

USA Today: the fight for civil rights then and now.



 **Mission:** to analyse + evaluate sources to compare the civil rights protest of the 1960s with the protests happening today.



How similar are the 1960s civil rights protests to the protests happening today?

History never ends - it is a continuous, connected and developing story. YOU are living history in many ways (COVID) Today there is a new chapter of history taking place with a wave of unrest in America. I would like you to investigate this and compare it to the civil rights struggle from the 1960s. Below are examples of areas to investigate and compare.

Causes of the Protests

Protest Methods

Protest Leaders

Police Response

Presidential Response

Civil rights can be defined as the rights of a citizen; especially those guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the 13th and 14th amendments to the Constitution. The 13th amendment of the Constitution abolished slavery in the U.S., and the 14th amendment insured African Americans of their legal citizenship and equal protection under the law. The 1960s **Civil Rights Movement** was an era dedicated to activism for equal rights and treatment of African Americans in the United States. During this period, people rallied for social, legal, political and cultural changes to prohibit discrimination and end segregation.

www.learningtogive.org

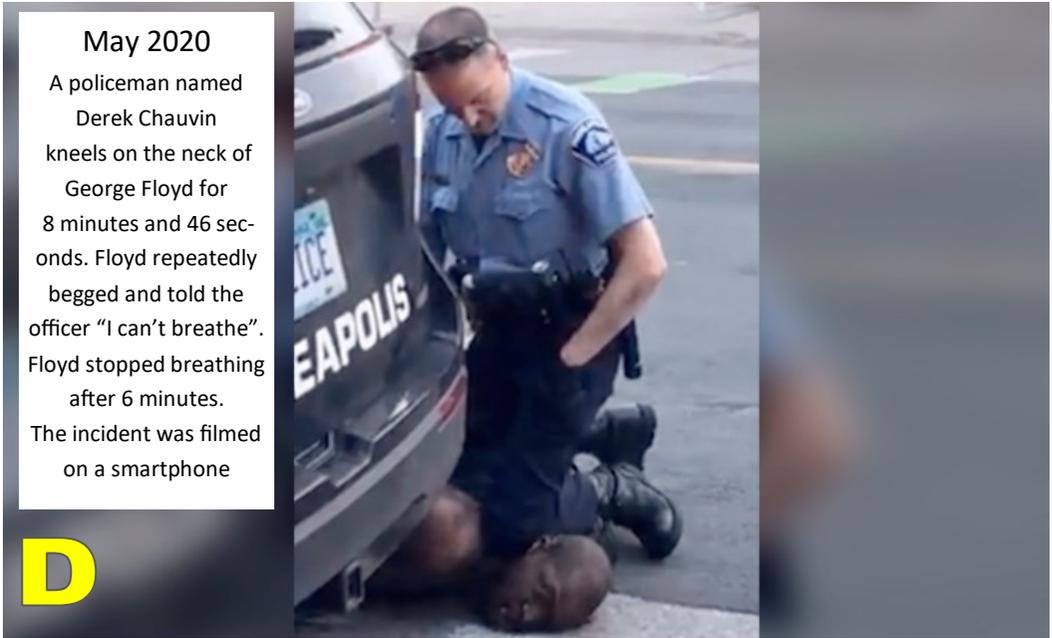
A



In April 1963 Martin Luther King went to Birmingham, Alabama, a city where public facilities were separated for blacks and whites. King intended to force the desegregation of lunch counters in downtown shops by a non-violent protest. Birmingham was one of the most challenging places to demonstrate for civil rights. George Wallace, the new Governor of Alabama, did not like integration, the bringing together of different racial groups. Birmingham was also a stronghold for the Ku Klux Klan that had been responsible for 18 bombings in the city. Eugene 'Bull' Connor, the man in charge of police and firemen, supported the Ku Klux Klan when they attacked black 'freedom fighters'. King wanted to gain full national attention for events in Birmingham and hoped that President Kennedy would be forced to intervene (get involved) .

National Archives UK.

