“**Resolved: on balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.”**

Edited by Rob Layne

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# Aff Case 1

**My partner and I stand in firm affirmation of the resolved: on balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.**

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Civil Unrest: Refers to violent disruptions to a community's or country's typical way of life**

**Responsibility: Being the cause of a particular action or situation, especially a harmful or unpleasant one. By the Cambridge Online Dictionary**

**OBSERVATION: INSTANCES WHICH ACTED AS CATALYSTS TO CIVIL UNREST OUTWEIGH ACTIONS TAKEN BY PROTESTERS AFTER EVENTS THAT BEGAN CIVIL UNREST.**

**Contention 1: Police are instigating incidents which lead to civil unrest**

**SUBPOINT A: FERGUSON, MISSOURI**

On August 9th, 2014, Michael Brown allegedly stole cigarillos from his local market and was walking down the street with his friend when he was told to move to the sidewalk, when officer Brown realized that Mr. Brown fit the description of the alleged thief from the market, he then directed his police cruiser to Mr. Brown, in which a series of events unfolded which left Mr. Brown dead in the streets. The response from his killing was multiple protests across the country. The police deployed en masse using military gear in order to stop protests from occurring, and arrested individuals without paperwork. According to Davey and Bosman in 2014, “the decision of the grand jury of nine whites and three blacks was announced… the killing, on a residential street in Ferguson, set off weeks of civil unrest.” Clearly, the killing of Michael Brown that occurred at the hands of Officer Darren Wilson led to and caused civil unrest in Ferguson. Therefore, this is an instance in which civil unrest occurred due to police action, and the police must be held more responsible than the protesters for recent civil unrest in the united states.

**SUBPOINT B: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

On April 12th 2015, Freddie Gray was taken on a rough ride after being unlawfully arrested in Baltimore, when he arrived at the police station, he was not breathing, and multiple requests for medical assistance were denied by police officers. As crowds of protesters grew around the world as Mr. Gray lay incapacitated in a coma, when the news of his death on the 19th of April, protests exploded around the globe. In response, police deployed again en masse and used tear gas and pepper balls to disperse crowds of protesters, and even used military vehicles to send protesters to their homes while they demanded justice. As Justin George observes from the Baltimore sun “Gray's death launched Baltimore into weeks of protests that culminated with a day of rioting across the city.” Because of the officers negligence and failure to follow their own policies and laws, Mr. Gray’s death sent a major metro area into anarchy. This is yet another instance of civil unrest being caused by police action, and again the police must be held more responsible than the protesters for civil unrest in the united states.

**SUBPOINT C: NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK**

In Staten Island the NYPD attempted to arrest a man for selling untaxed cigarettes, but upon being arrested he resisted. Garner was an asthmatic, and when he was brought down by a choke hold he suffocated and the autopsy report indicated that the death was caused by homicide. But the officer wasn’t indicted. Later, protests were organized in Chicago, DC, Boston, Baltimore, Minneapolis, and Atlanta. This shows that the lack of indictment of officers that were responsible for the killing of Eric Garner caused protests within the city and throughout the world. Therefore this is yet another incident that was a police incident that led to civil unrest.

**Contention 2: Police are not only instigating, but also perpetuating civil unrest**

**SUBPOINT A: MILITARIZATION**

A Stanford report by **Jeff Roberson in August 2014** reports that "the militarization of police departments is doing more harm than good." And further, regarding whether or not police militarization has a disparate effect on communities of color he concurs that militarization absolutely has a different presence in communities of color, you don't tend to hear about police using battering Rams and stun grenades to execute search warrants in white neighborhoods. Earlier this year the ACLU reviewed SWAT deployments in hundreds of police departments across the country and found that members of racial minorities were significantly more likely than whites to be affected. In some places the disparity was truly astounding. In Allentown, Pa., blacks were 24 times more likely than whites to be impacted by a SWAT deployment. In Ogden, Utah, the ratio was 40:1. In Burlingame, N.C., it was close to 50:1. All of this means that militarization only escalated civil unrest because it fosters racial tension, atmospheres for violence, and distrust in the community.

**SUBPOINT B: POLICE ENGAGING IN CIVIL UNREST**

In a study by Kindy and Lowery in 2014 writes that "Hundreds of protesters have been arrested since August for violating unwritten rules and committing minor offenses, such as failure to disperse or unlawful assembly, and for violating a noise ordinance. Many have been taken to jail without being told what charges they may face and have often been released without any paperwork. For weeks, officers employed a “five-second rule” under which any protester who stopped walking was subject to arrest — a policy ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge this week." A report by the Washington Post in December of 2014 writes "The Justice Department says in a new release letter that Fairfax 'withheld materials' from the probe and that there were 'a number of challenges in investigating this case.'" Even though the police had full ability to disclose information regarding this case. These instances of refusing to protect the public and withholding information proves that the police are in fact perpetuating civil unrest.

# Aff Case 2

**Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protestors for recent civil unrest in the United States.**

We start our case with some clarifying definitions from Oxford Dictionary.

We define responsibility as "the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something," and

We define protestors as "A person who publically demonstrates strong objection to something."

Our argument is that protestors are different from criminals that are looting and committing arson without a political objection or reason.

**Contention 1. Racial Bias in Policing has created civil unrest**

**Our argument is two fold:**

**Sub A- Ferguson proves that racial bias exists in policing.**

Time Magazine reported on March 3, 2015

that a US Justice Department into the Ferguson police Department found "In 88 percent of the cases in which the department used force, it was against African Americans. In all of the 14 canine-bite incidents for which racial information was available, the person bitten was African American. USA today- Speed traps on roads that run through small towns have long generated money for the local governments. Big cities also police for profit. Washington, D.C., raked in $92 million in ticket revenue in 2012, thanks in part to confusing parking signs. At least these strategies tend to target commuters and drivers passing through a town. Policing as a profit center is most pernicious when the quest for money repeatedly targets hometown residents, generating distrust and perverting the system of justice. That's what happened in Ferguson, Mo. From its top officials down to officers on the streets, the driving force for law enforcement was generating income, not public safety. City leaders demanded that police bring in more money. Officers were promoted based on "productivity," meaning how many citations they wrote. The municipal court, which should have been a check on unlawful police conduct, became a collection agent. Fines for minor offenses at times ballooned into "crippling debt" for people ticketed, the Justice Department found in its investigation released last week. Jail became the penalty for missing a court date or failing to pay. These policies, even without specific racial targeting, fell most heavily on black residents, who account for two-thirds of Ferguson's population but 85% of traffic stops. The policies are a recipe for the sort of resentment that erupted after Michael Brown was fatally shot last summer. This kind of policing usually remains in the shadows, as it would have in Ferguson if not for Brown's death. But similar practices have been uncovered around the country: Montgomery, Ala., collected nearly $16 million in "fines and forfeitures" in 2013 -- more than five times the amount collected by other similarly sized Alabama cities, according to a suit filed on behalf of jailed indigent residents. In Ohio, more than 300 "mayor's courts" presided over traffic cases in 2011. Often, the "principal objective is what's in the cash register at the end of the evening," said Ohio Supreme Court Senior Justice Paul Pfeifer. Police in Gulfport, Miss., were accused in 2005 of conducting sweeps in predominantly black neighborhoods, stopping people to check whether they owed "old fines" and jailing those who couldn't pay, according to a federal lawsuit filed by the Southern Center for Human Rights. The case was dropped after the city corrected many of the problems. Outside St. Louis, several small municipalities rely on police and courts to finance local government. This fiscal year, Ferguson expects fines and fees to bring in $3.1 million of a $13.3 million budget. In the wake of the Justice report, the state Supreme Court appointed an appeals court judge to "restore public trust." Ferguson's city manager resigned on Tuesday, and the police chief followed on Wednesday. A top priority for their replacements is to ensure that law abiding residents are regarded as citizens to protect, not cash cows to milk dry.

**But it's important to note that racial bias isn't just isolated to Ferguson.**

Kimberly Kindy of the Washington Post details what the Post found when investigating police killings this year.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/fatal-police-shootings-in-2015-approaching-400-nationwide/2015/05/30/d322256a-058e-11e5-a428-c984eb077d4e\_story.html

Among the unarmed victims, two-thirds of whom were black or Hispanic. Overall, blacks were killed at three times the rate of whites or other minorities when adjusting by the population of the census tracts

Second, his type of racial bias creates a spark for civil unrest Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wrote for Time Magazine on August 17, 2014 "With each of these shootings/chokehold deaths/stand-your- ground atrocities, police and the judicial system are seen as enforcers of an unjust status quo. Our anger rises, and riots demanding justice ensue."

Additionally, Lawrence Thomas wrote in his 2009 book, "Contemporary Debates in Social Philosophy" that individuals "have a responsibility to protest injustice" (p. 304) and that the inaction is tantamount to "evil cooperation with racial injustice."

Essentially, when injustice has reached a tipping point then there is nothing that we can do but protest as we have a moral obligation to rejection racial injustice.

Finally, the impact to this argument is that if we are attempting to determine causation, then the police using racial bias are responsible for recent civil unrest. If it weren't for the police implementing and reifying a system of racial injustice that killed Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Darrien Hunt, then civil unrest would not have occurred or have been needed.

**Contention 2. Police militarization and Use of Force are the escalating factor in the recent civil unrest.**

**Sub A. Police are Militarizing. Escalating Civil Unrest**

We first note that police departments around the country have begun militarizing their forces against their own communities.

According to CNN Evan Perez, Cnn, 12-8-2014, "Police militarization: The Ferguson issue that wasn't," CNN, http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/01/politics/ferguson-police-militarization-white-house/ // SWG

Between 2009 and 2014, the federal government has provided nearly $18 billion in funds and resources to support programs that provide equipment and tactical resources to state and local law enforcement. The vast majority of that money goes to back office equipment, with only 4 percent of property going to heavier, more controlled equipment. Police tactical units in recent years have taken to wearing camouflage and some agencies have received heavy-duty battlefield vehicles known as MRAPs, an acronym for Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. What many saw as militarization, some law enforcement officials say, was what has come to be standard gear used by SWAT teams, which aren't routinely deployed on civilian streets.

Apuzzo writes in the New York Times on June 8, 2014 that "according to Pentagon data, police departments have received tens of thousands of machine guns; nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines

Not only are they receiving gear, but police departments are using it.

On February 17, 2014, The Washington Post notes that "criminologist Peter Kraska has estimated that there are somewhere between 50,000 and 80,000 SWAT raids per year now in America, and that number is likely growing." Second, this equipment is being used to escalate civil unrest as police departments crack down on protestors.

Kindy and Lowery write in the Washington Post on October 10, 2014 that

"Hundreds of protesters have been arrested since August for violating unwritten rules and committing minor offenses, such as failure to disperse or unlawful assembly, and for violating a noise ordinance. Many have been taken to jail without being told what charges they may face and have often been released without any paperwork. For weeks, officers employed a “five-second rule” under which any protester who stopped walking was subject to arrest — a policy ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge this week." CNN concurs with their August 14, 2014 report explaining, "Chief among them are decisions like deploying heavily armed officers and using military equipment, which some experts say helped to make a bad situation even worse.

Beehive Forensics Institute 2015 Layne PFD Lab

Retired Lt. Gen. Russel Honore knows a thing or two about this kind of thing, having been dispatched to New Orleans in 2005 to lead recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. What authorities in Ferguson should have done, he said, is have "front line policemen" to face protesters, not a SWAT team. "The tactics they are using, I don't know where they learned them from," Honore said Thursday on "CNN Newsroom." "It appears they may be making them up on the way. But this is escalating the situation."

**Sub B. Weapons effect**

Studies show that humans are more likely to react aggressively to weapons. This is dubbed the “Weapons Effect”Leonard Berkowitz and Anthony LePage conducted a survey in 1967 looking at humans reactions when a weapon was found. They found that we will react in a much more aggressive manner when weapons are present. Another study showed that when a truck with a gun stopped at a traffic light, the people behind were more likely to honk the horn than when the truck only had a gun rack but no gun. Honking the horn is an act of aggression.

Glenn Reynolds, a professor of law at the University of Tennessee, explains the problem of police militarization.Glenn Harlan Reynolds, 8-14-2014, "SWAT Overkill: The Danger of a Paramilitary Police Force," Popular Mechanics,http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/a1077/paramilitary-police-force-ferguson/?click=main\_sr // SWG

Police look inward. They're supposed to protect their fellow citizens from criminals, and to maintain order with a minimum of force. It's the difference between Audie Murphy and Andy Griffith. But nowadays, police are looking, and acting, more like soldiers than cops, with bad consequences. And those who suffer the consequences are usually innocent civilians. Finally, the impact to this argument is that the use of force and militarization of the police are helping to deepen the civil unrest.

Blocks:

Pro:

A2: Militarization causes civil unrest

My opponents argue that militarization doesn’t directly cause civil unrest. Eric Jaffe rights Here's where the militarization of local police becomes so problematic. Officers in fullon riot gear give all the individuals in a protest crowd a common enemy. It's not that everyone in the protest crowd suddenly assumes the identity of a violent jerk—it's that the many peaceful protestors feel a sort of kinship with the violent jerks against the aggressive police. Despite their differences, they're united by a single goal: defend against the outside force. Here Jaffe explains that when the police become militarized they, whether consciously knowing this or not, they allow for more unrest to ensue by depicting themselves as “the common enemy”. Eric Jaffe, 8272014, "If Cops Understood Crowd Psychology, They'd Tone Down The Riot Gear," Co.Design, http://www.fastcodesign.com/3034902/evidence/ifcopsunderstoodcrowdpsychologytheydtonedowntheriotgear // CH

**A2: Arguments against Weapon Effect**

TO briefly explain our weaposn effect My opponents have attacked my weapon effect evidence,but In a recent study Brad Bushman indicates

Research also shows that drivers with guns in their cars more likely to drive aggressively.[3] A nationally representative sample of over 2,000 American drivers found that those who had a gun in the car were significantly more likely to make obscene gestures at other motorists (23% vs. 16%), aggressively follow another vehicle too closely (14% vs. 8%), or both (6.3% vs. 2.8%), even after controlling for many other factors related to aggressive driving (e.g., gender, age, urbanization, census region, driving frequency). **Human beings can identify potentially dangerous, threatening stimuli such as spiders and snakes very quickly.** T his makes sense from an evolutionary perspective because some spiders and snakes are poisonous, and our ancient ancestors who could identify them quickly were more likely to avoid them and live to pass on their genes. **Recent research shows that people can identify guns as quickly as they can identify spiders and snakes.** [4],[5],[6] These findings are very interesting because guns are modern threats and cannot be explained using evolutionary principles. Yet guns are a far more dangerous to people today than spiders or snakes. Poisonous spiders (e.g., Black Widows, Brown Recluses) kill about 6 Americans each year.[7] Poisonous snakes (e.g., rattlesnakes) kill about 5 Americans each year.[8] In comparison, guns kill about 31,000 Americans each year.[9] **Several studies have replicated the weapons effect. A review of 56 published studies confirmed that the mere sight of weapons increases aggression in both angry and nonangry individuals.** [10] Perhaps **the weapons effect occurs because weapons are closely linked to aggression in our brains. Therefore the weapons effect is scientifically proven as an instinctual trait. So when police oficers unveil these news weapons it is human nature for civil unrest too ensue. Brad J. Bushman, 1182013,**

**"The "weapons effect"," Psychology Today, https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/getpsyched/ 201301/theweap onseffect // SWG**

**A2: Police not actually using new gear for good**

**https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2014/12/08/protd08.**

**html**

**reporters from the World Socialist Website After an initial series of protests and rallies in the downtown area of California, involving as many as a thousand people, a column of at least 60 police officers clad in riot gear confronted a group of overwhelmingly young and peaceful protesters** outside UC Berkeley on Telegraph Avenue, one of the main thoroughfares of the city. **The police charged the group of students using tear gas, batons, riot shields, smoke grenades and rubber bullets. Hundreds of people could be heard screaming and fleeing the scene, trying to escape the tear gas, which hung like a toxic cloud over the whole area. The gas was strong enough that it poured into the nearby residential streets where large groups of bystanders were watching the confrontation. Groups of residents, primarily students, came out of their homes to treat the afflicted.**

**A2: Social Media Good**

**A2: Social Media**

**My opponents bring up that social media is another way to cause civil unrest. But the truth is that social media can actually create a disincentive for people to protest. Warrant: Joshua Tucker of the Washington Post explains that social media discourages more protesting.** Tucker, Joshua, 11252014, "Tweeting Ferguson: how social media can (and cannot) facilitate protest," Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkeycage/ wp/2014/11/25/tweetingfergusonhowsocialmediacanandcannotfacilitateprotest/ **Of course, it is important to realize that just as social media can make people more likely to participate in protest, the information and motivation received through social media might make people less likely to participate in protests. For example, information related to protests turning violent might make people less likely to want to join those protests. Similarly, other emotional responses might inhibit rather than encourage behavior. We also can not discount the possibility that actors who wish to discourage protest will also use information available on social media to shut down protests. Similarly these actors may choose to spread disinformation about protests that either is intended to discourage participation or to make it harder for protesters to coordinate activity. CON A2Social Media Good Social media makes it easier to get information . Joshua Tucker [New York University], 11/25/2014, “Tweeting Ferguson: how social media can (and cannot) facilitate protest”, The Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkeycage/ wp/2014/11/25/tweetingfergusonhowsocialmediacanandcannotfacilitateprote st/ / /SP Social media, therefore, can play an important role in facilitating protest by making it easier for individuals to acquire information. This can include: Information about the planned and actual location and timing of protests Information about how safe participation is (is there violence? fires? tear gas?) Information about how many other people are currently participating in protests In addition to providing information about the protests, social media might affect people’s motivation to participate in the protest. This could be done in many ways , but could include: Social media increases incentive to riot. Joshua Tucker from New York University illustrates social Media influencing people's motivation to participate in protest through " Joshua Tucker [New York University], 11/25/2014, “Tweeting Ferguson: how social media can (and cannot) facilitate protest”, The Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkeycage/ wp/2014/11/25/tweetingfergusonhowsocialmediacanandcannotfacilitateprote st/ // SP Triggering feelings of group identity (e.g, the many references seen to “black lives matter” in tweets regarding the Ferguson protests) Triggering feelings of injustice Triggering emotions such as anger A2Social media is unique from other media. My opponents claim that social media is non unique from other media. For this I have three answers Joshua Tucker [New York University], 11/25/2014, “Tweeting Ferguson: how social media can (and cannot) facilitate protest”, The Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkeycage/ wp/2014/11/25/tweetingfergusonhowsocialmediacanandcannotfacilitateprote st/ // SP First, there is the speed with which social media delivers information about ongoing events. Network news can only cover one development at a time; social media, on the other hand, can simultaneously be covering all of them, and virtually instantaneously. Second, social media allows for potential protest participants to actively plan events, something that is not even in the purview of traditional media. Third, social media allows people to search for information specific to their own personal needs. To go back to Monday night, CNN was covering events in Ferguson ; I wanted to know whether there were protests in New York City. Searching the public Twitter page made this possible in seconds, at which point I learned exactly where protests in NYC were occurring. Fourth, social media brings information that is prevetted by networks of people into which the user has selfselected. To put this another way, when we use social media without the search function – by accessing normal feeds of information – we are getting information from people we have chosen to follow or with whom to be “friends” that they have already identified as important enough to share. I personally don’t think we have a good handle on how much this matters, but my suspicion is strong that seeing that one’s friend has chosen to share information about where a protest is taking place plays a different role in the decision making process of whether to join**

# Aff Case 3

**Affirmative Case**

**We affirm: Resolved On balance Police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States. We observe the following**

**Observation 1: Lawrence Thomas wrote in his 2009 book, "Contemporary Debates in Social Philosophy" that individuals "have a responsibility to protest injustice" (p. 304) and that the inaction is tantamount to "evil cooperation with racial injustice." Thus, if the affirmative team can establish that there is injustice because of police then protesters can’t be considered responsible if there is a moral obligation.**

**Observation 2: We define recent as being since September 11, 2001 as this was at the moment where American policing was fundamentally altered into its modern role.**

**Contention 1: The Militarization of the Police**

Since the events of September 11th, 2001, McCarthy, contributing reporter at Forbes, estimates that 750 million worth of equipment had been given through August 2014, up from 441 million the year prior.

