests?. Yougov. https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/33525-whats-legacy-years-black-lives-matter-protests?redirect_from=%2Ftopics%2Fpolitics%2Farticles-reports%2F2020%2F12%2F23%2Fwhats-legacy-years-black-lives-matter-protests

People from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities are generally much more supportive of Black Lives Matter than the wider population. About (74%) have a favorable view of the movement, while only (15%) say the opposite. Similarly,

(50%) say the protests had a positive impact, while only 14% say it was negative. And about (23%) think the impact has been neither positive nor negative.

3.3.1.2 The Protests in Germany

The global wave of Black Lives Matter protests following the death of George Floyd strongly impacted the protests in Germany. A month after his death Jelisa Delfeld, Food and Beverage Supervisor, helped in the creation of silent demonstrations against racism in Stuttgart, Germany through a Telegram channel. Within a few days, the channel helped in organizing protests that brought between 7,000 and 10,000 people into the streets on June 6. However, the protests weren't limited to one city. Thousands of people across Germany protested against racism, police violence, and in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States (Safronova). In Berlin, the capital of the country, the number of protesters crossed the expectations of the organizers. 15,000 people showed up with signs that read "Black Lives Matter". Another tactic that the protestors used to convey their message was that they held a moment of silence that lasted eight minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time the police officer Derek Chauvin kneeled on George Floyd's neck. (Godin and Perrigo).

According to a survey published by the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research made on more than 21,000 people across the country, the majority of black people living in Germany have faced racism. Also, 20% of the community stated that they had repeatedly been harassed and threatened. The finding was surprising to people who thought that racism ended a long time ago or it was something related to the U.S. but not Germany. The unfair treatment against black people wasn't limited to police officers, they were surrounded by racist acts. The healthcare system, for example, provides black people with the worst kind of treatment, and black women are perceived as hypersexualized and regularly required to do an HIV test. This kind of treatment made some of them avoid going to healthcare. The death of George Floyd and the protests in the country succeeded in convincing the government to make rules to stop racism. The German government suggested a national monitor to track discrimination and racism in an attempt to protect black lives (Kassam).

3.3.1.3 The Protests in France

In France, people were already calling for justice for AdamaTraoré, a 24-year-old black man. He was arrested and murdered under similar circumstances to George Floyd in 2016. The police officer who committed the crime wasn't charged, which frustrated many black individuals. From that day, his sister AssaTraoré led a committee demanding the arrest of the police officer. In 2020, the French media covered the death of George Floyd in a way that racism only exists in the United States. The committee decided to join the global protests to show the world that France is not innocent. Thousands of people, which is something unexpected, gathered in front of the court of France in solidarity with George Floyd and to remind people that racism does exist in their country (Diallo).

The French police have a long history of using violence. AdamaTraoré is not the only victim of police brutality; the majority of those who die at the hands of police officers are black individuals. However, the movement in France succeeded in forcing the Interior Minister to confront racism in the police, promising “zero tolerance” for police racism. Also, the movement helped bring attention to the numerous streets and statues named and made for slave traders or owners, and the topic gained attention in public discourse. Despite this, the president of France refused their demand to tear down the statues. Moreover, he chose to stand with law enforcement and refused to address police brutality saying that police “deserve public support and the recognition of the nation for their work” (Diallo).

3.3.1.4 The Protests in Italy

The white Italians don't consider black individuals as Italians. Because of their skin color, they have been suffering for years. However, in 2020, the death of George Floyd inspired the black community to unite and step out to the streets to put an end to their struggle. The black Italians protested in solidarity with the movement in the United States as well as to show people that they exist and their lives matter too. The Italian streets were full of people of all ethnicities, all with one voice, calling for the right to live peacefully. For the first time, they were the main characters and were mentioned as violence fighters rather than violence victims. They had the chance to talk about the discrimination and the injustice they face daily as black Italians (Muvumbi).

Hundreds of black individuals were killed in Italy. The protestors made sure to mention them as proof of the existing racism in the country. However, the media covered the

protests only as a solidarity movement with George Floyd. It is important to mention that women were at the front leading the protests. Black women are seen as sexual objects in Italy and they struggle with sexual assaults on a daily basis which makes it hard for them to accept their sexuality. Nevertheless, how they are perceived by white Italians didn't stop them from stepping out and standing on the front lines to put an end to this (D'Ignoti).

