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Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Echahid Hamma Lakhder University, El Oued

Faculty of Arts and Languages

Department of Arts and English Language



The Civil Rights Movement and its Relationship To the Current Racial and Political Debate in the US

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of
a Master Degree in Literature and Civilization**

Submitted by:

- KERMADI Donia
- SOUALAH MOHAMMED Ouail Baha Eddine

Supervisor: Mr. DEHDA Nacer

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to our parents who have always loved us unconditionally and whose good examples have taught us to work hard for the things that we aspire to achieve. Also, we would like to dedicate this work to our best friends, Lamia, Matira, Halima, Haithem, Sara, Ikram, Souhaib and Taha who have always been a constant source of support and encouragement during the challenges of our whole university life.

Ouail Baha Eddine SOUALAH MOHAMMED & Donia KERMADI

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Abstract

The Civil Rights Movement played a huge role in the making of the modern American civilization. It amassed a great following, and was making tremendous strides towards a more equal society for all. The civil rights movement still affects the current political and racial scenes till these days, and what it has resulted in, is still a part of what constitutes the American society. The present study aims to explore the movement, and how through peaceful means of protesting, it managed to get significant results in a short period of time. Then it links the civil rights movement and the current political and racial climate, how the movement's immense success was slowly fought through different legislations, resulting in a political climate consisting of negligence towards different racial issues. The study then shows the importance of social media and digital media in starting conversations revolving around political and racial issues. The study reveals that a roadmap to an eventual racial equity can be made and followed, but it requires the most important institute of education: the university.

Key Words: Civil Rights, Racism, Trump, Social Media, University.

List of Abbreviations

NAACP: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

WPC: The Women's Political Council.

MIA: The Montgomery Improvement Association.

SCLC: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

SNCC: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

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General Introduction

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General Introduction

1- Background of the Study

The civil rights movement is arguably one of the most famous movements in the entire history. The movement was responsible for major strides in terms of elevating the social status of Black people, who were viewed as second class citizens. Using simple but effective forms of protesting such as marches and sit ins, resulting in major reforms in race related legislation in the US. Nevertheless, that did not seem to appeal to some opposing voices, including president Nixon, who with his administration, launched a drug war that devastated and is still responsible for the social devastation of people of color generally and the Black community specifically. The war toll was social fabric changing, and because of it, the Black community and their view in the American society was changed forever. Moreover, the election of Donald Trump only made things worse for most communities that were not white. His election was enough to spark a new debate among different communities about race-related issues, and call for an action from different political parties that, to this day, still have a neutral position regarding race issues.

With the invoked fear through which Trump had won the election, a new racist movement began working in the backgrounds, away from the eyes of the media. They practiced and preached dangerous ideologies, using the same fear tactics that Trump used to gain popularity, and functioning primarily on social media, same as the new generation of politicians and many different organizations.

Social media has had a big impact on the American life style. The president uses it as his primary way of communicating with citizens. Politicians and activists are using different social media platforms, but many do agree about the dangers of censorship in the age of social media, and how that might pose more harm on the productive conversations around race issues. With

social media, a new age of digital news, where news is easily found and accessed and interacted with, results in a fuller news experience. That also came with the consequence of news being relayed fast causing the distrust of people around media.

Universities hold the key to real talks about building a more inclusive country, but they do not seem to desire the responsibility of educating students to be more active in debates around race issues, and although a road map was set in place to help guide towards an inclusive society, it needs everyone's effort, especially the education that universities offer, to move America into a future that could accomplish the dream of the civil rights movement of living in a completely racially-inclusive society.

2- Aims of the research

This study aims to shed light on the interesting history of the civil rights movement, its goals, and how it slowly got demolished. Also, it aims to study the race debate status nowadays, and if it has changed since then, especially on the political side of the spectrum. Finally, linking the history to the present and from that reaching an ultimatum in terms of the road to racial equality.

3- The Significance of the Study

The research explores possible solutions to the racial crisis the US is going through by employing the most important of all institutions, the university, and the crucial role it has to fill in order to lead by example in the road to racial equality.

4- The Research Problem

Since the civil rights movement's inception in 1954, it has garnered the attention of the world with its aims, and what follows after it from racial and political debates even decades after. From sociological structure changes to political ones, it is still till this day a big part of what constitutes the American society.

5- Research Questions

- 1- How was the civil race debate demolished?
- 2- What is the state of racial and political debate in the US?

6- Hypotheses

This research assumes two hypotheses. First, the civil race debates have been demolished through different laws and new age social media and media alike. With that, education plays a really important role in the birthing of a new debate through its most important institution: the university. That could all help pave the way for a new fight for racial equity. Second, through this chaos in racial and political debates, the tracks to the road of equality are slowly looming ahead.

7- Research Methodology

In order to construct a complete idea about the topic, this research is founded by collecting data through books, articles and website. Thus, the method used to conduct it is descriptive analytical that depends on a qualitative research. The study intends first to describe the history of the civil rights movement of the 60s and the current racial and political debate in the US. Then, it links the past to the present analytically.

8- Structure of the Study

This research is divided into three chapters. The first chapter describes the historical background of the civil rights Movement of the 60s. It basically focuses on the reasons, the beginning and significant marches of the movement. The second chapter is devoted to the relationship between the civil right movement and the racial and political debate in the US nowadays starting from Nixon's War on Drugs and its effect on the Black community, then the 2016 Presidential Elections and The Bipartisan Racial Debate, and finally the rise of the New Alt-Right. The third and last chapters shed light on the current racial and political debate in the US. It explains how the social media affect the race debate, then describes the new social and

digital media and conclude by the future of race debate in the US by explaining the important role of universities in enabling race debates.

Chapter I

The Historical Background of the Civil Rights Movement.

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Introduction

Although The American declaration of independence stated “All men are created equal”, African Americans were treated and seen as something lower than human. They were raised believing that whites were superior. After years of humiliation the African American community realized that they must stand up for their rights.

This chapter presents the construction of the Civil Rights Movement. First, outlining the causes of the movement. Next, the researchers want to attract the readers’ attention to the important events which emergence as the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s. Finally, a closer look at the marches that crowned the years of waiting for freedom and equality will be provided in more details.

1.1 The Causes of the Movement

By the end of the Civil War in 1865, the 13th Amendment¹ to the Constitution abolished slavery and during the Reconstruction, many African Americans took leadership roles like never before. However, in the late 19th century, many white people, especially in the south, were unhappy with these changes and as a result, Southern states enacted a rigid system of laws between 1877 and 1965 known as “Jim Crow”. These laws were simply designed to keep African Americans subjugated at a level as close as possible to their former slave status and erase the progress they had made during the Reconstruction.

1.1.1 Jim Crow South Laws

According to Tischauser, the name “Jim Crow” originally came from a song and dance routine performed by Thomas Dartmouth, a white actor, in one of the traveling shows. He portrayed an elderly black slave by appearing on the stage darkening his face and hand with burnt cork wearing shabby overalls, shuffling across the stage on bare feet, and carrying banjo.

¹ 13th Amendment passed by Congress on 31 January 1865; Ratified 6 December 1865.

His routine included jokes, a song, and dance performed in a white version of black dialect titled “Jim Crow” (1). By the end of the 1890s, the term “Jim Crow” became associated with the system of laws and customs supporting white supremacy.

The passage of the 14th², and 15th³ Amendments to the Constitution had granted African Americans the same legal protection and basic civil rights as whites such as, freedom of contract and property ownership, as well as political rights, such as the rights to vote and to serve on juries (Klarman 3). Nevertheless, southern states rewrote their constitutions to ensure that African Americans lost their voting rights, became second-class citizens, and to separate the races from birth to burial. The Louisiana General Assembly passed a law to prevent African Americans and whites from riding together on railroads in 1890. A case challenging this law titled *Plessy v. Ferguson* reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 1896, after Homer Plessy, a 30-year-old man, attempted to sit in a whites only railcar and when he refused to move to the "colored" railcar, he was forcibly removed and jailed. Although Plessy argued that the Louisiana statute violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution and petitioned to the United States Supreme, the court effectively approved and legalized segregation as long as the law did not make public facilities for African Americans inferior to those of whites. This "separate but equal" doctrine soon extended to other areas of public life (Costly, Findlaw). As a result, the Jim Crow Laws spread throughout the country. First, in South Carolina African Americans and white could not work in the same room, enter through the same door, or even stare out of the same window. Also, many African Americans could not get hired because their skin color. Furthermore, Texas had entire towns for whites only and prevented marriage between men and women of different races (Costly). Dierenfield states: “Signs appeared reading ‘white’ and ‘colored’ for drinking fountains, toilets, telephone booths, and bus stations.