McCarthhy 14, (Niall, McCarthy, (Contributing Researcher at Forbes), “Chart: Pentagon Donations to Police are Skyrocketing.”) August 15, 2014.

The law enforcement agencies have to request the gear before being vetted – the equipment is free and they only have to pay for the shipping**. Pentagon donations to the police reached $532 million in 2012 and $449 million in 2013. The figure has already topped $750 million in 2014.** Why? The accelerating pace of the withdrawal from Afghanistan alongside a steady supply of surplus MRAPs are the primary reasons. A new MRAP sells for somewhere between $500,000 and $700,000 but law enforcement agencies are picking up these valuable beasts for free through the 1033 program.

In fact, **Bouie 14**, [Jamelle, Bouie (Senior Journalist at Slate Magazine) “The Militarization of the Police. It’s dangerous and wrong to treat Ferguson Missouri, as a war zone.”] August 13, 2014.

Since 2006, **according to an analysis by the New York Times, police departments have acquired 435 armored vehicles, 533 planes, 93,763 machine guns, and 432 mine-resistant armored trucks**. Overall, since Congress established its program to transfer military hardware, local and state police departments have received $4.3 billion worth of equipment. Accordingly, the value of military equipment used by these police agencies has increased from $1 million in 1990 to $324 million in 1995 (shortly after the program was established), to nearly $450 million in 201

The impact which shows why police are responsible for civil unrest is two-fold.

First, due to this increase of militarization, police are now trained to look at civilians as the enemy, instead of people they are protecting. Per Arthur Rizer of the Atlantic writes, “ The most serious consequence of the rapid militarization of American police forces, is the subtle evolution in the mentality of the "men in blue" from "peace officer" to soldier.” Officers are now viewing themselves as soldiers, demonizing the people they are sworn to protect. This was also proven empirically where criminologist Peter Kraska has estimated that there are somewhere between 50,000 and 80,000 SWAT raids per year now in America, and that number is likely growing.

Second, the Weapons Effect. The weapons effect is a natural, psychological response that human beings have to the stimuli of weapons. In a study conducted by Anderson of the University of Missouri in 1998, he concluded that just seeing a picture of a gun could increase both one’s aggressive thoughts and aggressive cognitive functions . In their groundbreaking research on the subject, Berkowitz and LePage of the University of Wisconsin found that, if a subject was angered, the number of electric shocks that the subject shocked the aggressor with was “significantly affected” by the presence of weapons . To explain this effect, we look to Dr. Brad Bushman of Ohio State University, who says, “Human beings can identify potentially dangerous, threatening stimuli such as spiders and snakes very quickly. This makes sense from an evolutionary perspective because some spiders and snakes are poisonous, and our ancient ancestors who could identify them quickly were more likely to avoid them .” Therefore, our quick recognition of guns is an evolutionary impulse that humans use for self­protection, which triggers an aggressive response. In this regard, the increased militarization can be seen as one of the root causes of civil unrest.

Berkowitz 13, [Berkowitz, Leonard, (Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin) “The ‘weapons effect’”]

Human beings can identify potentially dangerous, threatening stimuli such as spiders and snakes very quickly. This makes sense from an evolutionary perspective because some spiders and snakes are poisonous, and our ancient ancestors who could identify them quickly were more likely to avoid them and live to pass on their genes. Recent research shows that people can identify guns as quickly as they can identify spiders and snakes.[4],[5],[6] These findings are very interesting because guns are modern threats and cannot be explained using evolutionary principles. Yet guns are a far more dangerous to people today than spiders or snakes. Poisonous spiders (e.g., Black Widows, Brown Recluses) kill about 6 Americans each year.[7] Poisonous snakes (e.g., rattlesnakes) kill about 5 Americans each year.[8] In comparison, guns kill about 31,000 Americans each year.[9] Several studies have replicated the weapons effect. **A review of 56 published studies confirmed that the mere sight of weapons increases aggression in both angry and nonangry individuals.**[10**] Perhaps the weapons effect occurs because weapons are closely linked to aggression in our brains.**

**Contention 2: Institutional Racism committed by police officers**

**Wertsch 14 [**Wertsch, James V. "Ferguson: Civil RIghts 2.0." *The Strait Times (Singapore)*. N.p., 17 Dec. 2014. Web.**]**

The death of Mr Brown was, of course, shocking and newsworthy but, unfortunately, in America it was not all that unusual. **ProPublica, for example, reports that from 2010 to 2012, police shot and killed 1,217 people in the United States. Among these, young black males were 21 times more likely to be killed than their white counterparts.** For many years, however, episodes such as the one in Ferguson have not raised major public outcries. So what is it that makes this one different' For starters, in contrast to other cases, where public uproar quickly died down, the demonstrations that started in August continued for months and flared up again with the decision last month not to bring criminal charges against Mr Wilson. The makeup of the protesters has been noteworthy. Local African Americans have been in the lead, but whites and other racial and ethnic groups have consistently shown up and continued to speak out. Groups from other regions have joined in the protest, travelling to Ferguson or organising demonstrations in other cities. **These facts suggest that the protests in Ferguson may be about something larger than the death of a particular black man. Specifically, they point to a "tipping point" in America's debate over race and civil rights.** Social scientists describe tipping points as sudden, unanticipated changes in attitudes and social behaviour such as those that can be found in fashion, the unexpected rise of an obscure book to be a bestseller, or an abrupt switch in public acceptance of cigarette smoking.

More specifically in a recent example in Ferguson the US Department of Justice finds, in 88 percent of the cases in which the department used force, it was against African Americans.

The impact is public perception

Lien 11 [Li, Yung Lien, Doctor of Philosophy from Sam Houston State University. "THE DETERMINANTS OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD THE POLICE ACROSS RACIAL/ETHNICAL GROUPS IN HOUSTON." Proquest. Sam Houston State University, May 2011. Web. 7 July 2015.]

**Approximately 60% of Americans reported that they have "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the police according to the most recent data** (Pastore & Maguire, 2010). Using data obtained from the World Value Surveys (WVS), from 1981 to 2005 (see Figure 2), the results also showed that the American public consistently rated the police very high (Cao & Stack, 2005; Cao & Zhao, 2005). These survey results seem to reflect basic approval of the police as a social institution in a democratic society (Weitzer & Tuch, 2006). **In a poll conducted by the Los Angeles Times indicated that only two weeks after the beatings of a civilian [Rodney] , confidence in the LAPD by African Americans and Hispanics dropped an enormous percentage of 50 points**— from 80% to 31% among Hispanics and from 64% to 14% among African Americans (Weitzer & Tuch, 2006). **As a result, a series of urban riots swept through Los Angeles** (Jesilow, Meyer, & Namazzi, 1995**), and similar problems occurred in Miami and New York** (Schafer, Huebner, & Bynum, 2003). **The riotous movement highlighted the reality that police can only maintain order and provide effective service when they benefit from the public's support and cooperation** (Schafer et al., 2003). Thus, public attitudes toward the police (ATP) are among the primary foundations of American policing. Given the importance that levels of democracy and the development of policing are highly related to public attitudes, this study undertakes a tunneled perspective in shedding light on this issue (see Figure 3). Among the three dimensions of political orientation, citizens' general attitudes toward government agencies (affective orientation) have usually been used to measure the levels of public confidence in the government. This is because people's feelings toward authorities may reflect the extent of public support for their respective political polity (Fukuyama, 1992; Huntington, 1968). **More specifically, public perceptions of the police are central in assessing citizens' general attitudes toward government agencies because the police are the most visible agency representatives** (Bell, 1979). **No other branch of government has more face to face contacts with citizens. No other branch of government has such intrusive powers. No other branch of government can deprive citizens of life and liberty in the blink of an eye**. Almond and Verba (1963) concluded that with its distinctive civic culture, **the United States has a political system of public participation. In other words, citizens are highly attached to and satisfied with the political system, including government authorities and the police.** Their findings also suggested that public attachment to the political system in the United States is relatively stable**. Finally, Cao, Stack, and Sun (1998) noted that public attitudes toward the police (ATP) really matter in a democratic society.** The findings of public attitudes toward the police in the United States reveal only half of the story. It is important to discuss the nature of police practices in a free society when studying public police ratings. **According to Goldstein (1977), the police are an "anomaly" in a democratic society.** In his classic book, he described their role in a free society as follows: **The specific form of their authority—to arrest, to search, to detain, and to use force—is awesome in the degree to which it can be disruptive of freedom, invasive of privacy, and sudden and direct in its impact upon the individual.** And his awesome authority, of necessity, is delegated to individuals at the lowest level of bureaucracy, to be exercised, in most instances without prior review and control, (p.l) **Despite its anomalous role, a democratic society is heavily dependent upon its police to maintain peace and order such as free elections, freedom of speech, and free assembly on which continuation of a free society depends. The strength of a democracy and the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens are heavily determined by the ability of the police to perform their duties** (Goldstein, 1990). This community relations division represented an approach in which police agencies took consideration into the concerns of residents (Whisenand, 1974). As a consequence, public perceptions of police performance were often viewed as a necessary ingredient to "good policing" in terms of the relationships that occurred as a result of every encounter. On the other hand, PCR should not be viewed as an administrative unit or as an aspect of police work; it must be accepted as an outcome of good police work (Cohn & Viano, 1976) According to Almond and Verba (1963), the progress of democracy is closely associated with the extent of public participation in political affairs that gives citizens an opportunity to voice their concerns and offer suggestions to government officials. **The hope is that through public participation, a democratic society such as the United States will be on a self-improved course that will, in turn, lead to a refined form of democracy: liberty, equality, and fraternity (**Sung, 2006). The recent Middle Eastern civil uprisings in Egypt and Libya clearly show the importance of public participation in politics; otherwise, social unrest can certainly occur. **The police remain the central public focus among government agencies given that they are the most visible representatives who are empowered to maintain order, security, and public trust even if force is necessary (**Bell, 1979). Traditionally, the role of police was labeled as an "anomaly" in a democratic society because sometimes police had to arrest, search, detain, and even use deadly force (Goldstein, 1977). Consequently, there continues to be an inherited role conflict regarding the nature of police work in American society. According to Zhao et al. (2011), the issue of race has truly been divided in American society. **Unfortunately, racial bias has been found to be a primary source of civil unrest** (Weitzer & Tuch, 2006**) ever since racial turmoil took place across the country when it comes to police**(e.g., Los Angeles) in the late 1990s. As discussed in Chapter II, the perceptions of police were very low in neighborhoods that were inhabited primarily by African Americans. The first model of public attitudes toward the police concerned demographics as determinants of police performance. As such, the literature consistently revealed that the most important factor of the demographic model was race/ethnicity (Weitzer & Tuch, 2006). This finding was confirmed in my study and revealed that African Americans rated both general attitudes and specific attitudes toward the police lower than White and Hispanic groups. Notably, race has continued to be the most robust predictor of public attitudes toward the police for more than 40 years following the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice's initial findings (1967a).

Philippines News Agency 15, [“Commentary: Cleveland protest again casts spotlight on U.S. racial discrimination, injustice”] May 26, 2015

Essentially, when people develop no trust in a system, it will not be respected or obeyed any more. And thus for these reasons the police are responsible and thus we affirm

### Cards

**Bouie 14**, [Jamelle, Bouie (Senior Journalist at Slate Magazine) “The Militarization of the Police. It’s dangerous and wrong to treat Ferguson Missouri, as a war zone.”] August 13, 2014.

**Since 2006, according to an analysis by the New York Times, police departments have acquired 435 armored vehicles, 533 planes, 93,763 machine guns, and 432 mine-resistant armored trucks**. Overall, since Congress established its program to transfer military hardware, local and state police departments have received $4.3 billion worth of equipment. Accordingly, the value of military equipment used by these police agencies has increased from $1 million in 1990 to $324 million in 1995 (shortly after the program was established), to nearly $450 million in 201

Philippines News Agency 15, [“Commentary: Cleveland protest again casts spotlight on U.S. racial discrimination, injustice”] May 26, 2015

**On such occasions, the protesters, though expressing their anger in different ways, raged against the injustice for exactly the same reason: the U.S. law enforcement seems to have a stubborn bias toward certain racial groups and police officers are more likely to abuse power in dealing with these groups.**  The protesters started to gather in Cleveland on Saturday soon after the non-guilty verdict on patrolman **Michael Brelo was handed down. Brelo was one of the 13 officers who fired up to 137 shots at the car of Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams and caused their deaths. No officers except Brelo was charged in the incident.** Police have already arrested scores of the protesters in Cleveland, claiming "things got violent and the protesters refused to disperse." It is easy to understand why police officers are on edge: They know too well that a largely peaceful rally coming against such a backdrop could quickly turn into violent clashes as have happened before in Ferguson and Baltimore. The death of a black person, as a result of police brutality, is always a powerful reminder for his peers, who often feel despised and deprived, that they must put on a fight before the same ill fate befalls them. Though the United States loves to brand itself as a land of freedom and equality, it is still looking for a way to bridge the profound division between the white and the minorities, without any promising answer in sight. It is undeniable that racial discrimination against African Americans or other ethnic minorities, though not as obvious as in the past, still persists in every aspect of the U.S. social lives, including employment, housing, education, and particularly, justice. **According to a study by the U.S. Justice Department, some 400 people die every year in violent civilian-police clashes, with a quarter of the cases involving white police officers and African Americans, and the death toll of the African Americans in these cases are almost two times higher than that of the white police officers. There is also a disproportionate ratio in terms of police officers' ethnic backgrounds, with an estimate showing that 70 percent of police officers on local levels in the United States are white**. The fact is that for a black child born into a poor family, his/her chance is very limited to get good education, find a well-paid job and be accepted by the "mainstream society". The frustration and dissatisfaction against the established social structure among young black people will pose a threat to the stability of the U.S. society. **When people develop no trust in a system, it will not be respected or obeyed any more. And to make it worse, the U.S. politicians seem to be hardly enthusiastic about fixing the policies that may lead to glaring racial disparities.**

# Aff Case 4

My partner and I strongly affirm the Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protestors for recent civil unrest in the United States.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary responsible is defined as "the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something.” As well as define protestors as "A person who publicly demonstrates strong objection to something." And for this round we would like to define recent as any event in the past year.

Framework: Since the resolution states on balance if we can prove there is more blame to be put on the police than the protesters then we should win this round.

**Contention 1: Racial bias within the police force has created civil unrest**

**Time Magazine reported on March 3, 2015** that a US Justice Department into the Ferguson police Department found "In 88 percent of the cases in which the department used force, it was against African Americans. In all of the 14 canine-bite incidents for which racial information was available, the person bitten was African American.