3.3.1.5 The Protests in Sweden

Sweden, too, took the chance and joined the global protests. Thousands of people gathered across the country in solidarity with the movement in the U.S. and in an attempt to fight racism in the country. As usual, the police used violence in all its forms against the protestors, although the protests have been mostly peaceful. The Black Lives Matter Movement in Sweden was unexpected to many since the Swedish media rarely discussed race, inequality, and police violence. Moreover, black people in addition to other minorities have always been a target of the Swedish police (Burlin).

Since the whole world was going through a health crisis, the Swedish government has banned gatherings of more than 50 people. However, people didn't respect those rules and showed up with signs demonstrating the harsh treatment they received from police officers. The organizers stepped up and decided to protect everyone's safety. They told the protestors to stop and leave home because it wasn't safe for anyone to stay (Reuters). Indeed, the protestors could get contaminated and eventually lose their life like many people at that time.

Jasmine Kelekay, a doctoral student at the University of California, researched how Swedish activists were inspired by the movement in the U.S. and other countries. In her research, she examined police violence and how it can be invisible. In Sweden, police officers don't use guns frequently, but this doesn't make black people any safer. They face harassment, aggression, and physical violence by police daily. It is very rare to find someone who hasn't experienced or witnessed this. And it is becoming more serious for the coming generation. The police are becoming more aggressive and education, job opportunities, and income are getting worse (Uppsala Universitat,2020).

3.3.1.6 The Protests in Spain

Like in many countries, the death of George Floyd initiated the protests in Spain. As was unexpected, the movement gained the support of thousands of people in a very short

time. In several cities, people went to the streets to show their solidarity against the murder of Floyd and to fight racism in the country. The number of protestors was limited to 200 people by the Spain government; however, the number crossed the limits. Additionally, it is worth mentioning that this huge number of protesters did not commit any act of violence, likewise, no act of force was reported against police officers (Spain in English 2020). In Spain, The echo of the movement reached the inside of the stadiums. When a famous football player scored a goal against his opponent, he celebrated in a way that showed his solidarity with the movement. The player kneeled and raised his fist to support the protests against the killing of many black lives (Trenaman).

3.3.2 Black Lives Matter in South America

The Black Lives Matter movement has also had an impact in Latin America. The activists and people were inspired by the massive protests in the U.S. They organized demonstrations to address racial inequality, police brutality, and systematic racism in their countries. The protests were spread across Latin America because the rights of black people are being violated. In countries like Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico thousands of people gathered despite the spread of the disease, aiming to put an end to racism (Lima).

3.3.2.1 The Protests in Colombia

As previously mentioned, there is George Floyd in every country. Three days before the incident in the U.S., Anderson Arboleda, an Afro-Colombian young man, was violently killed by police officers in South America, Colombia. The young man was beaten to death by police, reportedly for breaking coronavirus curfew rules. People made a move and went to the streets to protest about the unjust killing in their country until the murder of Floyd in the U.S. by police. A few months later, another black man was murdered by law enforcement in a similar way to Floyd. Javier Ordóñez was caught on a video saying "I am choking" and "Enough, no more, please" as officers kneeled on him. Those two recorded incidents inspired people to hold their phones and record their interactions with police (Silverstein).

The protests against police brutality in South America, Colombia, didn't stop the harsh treatment of law enforcement. During the protests, local activist groups said at least 43 people have been killed by police. More than 2,900 cases of police brutality have also been reported. People were at a huge risk and their life was threatened each time they went to the

streets to protest. However, their fear didn't stop them from fighting police brutality and calling for justice. In this vein, Yolanda Perea, a human rights defender in Colombia, said "I'll continue to march and defend our lives. Because if we don't unite to defend life, they will continue to crush us more every day" (Silverstein).

3.3.2.2 The Protests in Brazil

Similar events happened in Brazil. A week before the death of George Floyd in the U.S., the Brazilians were sad about losing one of their own. João Pedro Mattos Pinto, a 14-year-old Afro-Colombian, was killed while playing with friends in Rio de Janeiro. The boy was a victim of a failed operation in the neighborhood. Brazilians went to the streets protesting in solidarity with George Floyd and for justice for the 14-year-old boy (Watson).