² 14th Amendment passed by Congress 13 June 1866; Ratified 9 July 1868.

³ 15th Amendment Passed by Congress 26 February 1869; Ratified 3 February 1870

Each race had its own hospital, prison, and theaters consigned blacks to the balcony, which was nicknamed ‘the buzzard’s roost’; libraries were for whites only” (10).

African Americans had experienced refusal and humiliation under the Jim Crow laws until 1954 when one of the most significant court decisions appeared. The Supreme Court ruled a case entitled *Brown v. Board of Education* declaring that segregated public schools were unconstitutional.

1.1.2 Brown V. Board of education

Due to *Plessy v. Ferguson* case and “separate but equal” doctrine, many states in the United States had racially segregated schools. However, civil rights groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP⁴) established political and legal challenges to end this racial segregation.

In 1950, NAACP lawyers brought class action lawsuits on behalf of African American schoolchildren and their families pursuing court orders to force school districts to let African American students join white public schools. One of these cases came to be acknowledged as *Brown v. Board of Education*. Thurgood Marshall, head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, filed a lawsuit against the Topeka, Kansas school board on behalf of plaintiff Oliver Brown (Henderson Jr. 42) because his young daughter Linda Brown was denied acceptance into an all-white school in her immediate neighborhood and forced to attend a segregated school by the local public schools in Topeka, Kansas.

The momentous case *Brown v. Board of Education* was actually a combination of five lawsuits brought by African American parents from across the country. According to United States Courts website, these cases were “*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, *Briggs v. Elliot*, *Davis v. Board of Education of Prince Edward County*, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, and *Gebhart v. Ethel*” (United States Courts). Despite the different facts of each case, the key issue in each

⁴ NAACP was established in 1909 as a bi-racial endeavor to advance justice for African Americans.

was the constitutionality of state-supported segregation in public schools and when the cases reached the Supreme Court, the Court combined all five cases under the name of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Marshall personally argued The *Brown* cases before the court on December 9, 1952. He claimed that the original intent of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was to abolish segregation (Henderson Jr. 42, United States Courts). Also, he raised a multiple legal issues on appeal. The main one was that white's school facilities were often of much higher quality than the separate schools for African Americans. However, in Topeka there was not any difference in the equality of the two schools, both schools were equally equipped and had excellent teachers. This focuses attention on the fact that segregated schools which are segregated only on the basis of skin color generates feelings of inferiority and thus, broke the "equal protection clause" of the Fourteenth Amendment according to Marshall. After hearing the arguments, the Supreme Court's justices were deeply divided over the issues raised and could not find a solution. Therefore, the Court decided to rehear the case in December 1953. While the case was on hold, Chief Justice Fred Vinson passed away and was replaced by Governor Earl Warren of California who was able to bring all of the Justices to agree to support a united decision declaring that racial segregation of children in public schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment (Thirteen.org). On May 14, 1954, the Chief Justice Fred Vinson delivered the opinion of the Court, stating that "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. . ." (qtd in United States Courts)

After the decision had been announced, Some Southern states engaged in massive campaigns resisting school integration. However, the Supreme Court issued a sequel known as *Brown II* in 1955 affirming the court's 1954 opinion and indicating that desegregation in local

public schools should proceed “with all deliberate speed” (Henderson Jr. 43). Years later, many southern communities progressively desegregated their school.

The *Brown v. Board* of education decision helped to stimulate the emergence of the modern civil rights movement and protests such as the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott.

1.1.3 The Incident of Rosa Park

Regardless the small victories over discrimination, racism was still a big issue in most of the southern communities. Montgomery, Alabama, was one of these communities where separation among races was an accepted practice. One form of discrimination in Montgomery involved the city’s buses. The front seats on the buses were kept for whites only while African Americans were required to sit in the back seats and were not allowed to sit in the front section even if a bus contained no white passengers.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a forty-two-year-old African American woman, took Montgomery bus and sat down in the bus’s “Negro section.” After a few stops, the white seating section of the bus became occupied. The bus driver, James Blake demanded Mrs. Parks to vacate her seat so a white passenger could sit down because it was routine in Montgomery for bus drivers to force African Americans out of their seats for white passengers despite having segregated seating sections. However, Mrs. Parks refused to give up her seat and was arrested and taken to jail for violating the orders of the bus driver. According to B. Fradin, Mr. Edgar D. Nixon, a civil rights leader in Montgomery, and attorney Clifford Durr bailed her out (21) and Mrs. Parks’ trial was scheduled for December 5. In an interview with the Academy of Achievement Rosa Parks stated:

Of course, when I refused to stand up on the orders of the bus driver, for a white passenger to take the seat, and I was not sitting in the front of the bus, as many people have said, and neither was my feet hurting as many people have said. But I made up my mind that I would not give in

any longer to legally imposed racial segregation. (qtd. In Gelfand and Blakely 10)

1.2 The Emergence of the Movement

1.2.1 The Montgomery Bus Boycott

African American community leaders and members of the Women's Political Council (WPC⁵), a civil rights organization for African American women, organized a one-day boycott of the city buses on Parks' trail date (National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior). On December 5, 90 percent of Montgomery's African American residents did not take buses. Instead, they walked or took taxis. That afternoon, the ministers of the city and leaders met to discuss the idea of continuing the boycott into a long-term campaign. During this meeting the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA⁶) was formed, and they elected Martin Luther King Jr. to serve as its president (The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute).

The MIA created a system to help people travel around Montgomery without taking buses and many people volunteered to serve as drivers. Day by day, nearly all African American Montgomerians refused to ride the buses. People either walked to work or rode their bikes, and carpools were established to help the elderly.

On December 8, the MIA allotted a formal list of demands: First, seating must be allotted on a first-come-first-serve basis with African Americans seating from the rear and whites from the front. Also, African American drivers should drive routes that primarily serviced African Americans. Above all, African American should be treated with courtesy by the bus drivers

⁵ WPC was a political organization meant to fight the institutionalized racism of Montgomery, Alabama, and an organization that provided leadership opportunities for women founded in 1949 by Mary Fair Burks.

⁶ MIA was established on December 5, 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama as a grassroots movement to fight for civil rights for African Americans and specifically for the desegregation of the buses in Alabama's capitol city.

(Ushistory.org). Nevertheless, White bigots attempted to break the boycotters' spirit and struck at the boycott's leaders. In early 1956, the houses of Martin Luther King Jr., Edgar Nixon and Reverend Robert Graetz, a white prominent minister in the MIA were bombed. However, the boycott did not stop. (Fradin 31).

A member and a lawyer of the MIA, Fred Gray, gathered Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, Claudette Colvin and Mary Louise Smith to challenge the constitutionality of the city busing laws. All of these four women had been previously mistreated on the city buses because of their race. The case took the name *Browder v. Gayle* (Ushistory.org, The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute). Gray used the same argument that has been made in *Brown v. Board of education* which stated that their 14th Amendment right to equal protection of the law was violated. On 5 June 1956, the federal district court ruled in *Browder v. Gayle* that bus segregation was unconstitutional (Ushistory.org). However, the city of Montgomery appealed the U.S. District Court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court and continued to practice segregation on city busing and The MIA sustained its boycott until finally the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the MIA on November 23, 1956, and the segregated busing was declared unconstitutional (Ushistory.org, The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute). After the declaration, Martin Luther king Jr. called for the end of the boycott and the community agreed. The next morning, King Jr. along with Ralph Abernathy, E. D. Nixon, and Glenn Smiley boarded an integrated bus and sat in the white only section then he said: "We came to see that, in the long run, it is more honorable to walk in dignity than ride in humiliation. So, we decided to substitute tired feet for tired souls, and walk the streets of Montgomery" (qtd. In The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute)

1.2.2 The Sit-ins Campaigns

The Brown decision and the courage of Rosa Park became an inspiration for African Americans who were tired of living in segregation from American society. Many college

students were eager to join the movement especially after the continuousness of the daily rejections by whites to serve them in lunch-counters and restaurants that are reserved for whites.

On February 1, 1960, one of the most significant protest campaigns of the civil rights era began when four African American freshmen, Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond, from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (A&T) sat down peacefully at the whites-only lunch counter of the Woolworth store on Elm Street in downtown Greensboro, North Carolina and remained patiently seated waiting to be served until the store closed in order to challenge its segregation policy (Morgan and Davis 1).

The news of the Greensboro sit-in spread quickly and on the next day 31 young African American men and women returned to Woolworth's. Later on the third day, students filled almost all 66 seats. By the end of the week, hundreds of African American students from different Colleges and high schools in addition to whites from three area colleges jammed Woolworth's, Kress's five-and-dime stores, drugstores, shopping centres, and drive-ins (Dierenfield 55). Eventually, sit-ins had spread to 54 cities in nine states.

