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History 101

9 December 2017

### Final Project

My group chose to discuss the similarities between the Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter, for the final project. Through this discussion, I have uncovered many similarities between the two monumental movements, for the African American community. The Black Lives Matter movement has changed the way many Americans look at racism, however there is much more progress to be done. In 2017, Black Lives Matter is still trying to incorporate ideas from many influential figures from the Civil Rights Movement.

The Civil Rights Movement was a progressive movement between 1954 and 1968. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks were just a few of many influential figures that shaped this movement. The Civil Rights Movement was the stem of American Racism. “The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin” (History.com, Civil Rights Act). This act enabled the lives of everyone to be treated in the same and fair manor. Although we thought a bill would mend the divide in our country, the struggle of racism is still relevant today.



The main goal of the Civil Rights Movement was to end racism and obtain equal rights. However, it took years for this to happen. Many black people were limited to everyday abilities. They could not drink out of the same water fountains, attend the same school, and eat in the same restaurants. The way that people acted during this time was despicable. America had a period where many blacks were lynched, churches were bombed, and businesses were shut down due to the color of their skin.

After America has adapted from the Civil Rights Movement, many thought the problem of racism would end. Growing up, I was informed with loads of information on Martin Luther King Jr. I knew what his goal was, who his following was, and why he was so powerful. We watched video clips and movies on this time period, and I saw firsthand, the treatment that was received. I couldn't help but thinking, "how could someone ever do such a thing?" It blew my mind that just because someone had a different colored skin tone, they could be treated like an object. We all breathe, eat, sleep, talk, walk, work, and think the same. But for some people, they did not believe this. After receiving plentiful loads of education on this movement, I thought I could grow up and never see racism. I was very wrong, and for some reason, I happened to grow up in a period where police brutality, and gun violence is at it's all time high. I am old enough to realize I am the generation of the present day Black Lives Matter movement, and that is scary to comprehend.

The present day Black Lives Matter campaign started after inhuman acts of racism shook the United States. From the BlackLivesMatter.com homepage, the history of this movement is stated as follows: *"In 2013, three radical Black organizers—Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi—created a Black-centered political will and movement building project called*



*#BlackLivesMatter. It was in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer, George Zimmerman.*” After this terrible slaying of Trayvon Martin, the entire country was disturbed. In another incident, Mike Brown was murdered by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, in 2014. The people of Ferguson and St. Louis “were being brutalized by law enforcement, criticized by media, tear gassed, and pepper sprayed night after night” (BlackLivesMatter.com). These acts of white aggression towards blacks started the *Black Life Matters Ride*, created by Darnell Moore and Patrisse Cullors. More than 600 people gathered for this movement, in just 15 days. The Black Lives Matter Ride was only the beginning for BLM, and it has only exploded from there.

It's been 62 years since the Civil Rights Movement ended, unfortunately many acts of racism are still prevalent today. In June 2015, a man identified as Dylann Roof took the lives of 9 people while they were at Church. They were worshipping Jesus peacefully in a place they felt safe. Some ignorant man thought it would be wise to bring hell in to a place of worship. Acts like these are unthinkable and terrible.

The goals of these movements are so relevant to each other, is because they both support the same role: civil rights. Civil rights is defined as “the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality” (dictionary.com). Both parties involved in these movements want to live a life of peace. No one wants to hear that their child just got shot, or that their brother is dead in the street. It's an awful concept to wrap your head around, and many people are scared to live in this country. This should not be how our country acts and responds to violence and death, and more should be done to advocate that all lives matter.

To expand my knowledge on both movements, I took on the role of the propagandist. My goal was to create an image of our movement. The image I created is of the statue of Robert E.



Lee in Charlottesville, Virginia. In my image, I put the background of the statue of Lee, and then I placed pictures of Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X in front of the statue. Our goal for the image was to create something that correlated both movements together. So we thought, what would these three significant figures think during this movement? Therefore, I chose to place them on the image of the statue, pretending they were at the riot. In the image, you can see Malcolm X with a rope trying to pull down the statue, and Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. directing him. If they were all still alive, I believe that they would all be in response to these movements to take down the statue. All these protests were done as a march. They were not violent, although destroying some property, no death was caused as an intention. However, for the other side of the argument, a careless act resulted in death. One woman identified as Heather Heyer, was killed by James Alex Fields Jr., as he drove his vehicle through the crowd of protestors. "Heather Heyer dedicated her life to standing up for those she felt were not being heard, her family and friends said. She died fighting for her beliefs and campaigning against hate. She died trying to bring about a purpose said her father Mark Heyer" (Almasy). This vicious cycle of protest and violence is never ending.

The reason that this cycle of racism is so crucial in today's society is because of the result of it: death. More people are being killed each and every day. What is America doing about it? Nothing. We sit here in silence and watch the same people receive unfair treatment. Racism will never end. There are too many people in this world that believe in the worst. Racism may never end, but the violence can. People do not need to DIE because of your belief. *Everyone* deserves a life, whether you believe that or not.