Police officers were compared with community members in terms of the speed and accuracy with which they made simulated decisions to shoot (or not shoot) Black and White targets. Both samples exhibited robust racial bias in response speed. Officers outperformed community members on a number of measures, including overall speed and accuracy. Moreover, although community respondents set the decision criterion lower for Black targets than for White targets (indicating bias), police officers did not. The authors suggest that training may not affect the speed with which stereotype-incongruent targets are processed but that it does affect the ultimate decision (particularly the placement of the decision criterion). Findings from a study in which a college sample received training support this conclusion. **(PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)**

Recent studies by police departments and researchers confirm that police stop persons of racial and ethnic minority groups more often than whites relative to their proportions in the population. However, it has been argued that stop rates more accurately reflect rates of crimes committed by each ethnic group, or that stop rates reflect elevated rates in specific social areas, such as neighborhoods or precincts. Most of the research on stop rates and police–citizen interactions has focused on traffic stops, and analyses of pedestrian stops are rare. In this article we analyze data from 125,000 pedestrian stops by the New York Police Department over a 15-month period. We disaggregate stops by police precinct and compare stop rates by racial and ethnic group, controlling for previous race-specific arrest rates. We use hierarchical multilevel models to adjust for precinct-level variability, thus directly addressing the question of geographic heterogeneity that arises in the analysis of pedestrian stops. We find that persons of African and Hispanic descent were stopped more frequently than whites, even after controlling for precinct variability and race-specific estimates of crime participation.

**Contention 2: Police militarization is escalating civil unrest**

**Apuzzo writes in the New York Times on June 8, 2014** that "according to Pentagon data, police departments have received tens of thousands of machine guns; nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines; thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment; and hundreds of silencers, armored cars and aircraft." Not only are they receiving gear, but police departments are using it. On **February 17, 2014, The Washington Post** notes that "criminologist Peter Kraska has estimated that there are somewhere between 50,000 and 80,000 SWAT raids per year now in America, and that number is likely growing."

**The NY Magazine** provided a psychological analysis of the police militarization. The so-called [“weapons effect”](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect) can partly explain what’s going on in Ferguson and elsewhere. The mere presence of weapons, in short, appears to prime more aggressive behavior. This has been shown in a variety of experiments in different lab and real-world settings.

“Theory underlying the weapons effect or similar kinds of phenomena would suggest that the more you fill the environment with stimuli that are associated with violence, the more likely violence is to occur,” said **Bruce Bartholow, a** [**University of Missouri**](http://psychology.missouri.edu/bartholowb) **social psychologist** who has studied the weapons effect. **Brad Bushman, a psychologist at Ohio State**, agreed. “I would expect a bigger effect if you see military weapons than if you see normal weapons,” he said.

**Contention 3: Police are not held accountable for the abuses**

Police are rarely charged criminally for on-duty shootings, but law-enforcement officials and critics differ on whether this should be the case. New research by a **Bowling Green State University** criminologist shows that 41 officers in the U.S. were charged with either murder or manslaughter in connection with on-duty shootings over a seven-year period ending in 2011. Over that same period, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported 2,718 [justified homicides by law enforcement](http://blogs.wsj.com/numbers/why-the-data-on-justifiable-homicide-just-wont-do-1725/), an incomplete count, according to experts. “It’s very rare that an officer gets charged with a homicide offense resulting from their on-duty conduct even though people are killed on a fairly regular basis,” said Philip Stinson, an assistant professor of criminal justice at Bowling Green who received a federal grant to study arrests of police officers. The study covers more than 6,700 cases of police officers arrested for any crime across all states. This shows that while the police are committing very serious crimes while on duty they are very rarely held accountable for their actions.

Prosecuting attorneys often work closely with law enforcement and need their help on future cases. The attorneys need votes from current law enforcement personnel to get reelected so even if it isn’t true sometimes the attorneys will bring in information to help them win the case.

For example, in the Michael Brown case, the Mr. McCulloch the prosecuting attorney for Officer Wilson brought favorable evidence for the police officer (which he didn’t need do) and convinced witnesses to lie on the stand. Often times, police are allowed by law to engage in abuses without public and legal recourse.

And for these reasons my partner and I urge for a strong pro ballot.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/08/26/i-was-on-the-front-lines-of-the-violence-in-ferguson-militarized-police-caused-the-chaos/

### Cards

**Justice Department finds Ferguson police responsible for unrest in Missouri**

*Author: JIM SALTER AND ERIC TUCKER,* [*ASSOCIATED PRESS June 3rd, 2015*](http://www.ap.org/)

Police antagonized crowds who gathered to protest in Ferguson after Michael Brown's death last summer, violated free-speech rights and made it difficult to hold officers accountable, according to a Justice Department draft report that found across-the-board flaws in law enforcement's response.

The report summary, which covers the two-week period of unrest that followed a white officer fatally shooting the unarmed black 18-year-old in August, also faulted officers for inappropriately using tear gas, withholding information that should have been made public and relying on military-style equipment "that produced a negative public reaction" in the community.

**Baltimore journalist says police attacked him at protest**

*Author: CBS News April 26th, 2015*

A photo editor for a Baltimore newspaper says he was beaten by police at [a protest of the death of Freddie Gray](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/freddie-grays-twin-sister-fredricka-gray-speaks-after-violent-protests/).J.M. Giordano, who works at the City Paper, says police "swarmed over" him and hit him repeatedly. A video of the beating posted to [the newspaper's website](http://www.citypaper.com/blogs/the-news-hole/bcpnews-city-paper-photo-editor-jm-giordano-beaten-by-police-at-freddie-gray-protest-20150426,0,229974.story) Sunday shows at least two police officers in riot gear hitting and kicking Giordano as the person filming screams, "He's a photographer! He's press!" The 41-year-old photographer says his head hit the ground during the beating, which he says only stopped when someone pulled him out of the fray.

**Corruption in Michael Brown Case**

*Author: By* [*Cassandra Fairbanks*](http://thefreethoughtproject.com/author/cassandra/) *on November 28, 2014*

On September 16, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Kathy Alizadeh handed the grand jury a copy of Missouri statute 563.046- the state’s use of force doctrine.

This 1979 doctorine was ruled *unconstitutional* by the Supreme Court based entirely on the portion of the statute that was helpful to Officer Darren Wilson, the part that states police officers are permitted to shoot any suspect that’s simply fleeing.

In 1985, the Supreme Court ruled on the case of Tennessee v. Garner, a 15 year old boy who was shot in the back of the head by a police officer as he attempted to flee after a robbery. The ruling meant that cops could no longer legally kill someone only for attempting to escape, the officer must now have a reasonable belief that the suspect poses a dangerous threat to someone or had committed a violent felony.

Keep in mind that Darren Wilson had no idea that Brown had previously got into the infamous altercation which was so conveniently sent to the media with plenty of false rumors and speculation surrounding it.

The grand jury listened to Darren Wilson’s testimony having been told by the prosecutors office, the people who were supposed to actually attempt to prosecute this man, that Darren Wilson did absolutely nothing wrong as long as at some point Mike Brown attempted to flee, based on a law that has not been legal in nearly 30 years- since before Darren Wilson was even born!

For three long and important weeks Alizadeh let this law simmer in the minds of the jurors.

On November 21, only three days before the Grand Jury would make their decision, Alizadeh attempted to protect herself by some-what coming clean, only in a way seemingly devised to confuse the jurors. This woman deserves a portion of the defense money for doing their job so well.

UC Berkeley Property Damage

*Author:August 15, 2014 10:51 pm by* [*Emilie Raguso*](http://www.berkeleyside.com/author/emilie/)

This evening at approximately 8:49 p.m.the Berkeley Police Department was notified by the Oakland Police Department that a large group involved in a violent demonstration were heading into the City of Berkeley. Shortly after entering Berkeley, demonstrators damaged property near the intersection of Telegraph Avenue and Oregon Street Berkeley Police Officers have been dispatched to monitor the demonstration. We have called in extra officers to assist during the course of the demonstration and are working closely with the California Highway Patrol and the Oakland Police Department. There have been several reports of property damage and one arrest have been made associated with the demonstration. Police also described some of the damage that took place during the three-hour demonstration. Coats said the contents of a trashcan were set on fire near Telegraph Avenue and Haste Street, “which was quickly extinguished by BPD officers.” Police said on the scanner that large windows in a bank building in the 2800 block of Telegraph also were broken during the march.

**Black Americans are killed at 12x’s the rates of other developed countries**

“We as a country will have to reckon with the fact that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries,” President Obama said earlier today, in reaction to the killing of nine people at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina, on Wednesday. The details of the case, including the motivations of the suspect, Dylann Roof, are still unfolding. (We encourage you to read coverage broadly, including from our colleagues at ABC News.) But I wanted to add just a little bit of context to Obama’s remarks — how the U.S. compares to other countries overall, and how that comparison obscures a wide racial divide: Black Americans are far more likely to be homicide victims than white Americans. We’re looking for good data on the incidence of mass shootings in different countries. There doesn’t appear to be all that much of it. But mass shootings represent a tiny fraction of homicides overall. And thanks to recent efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which published data on homicide rates for almost every country, we can compare the overall homicide death rate in the U.S. to those elsewhere. According to the CDC’s WONDER database, 5.2 out of every 100,000 Americans were homicide victims, on average, from 2010 to 2012.

**The System is set up so the police do not get fired**

*Author: Chase Madar The Nation ﻿NOVEMBER 25, 2014* <http://www.thenation.com/article/why-its-impossible-indict-cop/>

﻿New York’s Civilian Complaint Review Board occasionally docks vacation days from police officers but the board has no real teeth. Even staffers at the New York Civil Liberties Union have candidly told me that it’s more or less worthless. “I don’t have any faith in the CCRB or the Internal Affairs Bureau or any other internal mechanism,” says Ron Kuby, a civil rights and criminal defense lawyer in New York. Civilian complaints rarely even get in the way of an individual officer’s career. In New York, CCRB complaints don’t even go in a police officer’s file, says Kuby. “The PBA just says that the more aggressive officers will get excessive force complaints.”﻿Firing a police officer with a record of abusive behavior (or worse) is often extremely difficult and can carry a heavy political cost.

**The Police aren’t held responsible**

﻿What about all the times when excessive force suits get settled out of court? It turns out that massive payouts don’t deter police misconduct for one straightforward reason: neither individual officers nor police departments are responsible for coughing up the cash. The union covers the officer’s lawyer, and research from Joanna Schwartz of UCLA Law School [found](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2297534) that governments, not individual officers, paid out 99.98 percent of the damages. Settlements and damages aren’t paid by the police department, whose budget will waltz by untouched, but typically out of the general municipal budget.

Confirmation of racial bias in criminal sentencing

*Author: David S. Abrams, assistant professor of law, business and public policy at Penn Law 2010*[*https://www.law.upenn.edu/live/news/2170-new-study-by-professor-david-s-abrams-confirms#.VZ\_vsflViko*](https://www.law.upenn.edu/live/news/2170-new-study-by-professor-david-s-abrams-confirms#.VZ_vsflViko)

Social scientists have studied the issue for decades, but the seemingly simple question “Does race affect sentencing?” is surprisingly difficult to answer on the basis of empirical evidence. Abrams explains: “The most straightforward way you might look at it is to say, ‘Let’s look at what sentences people get and see whether sentence length varies by race. If it looks like people of one race receive longer sentences than another, that might indicate that the criminal justice system is unfair. But the shortcoming to that approach is that it’s also possible that sentences can differ for many reasons; for example, it’s possible people of different races might have different criminal histories on average, and that could also explain the difference in sentence length.”

American Sociological Review; Christian Davenporta; <http://asr.sagepub.com/content/76/1/152.short>

The number of African-Americans involved. Police are more likely to deploy against African-American protesters than white ones, according to a [2011 study](http://asr.sagepub.com/content/76/1/152.short) published in the American Sociological Review. And as *Washington Post* columnist Kim Yi Dionne keenly [points out](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/08/14/who-protests-determines-how-police-respond/), the massive police crackdown on the mostly black community of Ferguson, Mo., is a prime example.

In sampling over 15,000 protests from 1960-1990, researchers discovered that police were more likely to arrest people, use force or both when black protesters were involved. While the disparity in the use-of-force has lessened since 1970, the researchers emphasize that the effect of "protesting while black" varies over time, but does not disappear.

**Militarization is Necessary**

Author: Brad Lockwood for Forbes 11/30/2011

A 2010 poll done by PERF, Police Executive Research Forum — The response: 6% agree while 80% disagree. Believe it or not, budget cuts impact law enforcement as well, and these lean times have forced some tough choices: 51% of police departments had budgets cuts while 58% eliminated or reduced salary increases; there’s a 3% decrease in sworn officers employed nationwide. This equates to 47% of departments reducing services: 8% no longer respond to minor vehicle thefts while 9% ignore burglar alarms. Doing less with less, most police officials would rather have officers on the street than expensive equipment.

# Aff Case 5

**Outline:**

Eric Garner. Michael Brown. Tamir Rice. Walter Scott. Freddie Gray. Michael Slager. What do all these people have in common? They were all wrongly killed by police officers, and all of these incidents sparked events of civil unrest across the U.S.

“On Staten Island, N.Y., the July 2014 death of Eric Garner because of the apparent use of a ‘chokehold’ by an officer sparked outrage. A month later in Ferguson, Mo., the fatal shooting of teenager Michael Brown by officer Darren Wilson ignited protests, and a grand jury’s decision not to indict Wilson triggered further unrest. In November, Tamir Rice was shot by police in Cleveland, Ohio. He was 12 years old and playing with a toy pistol. On April 4, 2015, Walter L. Scott was shot by a police officer after a routine traffic stop in North Charleston, S.C. The same month, Freddie Gray died while in police custody in Baltimore, setting off widespread unrest. The policeman in the South Carolina case, Michael T. Slager, was charged with murder based on a cellphone video. In Baltimore, the driver of the police van in which Gray died, Caesar Goodson, was charged with second-degree murder, with lesser charges for five other officers. There have been no indictments in the earlier cases.”

John Wihbey and Leighton Walter Kille, July 1st, 2015

My partner and I firmly support the resolution that “Resolved:On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.”

We define “civil unrest” with the definition given by Sternheimer in 2012, which is that “Civil unrest involves a disruption of the typical social order; it can involve a strike or protest, and it can be peaceful or involve violence.” We define “responsible” as being “Liable to be called to account as the primary cause, motive, or agent”.

We classify recent events of civil unrest as those which have occurred within the last year to limit our discussion to events which are still relevant to this debate.

**Contention One: The police start the unrest and cause the protests.**

Who is causing these recent major events of civil unrest? What are the protesters protesting? Police. Police cause these protests, and even if our opponent can prove that protesters worsen and lengthen civil unrest more than police, they wouldn’t have had any unrest to lengthen or worsen without the actions of the police. Keeping in mind our definition of “responsible”, the police are obviously the primary cause of civil unrest, and therefore the party most responsible for it.

**Subpoint A: The protesters wouldn’t have done what they did if the police didn’t do what they did in the first place.** In the cases of Baltimore, New York City, and in Ferguson, among others, the original protests started due to what the police officers had done beforehand. Darren Wilson, in the case of Ferguson, killed Michael Brown, and protests started August 9, 2014, which caused police to respond with the usage of weapons including tear gas, rubber bullets, and beanbag rounds which only perpetuates the unrest and contributed to the riots that included the burning down of QuikTrip that was responded to with more unjust police action.

**Subpoint B:**

**Contention Two: The police aren’t reacting in an appropriate way to handle protests, and causing the protests and civil unrest last longer**. According to Ryan J. Reilly, who, it is interesting to note, was wrongly arrested by police during the Ferguson unrest, of the Huffington Post, said that “The aggressive tactics with which various law enforcement agencies greeted protesters in the St. Louis region last August following the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, were deeply flawed and oppressive of citizens exercising their constitutional rights, according to a forthcoming report commissioned by the Justice Department” (Ryan J. Reilly, Huffington Post, July 1, 2015). It is the job of the police to end civil unrest, so when they fail to do so, or when their actions make the unrest even worse, it makes them all the more responsible for civil unrest.

**Subpoint A: The militarization of police isn’t an appropriate action and the**

**resources that are given to the police aren’t being used correctly with the**

**protests**. During the riots in Ferguson a picture was taken of an officer with a military grade rifle pointed at a group of people with his finger on the trigger. According to an article which was titled “The Fundamentals of Firearm Safety”, which was posted online by the University of Oregon, you must “Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.” The fact that this officer had his finger on the trigger indicates that he was ready to use a military-grade rifle on protesters, and that he was prepared to cause damage to a community and bring on more civil unrest. In the article from Oregon it also specifies that “positively identify your target and the threat it poses.” This officer definitely wasn’t correctly identifying anything about the protesters because these protesters were peaceful and causing little to no harm to the community.

“Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot...Positively identify your target and the threat it poses before firing at it.”

*University of Oregon*

**Subpoint B: Inappropriate actions by police incite even more anger and provide more reasons to protest.** Robert Patrick reported in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on August 2, 2014, that a police officer named Ray Albers, who was present at the Ferguson unrest, threatened protesters by pointing his gun at them and saying “I will [expletive] kill you”. He was asked to identify himself, to which he responded “Go [expletive] yourself”. He was unnecessarily increasing tensions and anger among the protesters and he was making the unrest even worse.

“Albers pointed the gun at a peaceful protester after a ‘verbal exchange,’

Members of that crowd verbally confront the officer, who appears to say, ‘I will (expletive) kill you. Get back.’ Asked his name, he responded, ‘Go (expletive) yourself.’”

Robert Patrick, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 2, 2014

# Aff Case 6

AFF

Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protestors for recent civil unrest in the Unites States

Definitions:

Civil unrest- “can range from simple, nonviolent protests that address specific issues, to events that turn into full scale riots” - Johnson 14

Contention 1: Police force and militarization is the escalating factor in the recent civil unrest.