C



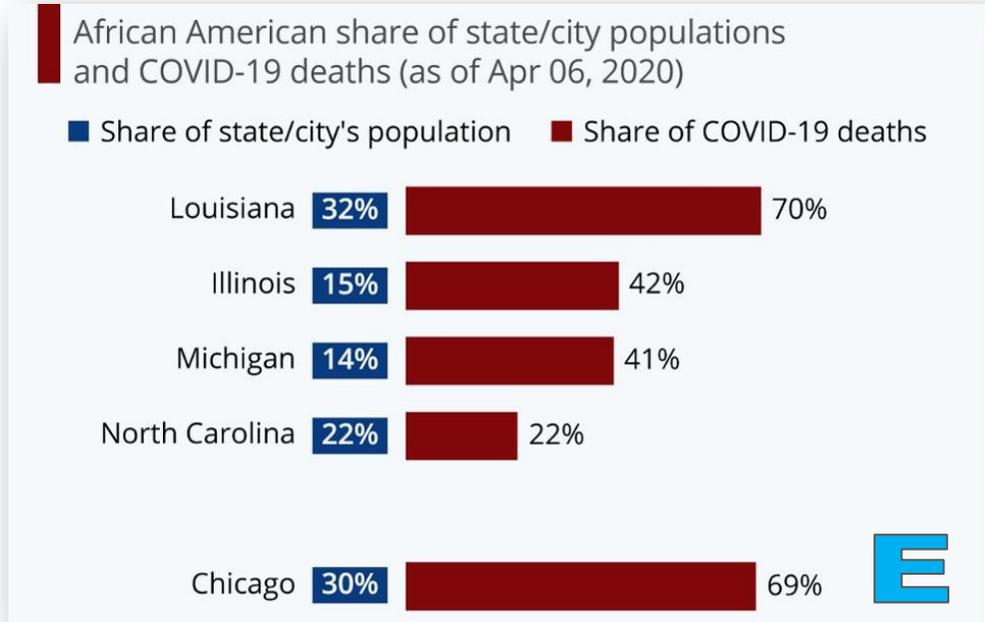
May 2020
 A policeman named Derek Chauvin kneels on the neck of George Floyd for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Floyd repeatedly begged and told the officer "I can't breathe". Floyd stopped breathing after 6 minutes. The incident was filmed on a smartphone

D

May 8, 2020 would have been Ahmaud Arbery's 26th birthday. Arbery, a black man, was out jogging in his neighborhood outside Brunswick, Georgia, in the early afternoon on February 23, 2020. He was followed and gunned down by a 64-year-old former police officer Gregory McMichael . and his 34-year-old son, Travis, both of whom are white. The shooting was captured on video by a witness in a nearby car. Travis McMichael's father told the responding officer, J. Brandeberry, that Arbery caught their attention because he resembled a man accused of a rash of residential break-ins. He said they decided to grab their guns and chase him.

Newspaper Report: Insider.com

F



E

“When you (black people) tried to integrate (join) the white community in search of better housing, the whites there fled to the suburbs. And the community that you thought would be integrated soon deteriorated into another all-Black slum. What happened to the liberal whites? Why did they flee? We thought that they were supposed to be our friends. And why did the neighbourhood deteriorate only after our people moved in? This creates in the new area the same overcrowded conditions, and the new community soon deteriorates into the same slum conditions from which we thought we had escaped.”

Malcolm X Speech: 1963

G

President Trump told reporters Friday evening that he didn't know the racially charged history behind the phrase "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." Trump tweeted the phrase Friday morning in reference to the clashes between protesters and police in Minneapolis following George Floyd's death. It dates back to the 1960s civil rights era and is known to have been originally said by a white police chief cracking down on black civil rights protests.

NPR Report, May 29th 2020.



Nearly twice a week in the USA, a black person is killed by a white cop. The daily protests and nightly confrontations with the police, state troopers, and National Guard are flooding the media with scenes reminiscent of modern day Gaza, Iraq—or the US in the 1950s and 1960s. These historic events have rekindled the debate over race and class in this country. Outrage at the institutionalized racism and arrogant police brutality is understandable.