## Final Paper- 1 Page Analysis

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My group consisted of Arun, Caroline, Mitchell, Shelby, and Uriel. The group did a great job on discussing the topic of Black Lives Matter and the Civil Rights Movement. We all agreed that these movements should correspond with each other, because the same message is portrayed in both. All lives matter, and to relay this message in both movements was something we all felt passionate about. While coming up with the topic, we thought of all the effects we thought we could portray in both movements. Black Lives Matter was started even way back when with the Black Panther Party, as they fought for the same rights. I find the Civil Rights movement so interesting because I was so well educated about it as a child. I loved watching movies and documentaries, and reading books about this movement because it was so interesting. It really blew my mind that humans could possibly do this to other humans. With my interest in visual images, I was excited to take a part in the propagandist with Caroline. In my image I had the background picture of Robert E. Lee's statue in Charlottesville, Va. Then I included pics of a few important Civil Rights leaders, as if they were taking down the statue in support of the riots. So it's like what would they do during this riot in 2017, and I made them taking down the statue. In Carolines, she had the same message as mine (as we concluded the same idea together, just creating separate pictures), although she had a different spin of including the same civil rights leaders, Malcolm X and MLK Jr., as they are "live tweeting". I hope that our images were able to get the message across of these significant movements, and that one day I can ask "what is racism?"



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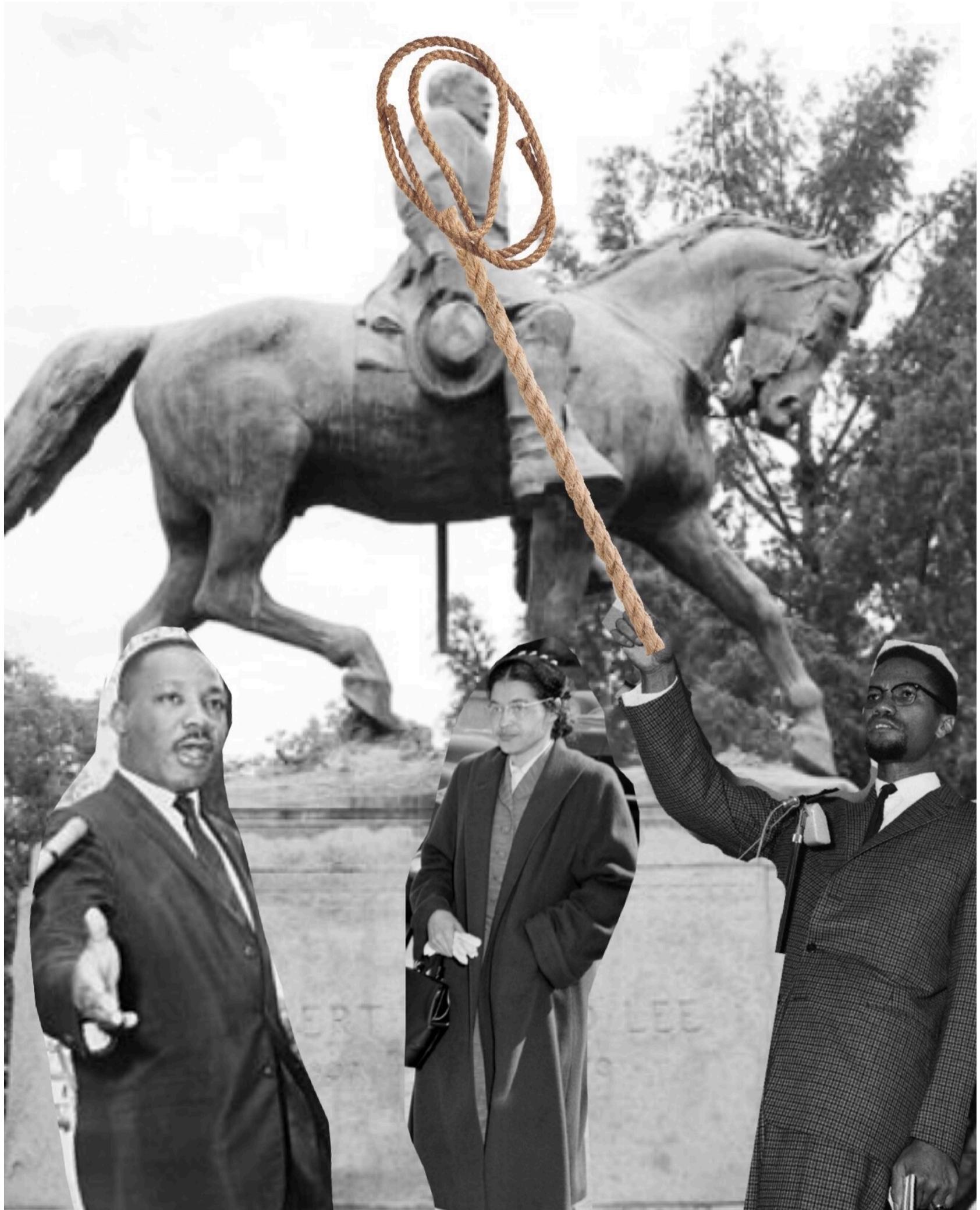
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Propagandist Image, Olivia Breaux, History 101