**McCarthhy 14, (Niall, McCarthy, (Contributing Researcher at Forbes), “Chart: Pentagon Donations to Police are Skyrocketing.”) August 15, 2014.**

**Since the events of September 11th, 2001, McCarthy, contributing reporter at Forbes, estimates that 750 million worth of equipment had been given through August 2014, up from 441 million the year prior.**

**In fact, Bouie 14, [Jamelle, Bouie (Senior Journalist at Slate Magazine) “The Militarization of the Police. It’s dangerous and wrong to treat Ferguson Missouri, as a war zone.”] August 13, 2014.**

**Since 2006, according to an analysis by the New York Times, police departments have acquired 435 armored vehicles, 533 planes, 93,763 machine guns, and 432 mine-resistant armored trucks. Overall,** since Congress established its program to transfer military hardware, local and state police **departments have received $4.3 billion worth of equipment**. Accordingly, the value of military equipment used by these police agencies has increased from $1 million in 1990 to $324 million in 1995 (shortly after the program was established), to nearly $450 million in 201

**The impact which shows why police are responsible for civil unrest is two-fold.**

First, due to this increase of militarization, police are now trained to look at civilians as the enemy, instead of people they are protecting.

**According to a Washington Post article from August of 2014 it states**

Protests against **police brutality turned contentious** early Monday evening**, leading to a standoff between several dozen local residents and dozens of officers in full riot gear** just blocks from where Brown was gunned down.

**In an attempt to disperse the crowd**, officers made their way down West Florissant, a main street in Ferguson. When some **residents, chant[ed] “Don’t shoot, my hands are up,” refused to leave, officers began deploying tear gas.**

**A report done from the Department of Justice states that**

The consequences of distrust between law enforcement and the communities they serve can be devastating. **Where people perceive the criminal justice system to be** arbitrary, **biased and unfair, they are less likely to cooperate with law enforcement, making us all less safe.** The distrust and alienation experienced in some communities can build into a powder keg of resentment, ready to be ignited by a single tragic incident. We have seen this over and over—in Watts in 1965, in Los Angeles in 1992 and most recently, in Ferguson in 2014.

This proves that, not only are the police officers not doing their job because they aren’t keeping us safe and in fact they make us less safe but also the militarization process shouldn’t have been allowed because the only two instances should have been to fight drugs and terror which protestors are none of those.

Contention 2: Police have racial bias

**According to an article from the Daily Kos written in May of 2015** states that

**Freddie Gray was taken on a 40 minute rough ride**. New evidence suggests that Freddie **Gray received a catastrophic spinal injury in the back of the van** just 14 minutes into the ride.

As well as

Relatives of **Dondi Johnson Sr**., who **was left a paraplegic after a** 2005 **police van ride**, won a $7.4 million verdict against police officers. **A year earlier, Jeffrey Alston** was awarded $39 million by a jury after he **became paralyzed from the neck down as the result of a van ride**. Others have also received payouts after filing lawsuits. [...]

**These rough rides, though, have a deep and ugly history in Baltimore and beyond**.

**Philadelphia also has a deep and ugly history of rough rides**. There they call them nickel rides.

**An Inquirer investigation documented injuries to 20 people tossed around in wagons in recent years. Thompson** was one of three who **suffered spinal injuries, and one of two permanently paralyzed.**

**According to a Time article clarifying the prejudice of the police department**, it states

**In 88 percent of the cases in which the department used force, it was against African Americans. In all of the 14 canine-bite incidents for which racial information was available, the person bitten was African American.**

**In Ferguson court cases, African Americans are 68 percent less likely than others to have their cases dismissed by a municipal judge, according to the Justice review. In 2013, African Americans accounted for 92 percent of cases in which an arrest warrant was issued.**

**ProPublica, for example, reports that from 2010 to 2012, police shot and killed 1,217 people in the United States. Among these, young black males were 21 times more likely to be killed than their white counterparts.** For many years, however, episodes such as the one in Ferguson have not raised major public outcries. So what is it that makes this one different' For starters, in contrast to other cases, where public uproar quickly died down, the demonstrations that started in August continued for months and flared up again with the decision last month not to bring criminal charges against Mr Wilson. The makeup of the protesters has been noteworthy. Local African Americans have been in the lead, but whites and other racial and ethnic groups have consistently shown up and continued to speak out. Groups from other regions have joined in the protest, travelling to Ferguson or organising demonstrations in other cities. **These facts suggest that the protests in Ferguson may be about something larger than the death of a particular black man. Specifically, they point to a "tipping point" in America's debate over race and civil rights.** Social scientists describe tipping points as sudden, unanticipated changes in attitudes and social behaviour such as those that can be found in fashion, the unexpected rise of an obscure book to be a bestseller, or an abrupt switch in public acceptance of cigarette smoking.

**The hope is that through public participation, a democratic society such as the United States will be on a self-improved course that will, in turn, lead to a refined form of democracy: liberty, equality, and fraternity** (Sung, 2006). The recent Middle Eastern civil uprisings in Egypt and Libya clearly show the importance of public participation in politics; otherwise, social unrest can certainly occur. **The police remain the central public focus among government agencies given that they are the most visible representatives who are empowered to maintain order, security, and public trust even if force is necessary** (Bell, 1979). Traditionally, the role of police was labeled as an "anomaly" in a democratic society because sometimes police had to arrest, search, detain, and even use deadly force (Goldstein, 1977). Consequently, there continues to be an inherited role conflict regarding the nature of police work in American society. According to Zhao et al. (2011), the issue of race has truly been divided in American society. **Unfortunately, racial bias has been found to be a primary source of civil unrest** (Weitzer & Tuch, 2006) **ever since racial turmoil took place across the country when it comes to police**(e.g., Los Angeles) in the late 1990s. As discussed in Chapter II, the perceptions of police were very low in neighborhoods that were inhabited primarily by African Americans. The first model of public attitudes toward the police concerned demographics as determinants of police performance. As such, the literature consistently revealed that the most important factor of the demographic model was race/ethnicity (Weitzer & Tuch, 2006). This finding was confirmed in my study and revealed that African Americans rated both general attitudes and specific attitudes toward the police lower than White and Hispanic groups. Notably, race has continued to be the most robust predictor of public attitudes toward the police for more than 40 years following the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice's initial findings (1967a).

**Lawrence Thomas wrote in his 2009 book, "Contemporary Debates in Social Philosophy"**

**that individuals "have a responsibility to protest injustice"** (p. 304) and that the inaction is tantamount to "evil cooperation with racial injustice." **Essentially, when injustice has reached a tipping point then there is nothing that we can do but protest as we have a moral obligation to rejection racial injustice.**

Finally, the impact to this argument is that if we are attempting to determine causation, then the police using racial bias is responsible for recent civil unrest. If it weren't for the police implementing and reifying a system of racial injustice that killed Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Darrien Hunt, then civil unrest would not have occurred or have been needed.

# Aff Case 7

Tommy and I AFFIRM Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States

Definitions:

Civil Unrest: civil unrest involves a disruption of the typical social order; it can involve a strike or protest, and it can be peaceful or involve violence. Both riots and rebellions are forms of civil unrest

Responsible: Being the cause or originator of something; deserving of credit or blame for something. (Oxford Dictionary)

Resolutional Analysis

Today we need to evaluate whether the police or protesters were most responsible for the civil unrest. It should also be kept in mind that we are only comparing police to protesters and protesters to police. Not whether some alternative factor was the leading cause of civil unrest. In order for the pro to win today’s debate, we will prove how the police caused the civil unrest to happen or the civil unrest to start.

Contention 1: Militarization

Police departments around the country have begun militarizing their forces against their own communities. Apuzzo writes for the New York Times in 2014 that "according to Pentagon data, police departments have received tens of thousands of machine guns; nearly 200,000 ammunition magazines; thousands of pieces of camouflage and night-vision equipment; and hundreds of silencers, armored cars and aircraft." This is something that has been going on since 9/11. Surplus military equipment and weapons have found their way into domestic police forces. Apuzzo in 14 continued by saying, “Not only are they receiving gear, but police departments are using it”. In 2014, The Washington Post notes that "criminologist Peter Kraska has estimated that there are somewhere between 50,000 and 80,000 SWAT raids per year now in America, and that number is likely growing." This number of SWAT raids was increasing while the violent crime rates in America were DECREASING. The FBI reports that all of the offenses in the violent crime category showed decreases when data from the first six months of 2014 was compared with data from the first six months of 2013. Furthermore, The Huffington Post reports that “St. Louis County police snipers were perched on top of tactical vehicles and were pointing their weapons at crowds of peaceful protesters in broad daylight. This was unprovoked, inappropriate, and "served only to exacerbate tensions between the protesters and the police." The police deploying armored vehicles when there was no "danger or peril to citizens or officers" was seen by community members as an attempt to intimidate and threaten. This militarization came before the protests became violent. The police are not resupplying or responding to any violent acts of protesters. They are using military equipment to assert their presence and bully protesters.

The Impacts of this are that the police are heightening tensions with the protesters. Putting this in the frame of the debate, the police are responsible for causing this civil unrest by escalating the ordeal.

Contention 2: Policing for Profit

Sub point A: Profits

In Ferguson, Missouri, court fees and fines are the second largest source of income for the city. In Ferguson, residents who fall behind on fines and don’t appear in court after a warrant has been issued for their arrest are charged an additional 120-130 dollars. This is in addition to a 50 dollar fee for a new arrest warrant and 56 cents for every mile that police drive to find them. After this even, once they are arrested they are imprisoned until the next court session and is charged 30 – 60 dollars a night by the jail. Ferguson’s municipal courts issued over twice as many arrest warrants per capita as any other town in Missouri. Because these fees are not governed by the legal constraints on locally raised taxes, they have emerged as an easy source of revenue for cash-strapped municipalities. Second, there are now private corporations that allow people to hire them for payment plans for their legal fees. The issue with this is that some of these corporations are now paying police on the side to go and arrest people and refer that person back to the corporation. Unfortunately, this isn’t unique to Ferguson. It is happening in Washington DC, Montgomery, Alabama, parts of Ohio, and St. Lewis and some surrounding areas. But this isn’t even the worst part. The police are using discriminatory methods to policing for profit.

Sub Point B: Police Mistreatment of Minorities

Even before riots and protests had begun, there was a negative feeling towards the police. According to **O’Malley in 2015 “**85 per cent of people subject to vehicle stops by Ferguson police were African-American; 90 per cent of those who received citations were black; and 93 per cent of people arrested were black.” The article goes on to say that 95 per cent of people ticketed for jaywalking were African-American, and 94 per cent of those charged with "failure to comply" or "failure to obey" were African- American.” The way that policing for profit works is by targeting minorities and poorer citizens. If the police give a speeding ticket to a resident who can pay it off right away, they make no extra money. However, if they give it to someone who they think will take longer to pay it they would obviously give it to that person. The statistics show that the police target minorities and lower class citizens who they think are less financially able to recover from a ticket. FURTHERMORE, this mistreatment of minorities isn’t just limited to Ferguson. **Eric L Adams in December of 2014** with the New York Times recalls when he was a 15 year old in Queens when he walked into an acquaintance’s home, and the police charged him with unlawful trespassing. They proceeded to assault and beat him, and then forced him to spend the night in the Juvenile detention center. He spent the next week at home, urinating blood, due to the unnecessary beating from the police force. Notice how he was back at home and not being pressed with charges. This example, compiled with these statistics, shows how police are mistreating minorities and are racially biased.

The impacts to policing for profit are that the citizens recognize that it is happening, and that the police are using racially biased methods of policing. These have created feeling of hostility in the people and the police are to blame for it.

For all of these Reasons, Tommy and I are proud to AFFIRM

### Cards

“Albers pointed the gun at a peaceful protester after a ‘verbal exchange,’

Members of that crowd verbally confront the officer, who appears to say, ‘I will (expletive) kill you. Get back.’ Asked his name, he responded, ‘Go (expletive) yourself.’”

Robert Patrick, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 2, 2014

“On Staten Island, N.Y., the July 2014 death of Eric Garner because of the apparent use of a ‘chokehold’ by an officer sparked outrage. A month later in Ferguson, Mo., the fatal shooting of teenager Michael Brown by officer Darren Wilson ignited protests, and a grand jury’s decision not to indict Wilson triggered further unrest. In November, Tamir Rice was shot by police in Cleveland, Ohio. He was 12 years old and playing with a toy pistol. On April 4, 2015, Walter L. Scott was shot by a police officer after a routine traffic stop in North Charleston, S.C. The same month, Freddie Gray died while in police custody in Baltimore, setting off widespread unrest. The policeman in the South Carolina case, Michael T. Slager, was charged with murder based on a cellphone video. In Baltimore, the driver of the police van in which Gray died, Caesar Goodson, was charged with second-degree murder, with lesser charges for five other officers. There have been no indictments in the earlier cases.”

John Wihbey and Leighton Walter Kille, July 1st, 2015

“In a shooting last week, video from a dashboard camera showed how in just a few seconds Trooper Sean Groubert went from asking motorist Levar Jones for his license for a supposed seat belt violation to shooting at him repeatedly without provocation, even as Jones put his hands in the air. Jones was hit once and is recovering.

State Public Safety Director Leroy Smith called the shooting ‘disturbing,’ and Groubert was promptly fired and charged with felony assault.”

8:18 am September 30, 2014 By Jeffery Collins

“The aggressive tactics with which various law enforcement agencies greeted protesters in the St. Louis region last August following the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, were deeply flawed and oppressive of citizens exercising their constitutional rights, according to a forthcoming report commissioned by the Justice Department.”

Ryan J. Reilly, Huffington Post, July 1, 2015

The BBC reports that in almost every country in Europe is against the use of firearms among the police and doesn’t practice the use of them in their police. This doesn’t mean that guns aren’t used this just means that you won’t see a police officer on the street with a gun unless it’s a terrorist situation and or a catastrophe.

Multiple studies, including from the Justice Department, have shown that the guns used in homicides, including the killing of police officers, overwhelmingly tend to be small-caliber handguns. Moreover, gun ownership has increased over the past 20 years — the same period in which both the violent crime rate and the killing of police officers have been in decline.

One version of this argument advanced recently by [Vox](http://www.vox.com/2014/11/26/7292963/gun-control-police-shootings) and the [New Republic](http://www.newrepublic.com/article/119170/libertarians-oppose-militarized-police-not-gun-control-make-sense) is that we can’t demilitarize the police without gun control. But even if it were true that criminals were arming themselves with bigger guns, it isn’t clear that gun control would demilitarize the police. First, gun-control legislation would probably not do much to keep guns out of the hands of violent criminals, particularly in the short term. Second, the argument assumes that the law enforcement community would accept such a bargain. That seems unlikely. Polls consistently show that large majorities of police officers oppose gun control, although big-city chiefs and the heads of some big police organizations support such policies. The NRA in particular includes a lot of cops in its membership and recently ran [an article in favor of police militarization](http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/f58ad46a#/f58ad46a/144) in its flagship magazine. According to the Washington post in December 2014

Kain 2011: Police Militarization

Kain, Erik. "Police Militarization in the Decade Following 9/11." Forbes. Forbes

Magazine, 12 Sept. 2011. Web. 08 July 2015. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkain/2011/09/12/police-militarization-in-the-decade-following-911/>.

Police forces have grown increasingly militarized in the years following the September 11th attacks. In part, this is a response to new rules established in the PATRIOT Act. A surplus of decommissioned military equipment and weapons has also found its way into domestic police forces. SWAT teams have been used with increasing frequency, sometimes just to serve warrants on nonviolent criminals. Radley Balko, who has been covering this trend for years now, has a piece up in the Huffington Post on the ways that 9/11 and the subsequent policy decisions have led to a more militarized police force in America. Of course, the militarization of America’s police began much earlier than 9/11. I would trace it back to the advent of the War on Drugs. Balko has other interesting details. For instance, in 1994 a law was passed which authorized the Pentagon to donate surplus military equipment – including vehicles and weapons – to police departments:

Reilly 2015: Police Militarization and Tactics incited more unrest

Reilly, Ryan J. "Intimidating, Unconstitutional Police Tactics In Ferguson Incited More

Unrest, Says DOJ Expert Report." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 30 June 2015. Web. 08 July 2015. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/30/ferguson-protests-police-response\_n\_7698548.html>.

The aggressive tactics with which various law enforcement agencies greeted protesters in the St. Louis region last August following the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, were deeply flawed and oppressive of citizens exercising their constitutional rights, according to a forthcoming report commissioned by the Justice Department.

The so-called "after-action" report covers the police response to protests in and around Ferguson in the 17-day period following the death of Brown, 18, who was shot and killed by Darren Wilson, then a local police officer, on August 9, 2014. The Justice Department's Office of Community Orienting Policing Services (COPS), which undertook the project in early September, is preparing to release the full report, which is around 200 pages long, in the coming weeks.

A confidential summary of the draft findings of the report was recently provided to the law enforcement agencies involved in the protest response and subsequently obtained by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The Huffington Post obtained a copy of the summary findings on Tuesday.

The report found that having St. Louis County police snipers perch on top of tactical vehicles and point their weapons at crowds of peaceful protesters in broad daylight was "inappropriate" and "served only to exacerbate tensions between the protesters and the police." Deploying armored vehicles when there was no "danger or peril to citizens or officers" -- as law enforcement was found to have done at times -- was seen by community members as an attempt to intimidate and threaten.

Officers from more than 50 different law enforcement agencies were present in the area during the period in question, and a lack of consistent policies led to "unclear arrest decisions, ambiguous authority on tactical orders, and a confusing citizen complaint process," the report found. Allowing officers to remove their nameplates and operate anonymously, the report said, "defeated an essential level of on-scene accountability that is fundamental to the perception of procedural justice and legitimacy."

FBI 2014: Crime Rates

"FBI Releases Preliminary Semiannual Crime Statistics for 2014." FBI. FBI, 26 Jan. 2015. Web. 08 July 2015. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-releases-preliminary-semiannual-crime-statistics-for-2014>.

Statistics released today in the FBI’s *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report* reveal overall declines in both the number of violent crimes and the number of property crimes reported for the first six months of 2014 when compared with figures for the first six months of 2013. The report is based on information from 11,009 law enforcement agencies that submitted three to six months of comparable data to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program for the first six months of 2013 and 2014.