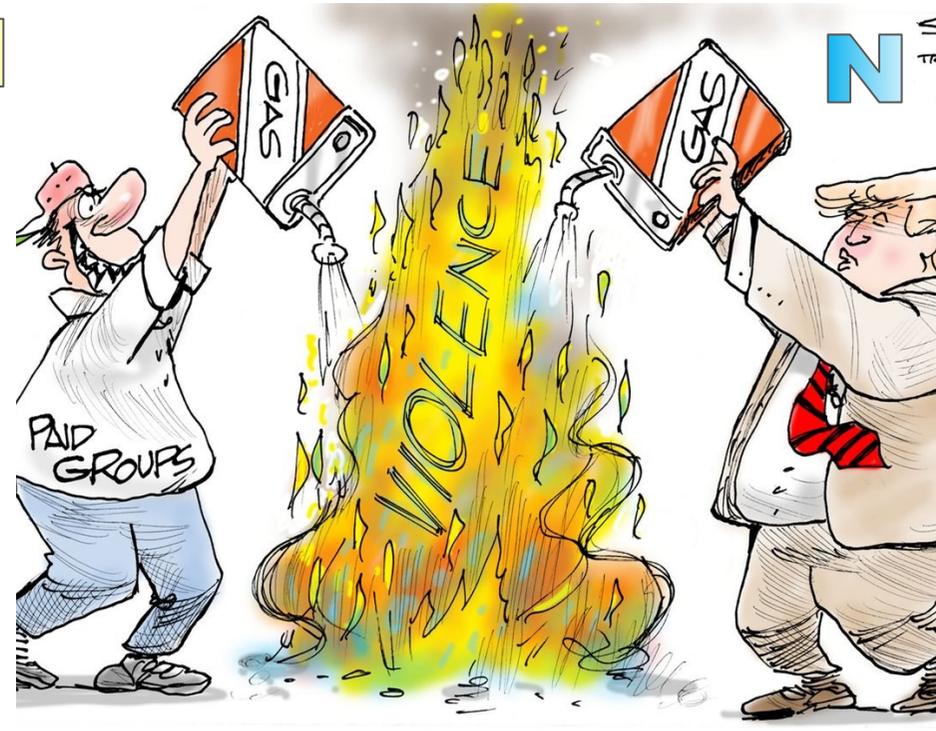
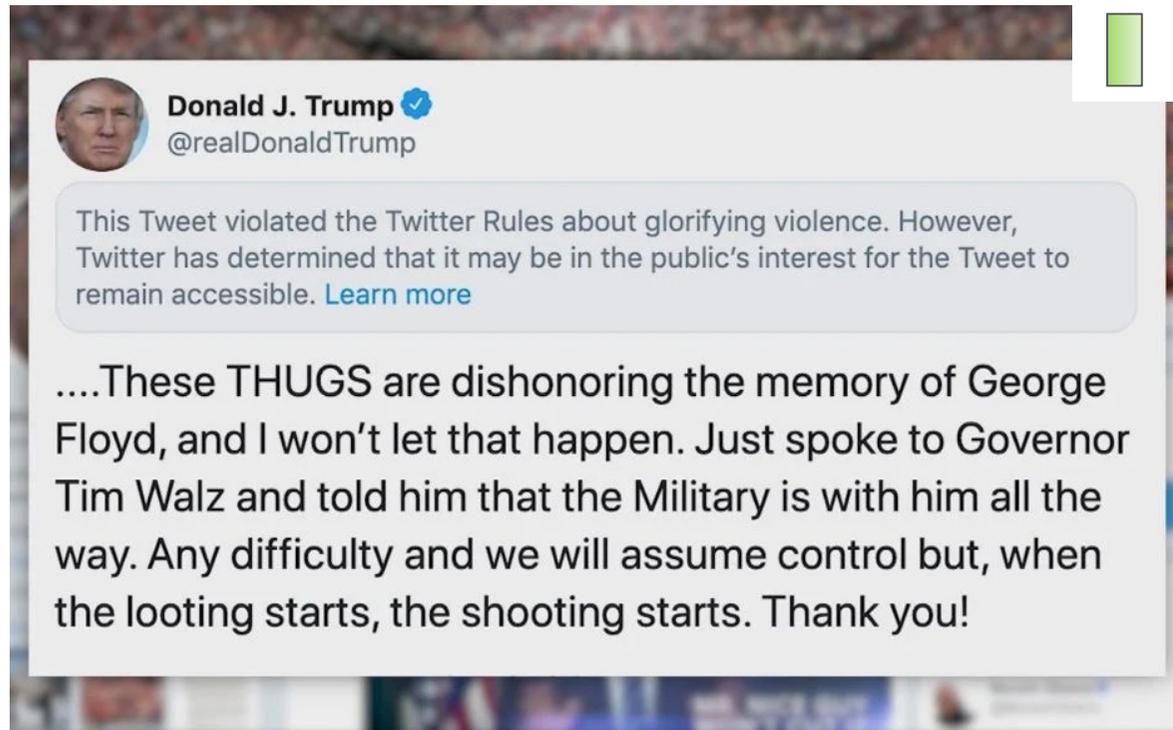
