

Black or White: Alabama Leaders' responses to protests following the George Floyd Murder

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Overview

In May of 2020 a black man named George Floyd was murdered by four police officers. Following this travesty, the U.S exploded with protests and riots. This project focuses on the protests and riots in Alabama, and the moral language used by the leaders of the four largest cities in the state.

Words to look for when analyzing moral language:



Impact

The social implications of this project were to show citizens the reactions of their leaders when their citizens protested long standing social norms in both peaceful and violent manners.



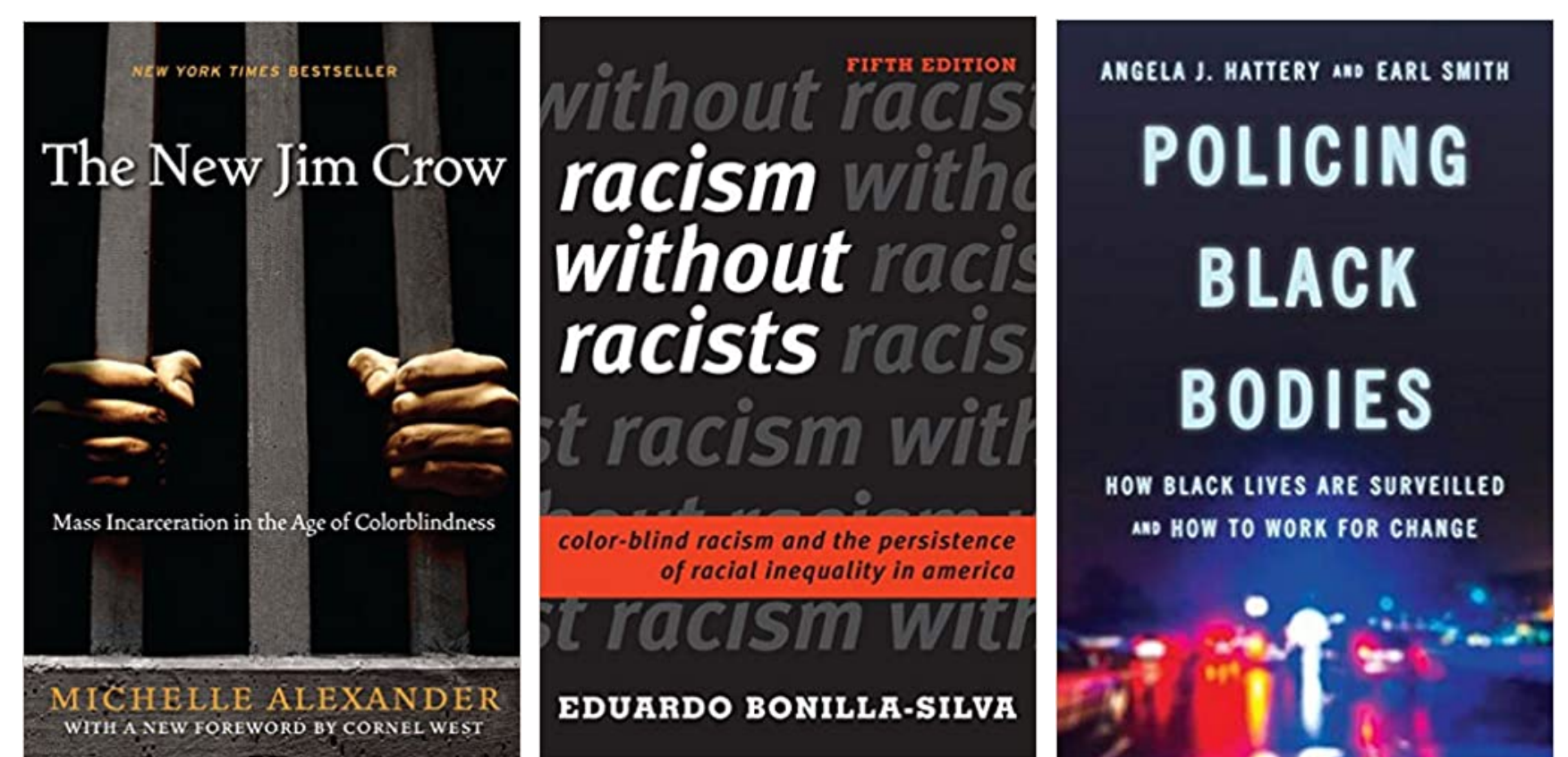
From left to right: Patrick Smith, Randall Woodfin, Mark McMurray, Tommy Battle. Four men, with four very different ways of handling protests.

Results

- While the subjects were demographically diverse, their responses to the protests were to allow said protests and only use police force in the event of violence.
- Most openly admonished the actions of the police who killed George Floyd (Wicentowski, 2020),
- They also admonished the citizens who participated said protests if they had become violent ((crobinson@al.com, 2020).
- Huntsville police chief Mark McMurray and Mayor Tommy Battle supported their police officers actions of shooting rubber bullets and tear gassing protesters (aremkus@al.com & lroop@al.com, 2020, Trace, 2020).

Conceptual Framework

The sociological field of race and ethnicity study is vast in its understanding of American race politics. This project provided current research on the conflict approach to solving racial inequality.



For more information on the current state of race in America, I recommend reading any of these three books.

References

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2. Crobinson@al.com, C. (2020, June 01). Birmingham declares state of emergency, curfew after riots. Retrieved September 14, 2020, from <https://www.al.com/news/2020/06/watch-live-birmingham-officials-discuss-night-of-protests-riots.html>
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5. Book images: Amazon
6. Images of Mayor and police chiefs came from their election/city pages and/or the article mentioned as references.

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