In April 1960, the leaders of the various sit-in campaigns gathered at a conference organized by Ella Baker, director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC⁷), to share experiences in sit-ins and to organize future actions. The conference concluded with the formation of (SNCC⁸) the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In October, the sit-in at Rich's, a local department store in Georgia gained prominence when Martin Luther King Jr. and 36 students were arrested for trespassing. The students were later released however Martin Luther King Jr. was sent to Reidsville State Prison. Robert Kennedy, the Attorney General, appealed to the judge and then he was released (The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research

⁷ SCLC is a civil rights organization founded in 1957, as an offshoot of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

⁸ SNCC was founded in April 1960 by young people dedicated to nonviolent and direct action tactics.

and Education Institute, African-american-civil-rights.org). Finally, by the end of 1960 hundreds of stores in the south were desegregated and opened to people from different races and backgrounds.

1.3 Significant Marches of the Movement

1.3.1 The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

On August 28, 1963, a huge protest march occurred, when more than 200,000 protestors gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. demanding full civil, economic, and political rights for African Americans. This March became known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the largest protest ever seen in the nation's capital, and one of the first to have extensive television coverage, in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his inspirational “I Have a Dream” speech. Successfully, the march pressured John F. Kennedy’s administration to initiate a strong federal civil rights bill in Congress.

The march brought together several civil rights organizations, including NAACP, SNCC and SCLC (Khan Academy). However, Absolute opposition came from two sides. White supremacist groups, including the Ku Klux Klan⁹, were obviously against any event supporting racial equality. Also, the march was condemned by some civil rights activists. Malcolm X, who aided to spread the revolutionary Black Power¹⁰ Movement, mocked the March on Washington for its nonviolent, integrationist approach and judged the African American civil rights activists for collaborating with whites (ibid).

Originally, A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, called for a march on Washington in 1941 in order to draw attention to the omission of African

⁹ Ku Klux Klan is a secret US organization of white Protestant Americans, especially in the south of the country, who oppose people of other races or religions.

¹⁰ Black Power Movement was a revolutionary movement that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. It emphasized racial pride, economic empowerment, and the creation of political and cultural institutions.

Americans from the national defense industry positions. Nevertheless, he canceled the march due to Executive Order 8802 which authorized the formation of the Fair Employment Practices Commission to investigate racial discrimination charges against defense firms that had been issued by President Franklin D (The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute).

The march launched at the Washington monument and ended at the Lincoln Memorial and the diversity of its attendance was seen in the event's speakers and performers. Nevertheless, the high point of the day was when Martin Luther King Jr. took the platform and moved the audience and live television viewers with his "I Have a Dream" speech and characterized the march as "appropriate climax" to the summer's event's (ibid).

After the march, the civil rights activists including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. met with the president John F. Kennedy and the vice president to discuss the need for bipartisan support of civil rights legislation. However, the demand was realized the following year when President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964.¹¹

1.3.2 Selma-to-Montgomery March

Selma, Alabama, caught the attention of the entire nation and became the center of a pivotal shift in the African American history when about thousands of protestors walked in three marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to support the African Americans' right to vote.

The first march was on Sunday March 7, 1965. Hosea Williams and SNCC leader John Lewis led about 600 marchers in a non-violent march from Selma to Montgomery. However, before reaching their destination, they faced a barrier of local lawmen and state troopers directed by Clark and Major John Cloud who ordered them to break up the march (The Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute). When they refused, they were tear-gassed,

¹¹ the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in public places, provided for the integration of schools and other public facilities, and made employment discrimination illegal.

clubbed, spat on, whipped, trampled by horses, and mocked by others for demanding the right to register to vote. The terrifying images of “Bloody Sunday”, as the event became known, triggered national outrage (Americaslibrary.gov). Within two days, Martin Luther King Jr. and many of the nation's religious and lay leaders flew to Selma.

On March 9, Martin Luther King, Jr., headed the second march to the bridge while civil rights leaders pursued for court protection for a third, full-scale march from Selma to Montgomery (Nps.gov). On Sunday, March 21, Protected by hundreds of federalized Alabama National Guardsmen and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, about 3,200 marchers set out for Montgomery, walking 12 miles a day and camping at nights in fields until they reached Montgomery on March 25 (ibid). Finally, On August 6, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965¹² in the presence of the civil rights leaders.

Conclusion

The civil rights movement lasted for almost fifteen years. The sit-in campaigns, boycotts and the marches are non- violent tactics of African American activists who believed that change in the United States is possible. Through this chapter, the researchers highlighted the long years of planning and preparation, resistance, challenge, together with courage and a self-awareness during the century leading to African Americans freedom which eventually resulted Outstanding achievements, including the *Brown v. Board of Education* case that made segregation in schools illegal, the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that banned discrimination in employment practices and public accommodations, the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

¹² the Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, including literacy tests as a prerequisite to voting.

Chapter II

The Relationship Between the Civil Right Movement and the Current Racial and Political Debate in the US

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Introduction

To fully understand the scope of the challenges that the United States is facing nowadays, looking back at history is the best way to fully comprehend the present, how the civil rights movement was forcibly destroyed through the Nixon's war on drugs, how the fabric of society was destroyed through mass incarceration, and how that sparked another hope for the hopeless racist right.

Now America faces a new dilemma personified in Donald Trump, and what he brings into the political spectrum. His election was a spark for a new debate around race, a debate that discussed newer problems, including the astronomical rise in hate crimes. What enabled more of that hate was Trump's negligence for these dangerous acts and his repeated abhorrent attempts of tackling such subjects, which has earned him the interest of hateful racists.

With Trump in a place of power, and the media's full attention on him, a new movement sparked into life in America. A movement that feeds of the fear and the doubt Trump has brought into the office and into his supporters, it feeds off the discourse of hate for anything that is different. It trolls its way into social media and brings with it conspiracy theories and false claims to create more hate and divide the country even more.

2.1 The Effect of Nixon's War on Drugs.

2.1.1 An Overview of the War

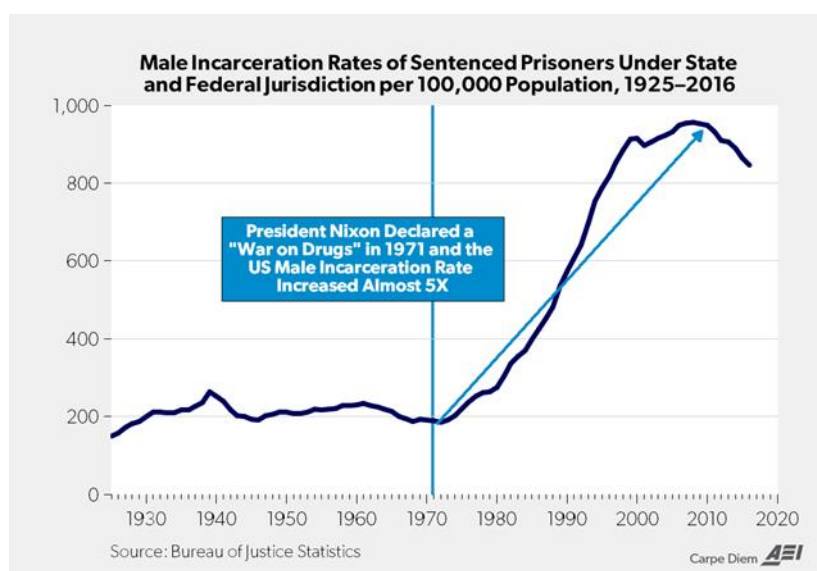
In order to comprehend how the Black community is seen, a study of Richard Nixon's controversial war on drugs is a must. The war that was a combination of different severe laws the Nixon administration advocated, and it had a different implicit purpose than what it had advocated.

The war that started long before Richard Nixon was a president, began with a series of laws from the dawn of the 20th century and the Nixon administration produced even harsher laws, they are time lined in the table below:

Date	Acts
1909	The Smoking Opium Exclusion Act
1914	The Harrison Act
1937	The Marijuana Tax Act
1970	The Controlled Substances Act (CSA)

(War On Drugs)

The Nixon administration continuously sought to invoke harsher laws and harsher punishments on drugs and their usage, creating the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 1973, and with that came a very steep cost that saw the incarceration rates get up to an astronomically high level. And with that came the era that made up what America at that time viewed black people to be a massive gang of drug addicted people.



(J.Perry)

The consequences of this war are still felt till this day, and the amount of bigotry and bias it has produced will never be equated by any other law.