**Violent Crime**

All the offenses in the violent crime category—murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape (revised definition), aggravated assault, and robbery—showed decreases when data from the first six months of 2014 were compared with data from the first six months of 2013. The number of murders declined 6.0 percent, the number of rapes (revised definition) declined 10.1 percent, aggravated assaults decreased 1.6 percent, and robbery offenses decreased 10.3 percent.

Violent crime decreased in all city groupings. The largest decrease, 6.7 percent, was noted in cities with fewer than 10,000 in population.

Violent crime decreased 7.6 percent in non-metropolitan counties and 4.4 percent in metropolitan counties.

Violent crime declined in each of the nation’s four regions. The largest decrease, 7.6 percent, was noted in the Midwest, followed by 6.6 percent in the Northeast, 3.0 percent in the South, and 2.7 percent in the West.

**Property Crime**

All three offenses in the property crime category—burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft—showed decreases in the number of offenses for January to June 2014 when compared with data for the same months of 2013. Burglary offenses dropped 14.0 percent. There was a 5.7 percent decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts, and a 5.6 percent decrease in larceny-theft offenses.

Each of the city population groups had decreases in the overall number of property crimes. Law enforcement agencies in cities with populations under 10,000 inhabitants reported the largest decrease, 8.9 percent.

Property crime decreased 11.8 percent in non-metropolitan counties and 9.0 percent in metropolitan counties.

All four of the nation’s regions showed declines in the number of property crime: 12.5 percent in the Midwest, 7.6 percent in the Northeast, 5.9 percent in the South, and 5.8 percent in the West.

Bouie 2014: Ferguson as a war zone

In fact,**Bouie 14**, [Jamelle, Bouie (Senior Journalist at Slate Magazine) “The Militarization of the Police. It’s dangerous and wrong to treat Ferguson Missouri, as a war zone.”] August 13, 2014.

Since 2006, according to an analysis by the New York Times, police departments have acquired 435 armored vehicles, 533 planes, 93,763 machine guns, and 432 mine-resistant armored trucks. Overall, since Congress established its program to transfer military hardware, local and state police departments have received $4.3 billion worth of equipment. Accordingly, the value of military equipment used by these police agencies has increased from $1 million in 1990 to $324 million in 1995 (shortly after the program was established), to nearly $450 million in 201

The impact which shows why police are responsible for civil unrest is two-fold.

First, due to this increase of militarization, police are now trained to look at civilians as the enemy, instead of people they are protecting. Per Arthur Rizer of the Atlantic writes, “ The most serious consequence of the rapid militarization of American police forces, is the subtle evolution in the mentality of the "men in blue" from "peace officer" to soldier.” Officers are now viewing themselves as soldiers, demonizing the people they are sworn to protect. This was also proven empirically where criminologist Peter Kraska has estimated that there are somewhere between 50,000 and 80,000 SWAT raids per year now in America, and that number is likely growing.

Second, the Weapons Effect. The weapons effect is a natural, psychological response that human beings have to the stimuli of weapons. In a study conducted by Anderson of the University of Missouri in 1998, he concluded that just seeing a picture of a gun could increase both one’s aggressive thoughts and aggressive cognitive functions . In their groundbreaking research on the subject, Berkowitz and LePage of the University of Wisconsin found that, if a subject was angered, the number of electric shocks that the subject shocked the aggressor with was “significantly affected” by the presence of weapons . To explain this effect, we look to Dr. Brad Bushman of Ohio State University, who says, “Human beings can identify potentially dangerous, threatening stimuli such as spiders and snakes very quickly. This makes sense from an evolutionary perspective because some spiders and snakes are poisonous, and our ancient ancestors who could identify them quickly were more likely to avoid them .” Therefore, our quick recognition of guns is an evolutionary impulse that humans use for self­protection, which triggers an aggressive response. In this regard, the increased militarization can be seen as one of the root causes of civil unrest.

Berkowitz 2013: Weapons Effect

Berkowitz 13, [Berkowitz, Leonard, (Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin) “The ‘weapons effect’”]

Human beings can identify potentially dangerous, threatening stimuli such as spiders and snakes very quickly. This makes sense from an evolutionary perspective because some spiders and snakes are poisonous, and our ancient ancestors who could identify them quickly were more likely to avoid them and live to pass on their genes. Recent research shows that people can identify guns as quickly as they can identify spiders and snakes.[4],[5],[6] These findings are very interesting because guns are modern threats and cannot be explained using evolutionary principles. Yet guns are a far more dangerous to people today than spiders or snakes. Poisonous spiders (e.g., Black Widows, Brown Recluses) kill about 6 Americans each year.[7] Poisonous snakes (e.g., rattlesnakes) kill about 5 Americans each year.[8] In comparison, guns kill about 31,000 Americans each year.[9] Several studies have replicated the weapons effect. A review of 56 published studies confirmed that the mere sight of weapons increases aggression in both angry and nonangry individuals.[10] Perhaps the weapons effect occurs because weapons are closely linked to aggression in our brains.

Harvard Law Review 2015: Policing and Profit

Policing and Profit." Harvard Law Review Policing and Profit Comments. N.p., 10 Apr. 2015.

Web. 08 July 2015. <http://harvardlawreview.org/2015/04/policing-and-profit/>.

When residents of Ferguson, Missouri, took to the streets last August to protest the death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager killed by a white police officer, the events dramatically exposed an image of modern policing that most Americans rarely see: columns of police pointing military weaponry at peaceful protestors. But the ongoing tension between residents and police in Ferguson was also indicative of another, less visual development in how the police are used to oppress impoverished communities: using law enforcement to extract revenue from the poor.

In the late 1980s, Missouri became one of the first states to let private companies purchase the probation systems of local governments. n2 In these arrangements, municipalities impose debt on individuals through criminal proceedings and then sell this debt to private businesses, which pad the debt with fees and interest. This debt can stem from fines for offenses as minor as rolling through a stop sign or failing to enroll in the right trash collection service. n3 In Ferguson, residents who fall behind on fines and don't appear in court after a warrant is [\*1724] issued for their arrest (or arrive in court after the courtroom doors close, which often happens just five minutes after the session is set to start for the day) are charged an additional $ 120 to $ 130 fine, along with a $ 50 fee for a new arrest warrant and 56 cents for each mile that police drive to serve it. Once arrested, everyone who can't pay their fines or post bail (which is usually set to equal the amount of their total debt) is imprisoned until the next court session (which happens three days a month). n5 Anyone who is imprisoned is charged $ 30 to $ 60 a night by the jail. n6 If an arrestee owes fines in more than one of St. Louis County's eighty-one municipal courts, they are passed from one jail to another to await hearings in each town. The number of these arrests in Ferguson is staggering: in 2013, Ferguson's population was around 21,000 n7 and its municipal court issued 32,975 arrest warrants for nonviolent offenses. Ferguson has a per capita income of $ 20,472, and nearly a quarter of residents and over a third of children live below the poverty line. Court fines and fees are Ferguson's second-largest source of income, generating over $ 2.4 million in revenue in 2013. n10 Though many of the towns that surround St. Louis draw significant revenue through their courts, Ferguson is an outlier: in 2013, its municipal court issued over twice as many arrest warrants per capita as any other town in Missouri.

Widespread hostility toward Ferguson's municipal court is the tinder that helped set the town on fire after Michael Brown was killed. Professor Jelani Cobb visited the town just after the shooting and saw this hostility as one of the "intertwined economic and law-enforcement [\*1725] issues underlying the protests." "We have people who have warrants because of traffic tickets and are effectively imprisoned in their homes," a resident told Cobb. "They can't go outside because they'll be arrested. In some cases people actually have jobs but decide the threat of arrest makes it not worth trying to commute outside their neighborhood." Though state legislators are considering various reforms of municipal court practices in response to the protests, Ferguson's budget for 2015 increases the town's reliance on police-issued tickets. Two months after the protests began they flared again as a result of another form of profit-based policing when an off-duty police officer killed another black teenager, this time in the nearby town of Shaw. This officer was being paid by a private company to patrol the area. Though he was not on duty, the company required him to wear his official uniform. Shaw is among many St. Louis neighborhoods that "pay private companies for the services of public employees to patrol public places." These businesses capitalize on the fact that wealthier neighborhoods like Shaw want (and can afford) more police. In turn, towns can cut official funding to police while ensuring a separate source of income for officers.

[\*1726] These trends of allocating police according to profit and criminalizing poverty to raise revenue extend well beyond St. Louis.

Barr 2015: Policing to generate revenue

Samuel Barr, Harvard Law Review, 4/10/2015, “Policing and Profit”, Harvard, http://harvardlawreview.org/2015/04/policing-and-profit/

Just as important as using the law to constrain these perverse innovations is rejecting the idea that gave rise to them. Policing should be focused on cooperating with communities to help them flourish. When police start going to people’s homes to arrest them in front of their children for traffic fines from four years earlier, the relationship between police and the communities they claim to serve is no longer a partnership. Instead, as policing becomes a way to generate revenue, police start to “see the people they’re supposed to be serving not as citizens with rights, but as potential sources of revenue, as lawbreakers to be caught.”155 This approach creates a fugitive underclass on the run from police not to hide illicit activity but to avoid arrest for debt or seizure of their purportedly suspicious assets.156 The vast demographic and residential disparities between police and the communities they operate in further exacerbat[ing]e this tension.157 In turn, communities like Ferguson begin to see police not as trusted partners but as an occupying army constantly harassing them to raise money to pay

USA Today 2015: Policing for Profit around USA

Board, The Editorial. "Policing for Profit Perverts Justice: Our View." USA Today.

Gannett, 11 Mar. 2015. Web. 08 July 2015. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/03/11/ferguson-mo-police-traffic-tickets-justice-department-editorials-debates/70175690/>.

Most people have never heard the term "policing for profit," but they've certainly seen it in action. Speed traps on roads that run through small towns have long generated money for the local governments. Big cities also police for profit. Washington, D.C., raked in $92 million in ticket revenue in 2012, thanks in part to confusing parking signs

OPPOSING VIEW: Radar doesn't discriminate

At least these strategies tend to target commuters and drivers passing through a town. Policing as a profit center is most pernicious when the quest for money repeatedly targets hometown residents, generating distrust and perverting the system of justice. That's what happened in Ferguson, Mo. From its top officials down to officers on the streets, the driving force for law enforcement was generating income, not public safety. City leaders demanded that police bring in more money. Officers were promoted based on "productivity," meaning how many citations they wrote. The municipal court, which should have been a check on unlawful police conduct, became a collection agent. Fines for minor offenses at times ballooned into "crippling debt" for people ticketed, the Justice Department found in its investigation released last week. Jail became the penalty for missing a court date or failing to pay.

These policies, even without specific racial targeting, fell most heavily on black residents, who account for two-thirds of Ferguson's population but 85% of traffic stops. The policies are a recipe for the sort of resentment that erupted after Michael Brown was fatally shot last summer. This kind of policing usually remains in the shadows, as it would have in Ferguson if not for Brown's death. But similar practices have been uncovered around the country:

Montgomery, Ala., collected nearly $16 million in "fines and forfeitures" in 2013 — more than five times the amount collected by other similarly sized Alabama cities, according to a suit filed on behalf of jailed indigent residents.

In Ohio, more than 300 "mayor's courts" presided over traffic cases in 2011. Often, the "principal objective is what's in the cash register at the end of the evening," said Ohio Supreme Court Senior Justice Paul Pfeifer.

Police in Gulfport, Miss., were accused in 2005 of conducting sweeps in predominantly black neighborhoods, stopping people to check whether they owed "old fines" and jailing those who couldn't pay, according to a federal lawsuit filed by the Southern Center for Human Rights. The case was dropped after the city corrected many of the problems.

Outside St. Louis, several small municipalities rely on police and courts to finance local government. This fiscal year, Ferguson expects fines and fees to bring in $3.1 million of a $13.3 million budget.

O’Malley 2015: “Racial Bias in Ferguson Police Force”

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/lnacui2api/api/version1/getDocCui?lni=5FFC-GK01-DYTG-20F6&csi=270944,270077,11059,8411&hl=t&hv=t&hnsd=f&hns=t&hgn=t&oc=00240&perma=true>

The statistics are shocking. The report shows that 85 per cent of people subject to vehicle stops by Ferguson police were African-American; 90 per cent of those who received citations were black; and 93 per cent of people arrested were black. This while 67 per cent of the Ferguson population is black.

It further found that 95 per cent of people ticketed for jaywalking were African-American, and 94 per cent of those charged with "failure to comply" or "failure to obey" were African- American. In local courts African- Americans were 68 per cent less likely to have their cases dismissed by a Ferguson municipal judge.

Further it found that city officials sometimes simply closed the facilities for people to pay their fines, then increased penalties.

Mr Holder described a case in which one African-American woman was issued with two parking fines totalling $US152 ($194). During her struggle to pay she incurred further fines, spent six days in jail, paid $US552 and today still owes over $US500.

He described the case of man cooling off in his car by a park after a game of basketball when police approached, claiming they suspected him of being a paedophile because there were children in the park.

He was fined for eight different offences, including lying to police because he had given his name as Mike rather than Michael. He went on to lose his licence, which in turn cost him his job.

Adams 2014- First hand account of police abuse.

Adams, Eric L. "We Must Stop Police Abuse of Black Men." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 04 Dec. 2014. Web. 08 July 2015.

I CAN recall it as if it were yesterday: looking into the toilet and seeing blood instead of urine. That was the aftermath of my first police encounter.

As a 15-year-old, living in South Jamaica, Queens, I was arrested on a criminal trespass charge after unlawfully entering and remaining in the home of an acquaintance.Officers took me to the 103rd Precinct — the same precinct where an unarmed Sean Bell was later shot and killed by the police —and brought me into a room in the basement. They kicked me in the groin repeatedly.Out of every part of my body, that’s what they targeted.Then I spent the night in Spoffordjuvenile detention center.

For seven days after that, I stared into the toilet bowl in my house at the blood I was urinating.I kept telling myself that if it didn’t clear up by the next day, I would share this shame and embarrassment with my mother, although I could never bring myself to start that conversation. When clear urine returned, I thought I was leaving that moment behind me. I never told anyone this, not even my mother, until I was an adult.

# Aff Case 8

Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protestors for recent civil unrest in the United States.

Responsibility: as being Liable to be called to account as the primary cause, motive, or agent. As stated by Sternheimer in 2012

Civil Unrest: Simply put, civil unrest involves a disruption of the typical social order that can either be peaceful or involve violence. By Civil disobedience and law dictionary.

And finally; Recent: as any event in the past year.

Our Framework is: Since the resolution states on balance if the negation side can prove there is more blame to be put on only the protesters rather than the police within the civil unrest then they win this round.

Case Positions:

Pro:

1. Racial Bias has Created Civil Unrest

2. The police are directly responsible for the civil unrest due to the acts that they performed

1. Police Accountability towards offenses towards civilians

**Contention 1: Racial bias has created civil unrest**

*Time Magazine reported on March 3, 2015* that a US Justice Department into the Ferguson police Department found "In 88 percent of the cases in which the department used force, it was against African Americans. In the canine-bite all of the 14 canine-bite incidents, the person bitten was African American.

Table 1 includes the descriptive statistics for the dependent and explanatory variables of the sample of police suspicions.In a study by Cambridge university and department of sociology in Miami they conducted a survey which conclude the results of police racist police dicisions when making civilian stops. Thirty-four percent (N=59) of the observations involved a nonbehavioral suspicion and outside viewers believed them to be of racial bias. Fifty-nine percent (N=103) of the suspicions recorded involved stopping the suspect. Fifty-six percent of officers that believed in these “suspicious activity” were white officers. Approximately 29 percent of the officers earned at least an Associate’s degree. On average, police officers have 4.2 years of experience on the force. In approximately 41 percent of the cases, the officers indicated that the area was “troubled.” Of all suspects, 71 percent were black and of those black/ African American citizens; 70 percent were driving a car. In 47 percent (N=82) of suspicions, the suspect committed a traffic offense and 57 percent were formed in predominately black neighborhoods.

Recent studies by police departments and researchers confirm that police stop persons of racial and ethnic minority groups more often than whites relative to their proportions in the population. However, it has been argued that stop rates more accurately reflect rates of crimes committed by each ethnic group, or that stop rates reflect elevated rates in specific social areas, such as neighborhoods or precincts. Most of the research on stop rates and police–citizen interactions has focused on traffic stops, and analyses of pedestrian stops are rare. In this article we analyze data from 125,000 pedestrian stops by the New York Police Department over a 15-month period. We disaggregate stops by police and compare stop rates by racial and ethnic group, controlling for previous race-specific arrest rates. We use hierarchical multilevel models to adjust for precinct-level variability, thus directly addressing the question of geographic heterogeneity that arises in the analysis of pedestrian stops. We find that persons of African and Hispanic descent were stopped more frequently than whites, even after controlling for precinct variability and race-specific estimates of crime participation.

**Contention 2: The police are directly responsible for the civil unrest due to the acts that they performed**

Subpoint a) the police are directly responsible for the spark or beginning of these protests in numerous cases

Who is causing these recent major events of civil unrest? What are the protesters protesting? Police. Police cause these protests, and even if our opponent can prove that protesters worsen and lengthen civil unrest more than police, they wouldn’t have had any unrest to lengthen or worsen without the actions of the police. Keeping in mind our definition of “responsible”, the police are obviously the primary cause of civil unrest, and therefore the party most responsible for it.

In the case of the Freddie Gray murder, the state court of Maryland, six police officers were found guilty of taking a part in these horrid acts.