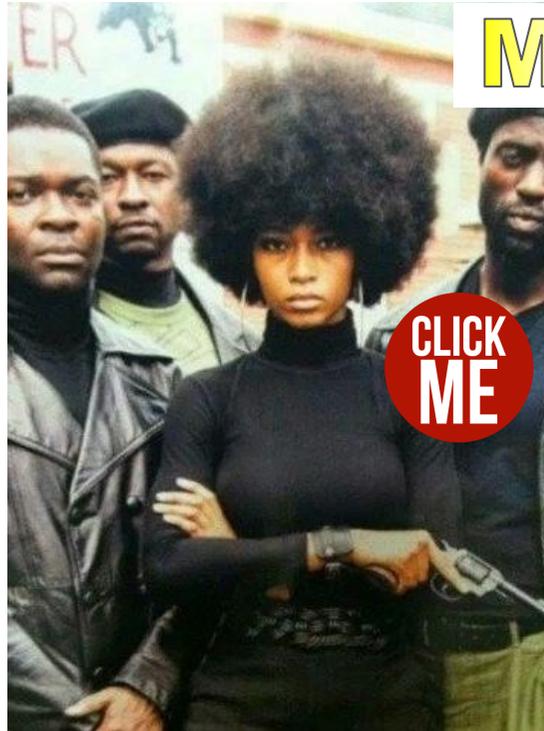
Article: Marxist.com