2.1.2 The Main Causes of the War

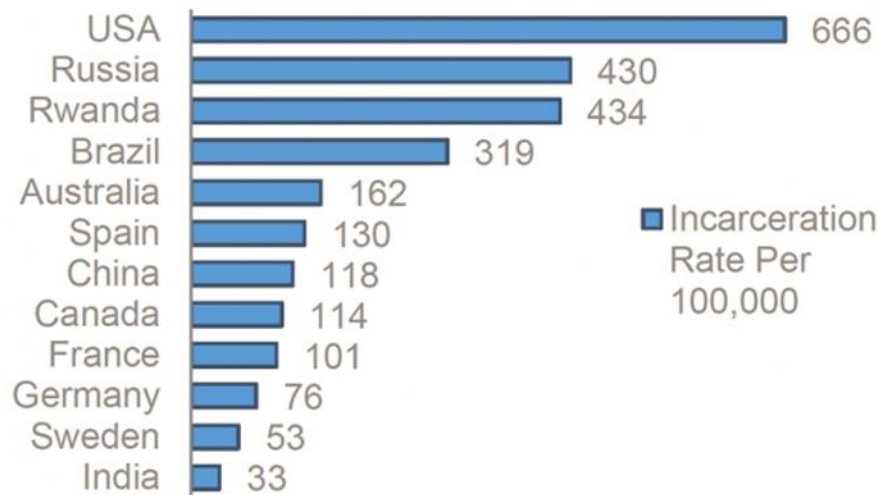
While it was seen as a war against drugs and the suffering of the American society with its addiction wise. The Nixon administration had a different view back then about who this war targeted and why it started in the first place than it was promoted as.

John Ehrlichman, who was a council for president Nixon back then, spoke about the real cause of the drugs war in an interview with Dan Baum, a reporter for Harper Magazine, and this is the important part that left the reporter dumbfounded:

At the time, I was writing a book about the politics of drug prohibition. I started to ask Ehrlichman a series of earnest, wonky questions that he impatiently waved away. “You want to know what this was really all about?” he asked with the bluntness of a man who, after public disgrace and a stretch in federal prison, had little left to protect. “The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people. You understand what I’m saying? We knew we couldn’t make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did. (qtd. in Baum et al).

As the quoted text suggests, the main cause of the war was to gain more power and political advantage over any opposing voice. And that meant going overboard with laws and imposing them with severity.

World Incarceration Rates

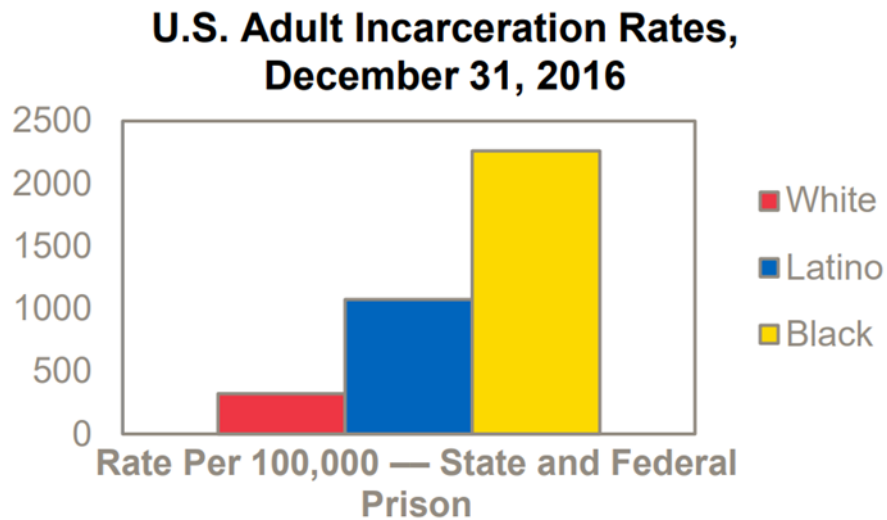


(World Prison Brief)

The Nixon campaign was only focused on one thing, partisan gain, it did not matter to them how much of America's sociological fabric have been destroyed, or how much it has affected the different communities that made up the United States.

2.1.3 The Tragic Effect the War had on the Black Community

As it was established, the war has had a big effect on the American society, and one major part of the society is the people of color are Blacks, Hipanics, etc. That minority of society was really affected by the war, and still suffers till this day. The fact is that "nearly 80 percent of people in federal prison and almost 60 percent of people in state prison for drug offenses are Black or Latino" (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics). The fact of the matter is, people's perspective on the Black community has greatly changed, the Black community itself has changed, since laws in the US prohibits ex-criminals from voting, the votes that could swing an entire country's fate are just silenced or not heard because of being convicted for sometimes a possession being an ex-criminal also means that finding jobs is harder and that leads to an unstable income, resulting in reverting back to the criminal life, essentially destroying every bit of a society.



(U.S. Department of Justice)

“One in 9 African American children (11.4 percent), 1 in 28 Hispanic children (3.5 percent) and 1 in 57 white children (1.8 percent) have an incarcerated parent” (Western and Pettit). And that is how a war that started a century ago is still till this day the main reason behind how the American society has shaped to be these days, and how much that has contributed in the race debate in the US.

2.2 The 2016 Presidential Elections and The Bipartisan Racial Debate.

2.2.1 The Election of Donald Trump as a Factor in a New Racial Debate

The 2016 American presidential elections were nothing short of controversial, in it the projected winner through electoral college was Donald Trump. Now that came in as a surprise for everyone, even some claim that his campaign was surprised that he won. After the surprising shock has worn off, everyone realized that they are on new battle grounds for what they presume to be the better future, whether they disagreed or agreed with his policy. And since day one of his presidency, the situation in the USA has been changing. Most will say that his campaign started off with him being racist towards immigrants and that set the tone for a controversial campaign. It does not help also the fact that he was a republican. The republican party that had Trump as their nominee, is a political party that’s known in America for its many

controversies around sensitive subjects, and questionable behaviors from some of the party members. Most important of all, Trump seemed to garner the attention of some of the most notoriously racist groups: The Ku Klux Klan with its former Grand Wizard -leader- David Duke. Furthermore, a research has been done by The Washington Post about the topic of hate crimes and found that counties that had hosted a 2016 Trump campaign rally saw a 226 percent increase in reported hate crimes over comparable counties that did not host such a rally (The Washington Post). Additionally, it is hard to discount a “Trump effect” when a considerable number of these reported hate crimes reference Trump. According to the ADL’s 2016 data¹³, these incidents included vandalism, intimidation and assault. Moreover, according to the FBI’s Universal Crime report in 2017, reported hate crimes increased 17 percent over 2016. Recent research¹⁴ also shows that reading or hearing Trump’s statements of bias against particular groups makes people more likely to write offensive things about the groups he targets.’’ (Feinberg et al).

And all of that has contributed to a lot of what is going on in the debate about race issues, new challenges have risen, and new movements have been created, all for the souls purpose of starting a debate, a movement for and a way for people to express themselves.

2.2.2 Trump's America and its Bipartisan Views on Race Issues.

While the country faces new challenges in terms of conversations surrounding race issues, the bipartisan view seems to be in a different place from the public discourse or opinion. Throughout their history they always disregarded the big factors that make up a huge portion of the problems the black community still suffers with. Mass incarcerations, blatant racism,

¹³ ADL H.E.A.T. Map". Anti-Defamation League, 2019, <https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resource-knowledge-base/adl-heat-map?s=eyJpZGVvbG9naWVzIjpbXSwiaW5jaWRlbnRzIjpbXSwieWVhciI6WzIwMTYsMjAxNi19>.

¹⁴ Document Dump: Follow The Racist – The Ashford Zone". *Ashford.Zone*, 2018, <http://www.ashford.zone/2018/09/document-dump-follow-the-racist>. Accessed 13 May 2019.

and hate crimes are going unchecked by both of the parties, and little to no attention is being put into resolving the racial crisis the USA has been dealing with for centuries.

For most of the nation's history, the two major parties were internally divided over racial issues. But today, racial policy positions align almost perfectly with the party system. The two parties, which openly clashed over race from the late 1970s through the mid-1990s, have for the last decade pretty much agreed not to talk about race — a silence that impedes progress toward racial equality. (S. KING, and M. SMITH).

As observed in the quote above, that was taken from a newspaper article 8 years ago, the situation back then does not differ from the situation nowadays. Even though the country back then had its first black president Barack Obama, he managed to stray away from the major problems that were hindering the black community and other communities, and instead focused on policies that were dividing the bipartisan gap even more. That has contributed greatly to the continuous disregard for the black community and it also paved the way for more negligence from different governments in a different presidential era.