The significance is that the police are the cause of the civil unrest by beginning these actions, such as the violation of department procedure, and the murders of Michael Brown, Eric garner, and Freddy gray

Subpoint b) the police are responsible for continued exacerbation of civil unrest

According to Ryan J Reilly 2015,

having St. Louis County police snipers perch on top of tactical vehicles and point their weapons at crowds of peaceful protesters in broad daylight was "inappropriate" and "served only to increase tensions between the protesters and the police

In Ferguson, the police fired tear gas into hundreds of protesters, including children, and then began to fire rubber bullets into the crowd. This is important because the police are not taking actions that would de-escalate these situations of civil unrest. police action in these cases is propagating violence and increasing civil unrest.

Another instance of the police propagating civil unrest is the case of what happened during the Eric Garner Riots where police stopped doing their civic duty of policing. This prevented the city from getting the income it usually relies on. In fact, the police abandoning their duty got so bad as to cut down traffic tickets given during the course of the protest by 92% according to the New York Daily and In addition, they also cut down arrests by 56%. The police were disrupting the normal function of the justice system in this case and to that end, causing civil unrest.

**Contention 3: Police are not held accountable for the abuses**

Police are rarely charged criminally for on-duty shootings, but law-enforcement officials and critics differ on whether this should be the case. New research by a *Bowling Green State University* criminologist shows that 41 officers in the U.S. were charged with either murder or manslaughter in connection with on-duty shootings over a seven-year period ending in 2011. Over that same period, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported 2,718 [justified homicides by law enforcement](http://blogs.wsj.com/numbers/why-the-data-on-justifiable-homicide-just-wont-do-1725/), an incomplete count, according to experts. A study by criminal justice at Bowling Green covers more than 6,700 cases of police officers arrested for any crime across all states. This shows that while the police are committing very serious crimes while on duty they are very rarely held accountable for their actions. “It’s very rare that an officer gets charged with a homicide offense resulting from their on-duty conduct even though people are killed on a fairly regular basis,” said Philip Stinson, an assistant professor of criminal justice *at Bowling Green* who received a federal grant to study arrests of police officers.

Prosecuting attorneys often work closely with law enforcement and need their help on future cases. The attorneys need votes from current law enforcement personnel to get reelected so even if it isn’t true sometimes the attorneys will bring in information to help them win the case showing an injustice in the system which just goes on not only to prove my third contention but also my first.

An example of this is in the Michael Brown case, the prosecutor brought favorable evidence for the police officer (which he didn’t need do). Often times, police are allowed by law to engage in abuses without public and legal recourse. The state of Missouri allows police officer to shoot if they feel threatened so the evidence brought in his case was unnecessary.

And for these reasons my partner and I urge for a strong pro ballot.

Cards used:

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3. More than 400 protesters arrested in the stance against the Ferguson case; Author, N.A; “More than 400 arrested as Ferguson protests spread”; November 27th, 2014; http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2014-11/27/content\_18984998.htm

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5. The Results of Police suspicion and discretionary decision making during citizen stops; Author: Alpert, MacDonald, and Dunham (Geoffrey: Department of criminology and criminal justice from the department of south Caroline. John: RAND Corporation. Roger: Department of sociology in the university of Miami), “Police suspicion and discretionary decision making during citizen stops, 05/16/2005 published- and edited again December of 2015; Cambridge University Press and later republished after being edited by Waveland Press; <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.0011-1348.2005.00012.x/epdf>

6. **Wihbey and Kille, 2015** (John and Leighton Walter, reporters certified by *Journalist’s Resource*, “Excessive or reasonable force by police? Research on law enforcement and racial conflict”, *Journalist’s Resource*, 1 July)

7. **Patrick, 2014** (Robert, Reporter for *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, “St. Ann officer removed after pointing gun, threatening Ferguson protesters”, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 20 August)

### Cards

# Aff Case 9

My partner and I stand in the firmest affirmation of the topic.

Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent uncivil unrest in the United States. We would like to begin with the following definitions.

**Police:** the department of government charged with prevention, detection, and prosecution of public nuisances and crimes (Merriam Webster 2015)

**Responsible:** being the cause or explanation of (Merriam Webster 2015)

**Than:**  used as a function word to indicate the second member (Merriam Webster 2015

**Framework:** Due to the definition of the word “than,” we must assume that the pro and con must represent a dichotomy. The pro must charge the police as more responsible and the con must charge the protesters as more responsible to accurately and fairly gauge the round.

**C1: Institutional Responsibility**

**Subpoint A: Institutional Racism**

Ferguson is representative of an entirely racist system of policing, as **James Wertsch reports in 2014, that**

The death of Mr Brown was, of course, shocking and newsworthy but, unfortunately, in America it was not all that unusual. **ProPublica, for example, reports that from 2010 to 2012, police shot and killed 1,217 people in the United States. Among these, young black males were 21 times more likely to be killed than their white counterparts.** For many years, however, episodes such as the one in Ferguson have not raised major public outcries. So what is it that makes this one different' For starters, in contrast to other cases, where public uproar quickly died down, the demonstrations that started in August continued for months and flared up again with the decision last month not to bring criminal charges against Mr Wilson. The makeup of the protesters has been noteworthy. Local African Americans have been in the lead, but whites and other racial and ethnic groups have consistently shown up and continued to speak out. Groups from other regions have joined in the protest, travelling to Ferguson or organising demonstrations in other cities. **These facts suggest that the protests in Ferguson may be about something larger than the death of a particular black man. Specifically, they point to a "tipping point" in America's debate over race and civil rights.** Social scientists describe tipping points as sudden, unanticipated changes in attitudes and social behaviour such as those that can be found in fashion, the unexpected rise of an obscure book to be a bestseller, or an abrupt switch in public acceptance of cigarette smoking. **The interpretation of Ferguson as a tipping point is reinforced by the fact that related demonstrations have broken out over the death of another unarmed African American, Mr Eric Garner, at the hands of a white police officer in New York. The deaths of Mr Brown and Mr Garner, along with the refusal to indict the police officers in both cases, would usually have received little sustained attention.** What seems to be emerging is a new age of civil rights struggle - what might be called Civil Rights 2.0. It has certain parallels with what went on in the 1950s and 1960s, but there are major differences. Compared to today's struggle, the injustices addressed by Martin Luther King and others in the first civil rights movement were relatively easy to identify: Laws that prevented African Americans from voting and relegated them to segregated schools and universities, systematic violence and intimidation by racist groups, and legal exclusion of blacks from restaurants, hotels and public transportation. The victories over these injustices made America a much better place, but today's protests suggest America is still far from transcending the legacy of what Abraham Lincoln in 1860 called the "great moral wrong" of slavery.

This is nowhere more in evidence than in the treatment of young black men in the criminal justice system today. Disproportionate numbers are killed by police or imprisoned, and this cannot be dismissed as reflecting higher levels of criminal behaviour. **Instead, evidence points to patterns of unwarranted discrimination against African Americans by police and the court system. While driving, for example, they are routinely stopped and searched by police more often than others, and they are also systematically sentenced to longer prison terms than whites for the same crimes. The racism that affects these young black men is reproduced through seemingly impersonal everyday practices, including the "institutional racism" of the legal system.** In any particular confrontation, such as the one between Mr Brown and Mr Wilson or between Mr Wilson and the legal system, the dynamics of injustice can be hard to identify because they are veiled by impersonal institutional procedures. The result, as some pundits have quipped, is that there is racism but no racists in America. In the Ferguson case, for example, institutional racism appears to have shaped the grand jury decision not to indict Mr Wilson on criminal charges related to the Aug 9 shooting. Grand jury hearings are held in secret and are intended to render a preliminary assessment of whether a crime has been committed and whether a criminal trial is warranted.

**Simply put, every act of police brutality in today’s debate is the face of an inherently racist system, the institution as a whole, with officers like Wilson demonstrating what it truly means. Legal Monitor Worldwide in 2014 agrees that,**

But not even that minimal justice was in the cards for the loved ones of Michael Brown, or the occupied community in which he lived - because that's not how it works. **Officer Wilson, whatever he did inside or outside the state's rules** on the use of lethal force when he confronted Brown on the afternoon of Aug. 9, **was just doing his job, which was controlling and intimidating the black population of Ferguson. He was on the front line of a racist and exploitative system - an occupying bureaucracy.** The New York Times, in its story about the grand jury verdict, began thus: "Michael Brown became so angry when he was stopped by Officer Darren Wilson on Canfield Drive here on Aug. 9, **his face looked 'like a demon,' the officer would later tell a grand jury."** This sort of detail is, of course, of immense value to those who sympathize with the police shooting and accuse the black community of endemic lawlessness. See! Michael Brown wasn't just a nice, innocent boy minding his own business. He and his companion were trouble incarnate, walking down the middle of the street spoiling for a fight. He was Hulk Hogan. The cop had no choice but to shoot, and shoot again. This was a demonic confrontation. Politeness wouldn't have worked. If nothing else, **such testimony shows the stark limits of our "who's at fault?" legal system, which addresses every incident in pristine, absurd isolation and has no interest beyond establishing blame - that is to say, officially stamping the participants as either villains, heroes or victims. Certainly it has no interest in holistic understanding of social problems.** Taking Wilson's testimony at face value, one could choose to ask: Why was Michael Brown so angry? Many commentators have talked about the "anger" of Ferguson's black community in the wake of the shooting, but there hasn't been much examination of the anger that was simmering beforehand, which may have seized hold of Brown the instant the police officer stopped him. However, an excellent piece of investigative journalism by Radley Balko of the Washington Post, which ran in September - "How municipalities in St. Louis County, Mo., profit from poverty" - addresses the issue head on. He makes the point that local municipal governments, through an endless array of penny-ante citations and fines - "poverty violations" - torment the locals for the primary, or perhaps sole, purpose of keeping their bureaucracies funded. "**Some of the towns in St. Louis County can derive 40 percent or more of their annual revenue from the petty fines and fees collected by their municipal courts,**" Balko writes. The fines are mostly for traffic offenses, but they also include fines for loud music, unmown lawns, "wearing saggy pants" and "vague infractions such as 'disturbing the peace,'" among many others, and if the person fined, because he or she is poor, can't pay up, a further fine is added to the original, and on and on it goes. "**There's also a widely held sentiment that the police spend far more time looking for petty offenses that produce fines than they do keeping these communities safe,**" Balko writes. "If you were tasked with designing a regional system of government guaranteed to produce racial conflict, anger, and resentment, you'd be hard pressed to do better than St. Louis County."

The institutional impact here is twofold. First, the police as a whole, especially in affected areas, have revealed themselves to be inherently racist. Second, their abuse of power is used to fund themselves. Both of these added to the pressure which created the tipping point of Ferguson among other cities.

**Subpoint B: No Accountability**

Not only do the police hold responsibility by perpetuating the institutional racism that led to the deaths of Freddie Gray, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner, they fail to take take an ounce of accountability for their actions. As **Mann and Patrick write in 2014**,

Mann, Jennifer S., and Robert Patrick. "Legal Experts React to Grand Jury Process in Michael Brown Shooting FERGUSON TURMOIL: REACTION TO GRAND JURY." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. N.p., 26 Nov. 2014. Web. 7 July 2015.

ST. LOUIS o **The grand jury that decided there was no probable cause to charge Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson in Michael Brown's killing was anything but typical** - on that much, everyone agrees. **But as legal experts pore over thousands of pages of grand jury testimony and exhibits released** Monday, **opinions differ on whether that unusual process favored a non-indictment,** beyond the latitude that the law gives to police in using deadly force. In announcing the decision Monday night, St. Louis County **Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch emphasized the unprecedented amount of information jurors were given in analyzing the** Aug. 9 **shooting**. He suggested that inconsistent witness statements may have loomed large in the decision not to indict. To some, **it felt like something you would hear from a defense attorney instead of a prosecutor.** David Feige, a former public defender and author from New York City, called the press conference "the most bizarre throat-clearing I've ever heard." "He basically said this is the right decision," Feige said, after "weeks of claiming impartiality" as the reason he didn't bring a charging recommendation to a grand jury. **Typically, prosecutors do recommend a specific charge and have already issued a criminal complaint based on it when they go to a grand jury. In Wilson's case, prosecutors presented five potential charges and told jurors to investigate whether there was probable cause based on the evidence.** The grand jury met on 25 days, hearing 70 hours of testimony from 60 witnesses. Two assistant prosecutors interviewed the witnesses and guided jurors through evidence and the law. The documents were released late Monday, with a lawyer for McCulloch's office saying Missouri's open records law makes investigative documents and other materials public when a criminal case becomes inactive. Feige said he was left with the impression that "McCulloch tried to wrap himself in transparency but wasn't really being transparent." He emphasized, however, that he was going only off McCulloch's statements and had not yet reviewed the grand jury material. McCulloch declined comment through a spokesman. **Some critics**, including an **attorney** for Brown's family, **have described the mass of presented evidence as a "data dump" that left jurors without clear direction.** "It was a very atypical proceeding," acknowledged Peter Joy, a Washington University law professor. "But when you have an investigative grand jury they typically do consume a lot more evidence."He said comparing this grand jury process to others "isn't like comparing apples to oranges, but comparing apples to cows." **Roger Goldman, a St. Louis University law professor, said the grand jury decision wasn't surprising given the law, which gives officers wide latitude in using deadly force, and the fact that** **Wilson testified for nearly four hours about the encounter** with Brown. "**There's no way his lawyer would do that unless they were almost certain there would be no indictment**," Goldman said. Goldman said the only other eyewitness to the entire encounter was Dorian Johnson, who may have tarnished his credibility when he testified to having given a false name to police during a 2011 investigation in Columbia, Mo. To support charges, prosecutors would have to overcome a "big hurdle" by proving Brown was not being pursued for a felony or that he had surrendered, Dunklin County Prosecuting **Attorney** Stephen Sokoloff said. "If you accept that what Wilson said is true, he had an absolute defense," he said. "The rest of it comes into deciding credibility and whatnot (of witnesses)." Area defense **attorney** Joel Schwartz applauded McCulloch for releasing the evidence and cautioned that "it's impossible for anyone who wasn't sitting in that jury to quarrel with what they did." He said he thought jurors believed Wilson's testimony, as corroborated by the autopsy and the physical evidence. But Schwartz said that based on what he read, it appeared **Wilson's attorney had prepared him well. And he said it didn't seem that prosecutors gave Wilson the same level of skepticism or vigorous cross-examination they might extend in other situations.** "It would certainly be nice if the grand jury looked into physical evidence and facts as closely on every case as they did in this case," he said. "If they did, in fact, look at it that way, I and other ... defense **attorneys** would probably be out of jobs." Lisa Bloom, a civil rights **attorney** in Los Angeles, said she thought inconsistencies in Wilson's testimony "presented many fertile grounds" for tough questions. But, she said, prosecutors were "treating Darren Wilson with kid gloves during the testimony."

**Furthermore, the Qatar Tribune in 2015 adds that Maryland legislation after Baltimore is taking virtually no steps to increase police accountability. The impact here is the police cannot and will not accept any responsibility, which not only pragmatically started the riots and assaults in the first place, but also shows their desperation to remain in their institutionally racist ways.**

**C2: Militarization**

**Subpoint A: Building Arms**

Karena Rahall  from Seattle University 2015  “**Images of police in tactical gear, pointing automatic weapons at unarmed demonstrators in Ferguson, Missouri, represented a flashpoint in public awareness that American police are rapidly militarizing. Federal grants have been quietly arming police with tanks, drones, and uniforms more suited to waging war than patrolling the streets. As police have acquired more military gear, Special Weapons and Tactics teams and deployments have proliferated. Even small towns receive surplus military materie**l to fight the "wars" on drugs and terrorism. **In addition, police training uses a military approach that threatens to transform the traditional police mandate of protecting and serving into one of engaging and defeating.** This Article is the first in legal scholarship to analyze the causes of police militarization and the obstacles to curbing it.”

**Charleston Gazette 2014 continues that,**

**This new culture of civilian police acting like soldiers in a war zone creates conditions that can result in something like the shooting of Brown,** Balko has since said in a television interview. It also contributed to the Ferguson police's mishandling to public reaction to the shooting. Ferguson is about two-thirds black, but 52 of the town's 55 police officers are white, Balko pointed out. When residents protested yet another death of a young black American man at the hands of white law enforcement, Ferguson police responded with armored vehicles, stun grenades and high-tech weapons. Ferguson is currently the center of national, even international, attention, but it could easily be another town, another state. In June, the American Civil Liberties Union published a powerful critique of this trend, "War Comes Home: The Excessive Militarization of American Policing. **"Militarization of policing encourages officers to adopt a warrior' mentality and think of the people they are supposed to serve as enemies**, the ACLU report states. **"American policing has become unnecessarily and dangerously militarized, in large part through federal programs that have armed state and local law enforcement agencies with the weapons and tactics of war**, **with almost no public discussion or oversight. In West Virginia, nearly 2,000 pieces of military equipment and supplies have flowed to various police departments since 2006**, the New York Times reported. They weapons and other equipment come through a Defense Department program created by Congress in 1999. **Balko documents past misuse of high-powered weapons and equipment, including local SWAT teams and officers who target innocent people of all races and ages; they have broken into homes and assaulted and even killed people who have done nothing wrong.** The militarization of local police forces has occurred with very little public oversight, the ACLU report stresses. **Of the many reactions to the tragic death of Michael Brown, a new public attention to the quality and mindset of local police is certainly one of the most important and responsible**.”

