

Trouble in America

Many around the world are watching the protests and riots currently underway in the United States with confusion. The spark for the current events was the killing of a Black man by a police officer, who knelt on his neck for nine minutes while he died, but the outrage is about far more than that. The death of George Floyd is only the latest atrocity against Black people in America – only the latest in a centuries-long series of abuses that started with slavery. The United States civil war was even fought over the ownership of Black people, so common was the ideology that they are less than human.

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It is this abuse; the systematic racism; the ongoing violence towards Black people by the police; the manipulation of the justice system to detain, convict, and imprison Black people; and the racist belief among many White Americans that Black people are inherently hostile, evil, or simply worth less than the protesters oppose. Black people want to stop being afraid, and now many others are joining in the cries against injustice.

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What was the name of the man killed by police?

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Why was the United States civil war fought?

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If the protests are not about one man's death, why are they happening?