The mid-century explosion of America's incarcerated population was fueled by both parties. More than two and a quarter-million people are now locked up in our prisons and jails, at a rate of 716 for every 100,000 residents — higher than any other country. Forty percent of these prisoners are black. Democrats and Republicans may diverge on several issues, but their zeal for shuffling black people in and out of cages has been mutual more often than it has not. (Cheney-Rice)

The war on drugs still comes back to hunt America and paralyze its legislative process and further complicate issues regarding race. It did not matter who was president or what way

did the parties seem to be heading towards, one thing remained the same, no care for people of color generally and black people specifically.

With Trump ruling America, the boat seems to be sailing in the wrong direction, and that is one of the main reasons no one is foreseeing any development or positive signs of change. “But today, people are not living in harmony or peace. The current president’s anger and incendiary rhetoric have stoked fear and division in our communities and schools. Worst of all, he sends a message to our children that it is alright to bully, ridicule and treat people like second class citizens.” (B. STIMPSON)

In order for a country to rise against all odds and heal its racist past, it needs to be built on fundamentals the country seems to be lacking nowadays, and with president Trump’s policies that are built on fear, rashness, and outright idiocy sometimes, a grim future looms ahead for America.

2.3 The Rise of the New Alt-Right

2.3.1 An Overview of the Alt Right and its Huge Success

The Alt Right (Alternative Right) is a movement that should be studied carefully in order to fully comprehend what the racial debate in the USA has come to, and what it has to face off as a challenge. This movement is intending to be a more appealing way of looking at white supremacy, in it, unlike what is happening in traditional white supremacy, the goal is to stray away from usual norms such as being ignorant or committing crimes, and instead to be modern, and that includes being eloquent and convincing to as many as possible in order to gain crowds and popularity.

But the dark engine of the movement is reactionary white male resentment. Alt-right propaganda is designed to nourish the precise grievances recited by the disillusioned and indignant young men that

dominate its ranks. It provides a coherent-but malicious-worldview. For a recruit, the alt-right helps explain why they don't have the jobs or the sexual partners or the overall societal and cultural respect that they believe (and are told) to be rightfully theirs. This appeal is resonating at a moment in the United States when economic inequality is worsening and a majority-minority United States is forecasted for 2044-developments exploited by racist propagandists (Hankes and Amend)

The movement that is spread around the world has a difference of ideology between Europe and America. A difference of focus but a sole main goal which is the supremacy of the White/European race.

A key defining trait of the "alt-right" is identitarianism, focused specifically on supporting the interests of "White/European" populations. For various European "alt-right" thinkers, the emphasis on Europe often focuses upon something similar to the Russian philosopher Aleksandr Dugin's "ethnos" notion (the combination of history, experience, culture, and so forth) as the basis of "European man," with thinkers associated with the Groupement de recherche et d'études pour la civilisation européenne (GRECE) in France providing additional notions of what "European man" entails.

In the United States, however, the focus is usually more explicitly racial in nature. Focusing on the populations, cultures, and traditions of "White/European" populations, the "alt-right" argues for the preservation, protection, and cultivation of these communities. The "alt-right" also specifically rejects universalism, be it in the form of classical liberalism, religious universalism -such as Christianity-, or modern globalization and neoliberalism. (W. Gray).

The Alt Right should be studied carefully, for it is a great deal of trouble both to America and its debates around race issues, and while the movement is still not under no real media supervision, it will continue to be as prevalent as it is. That is why education around this movement is mandatory in order to preserve the major strides that were done by the Civil Rights Movement

2.3.2 The Severe Consequences of this Dangerous Ideology

The movement that has rapidly grown is garnering the attention of everyone, and with that comes a looming danger that someone might do something wrong, either in response to what they may perceive as provoking, or just plain simple violence for the soul purpose of making a statement e.g. the shooting and murder of 50 Muslims in a mosque Christchurch, New Zealand. That no one is welcome in what they believe is their land only.

One prime example of violent acts of this movement in America was in a 2017 rally they held in Charlottesville, which they named “Unite the Right “. One of the members of the movement drove a car into the counter protesters that resulted in somebody’s death, the president at the time initially refused to denounce the Alt Right or white supremacists, which in turn gave them more gratification to do more and be recognized by more people.

Richard Spencer who is the leader of this movement, and the one doing the heavy lifting throughout media appearances and on the road talks has talked in an interview about his movement and how the 2017 rally was for them:

We are much closer to an insurgent movement," Spencer said. "The culture and political structure are not ours; indeed, we are viewed as aliens, as dangers by those in power. (qtd. in Pitofsky)

“At the moment, we’re licking our wounds, recovering, or at best, building a new foundation for the future," Spencer said.

"Charlottesville was used by the existing power structure to oppress us;
it was an attempt to ensure that nothing like that happens again." (qtd.
in ibid)

As seen in the interview, the leader has proclaimed the movement to be a bit of a rogue movement, and has some plans ahead. Which is something that should be of a concern to both government and civilians alike. The notion of not recognizing the government and asking for a limited government is a sentiment both the right and conservatives seem to believe in, and what actions they are doing now is slowly working towards that goal, which could spell a problem.

To say that the Alt right movement has contributed to the current debate around race and its issues would be an understatement. The movement has itself branched off to other similar movements, and new counter movements have been established, all for the soul purpose of driving the debate around race and its issues and for standing up for moral righteousness.

Conclusion:

The United states still reels from its past, from its mass incarceration days, from its negligence for problems and issues that could easily be fixed, and from its choice to put Trump into office, for it to heal is a tough fight, but for it to face major new forms of wars, would be next to impossible, yet it is bound to happen. The alt-right uses social media as its major form of communicating the hateful ideas and present it to its devoted followers, and with that comes a new form of debate, a deeply complicated one at that.

Nixon's war on drugs is still continuing till this day, it just took new forms, and adapted to current times, to produce a deeply broken divided society, with a president that persists on dividing more rather than bridging the gaps, and with a new form of racism and ignorance being displayed and given more platforms with little to no attention to what that might lead to.

Racism existed, exists, and will continue to exist if people are not prepared to fight it viciously and stay alarmed to anything that would help it grow again. Which is why the need for new civil rights movements is great, new ones that will refresh the public on what their reality is shaping up to be, and ones that will guard the nation to its most important goal: racial equality.

Chapter III

An Outlook on the Current Racial and Political Debate in the US

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Introduction:

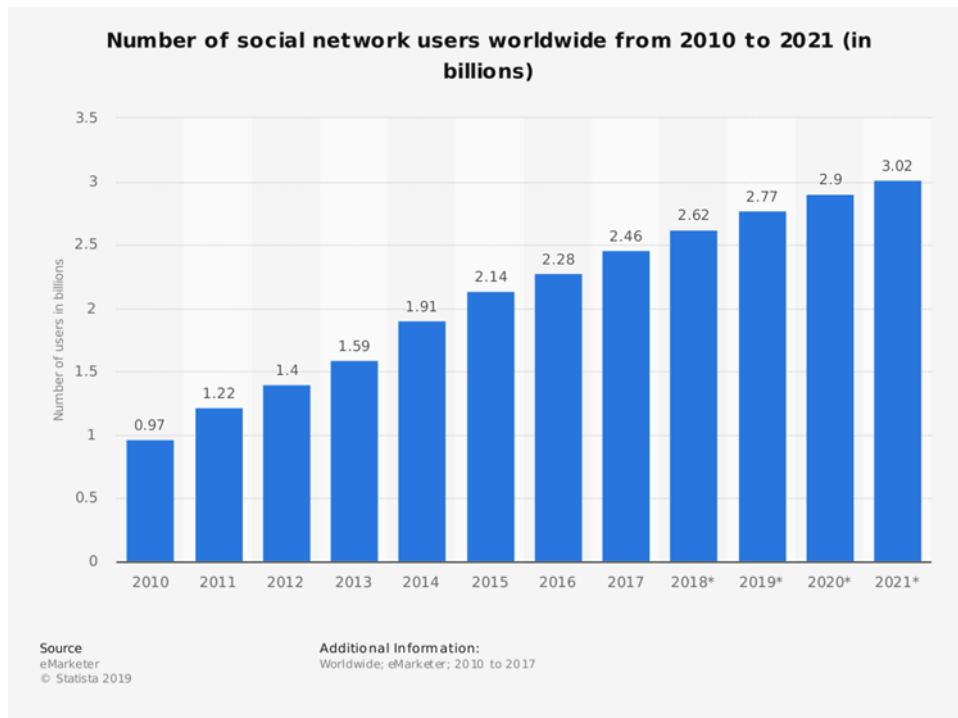
The current debate around race and politics in the US should be studied carefully. The different policies that are in place in the political and sociological spectrum are hindering the race to equality. Social media is a big part of that, and it has a huge role in enabling people to speak up and engage in debates and conversations, that can only be true if a problem of censorship exists. Social media also can be used as a tool to create more confusion and chaos amongst users and consumers, it has a close relation to the new digital media, where people consume news and engage in different ways. Under user scrutiny, the new media is struggling for approval and validity.