Brazil and the United States face the same social problems. In both countries, black and brown individuals struggle with unjust killing and poor opportunities. Thousands of people are killed by police in Brazil and the majority of them are black and live in the city's poorer areas. Moreover, black Brazilians receive poor education, have less access to healthcare and employment opportunities, and are more likely to die during encounters with police officers. In Brazilian culture, they use social class as an excuse for those discriminations (Toruño). Although racism has existed for centuries in Brazil, it was not openly talked about. Brazilians were forced to believe that they lived in a society where racism doesn't exist and everyone is equal, meaning any individual can live their life without being discriminated against because of their skin color. But according to activists, it is a myth (Watson). Brazilians went to the streets to raise awareness that although racism is not officially acknowledged in Brazil, it does exist.

3.3.2.4 The Protests in Mexico

Mexico State is no exception. The same incident involving George Floyd in the United States was repeated in Mexico. His last words were *Asma, no puedo respirar* — "Asthma, I can't breathe". His name remains unknown, as the Mexican authorities haven't released any information about the case thinking they could erase his history. However, the right activists refused to let that happen and he was remembered in the Black Lives Matter protests. The protests in Mexico were quite different, on June 13 a group of 40 young people gathered to make sidewalk chalk art and dance to Afrobeat music celebrating black lives, joy, and solidarity. The movement brought attention to the racism against black immigrants, and

how they are unfairly treated in Mexico. Many immigrants are targets of police brutality only because of their skin color. Activists started Black Immigrants Lives Matter to highlight the challenges and systematic injustice faced by black immigrants in Mexico (Meyer et.al).

3.3.3 Black Lives Matter in Asia

Asia, as well was included in the global protests. However, the protest didn't reach every country in the continent, only a few countries witnessed the demonstrations. In Asia, people were inspired by the movement in the U.S. and decided to organize protests. People were not only protesting in solidarity with George Floyd in the United States but also highlighting the racist acts in their country (Shimano).

3.3.3.1 The Protests in Japan

The first impression you get about the protests in Japan is that they are a movement in solidarity with George Floyd. However, this wasn't the only reason that motivated the Japanese to go to the streets and protest. Black people struggle with racism in Japan too. The capital city of Japan in addition to many other cities has witnessed the anger of thousands of people who had enough of the unfair treatment and went to the streets to say enough is enough. People in Japan had a different opinion about what is the definition of a pandemic, for them it wasn't a deadly disease, it was racism. According to Sierra Todd, the main organizer and founder of Black Lives Matter Tokyo, the movement has three goals the first is to stand in solidarity with the people who are protesting for justice in the U.S, the second is to start conversations about the existing racism in the country, and the third and final goal is to fight police brutality not only against black people but against the whole minorities in Japan (Takahashi).

The Black Lives Matter movement in Japan, like the other movements, started through social media. A group of people succeeded in gaining the support of thousands of people on social media, and here is where the real work started. The organizers started planning to make print publications and live music performances to gain the attention of more people. Additionally, through the demonstrations they were hoping to show people what black individuals have to go through and how they are being hurt by police officers (Takahashi).

3.3.3.2 The Protests in Thailand

The country was under strict lockdown restrictions and Thus were not allowed to form gatherings in the streets. In addition, people were afraid of the spreading deadly disease, COVID-19, and of the police and their reactions to the gatherings. However, their fear didn't stop them from creating a new and modern way to participate in the global protests. Hundreds of people in Thailand joined online protests against racism in the country and called for justice for the African-American George Floyd (Rojanaphruk).

Organizers planned a virtual event on the video-meeting platform Zoom to emphasize the call in Thailand. The online protests were similar to the ones organized in the streets. Protestors showed up with signs and placards with written on them slogans such as "I can't breathe" and "Justice for George Floyd". Also, they raised their fist and kept silent for almost 9 minutes to know how Floyd felt when he was pinned under a white police officer (Rojanaphruk).

Ruben Derksen, Prameet Sirisachdecha, and Natalie Bin Narkprasert, the organizers of the movement in Thailand, started the online protests to demand an end to racial discrimination and the unfair treatment of black people by law enforcement. Later, they sent the video to the U.S. embassy in Bangkok (Rojanaphruk).

Figure02: the online protests in Thailand in solidarity against the murder of George Floyd



Source: Khaosod English(2020).Online protests on a video meeting.[Photograph].
<https://www.khaosodenglish.com/net/2020/06/08/black-lives-matter-goes-online-in-thailand-call-for-end-of-racism/>

4.3.3 The Protests in South Korea

The calls for justice in the U.S. encouraged some people from South Korea to point out racism in their own country. The number of protesters was not as large as in other countries; around a hundred people went to the streets, showing their solidarity with the protests in the U.S., and addressing racism and police brutality in South Korea. According to Shim Ji-hoon, one of the organizers, racism does exist in Korea, and dark-skinned people in addition to immigrants are made fun of in the society. Also, she expressed her concerns that if they fail to address racism soon, similar tragedies could happen in South Korea too (Strother).

