

Black Lives Matter - Topical Seminar 10-16-20

Introduction:

“In 2015, the “Black Lives Matter” hashtag began as a call to action in response to the acquittal of the man who killed teenager Trayvon Martin. Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi founded Black Lives Matter to “explicitly combat implicit bias and anti-Black racism and to protect and affirm the beauty and dignity of all Black lives.” It has since become a cry for justice, a movement, a foundation, and a global network with international chapters whose mission is to eradicate White supremacy. “

(Yes! Magazine editors, August 26, 2020)

Questions for discussion:

- What actions have to happen to go beyond the slogan and ensure that Black Lives really Matter?
- Will the Black Lives Matter movement lose its momentum for addressing racial issues? Why? Why not?
- Recently, a variety of individuals and groups have resorted to violence or the threat of violence in response to the BLM demonstrations. What are their concerns? How can their concerns be understood and reconciled?
- What is your experience with Black Lives Matter (BLM) from inside your home? Have you attended a BLM protest or program? Why or why not? If so, what did you experience? If there were a program or protest nearby, would you attend? Why? Why not?
- One aspect of the BLM movement has been the discussion of reparations. What is your thinking on this issue?

Background on Black Lives Matter (BLM)

- **Wikipedia: BLM.** This entry will give the reader a quick overview of BLM. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Lives_Matter
- **BLM website.** This page from their website, outlines the goals and focus for 2020. If you have time surf the rest of the website to get a sense of BLM’s resources. <https://blacklivesmatter.com/blms-whatmatters2020-goals-and-focus/>

Overview on BLM recent activities

These two articles will provide a general overview of recent BLM actions.

- Larry Buchanan, Quantrung Bui, and Jugai K.Patel, “Black Lives Matter May Be the Largest Movement in U.S History, NY Times, 7/3/2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/03/us/george-floyd-protests-crowd-size.html>
- Daniel Hunter, “Don’t Believe the Lie That Voting Is All You Can Do,” NY Times, 8/4/20 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/04/opinion/voting-2020-election-blm-movement.html>

Pro and Con takes on BLM

Pro

Jamon Jordan, “Rebellions Work,” Yes! Magazine, 8/26/20

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/black-lives/2020/08/26/history-resistance-rebellions-work/>

- Daniel Hunter, “Five Pitfalls Black Lives Matter Must Avoid to Maintain Momentum and Achieve Meaningful Change,” Waging Nonviolence, 7/21.20
<https://wagingnonviolence.org/2020/07/5-pitfalls-black-lives-matter-must-avoid/>

Con

- Astead W. Herndon, “Are Racial Attitudes Really Changing? Some Black Activists are Skeptical,” NY Times, 8/11/20

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/us/politics/black-lives-matter-chicago-roseland.html>

- Jacyn Peiser, “Their tactics are fascistic”: Barr slams Black Lives Matter, accuses the left of “tearing down the system,” Washington Post, 8/10/20

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/08/10/barr-fox-antifa-blm/>

- David French, “Black Lives Matter, Radicals Using Moderates to Help Tear America Apart,” National Review, July 11, 2020

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2016/07/black-lives-matter-radical-divisive/>

Reparations (for further study)

- “Reparations for Slavery- Top 3 Pros and Cons,” Britannica ProCon, 9/8/20

<https://www.procon.org/headlines/reparations-for-slavery-top-3-pros-and-cons/>

- Nikole Hannah –Jones, “If black lives are to matter in America, the nation must pay its debts,” New York Times Magazine, June 28, 2020

- Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations,” The Atlantic, June 2014

https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/?gclid=CjwKCAjwzvX7BRAeEiwAsXExo_oEkwT6LnTgDfMHgqWlaYQ39n5maooEc_kmtnj3GpLrkwfLIYHKxoCiU0QAvD_BwE