The future of racial debate is in the university, but they do not seem to hold a position of change, censorship is also a big problem in universities, delaying further strides in the road to equity.

A roadmap to racial equity should be put into place, it should involve everyone, without any discrimination, and with a lot of work and effort, it could be done. A path to racial equity is easy to follow, and could lead to the main goal the civil rights movement has dreamed to achieve.

3.1 Social Media and its Effects

With the substantial rise in internet users, social media has become a major part of everyone's lives. That has made things easier for everyone in terms of communication. Information is being accessed fastly and freely without careful monitoring. Which in turn produced a lot of traffic of news without any monitoring.



(Number Of Social Media Users Worldwide 2010-2021 | Statista)

As the bar graph forecasts, soon, near half of the planet population would be using social media. The reach of information through social media is incredible, to keep a monitoring eye on what's false and correct would be next to impossible, and that is what extremist groups are banking on, total chaos makes spreading whatever you desire a lot easier, and as discussed in the second chapter, every extremist ideology feeds off the fear, and through social media, access is free and unrestricted for everyone, meaning wider access to these ideas and many more similar ideas from different both sides of the ideological spectrum.

3.1.1 Race Debates and Censorship in Social Media

With social media overseeing every action from people, newer ideologies tend to mislead everyone into believing and buying into any agenda they represent. Most ideas about racial issues are correct, but some are taking advantage of the sympathy people give to people of color to give themselves an unfair advantage over everyone who is not them.

Institutional racism or systematic racism is a term that most often gets tossed around whenever a debate around race occurs, it suggests that racism is alive and well through laws

that were made to discriminate against blacks in general. Through this term, they try to explain every problem that the black community has had. The fact is as the second chapter explains how certain laws were meant to directly harm the black community, and how these laws are still affecting blacks and other people of color till this day. Most of them like to suggest that institutional racism is the reason behind the number of black people shot by the police¹⁵, however a new study has found that there was no systematic evidence of racial disparity by the police officers “When adjusting for crime, we find no systematic evidence of anti-Black disparities in fatal shootings, fatal shootings of unarmed citizens, or fatal shootings involving misidentification of harmless objects.” (qtd. in Cesario et al.). Social media users do not get to see these statistics very often, as they do not fit the popular useful narrative the media and these new movements would like to portray.

Many now suggest that social media censors any different opinion from people who would be opposed to the popular narrative and agenda these companies and organizations like to push. This has in turn sparked a new debate among users, is there really a censorship around different viewpoints? Twitter’s CEO Jack Dorsey has denied the allegations that his company censors different political view points despite the company being politically left leaning and he himself admitting that his company is so liberal that conservative employees feel afraid to express themselves. In an interview with Record Radio, the CEO tried to explain how his company functions, and in that he said that his conservative does not feel comfortable with self-expression

I mean, we have a lot of conservative-leaning folks in the company as well, and to be honest, they don’t feel safe to express their opinions at the company. They do feel silenced by just the general swirl of what

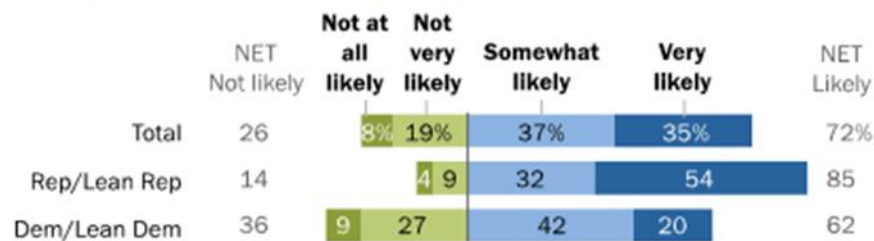
¹⁵ Swaine, Jon et al. "The Counted: People Killed By Police In The United States – Interactive". The Guardian, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2015/jun/01/the-counted-police-killings-us-database>. Accessed 17 May 2019.

they perceive to be the broader percentage of leanings within the company, and I don't think that's fair or right. (qtd. in Dorsey).

Twitter's controversial policies and employees aside, although what Jack Dorsey might suggest, and how much he puts an emphasis on the idea that his company is not actively censoring voices. People are not trusting those statements anymore, a 2018 poll by PEW Research Center suggests that 7 in 10 Americans believe that social media websites are censoring different political viewpoints.

Roughly seven-in-ten Americans think it likely that social media platforms censor political viewpoints

% of U.S. adults who think it is ____ that social media sites intentionally censor political viewpoints they find objectionable



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 29-June 11, 2018.

"Public Attitudes Toward Technology Companies"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(Smith)

As the study suggests, an alarmingly high number of Americans from both ends of spectrum do not trust social media. Exposing a really hidden bias of social media to be left leaning, meaning that the information and studies and scholars and politically opinionated people that are trying to show misconceptions about racial issues are being actively censored. There are a lot of other misconceptions and lies that we do not know of because of censorships, which makes social media a one sided platform that is being used to give an unfair advantage for some people over others.

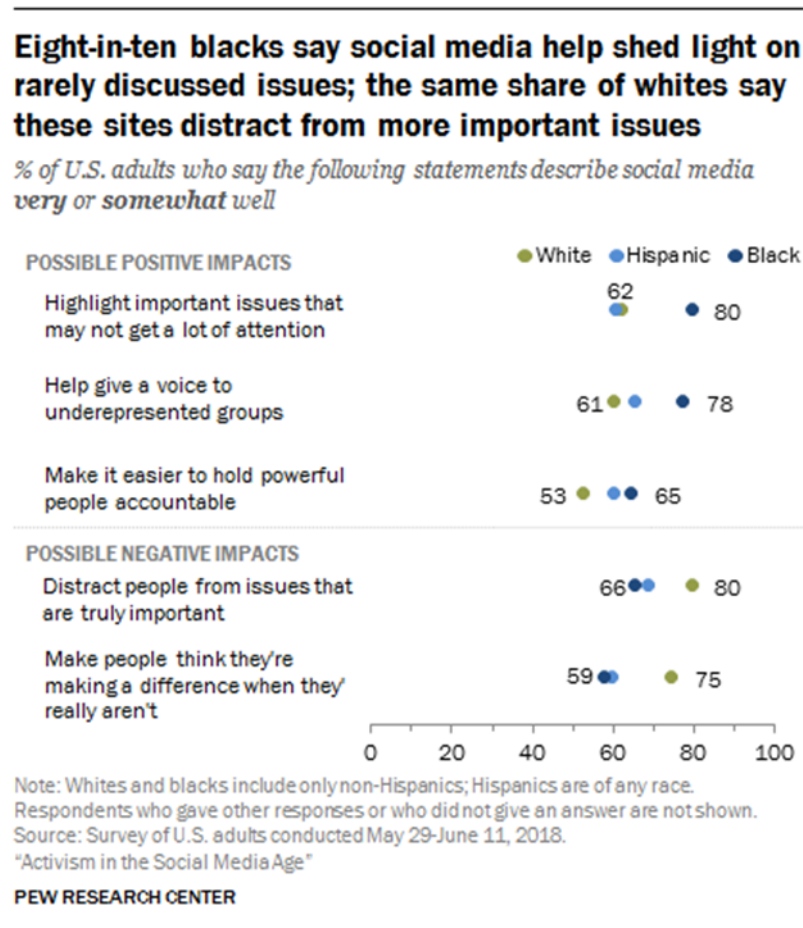
Social media could be a really useful tool, if monitored properly, it could enable civil conversations about race and people of color's daily struggles. But that is hindered by certain agendas and biases that allow no difference in a clear manifestation of a new age fascism that is brutal in its fight against anything different and suppression of opinions and ideas and facts. An ideology like this should not be allowed or tolerated, but since social media companies have a virtual monopoly over speech, it is hard to see any change looming ahead. Foreseeing a future with no civil debate around race issues, while hate groups from both sides continue to spread misinformation and feed off of the chaos they created. The only solution is through legislative process to forcibly impose strict guidelines over companies around free speech, information sharing, and political censorship. Till that day comes, social media companies will continue in their excluding behavior, unwatched, unrestricted, and unapologetic.

3.1.2 The New Form of Race Debates on Social Media

Social media has become a stage for new race debates, its ease of usage has made the access and engagement in conversations just about everything including race. With everyone being able to use and express their opinions, an inception of a new form of debates about race has been noticed. And where presidents were rarely using social media, today we see presidents, like Donald Trump use social media as his main form of communicating with people, some laws were even announced to social media even before taking effect. Politicians right now are using social media as the prime means of communications, campaigns launched online, comments about issues being presented online, explanations from representatives and senators about why they voted or opposed certain bills. It has made things definitely easier, but it also opened politicians up to a barrage of online harassment and public scrutiny.