The Black Panther Party was founded in 1966 in Oakland, California, by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale. The party's original purpose was to patrol African American neighbourhoods to protect black people from acts of police brutality. They also set up programs to mentor black children and provide free breakfast and healthcare. They adopted a more aggressive approach than the previous non-violent campaigns in the 1950s and 60s.



Internet Article.





CLICK ME

Eugene "Bull" Connor was Birmingham's Police Commissioner of Public Safety in 1861. He encouraged the violence that met the CORE Freedom Riders at the Birmingham Trailways Bus station by promising the KKK that, "He would see to it that 15 or 20 minutes would pass before the police arrived." Connor later ordered firemen to use their hoses on protesters and as they fled he ordered police to chase them with dogs. These images were shown live on TV causing national outrage. Public pressure forced President Kennedy administration to send a negotiator to help ease the tensions.

Kings Institute Article.

S

Nearly half the "people" talking about the US protests on Twitter are not actually people, but bots, according to new research from Carnegie Mellon University. And many of those bots are rapidly feeding Twitter with harmful, false story lines and encouraging more violence.

VICE Article.

P

"I can't breathe."

"Please stop killing me."

"I can't breathe."

Floyd George,
May 25th 2020.

Q

In a series of Tweets on Saturday night Trump seemed to take delight in the possibility of more violence outside the White House. He warned that the protesters would be met with the most 'viscous dogs' and that his Secret Service were eager to battle with the protesters, He later suggested his supporters rally to the White House no doubt encourage clashes between protesters. His Tweet read 'Tonight I understand is MAGA NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE'?

TIME Magazine Article, Saturday May 2020.

R



T

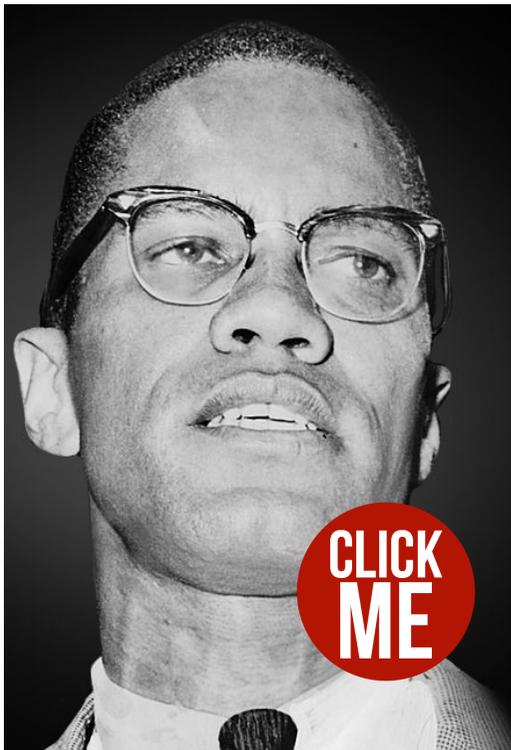
CLICK ME

Birmingham, Alabama, 1963.



N

U



Be peaceful, be courteous,
obey the law, **respect everyone;**
but if someone puts his hand
on you, send him to the **cemetery.**

— *Malcolm X*

CLICK ME

AZ QUOTES

V

In August 1963, more than 200,000 Americans of all races celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation by joining the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Later that year, President Kennedy was assassinated and replaced by vice president Lyndon B. Johnson. He was a southerner so used his connections with southern white congressional leaders and the outpouring of emotion after the president's assassination, to get the 1964 Civil Rights Act was passed. This act made any discrimination against black people, illegal including stopping them from voting.

Internet Article.

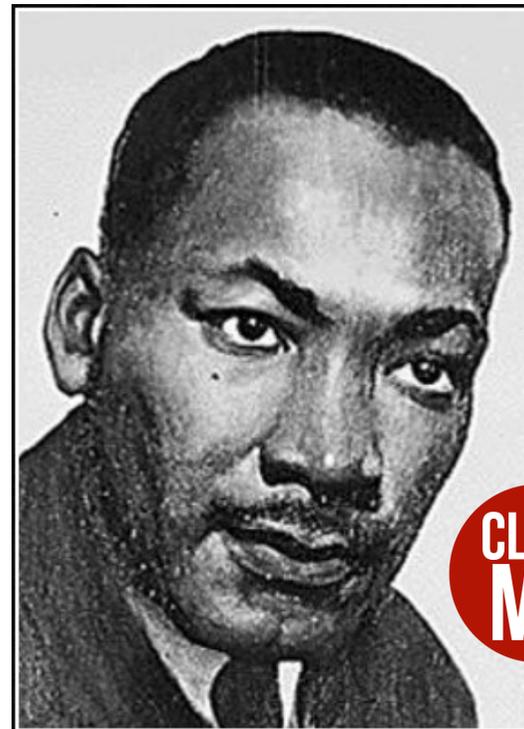


CLICK ME

X

Text UNITED to 30330

BIDEN
PRESIDENT



In the struggle for human rights and justice, Negroes will make a mistake if they become bitter and indulge in hate campaigns.

— *Martin Luther King* —

CLICK ME

AZ QUOTES

Y

The Fight for Civil Rights - then and now.

 **Task:** to write a one sentence summing up the key point from each source of information.

	The main point or message of the source
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	The main point or message of the source
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A white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia 2017.