**Subpoint B: Turning Violent**

**Militarization not only adds to societal pressure, but it also a direct cause for the violence of protests. Newsweek in 2014 reports,**

**Research shows that militarization rarely works, and usually makes things worse.**

**Studies also show that police have the power to either lessen the tensions of an angry group of people or goad them into a riot. This conclusion is based on the Elaborated Social Identity Model (ESIM), which is the leading scientific theory on managing a boisterous horde of people.** What the ESIM shows is that **an angry crowd can be driven to riot if they believe they are being treated unfairly—for example, by being confronted by cops decked out with military weaponry**. **When police treat a crowd justly and humanely, the chance of an uproar decreases and participants trust law enforcement more, the research shows.**

When faced with a large-scale protest, police who understand their job know they must defend the free speech rights of participants with civility, while maintaining public safety. That means they protect both the protesters and other civilians. **Confronting angry citizens in the garb of jack-booted thugs does plenty of damage and accomplishes nothing.** "Officers must avoid donning their hard gear as a first step,'' wrote Mike Masterson, chief of the Boise, Idaho police department, in an August 2012 report for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law Enforcement Bulletin. "Police should not rely solely on their equipment and tools. Experience shows that… dialogue is invaluable. Law enforcement officers must defuse confrontations to ensure strong ties with the community."Adds Lieutenant Andrew Borrello with the San Gabriel, California, Police Department: "[Civility] represents self-disciplined behavior and patience with those who may not deserve it. Civility creates behavior that reduces conflict and stress…." For some of the best collections of studies on this topic, check out the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University. This group, which is consulted by law enforcement experts around the country, transforms much of the research on police tactics into a data matrix, showing in an easy to comprehend graphic which among more than 100 tactics and techniques have been shown to work, broken down by circumstances involving individuals, groups, small places, neighborhoods and jurisdiction. Not surprisingly, the most effective way to decrease crime and engender public support for law enforcement officers is through what is known as community policing and problem-oriented policing. These approaches are the opposite of the swoop-and- crush approach taken early on in Ferguson—they entail having cops work closely with the community, become respected contributors to it, engage with both private and public organizations and do a lot of research—know their community. In other words, it's about making the police an appreciated participant in the daily life, rather than a threatening "other" enthralled with its authority, ego and weaponry. **There is no better example of this than what happened in Ferguson. When the cops engaged in their war games, the streets turned into a battle zone.** **After Governor Nixon replaced the incompetent leadership and officers with a skilled commander and better trained cops, everything changed. Captain Ronald Johnson of Missouri State Highway Patrol** appears to have learned about law enforcement techniques from research and professional conferences rather than from television cop shows. **Johnson's first day on the job—following a night of violent clashes between police and locals**—**he walked with protesters, hugged residents, assured them law enforcement was not there to intimidate them, and reassured citizens that everyone had the right to speak their minds. He ordered his officers not to use gas masks and, after a night of cops dressed like ninjas, made sure they wore standard uniforms. Then, he took the next important step: he told residents he would not tolerate anyone interfering with nonviolent protests, but that his officers also would not stand for looting.** No doubt most of the residents agreed with him on that. He earned trust, and then made sure the peaceful residents were on his side about containing crime. **The result? A night of peaceful demonstrations, with no overwhelming police presence and no arrests. In one day, a smart cop defused one of the most dangerous police conflicts in recent memory** **Unfortunately, the next day, the original bumblers jumped back in for another quick demonstration of their incompetence.** With tensions calming, Chief Thomas Jackson of the Ferguson Police decided to throw some gas on the embers by releasing video purporting to show the teenager who had been killed, Mike Brown, stealing some cigars from a convenience store. That gave Fox News and the like some new talking points, but the gratuitous victim-smearing set off a new night of confrontations.

### Cards

**Protesters:** A formal [declaration](http://thelawdictionary.org/declaration/) made by a person interested or concerned in some act about to be done, or already performed, and in relation thereto, whereby he expresses his dissent or disapproval. Law Dictionary.com 2015

**Ferguson trial one-sided, swayed toward officer Mann and Patrick November 2014**

Mann, Jennifer S., and Robert Patrick. "Legal Experts React to Grand Jury Process in Michael Brown Shooting FERGUSON TURMOIL: REACTION TO GRAND JURY." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. N.p., 26 Nov. 2014. Web. 7 July 2015.

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**Protesters fighting the institution of racism that is the police Wertsch 2014**

Wertsch, James V. "Ferguson: Civil RIghts 2.0." *The Strait Times (Singapore)*. N.p., 17 Dec. 2014. Web.

The death of Mr Brown was, of course, shocking and newsworthy but, unfortunately, in America it was not all that unusual.

**ProPublica, for example, reports that from 2010 to 2012, police shot and killed 1,217 people in the United States. Among these, young black males were 21 times more likely to be killed than their white counterparts.** For many years, however, episodes such as the one in Ferguson have not raised major public outcries. So what is it that makes this one different' For starters, in contrast to other cases, where public uproar quickly died down, the demonstrations that started in August continued for months and flared up again with the decision last month not to bring criminal charges against Mr Wilson. The makeup of the protesters has been noteworthy. Local African Americans have been in the lead, but whites and other racial and ethnic groups have consistently shown up and continued to speak out. Groups from other regions have joined in the protest, travelling to Ferguson or organising demonstrations in other cities. **These facts suggest that the protests in Ferguson may be about something larger than the death of a particular black man. Specifically, they point to a "tipping point" in America's debate over race and civil rights.** Social scientists describe tipping points as sudden, unanticipated changes in attitudes and social behaviour such as those that can be found in fashion, the unexpected rise of an obscure book to be a bestseller, or an abrupt switch in public acceptance of cigarette smoking. **The interpretation of Ferguson as a tipping point is reinforced by the fact that related demonstrations have broken out over the death of another unarmed African American, Mr Eric Garner, at the hands of a white police officer in New York. The deaths of Mr Brown and Mr Garner, along with the refusal to indict the police officers in both cases, would usually have received little sustained attention.** What seems to be emerging is a new age of civil rights struggle - what might be called Civil Rights 2.0. It has certain parallels with what went on in the 1950s and 1960s, but there are major differences. Compared to today's struggle, the injustices addressed by Martin Luther King and others in the first civil rights movement were relatively easy to identify: Laws that prevented African Americans from voting and relegated them to segregated schools and universities, systematic violence and intimidation by racist groups, and legal exclusion of blacks from restaurants, hotels and public transportation. The victories over these injustices made America a much better place, but today's protests suggest America is still far from transcending the legacy of what Abraham Lincoln in 1860 called the "great moral wrong" of slavery.

This is nowhere more in evidence than in the treatment of young black men in the criminal justice system today. Disproportionate numbers are killed by police or imprisoned, and this cannot be dismissed as reflecting higher levels of criminal behaviour. **Instead, evidence points to patterns of unwarranted discrimination against African Americans by police and the court system. While driving, for example, they are routinely stopped and searched by police more often than others, and they are also systematically sentenced to longer prison terms than whites for the same crimes. The racism that affects these young black men is reproduced through seemingly impersonal everyday practices, including the "institutional racism" of the legal system.** In any particular confrontation, such as the one between Mr Brown and Mr Wilson or between Mr Wilson and the legal system, the dynamics of injustice can be hard to identify because they are veiled by impersonal institutional procedures. The result, as some pundits have quipped, is that there is racism but no racists in America. In the Ferguson case, for example, institutional racism appears to have shaped the grand jury decision not to indict Mr Wilson on criminal charges related to the Aug 9 shooting. Grand jury hearings are held in secret and are intended to render a preliminary assessment of whether a crime has been committed and whether a criminal trial is warranted.

**Racism inherent to police, control equals cash Legal Monitor 2014**

"Institutional Racism Stays Hidden." *Legal Monitor Worldwide*. Syndigate Meida, 29 Dec. 2014. Web. 8 July 2015.

But not even that minimal justice was in the cards for the loved ones of Michael Brown, or the occupied community in which he lived - because that's not how it works. **Officer Wilson, whatever he did inside or outside the state's rules** on the use of lethal force when he confronted Brown on the afternoon of Aug. 9, **was just doing his job, which was controlling and intimidating the black population of Ferguson. He was on the front line of a racist and exploitative system - an occupying bureaucracy.** The New York Times, in its story about the grand jury verdict, began thus: "Michael Brown became so angry when he was stopped by Officer Darren Wilson on Canfield Drive here on Aug. 9, **his face looked 'like a demon,' the officer would later tell a grand jury."** This sort of detail is, of course, of immense value to those who sympathize with the police shooting and accuse the black community of endemic lawlessness. See! Michael Brown wasn't just a nice, innocent boy minding his own business. He and his companion were trouble incarnate, walking down the middle of the street spoiling for a fight. He was Hulk Hogan. The cop had no choice but to shoot, and shoot again. This was a demonic confrontation. Politeness wouldn't have worked. If nothing else, **such testimony shows the stark limits of our "who's at fault?" legal system, which addresses every incident in pristine, absurd isolation and has no interest beyond establishing blame - that is to say, officially stamping the participants as either villains, heroes or victims. Certainly it has no interest in holistic understanding of social problems.** Taking Wilson's testimony at face value, one could choose to ask: Why was Michael Brown so angry? Many commentators have talked about the "anger" of Ferguson's black community in the wake of the shooting, but there hasn't been much examination of the anger that was simmering beforehand, which may have seized hold of Brown the instant the police officer stopped him. However, an excellent piece of investigative journalism by Radley Balko of the Washington Post, which ran in September - "How municipalities in St. Louis County, Mo., profit from poverty" - addresses the issue head on. He makes the point that local municipal governments, through an endless array of penny-ante citations and fines - "poverty violations" - torment the locals for the primary, or perhaps sole, purpose of keeping their bureaucracies funded. "**Some of the towns in St. Louis County can derive 40 percent or more of their annual revenue from the petty fines and fees collected by their municipal courts,**" Balko writes. The fines are mostly for traffic offenses, but they also include fines for loud music, unmown lawns, "wearing saggy pants" and "vague infractions such as 'disturbing the peace,'" among many others, and if the person fined, because he or she is poor, can't pay up, a further fine is added to the original, and on and on it goes. "**There's also a widely held sentiment that the police spend far more time looking for petty offenses that produce fines than they do keeping these communities safe,**" Balko writes. "If you were tasked with designing a regional system of government guaranteed to produce racial conflict, anger, and resentment, you'd be hard pressed to do better than St. Louis County."

**Legislation taking no steps for accountability Qatar Tribune 2015**

"Police Accountability." *Qatar Tribune (Doha, Qatar)*. N.p., 2 May 2015. Web. 8 July 2015.

Based on federal data, the report said that Maryland had more"justifiable homicides" by the police than some states with twice its population. It also found that 41 percent of people who died in police encounters were"not armed with a weapon of any kind" that unarmed black people died in police encounters at 10 times the rate of whites; and that police officers were charged with crimes in less than 2 percent of the cases in which civilians died. Moreover, that there was no centralised system for tracking the frequency of civilian deaths at police hands or the circumstances in which they occurred."Not counting who dies in police encounters," the report said,"sends the message that these lives do not matter." **One of the bills awaiting the governor's signature would require law enforcement agencies to provide the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention with information about deaths in police custody, as well as deaths of officers occurring in the line of duty. Other bills would increase the dollar amounts that people injured by the police can collect in civil lawsuits; require police officers to record demographic information, including race, about traffic stops; and strengthen civilian oversight of police activity in Baltimore. A bill that encourages the use of body cameras by the police does not go far enough. These bills are an improvement over the status quo, but they do not get to the heart of the matter. The Legislature needs to revisit bills that failed to pass the last time around. One proposal would have improved the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights by allowing greater latitude in the questioning of officers during investigations of misconduct and in how they can be disciplined**. Given that officers who kill civilians in the state are rarely charged, the Legislature should also enable the state prosecutor, who is independent, to investigate civilian deaths in which charges are not brought by state's attorneys, who are often too close to the police.

Rahall, Karena. "The Green to Blue Pipeline: Defense Contractors and the Police Industrial Complex." *SSRN Journal SSRN Electronic Journal*(2015): n. pag. Web.  “**Images of police in tactical gear, pointing automatic weapons at unarmed demonstrators in Ferguson, Missouri, represented a flashpoint in public awareness that American police are rapidly militarizing. Federal grants have been quietly arming police with tanks, drones, and uniforms more suited to waging war than patrolling the streets. As police have acquired more military gear, Special Weapons and Tactics teams and deployments have proliferated. Even small towns receive surplus military materie**l to fight the "wars" on drugs and terrorism. **In addition, police training uses a military approach that threatens to transform the traditional police mandate of protecting and serving into one of engaging and defeating.** This Article is the first in legal scholarship to analyze the causes of police militarization and the obstacles to curbing it.”

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**Research shows that militarization rarely works, and usually makes things worse.**

**Studies also show that police have the power to either lessen the tensions of an angry group of people or goad them into a riot. This conclusion is based on the Elaborated Social Identity Model (ESIM), which is the leading scientific theory on managing a boisterous horde of people.** What the ESIM shows is that **an angry crowd can be driven to riot if they believe they are being treated unfairly—for example, by being confronted by cops decked out with military weaponry**. **When police treat a crowd justly and humanely, the chance of an uproar decreases and participants trust law enforcement more, the research shows.**

When faced with a large-scale protest, police who understand their job know they must defend the free speech rights of participants with civility, while maintaining public safety. That means they protect both the protesters and other civilians. **Confronting angry citizens in the garb of jack-booted thugs does plenty of damage and accomplishes nothing.** "Officers must avoid donning their hard gear as a first step,'' wrote Mike Masterson, chief of the Boise, Idaho police department, in an August 2012 report for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law Enforcement Bulletin. "Police should not rely solely on their equipment and tools. Experience shows that… dialogue is invaluable. Law enforcement officers must defuse confrontations to ensure strong ties with the community."Adds Lieutenant Andrew Borrello with the San Gabriel, California, Police Department: "[Civility] represents self-disciplined behavior and patience with those who may not deserve it. Civility creates behavior that reduces conflict and stress…." For some of the best collections of studies on this topic, check out the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University. This group, which is consulted by law enforcement experts around the country, transforms much of the research on police tactics into a data matrix, showing in an easy to comprehend graphic which among more than 100 tactics and techniques have been shown to work, broken down by circumstances involving individuals, groups, small places, neighborhoods and jurisdiction. Not surprisingly, the most effective way to decrease crime and engender public support for law enforcement officers is through what is known as community policing and problem-oriented policing. These approaches are the opposite of the swoop-and- crush approach taken early on in Ferguson—they entail having cops work closely with the community, become respected contributors to it, engage with both private and public organizations and do a lot of research—know their community. In other words, it's about making the police an appreciated participant in the daily life, rather than a threatening "other" enthralled with its authority, ego and weaponry. **There is no better example of this than what happened in Ferguson. When the cops engaged in their war games, the streets turned into a battle zone.** **After Governor Nixon replaced the incompetent leadership and officers with a skilled commander and better trained cops, everything changed. Captain Ronald Johnson of Missouri State Highway Patrol** appears to have learned about law enforcement techniques from research and professional conferences rather than from television cop shows. **Johnson's first day on the job—following a night of violent clashes between police and locals**—**he walked with protesters, hugged residents, assured them law enforcement was not there to intimidate them, and reassured citizens that everyone had the right to speak their minds. He ordered his officers not to use gas masks and, after a night of cops dressed like ninjas, made sure they wore standard uniforms. Then, he took the next important step: he told residents he would not tolerate anyone interfering with nonviolent protests, but that his officers also would not stand for looting.** No doubt most of the residents agreed with him on that. He earned trust, and then made sure the peaceful residents were on his side about containing crime. **The result? A night of peaceful demonstrations, with no overwhelming police presence and no arrests. In one day, a smart cop defused one of the most dangerous police conflicts in recent memory** **Unfortunately, the next day, the original bumblers jumped back in for another quick demonstration of their incompetence.** With tensions calming, Chief Thomas Jackson of the Ferguson Police decided to throw some gas on the embers by releasing video purporting to show the teenager who had been killed, Mike Brown, stealing some cigars from a convenience store. That gave Fox News and the like some new talking points, but the gratuitous victim-smearing set off a new night of confrontations.

Militarization creates a culture of fear  Charelston Gazette 2014

"Warrior Cops; Bad for Communities." *Charleston Gazette* [West Virginia] n.d.: n. pag. Print

**This new culture of civilian police acting like soldiers in a war zone creates conditions that can result in something like the shooting of Brown,** Balko has since said in a television interview. It also contributed to the Ferguson police's mishandling to public reaction to the shooting. Ferguson is about two-thirds black, but 52 of the town's 55 police officers are white, Balko pointed out. When residents protested yet another death of a young black American man at the hands of white law enforcement, Ferguson police responded with armored vehicles, stun grenades and high-tech weapons. Ferguson is currently the center of national, even international, attention, but it could easily be another town, another state. In June, the American Civil Liberties Union published a powerful critique of this trend, "War Comes Home: The Excessive Militarization of American Policing. **"Militarization of policing encourages officers to adopt a warrior' mentality and think of the people they are supposed to serve as enemies**, the ACLU report states. **"American policing has become unnecessarily and dangerously militarized, in large part through federal programs that have armed state and local law enforcement agencies with the weapons and tactics of war**, **with almost no public discussion or oversight. In West Virginia, nearly 2,000 pieces of military equipment and supplies have flowed to various police departments since 2006**, the New York Times reported. They weapons and other equipment come through a Defense Department program created by Congress in 1999. **Balko documents past misuse of high-powered weapons and equipment, including local SWAT teams and officers who target innocent people of all races and ages; they have broken into homes and assaulted and even killed people who have done nothing wrong.** The militarization of local police forces has occurred with very little public oversight, the ACLU report stresses. **Of the many reactions to the tragic death of Michael Brown, a new public attention to the quality and mindset of local police is certainly one of the most important and responsible**.”

**Ferguson trial one-sided, swayed toward officer Mann and Patrick November 2014**

Mann, Jennifer S., and Robert Patrick. "Legal Experts React to Grand Jury Process in Michael Brown Shooting FERGUSON TURMOIL: REACTION TO GRAND JURY." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. N.p., 26 Nov. 2014. Web. 7 July 2015.