Since social media has become a big part of every American's life, public engagement in issues has become a must, internet activism has shown the good side of social media, and

what it can do for social issues in terms of shedding light on unrepresented groups and their struggles.



(Anderson et al.)

As the graph suggests, there is a huge contrast between Black people and White people in terms of their beliefs around social media, and what it can enable in uncovering issues that would otherwise be still unnoticed by the public eye. It says also that social media enables civilians to hold people in power accountable for their actions, which confirms that when politicians use social media, they remain under public scrutiny, and every move they make online or offline has the potential to be used against them, and they would be held accountable on a higher than usual standard.

3.1.3 Swaying of Public Opinions Through Social Media

Earlier this year, special counsel Robert Mueller concluded his long investigation into a possible Trump Russia collusion in the 2016 presidential election, the Mueller report¹⁶ concluded that there was no direct collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia. However, something that was unraveled during the different investigations conducted by different US agencies concluded that there was Russian meddling in the 2016 elections.

Meddling in the elections means that there was an effort to create more divide in society by posing as American citizens. According to a report by the BBC (Lee) there were many tactics used by the Russians to create more divide which would lead to a Trump victory, they got help from volunteering Americans, one is said to have told them to aim for "purple states", which means states that are neither red, meaning republican. Or blue, meaning democrat or what is referred to as swing states, where voting can decide the fate of the country, and they are usually the most sought after by the candidates. The tactics included fake accounts on social media that were incorrectly representing the black community and creating anger online. Anger that was carried on to the streets, because these groups would orchestrate marches and rallies to support Trump and ridicule Hillary Clinton, his prime opponent. And after the election they organized two clashing rallies, with one in support of Trump, and the other having a prime message saying that Trump is not their president. The operation is said to have cost 1 million dollars, and operators were paid 25 to 30\$ per online post.

As the report suggests, the main group that was targeted were Black people, creating a divide through Black people was a major goal, and that created anger was carried to the outside world. That was noticed in the reported increase in hate related crimes in the US after Trump's election.

¹⁶ US Department of Justice. *The Mueller Report: The Final Report Of The Special Counsel Into Donald Trump, Russia, And Collusion*. US Department Of Justice, 2019.

Another form of major disruption to the votes in the US was a scandal that has got major social media companies under fire. In the now famous Cambridge Analytica scandal, that has had Facebook in a tough situation, the Guardian (Gadwalladr, and Graham-Harrison)²¹ has reported the Facebook allowed the data mining company to harvest 50 million Facebook profiles' data to use in a general psychological profile to target voters and create fear and hysteria among them. At that time 50 million profiles were a big part of the US citizens, and could have potentially represented a quarter of the voters, and Facebook sold the data of its users to that company, which is a practice that is not unusual, social media companies use users' personal data to create more targeted personal advertisement experience. That would have gone unnoticed if it were not for a whistle blower, who confessed to the malpractices of the company, and that he helped create a psychological warfare machine that helped interested buyers, and in this case Steve Bannon, the former White House Chief Strategist, who made use of every bit of the weapon, targeted voters in certain ways that helped him gain an unfair advantage by playing on people's feelings and fears.

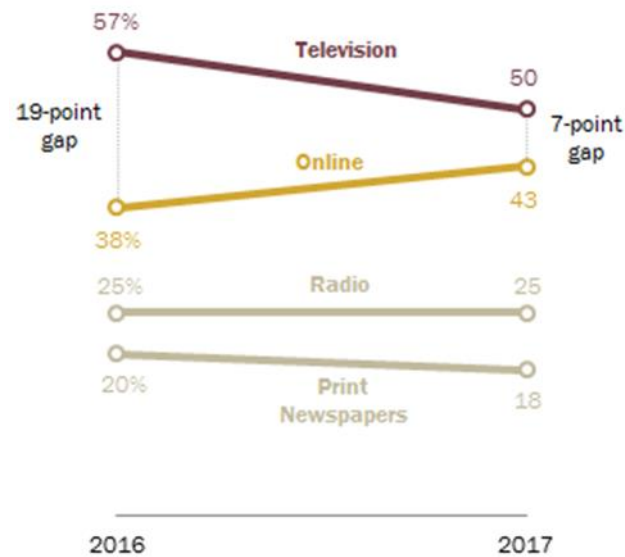
These social media practices have helped pave the way for more uncertainties, more confusion and in result more hate being targeted minorities and people of color. With that, the current racial debate seems to be at a crossroad with new weapons in the arsenal of extremists and unhinged politically charged enemies of racial equity.

3.2 The New Digital Media

As established, social media is here to stay, and its importance is massive. Which made it a main source of news for so many people, due to its ease of access to everyone, and fast efficient, which is a big key to its success.

Gap between television and online news consumption narrows from 2016

% of U.S. adults who often get news on each platform



Survey conducted Aug. 8-21, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(Bialik, and Eva Matsa)

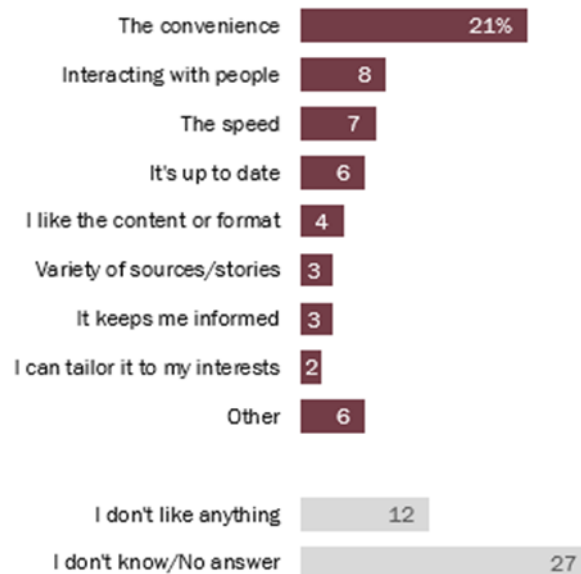
As the graph shows, there is an ever-increasing number of people who are getting their news online, which is justified, given how online news's success has made even traditional mass media slowly make a switch to online platforms and invest huge resources into making it work.

3.2.1 Aspects of Difference from Traditional Media

Traditional media is failing, that is a well-known fact amongst people, which is why they are making the switch to the new digital form of media, but that still leaves a lot of differences between the two. Which made users prefer the new age media more.

Social media news consumers like convenience, speed and social interaction

% of social media news consumers who say the thing they like most about getting news on social media is ...



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Survey conducted July 30-Aug. 12, 2018.

"News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2018"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(Eva Matsa, and Shearer)

Convenience seems to be the main reason behind the huge crowd that consumes online news. And it is true that it is convenient, everyone wants to stay online and would not mind to read their news while posting their opinion and engaging in conversations and debates about various subjects.

One of the main reasons that has made new digital media extremely successful is user engagement, and because it is easy to access, users feel more involved in news consumption. Digital media is also less restricted than traditional media, that means there are no advertisers -who are the main source of income for media in general- controlling every move of the newspaper, with wide access to the internet, no sole advertiser can have control over a certain newspaper, which would make newspapers less restricted and more open to discuss otherwise taboo subjects. Cost also plays a major role in the digital news front, it is so cost effective that

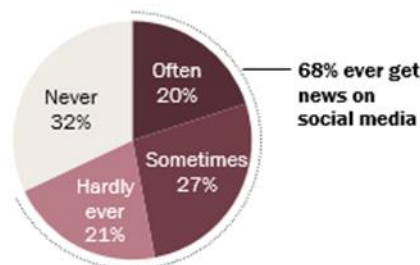
one can work from home and be an editor in a reliable newspaper, internet makes doing research fairly easy, so there is not a big need for a huge team of researchers and writers, all that can happen just online.

3.2.2 Digital Media Under the Public Eye

Convenience was a key word in the success of digital media, but it also is a two-edged sword, with that, everyone can become a journalist, meaning that journalistic integrity could be in danger from pseudo-journalists and imposters. Biases and false news, even trolls as talked about previously in the Russian social media war against the US, seem to be rampant in the digital media market.

About two-thirds of Americans get news on social media

% of U.S. adults who get news on social media ...



But most social media news consumers expect news there to be inaccurate

% of social media news consumers who say they expect the news they see on social media to be ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted July 30-Aug. 12, 2018.
"News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2018"
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(Eva Matsa, and Shearer)

The graph shows that majority of Americans get their news from online sources, but more than half of them are skeptical of the news they consume online, and are aware of how

biases sometimes can affect personal judgements the journalists have over reported subjects, a trait real journalists have because of their understanding of the journalistic integrity's importance. Many digital media outlets seem to be on a downward spiral as of lately¹⁷, because of said integrity, that has caused many to shut down, or in case of a few lucky ones, closing a department or merging with another company to preserve what is left of their brand.