3.3.4 Black Lives Matter Movement in Oceania

George Floyd's killing led to protests worldwide by people of all backgrounds. In Oceania, the Black Lives Matter movement has gained attraction, especially in countries like Australia and New Zealand. A huge number of people showed their solidarity against the murder of George Floyd in the United States (Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health).

3.3.4.1 The Protests in Australia

Tens of thousands of people went to the Australian streets to stand with the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States and aimed to raise awareness about the unfair treatment by law enforcement. In the capital, Sydney, at least 20.000 attended the protests, although the gatherings were banned. The demonstrations were mostly peaceful, however, the protests were faced with the use of all forms of force by law enforcement. Some were arrested and others were hurt only because they were demanding justice (Visontay and Henriques-Gomes).

Black people were not the only minority struggling in Australia. The Indigenous as well were discriminated against and unfairly treated by police officers and the death of George Floyd helped bring attention to them. In the same way, George died in the U.S. David

Dungay Jr, a 26-year oldDungatti man, was killed in a prison in Australia. Later on, the Australian government banned huge gatherings because of the spread of Covid-19 and in an attempt to stop the protests. This decision gave police officers the right to arrest the protesters since their gathering was unauthorized. However, in small cities such as Hobart, Wagga Wagga, Townsville, and Byron Bay the police allowed people to gather and protest (Visontay and Henriques-Gomes).

3.3.4.2 The Protests in New Zealand

New Zealand is globally known for peace and tolerance. But black individuals have another opinion. The protestors said that people think New Zealand is not racist only because the topic was never directly spoken about. The death of George Floyd started the conversation about race and discrimination in the country. Guled Mire, an organizer for the protesters in the capital city, Wellington said"Imagine you are Black, but you're not allowed to be Black. That's literally how it is over there" describing how it is to have dark skin in New Zealand (Silverstein).

Thousands of people gathered to protest in different cities in solidarity against the death of George Floyd and to highlight the racial issues and police violence in New Zealand. Even though the protests were completely peaceful they were faced with criticism. The protestors were accused of breaking social distancing rules and were described as a small group who believe they are smarter than anyone. The Indigenous communities found the Black Lives Matter protests as a chance to talk about their concerns about arming police officers. People drew a link between the experience of African American and Indigenous communities and were afraid of the consequences of arming police officers (Perrigo).

3.3.5 Black Lives Matter in the Arab Countries

The Arab countries are no different. Even though the topic of racism towards black people is a serious taboo, the Arab activists saw the global protests as a chance to tackle this problem. The death of Floyd in the U.S. encouraged people to start a debate about the existing racism against darker-skinned people in their countries. The Arabs see racist incidents such as the killing of Floyd as something related to the West and not to the Arab world. However, many Arab nations have a long history of slavery and were involved in the slave trade. Throughout history, Dark-skinned people were utilized by Arabs in various ways;

they used them as unpaid workers, sold them to European slave traders, or made them serve in the army (Knipp).

In Arab society, black women struggle with a different kind of racism, they are considered to be ugly and criticized daily because of their skin color. To be accepted by society they must use make-up products to whiten their skin. The way they are seen and treated by society affects them negatively, however, this does not stop them from going to the streets after the death of Floyd to open a debate in an attempt to change society's mindset (Knipp).

The Arabs refuse to admit that there is a racial discrimination problem and that they are racist. Their only excuse is that we are Muslims and in Islam, we are all brothers and sisters and we are all equal. Even though this is true, they still call black people using racist names. Dark-skinned people are exposed to racism everywhere, in the streets, workplaces, and schools. Moreover, they are often victims of physical attacks which can result in injury or death. Unfortunately, the Arab's support of the movement was limited to social media platforms. Throughout time, the problem became more widely known because some black celebrities spoke about it. They also encouraged black individuals to share their stories openly with no fear from society. Tunisia is an exception; it was the first and only country where people were brave enough to take their support to the streets and protest in solidarity against Floyd's murder (González).

3.3.5.1 The Protests in Tunisia

Tunisians were the first in the region to go to the streets and protest. A few weeks after the protests started in the U.S., hundreds of people gathered in the center of the capital to show their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and to combat the mistreatment and racism against the black community. The activist and the creator of the movement, Ines, was influenced by the protests in the U.S. According to her, the main reason for creating the movement in Tunisia was to show the world that black people had enough of being dehumanized. The main aim of the protests is to raise awareness about the existing racism and to document injustice acts against black people in Tunisia (González).

Years ago, three Congolese students were attacked by a white person holding a knife only because they had black skin. This incident motivated the Tunisian government to make some decisions as a first step to prevent racism. Anyone who insults, abuses, or offends

a black person will be punished with at least a month in prison as well as paying a fine. However, this law is not applied much because the majority of black people do not know about it. So as a second step, the activists need to educate the black community about their rights in Tunisia (González).

3.4 Conclusion

Wrapping up this chapter, we have explored the importance of social media and how it empowered the movement making it reach thousands of people across the globe. Also how George Floyd's tragedy influenced everyone from several continents not to remain silent and go to the streets to protest. It is worthy to mention that those protests were during the Covid-19 pandemic, and despite the huge risk people went to the streets asking for justice.

General Conclusion

Racism has always been part of American history, even before it gained its independence. Black people were victims of white prejudice and discrimination for centuries and suffered from being at the lowest level in society. They were kidnapped from their homes, brought to the New World, and forced to be slaves. The Jim Crow Laws came right after slavery was banned to ensure the inferiority of black people and the superiority of white people in America. After centuries of being discriminated against and tortured, African Americans chose to put an end to their suffering. They started protesting and initiated several movements calling for basic human rights. Indeed, the protestors achieved remarkable success under leaders, such as Martin Luther King. Black people gained the right to vote, equal treatment, equal protection under the law, and American citizenship. However, when the whole world started to consider America as post-racial, racism started again. It reappeared in new shapes and forms which affected negatively the black community. Black people have been exposed to racism since the moment they were born and have been perceived as criminals their whole lives.

In the 21st century, the issue of racism grew, and thousands of people were murdered only because of the color of their skin. This triggered many African Americans to initiate a new movement, first to call for justice for the wasted lives and then to enforce their rights. #BlackLivesMatter was a movement that was started online by activists after black people became a target for police forces. Years later, the activists took the movement to the streets after the murder of Trayvon Martin, a young black boy, however, people chose to remain silent because of the lack of evidence. In the summer of 2020, people had no excuses, as the murder of another black man was recorded on a video that showed the details of how George Floyd was unjustly killed. His death took people of all races to the streets in the United States of America to call for justice against his murder. The movement had many achievements such as addressing racism in the country.

George Floyd's impact was not limited to America's borders, several countries across the globe participated in the movement. Thousands of people in England, France, Brazil, Colombia, and Sweden in addition to many other countries protested in solidarity with the movement in the United States of America and to end racism in their country. Racism is not something related only to America, many countries have a history of using black individuals as slaves. In some countries, people were already protesting for black life and

Floyd's murder fueled those protests while in other countries his case encouraged people to start a movement. The global movements have successfully addressed the existing racism and stopped police violence in some countries while it just made it worse in others and the number of murders kept increasing during the protests. However, the Arab world has not witnessed any kind of protest in real life, as they believe racism doesn't exist in their countries, and as Muslims, we are all equal. Tunisia is an exception, as it always participated in the movements that called for human rights.

The present study is one in a series that has explored the roots of racism in the United States of America and the emergence of a movement that impacted positively the lives of African Americans. Moreover, the paper has also examined George Floyd's case and its influence inside and outside America. Besides, the research paper has investigated the reappearing of racism and how black people worked hard to fight it. Moving forward to the findings, it is evident that there is a relationship between economic status and systematic discrimination, also there is an increase in racial profiling within law enforcement. A historical approach was used to have a better understanding of the development of racism through time in the United States.

The evidence gathered revealed that racism started centuries ago through slavery, and it evolved and was reshaped to show in an indirect way such as ignoring someone's skin color. Also, the paper has shown that the Black Lives Matter movement started years before George Floyd's death through social media platforms, however, his case that was recorded on a video helped the movement grow. The research problem is how black people were and still are treated as inferior in a society ruled by white-skinned people.

A few limitations were encountered during the writing of the current research paper. First, our research encountered difficulty due to a lack of available books. Second, there is no available data about whether the activists in the Arab world spoke about the movement or not. However, the research successfully achieved its objectives, clarifying important points about the topic and gathering plenty of information.

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