3.3 The Future of Race Debate in the US

3.3.1 The Important Role of Universities in Enabling Race Debates

With the large number of students in US universities, debates should theoretically be at a high civility level, but that does not seem to be the case. According to an article in the Atlantic (Lukianoff, and Haidt), university students are actively seeking protection from speech they do not like or agree with, meaning censorship over any different ideas which hurts race debates and the road to equality. Usually university students are driven by their youth and recklessness, and it is university professors and administration's job to tame that recklessness, instead, most of them are just accepting these dangerous behaviors in fear of backlash. None of them could see the dangers of an excluding ideology, that has everyone in danger mentally and sometimes even physically.

In 2017 came the most dangerous student driven protests in UC Berkeley, when a controversial speaker was scheduled to appear and give a speech, but students were quick to start riots and clashes with his supporters in order to stop him from speaking at the university, which made things even worse, costing the university a sum of \$800.000¹⁸. A dangerous

¹⁷ Garrahan, Matthew, and Shannon Bond. "Vice, BuzzFeed And Vox Hit By Changes In Digital Media Industry | Financial Times". *Ft.Com*, 2018, <https://www.ft.com/content/482dc54a-1594-11e8-9376-4a6390addb44>. Accessed 18 May 2019.

¹⁸ Strickland, Patrick. "Milo Yiannopoulos' Security Cost UC Berkeley \$800,000". *Aljazeera.Com*, 2017, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/milo-yiannopoulos-security-cost-berkeley-800000-170925080606054.html>. Accessed 2019.

ideology such as censorship ideas, cannot be equaled to fascism, which hinders the road to racial equality, and makes the strides that civil rights movements made before appear to be pointless.

What made Dr. Martin Luther King widely regarded as a great speaker and a leader for a great movement is that he did not discriminate, he did not censor any different opinion, he listened and debated freely. He did not consider anyone that was different an enemy that deserves to be treated violently.

Universities in the US nowadays should use the MLK concept, which is to help students realize difference does not mean bad. It should stand against censorship in all of its forms, as it hurts any cause more than it helps. Universities should also enable civil debates, a controlled environment where students get to express themselves and their issues in a controlled environment. It is hard at the beginning to do, but if done properly, most issues around race and even different issues could cease to exist. That is why university has a huge importance, because it literally holds the key to the civil rights movement continuity that it desperately needs nowadays.

3.3.2 The Road to Racial Equity in America

A lot of people differ about a road to equity in America, but according to the Race Equity Resource Guide views the roadmap to start by acknowledging the wrongs of the past with an accurate recount of historical actions inside and outside the country, then moving to proper achievable goals that everyone can strive for with adequate work. There should be also an effort to learn about cultures and respecting them, giving them a chance to speak up and express themselves, their issues, and their history. Institutions should get involved in the fight against racism, from political to educational to even economical ones, their role is massive and could help in the road to equity. A process that is understood by everyone that helps dealing with

tensions that could arise is a must, everyone should know how to defuse tensions, from politicians to civilians, which in turn helps issues being heard, dealt with, and positive outcomes to be the fruits of everyone's efforts.

The road to racial equity requires everyone's effort, it is achievable and the map to it could be followed, but the will to reach that dream is a sentiment that many unfortunately do not possess, many do not share the excitement for a country with no racial biases or issues, and as said before, some want a never ending cycle of chaos in fear in society. That is why education about subjects such as these are as important as they could be, because it helps clear the confusion and bridge the gaps that are key to connecting everybody in their fight for equity, justice, and moral righteousness.

Conclusion:

The current racial and political debate in the US has become a chaotic mess. With the rise of social media and its users, it helped everyone connect and express themselves to a certain degree, censorship has made certain political viewpoints unwelcomed in the debates, unleashing a plethora of backlash and more chaos into the internet. People are constantly afraid of expressing their views which hurts debates even more, and makes reaching solution almost impossible.

Digital media came to the rescue with its ease of access and efficiency, but also came with its negative consequences, resulting in a general distrust for media online or offline from civilians who believe that mostly the media and what they produce is just a heavily biased and sometimes false news, which is just making the situation worse and filling the country with uneducated masses that are carrying heavy tensions which could lead to dangerous consequences. Finally, the educational system that was meant to produce productive students, has failed to create an environment where everyone has the ability to self-expression without

fear of being different. A roadmap was put down to show what should be done in order to reach racial equity as an ultimate goal, for it to succeed, it requires everyone's effort, which is hard, but with enough education and work, it could be well on its way to be achieved.

General conclusion

General conclusion

The present research attempts to analyze the civil rights movement, what made its fall, and the attempts to reincarnate the movement through debates. The research explores the civil rights movement, its foundations, how it came to be, and how the movement flourished through peaceful marches and sit-ins. The civil rights movement clearly did not appeal to many, it was countered with violence many times, but then rose a better more effective way to counter and effectively kill off the movement. Through different laws and decisions by the Nixon administration, the civil rights movement's strides were put down.

It goes on later to discuss the effect of the war on drugs on the American society, its basic fabric, and how the debate around race has changed in a small period of time. Connecting that to the present time, how the debate about race has been forgotten politically, through different administrations, and how the current American administration has done more in making the conversations around race more hostile towards people of color.

With the situation around race issues getting worse each day, social media with its huge influence has become a big factor in enabling race debates and voices to be heard. Although it comes with major drawbacks consisting of different groups profiting from easy access and popularity to start major campaigns of hate and ignorance. Social media has had a big impact on the American society, with its appeal to the general public, it appealed also to media companies, and a new wave of digital media was found, its ease of access and general engagement from people gave it its immense popularity. However; through that, came a slew of other issues regarding trustworthiness. New digital media journalists sometimes do not possess the moral compass and the journalistic integrity that traditional journalists pride themselves on, thus causing a stream of false and sometimes even fabricated news articles that made the situation tougher for people of color.

Social media is to blame for many of the issues around race and people of color, but that can be attributed to the educational system as well, and its most important facility, the university. The university holds the key to many racial issues that it can combat through education, and although that does not seem to be its priority at the moment, it should be given a great care, for the future of debates around race revolves around education primarily. Education can be a huge factor for making a roadmap towards racial equity, education around the past, the modern issues, and figuring out solutions for the future, a future that does not discriminate but strives towards equity for all.

Bibilography

Bibilography

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Appendix List

Appendix List

Appendix A: ملخص

ملخص

حركة الحقوق المدنية هي جزء لا يتجزأ من التاريخ الأمريكي، وما قامت به الحركة ونجحت بفعله عبر طرق سلمية تمكنت من الحصول على حقوق كانت مطلوبة للسكان السود. يتكلم هذا البحث أولاً عن حركة الحقوق المدنية وتاريخها الحافل بالنجاحات وكيف دمرت عبر سلسلة من القوانين سنتها رئاسة نيكسون. ثم يذهب البحث للكلام عن الرئيس الحالي دونالد ترامب وسياساته المساهمة في جعل الوضع السياسي والعنصري في أمريكا أسوأ مما كان عليه. سياسات ترامب والرؤساء الذين سبقوه لم تفعل شيئاً في إطار جعل الوضع أحسن، بل إن السود ومختلف الأعراق في أمريكا قوبلوا بنوع من التجاهل والتناهي عبر مختلف الأزمان والرؤساء والإدارات. حالة الركود التي سادت الأجواء السياسية والعرقية بدأت في التحرك مع بداية انتشار شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي التي كانت السبب في فتح العديد من أبواب الحوار واسقاط الضوء على الكثير من مشاكل السود. وبالرغم من نجاح شبكات التواصل، إلا أنها تعاني أيضاً من مشكل تكميم الأفواه المعارضة والتي زادت الوضع سوءاً كل يوم لمختلف الأقليات وعلى رأسها السود، ليكرس بهذا وضع جد مزمري سياسياً وعرقياً وصولاً إلى الجامعات التي تجاهلت دورها الجد في خلق نقاش بناء يقوم بإرساء أفكار جديدة لبناء مجتمع متساو عرقياً في سبيل توجه مكتمل لكل معارض. الجامعة هي اللاعب الرئيسي في الطريق نحو المساواة العرقية في أمريكا وبقليل من التعليم والتربية حول هاته المواضيع، قد يلوح طيف المساواة في الأفق.

الكلمات مفتاحية : الحقوق المدنية، العنصرية، ترامب، سوشال ميديا، الجامعة.