ST. LOUIS o **The grand jury that decided there was no probable cause to charge Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson in Michael Brown's killing was anything but typical** - on that much, everyone agrees. **But as legal experts pore over thousands of pages of grand jury testimony and exhibits released** Monday, **opinions differ on whether that unusual process favored a non-indictment,** beyond the latitude that the law gives to police in using deadly force. In announcing the decision Monday night, St. Louis County **Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch emphasized** **the unprecedented amount of information jurors were given in analyzing the** Aug. 9 **shooting**. He suggested that inconsistent witness statements may have loomed large in the decision not to indict. To some, **it felt like something you would hear from a defense attorney instead of a prosecutor.** David Feige, a former public defender and author from New York City, called the press conference "the most bizarre throat-clearing I've ever heard." "He basically said this is the right decision," Feige said, after "weeks of claiming impartiality" as the reason he didn't bring a charging recommendation to a grand jury. **Typically, prosecutors do recommend a specific charge and have already issued a criminal complaint based on it when they go to a grand jury. In Wilson's case, prosecutors presented five potential charges and told jurors to investigate whether there was probable cause based on the evidence.** The grand jury met on 25 days, hearing 70 hours of testimony from 60 witnesses. Two assistant prosecutors interviewed the witnesses and guided jurors through evidence and the law. The documents were released late Monday, with a lawyer for McCulloch's office saying Missouri's open records law makes investigative documents and other materials public when a criminal case becomes inactive. Feige said he was left with the impression that "McCulloch tried to wrap himself in transparency but wasn't really being transparent." He emphasized, however, that he was going only off McCulloch's statements and had not yet reviewed the grand jury material. McCulloch declined comment through a spokesman. **Some critics**, including an **attorney** for Brown's family, **have described the mass of presented evidence as a "data dump" that left jurors without clear direction.** "It was a very atypical proceeding," acknowledged Peter Joy, a Washington University law professor. "But when you have an investigative grand jury they typically do consume a lot more evidence."He said comparing this grand jury process to others "isn't like comparing apples to oranges, but comparing apples to cows." **Roger Goldman, a St. Louis University law professor, said the grand jury decision wasn't surprising given the law, which gives officers wide latitude in using deadly force, and the fact that** **Wilson testified for nearly four hours about the encounter** with Brown. "**There's no way his lawyer would do that unless they were almost certain there would be no indictment**," Goldman said. Goldman said the only other eyewitness to the entire encounter was Dorian Johnson, who may have tarnished his credibility when he testified to having given a false name to police during a 2011 investigation in Columbia, Mo. To support charges, prosecutors would have to overcome a "big hurdle" by proving Brown was not being pursued for a felony or that he had surrendered, Dunklin County Prosecuting **Attorney** Stephen Sokoloff said. "If you accept that what Wilson said is true, he had an absolute defense," he said. "The rest of it comes into deciding credibility and whatnot (of witnesses)." Area defense **attorney** Joel Schwartz applauded McCulloch for releasing the evidence and cautioned that "it's impossible for anyone who wasn't sitting in that jury to quarrel with what they did." He said he thought jurors believed Wilson's testimony, as corroborated by the autopsy and the physical evidence. But Schwartz said that based on what he read, it appeared **Wilson's attorney had prepared him well. And he said it didn't seem that prosecutors gave Wilson the same level of skepticism or vigorous cross-examination they might extend in other situations.** "It would certainly be nice if the grand jury looked into physical evidence and facts as closely on every case as they did in this case," he said. "If they did, in fact, look at it that way, I and other ... defense **attorneys** would probably be out of jobs." Lisa Bloom, a civil rights **attorney** in Los Angeles, said she thought inconsistencies in Wilson's testimony "presented many fertile grounds" for tough questions. But, she said, prosecutors were "treating Darren Wilson with kid gloves during the testimony."

**Protesters fighting the institution of racism that is the police Wertsch 2014**

Wertsch, James V. "Ferguson: Civil RIghts 2.0." *The Strait Times (Singapore)*. N.p., 17 Dec. 2014. Web.

The death of Mr Brown was, of course, shocking and newsworthy but, unfortunately, in America it was not all that unusual.

**ProPublica, for example, reports that** **from 2010 to 2012, police shot and killed 1,217 people in the United States. Among these, young black males were 21 times more likely to be killed than their white counterparts.** For many years, however, episodes such as the one in Ferguson have not raised major public outcries. So what is it that makes this one different' For starters, in contrast to other cases, where public uproar quickly died down, the demonstrations that started in August continued for months and flared up again with the decision last month not to bring criminal charges against Mr Wilson. The makeup of the protesters has been noteworthy. Local African Americans have been in the lead, but whites and other racial and ethnic groups have consistently shown up and continued to speak out. Groups from other regions have joined in the protest, travelling to Ferguson or organising demonstrations in other cities. **These facts suggest that the protests in Ferguson may be about something larger than the death of a particular black man. Specifically, they point to a "tipping point" in America's debate over race and civil rights.** Social scientists describe tipping points as sudden, unanticipated changes in attitudes and social behaviour such as those that can be found in fashion, the unexpected rise of an obscure book to be a bestseller, or an abrupt switch in public acceptance of cigarette smoking. **The interpretation of Ferguson as a tipping point is reinforced by the fact that related demonstrations have broken out over the death of another unarmed African American, Mr Eric Garner, at the hands of a white police officer in New York. The deaths of Mr Brown and Mr Garner, along with the refusal to indict the police officers in both cases, would usually have received little sustained attention.** What seems to be emerging is a new age of civil rights struggle - what might be called Civil Rights 2.0. It has certain parallels with what went on in the 1950s and 1960s, but there are major differences. Compared to today's struggle, the injustices addressed by Martin Luther King and others in the first civil rights movement were relatively easy to identify: Laws that prevented African Americans from voting and relegated them to segregated schools and universities, systematic violence and intimidation by racist groups, and legal exclusion of blacks from restaurants, hotels and public transportation. The victories over these injustices made America a much better place, but today's protests suggest America is still far from transcending the legacy of what Abraham Lincoln in 1860 called the "great moral wrong" of slavery.

This is nowhere more in evidence than in the treatment of young black men in the criminal justice system today. Disproportionate numbers are killed by police or imprisoned, and this cannot be dismissed as reflecting higher levels of criminal behaviour. **Instead, evidence points to patterns of unwarranted discrimination against African Americans by police and the court system. While driving, for example, they are routinely stopped and searched by police more often than others, and they are also systematically sentenced to longer prison terms than whites for the same crimes. The racism that affects these young black men is reproduced through seemingly impersonal everyday practices, including the "institutional racism" of the legal system.** In any particular confrontation, such as the one between Mr Brown and Mr Wilson or between Mr Wilson and the legal system, the dynamics of injustice can be hard to identify because they are veiled by impersonal institutional procedures. The result, as some pundits have quipped, is that there is racism but no racists in America. In the Ferguson case, for example, institutional racism appears to have shaped the grand jury decision not to indict Mr Wilson on criminal charges related to the Aug 9 shooting. Grand jury hearings are held in secret and are intended to render a preliminary assessment of whether a crime has been committed and whether a criminal trial is warranted.

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But not even that minimal justice was in the cards for the loved ones of Michael Brown, or the occupied community in which he lived - because that's not how it works. **Officer Wilson,** **whatever he did inside or outside the state's rules** on the use of lethal force when he confronted Brown on the afternoon of Aug. 9, **was just doing his job, which was controlling and intimidating the black population of Ferguson. He was on the front line of a racist and exploitative system - an occupying bureaucracy.** The New York Times, in its story about the grand jury verdict, began thus: "Michael Brown became so angry when he was stopped by Officer Darren Wilson on Canfield Drive here on Aug. 9, **his face looked 'like a demon,' the officer would later tell a grand jury."** This sort of detail is, of course, of immense value to those who sympathize with the police shooting and accuse the black community of endemic lawlessness. See! Michael Brown wasn't just a nice, innocent boy minding his own business. He and his companion were trouble incarnate, walking down the middle of the street spoiling for a fight. He was Hulk Hogan. The cop had no choice but to shoot, and shoot again. This was a demonic confrontation. Politeness wouldn't have worked. If nothing else, **such testimony shows the stark limits of our "who's at fault?" legal system, which addresses every incident in pristine, absurd isolation** **and has no interest beyond establishing blame - that is to say, officially stamping the participants as either villains, heroes or victims. Certainly it has no interest in holistic understanding of social problems.** Taking Wilson's testimony at face value, one could choose to ask: Why was Michael Brown so angry? Many commentators have talked about the "anger" of Ferguson's black community in the wake of the shooting, but there hasn't been much examination of the anger that was simmering beforehand, which may have seized hold of Brown the instant the police officer stopped him. However, an excellent piece of investigative journalism by Radley Balko of the Washington Post, which ran in September - "How municipalities in St. Louis County, Mo., profit from poverty" - addresses the issue head on. He makes the point that local municipal governments, through an endless array of penny-ante citations and fines - "poverty violations" - torment the locals for the primary, or perhaps sole, purpose of keeping their bureaucracies funded. "**Some of the towns in St. Louis County can derive 40 percent or more of their annual revenue from the petty fines and fees collected by their municipal courts,**" Balko writes. The fines are mostly for traffic offenses, but they also include fines for loud music, unmown lawns, "wearing saggy pants" and "vague infractions such as 'disturbing the peace,'" among many others, and if the person fined, because he or she is poor, can't pay up, a further fine is added to the original, and on and on it goes. "**There's also a widely held sentiment that the police spend far more time looking for petty offenses that produce fines than they do keeping these communities safe,**" Balko writes. "If you were tasked with designing a regional system of government guaranteed to produce racial conflict, anger, and resentment, you'd be hard pressed to do better than St. Louis County."

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# Aff Case 10

**“Race is there. You're tired of hearing about it? Imagine how exhausting it is living it.”**

As the Pro we agree with comedian and political analyst Jon Stewart, and stand in firm affirmation of the Resolved: *On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.*

**Definitions:**

We define responsibility as "the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something," which is provided by the Oxford Dictionary in 2015.

Second, Oxford Dictionary also defines protestors as "A person who publicly demonstrates strong objection to something."  Our argument is that protestors are different from criminals that are looting and committing arson without a political objection or reason.

**Contention One:** **The police are responsible for building up and starting the civil unrest.**

The recent rise of civil unrest began with police being racially discriminate in their actions. As we have seen recently in the Ferguson police department, police are racially bias and act on their racial bias. This is documented in **The Civil Rights Division’s investigation** and March 2015 report on the Ferguson Police Department which determined that the FPD impermissibly discriminates against African Americans. In fact, in 88% of the cases in which this department used force, it was against African Americans, according to **Time 2015**. But it's important to note that racial bias isn't just isolated to Ferguson, Missouri, nor is it a new issue.

Historically, racial bias in the police force has created a growing distrust and resentment between the citizens of the United States, and the people who are in charge of protecting them. As the Head of the Civil Rights Division, **Vanita Gupta**, said earlier this year, “Where people perceive the criminal justice system to be arbitrary, biased and unfair…communities can build into a powder keg of resentment, ready to be ignited by a single tragic incident. We have seen this over and over—in Watts in 1965, in Los Angeles in 1992 and most recently, in Ferguson in 2014.”

But Ferguson was just the tipping point in the battle for justice, the spark that ignited citizen’s unrest in the U.S. by highlighting the injustice that exists within our society. It’s been found that Ferguson is not an anomaly, and that the police injustice there exists across the nation. Without this injustice, there would be no need for protest. Therefore, the only entity that can be held responsible for creating recent civil unrest is the police.

**Contention Two:** **The police officers instigate and escalate civil unrest.**

Not only are the police the spark that initiates civil unrest, they are also the force that perpetuates it. When the force meant to protect your rights actively works to suppress them, this instills anger in citizens. This anger in situations such as Ferguson and Baltimore leads not only to more protesting but rioting as well.

In Baltimore specifically recent news has proven that the police not only instigated the riots, but continued to let them happen. **Brian Arnold**, a former Baltimore City high school teacher testified to the fact that Baltimore Police were armed and waiting for students of Frederick Douglass High School to leave school, after shutting down the transit in the area. He says, “the police started macing people and brandishing tasers”. Without transit to get out of the area, the students responded by throwing rocks, and after the police painted the students as the aggressors.

This injustice is corroborated by a recent **After Action Report** released on July 8th, 2015 by the FOP police union that found that the Baltimore City leaders used a strategy to make protesters “appear to be the aggressors”. This report also found that the police chiefs instructed the police officers not to stop rioters and looters. Since these police officers are sworn to protect the civilians and city, but they instead made the decision to let destruction occur, they are more responsible for the perpetuated civil unrest.

Additionally, the militarization of police forces, ranging from small handguns to tanks and machine guns, “has helped transform our country into a battlefield”, says George Mason University **Professor, Christopher Coyne**. In his report this year, Coyne also found that the $450 million dollars worth of military equipment was transferred from the military to the local police forces in 2013 alone. The result of these transfers was seen first in the Ferguson protests that **Senator McCaskill** **of Missouri** says, “escalated the situation.” This police antagonization of protesters led to more violent protests and longer civil unrest. Jim Salter and Eric Tucker, of the **Business Insider**, found that the Ferguson Police Force’s response through militarization “was not justified and served to escalate rather than de-escalate the overall situation."

**In conclusion,** we have proven that not only are the police around the US responsible for increasing the tension and sparking the civil unrest, but we’ve also shown you how the police are more responsible for escalating the civil unrest, rather than stopping it.

For these reasons we urge a Pro ballot.

### Cards

-------------------------------------------------------------------------1--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Where people perceive the criminal justice system to be arbitrary, biased and unfair, they are less likely to cooperate with law enforcement, making us all less safe. The distrust and alienation experienced in some communities can build into a powder keg of resentment, ready to be ignited by a single tragic incident. We have seen this over and over—in Watts in 1965, in Los Angeles in 1992 and most recently, in Ferguson in 2014.

--------------------------------------------------2------------------------------------------------------

The Civil Rights Division’s investigation and March 2015 report on the Ferguson **Police** Department (FPD) speaks to much of what I have been talking about.

We determined that the FPD engages in a pattern or practice of conduct that violates the United States Constitution and federal law. Specifically, we found that Ferguson PD routinely:

Impermissibly discriminates against African Americans in violation of the 14th Amendment and federal statutory law;

---------------------------------------------------3-----------------------------------------------------

In many ways, Ferguson is not an anomaly. We know from our work around the country that some of the same **police** and court practices that we identified in Ferguson – and the same deficit of trust between **police** officers and communities – exist in many other places. Local officials recognize this, as well.

*June 4th, 2015. Remarks given by the Head of Civil Rights Division [at the University of Chicago]: Vanita Gupta.*

=================================4===================================

In the days of last August's unrest in Ferguson, with young, black protesters standing face-to-face with **police** in full body armor backed by former military vehicles obtained through federal grants, Sen. Claire McCaskill reacted as much of the nation did.

The Missouri Democrat didn't like the image of a militarized **police** targeting American citizens just miles from her Kirkwood home.

"It escalated the situation," she told reporters at the time.

----------------------------------------------------5----------------------------------------------------

The biggest issue with the militarization of local **police** departments is one of scale and proportionality, and that's where Mr. Obama and Ms. McCaskill are on the right track.

The American Civil Liberties Union reports in a recent study that about 80 percent of the SWAT raids in the U.S. are conducted to execute a search warrant in a drug case, more often than not in communities of color. The images of **police** as an occupying military force in the opening days of Ferguson protests were jarring to TV viewers. But in many American neighborhoods, they're real, everyday occurrences. The **escalation** in force has shown exponential hikes in the past couple of decades, according to Eastern Kentucky University's School of Justice Studies.

*May 20th, 2015. The St. Louis Post. Editorial Board.*

====================================6================================

At first the response was mostly more of the usual conventional methods. Then in 1981 Congress passed the Military Cooperation with Law Enforcement Act (MCLEA), which allowed the Department of Defense to offer training, intelligence, vehicles, and equipment todomestic police forces to combat drugs. This included items ranging from small handguns and night-vision goggles to armored cars, tanks, assault weapons, and aircraft.

One example of this expansion can be seen in the Department of Defense’s 1997 Excess Property Program1033, which allows the transfer of military equipment to local police. This was an offer the police couldn’t refuse. By 2010 some $212 million in military equipment was being transferred to local police annually \x97 a number that more than doubled, to *[*and led to] $450 million, by 2013. Similar programs are operated by the Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department. The military-style police response we’ve witnessed in Baltimore and elsewhere should cause us all great concern. Police militarization has helped transform our country into a battlefield, where U.S. citizens are viewed not as civilians presumed innocent until proven guilty of a crime, but as enemies. Officers are trained to think of their patrols, not as their communities, but as “battlefields.” In fact, an internal memo to the Ferguson police department described protesters as “enemy forces” and “adversaries.”

If we don’t address these concerns, we are likely to see repeats of the kind of tragedies that befell Baltimore, Ferguson, and other communities.

*May 29th, 2015. The Providence Journal. By Christopher Coyne- Professor of Economics at George Mason University. ‘Police Who Look Like Soldiers’.*

==================================7==================================

Brian Arnold, a former Baltimore City high school teacher, shared a counter-narrative on Facebook that quickly went viral:

“I want to make this as clear as possible:

Step 1: the police created a "credible threat" about some high school students gathering at Mondawmin to start trouble.

Step 2: the police showed up in force and riot gear before the students got out of school at Mondawmin, which is a major public transit hub, and SHUT DOWN THE TRANSIT, guaranteeing the kids couldn't leave.

Step 3: the police started macing people and brandishing tasers.

Step 4: the kids understandably responded to being stranded and maced by throwing rocks.

Step 5: the media starts reporting it as "a riot" and "violent protesters.

This is 100% bought and paid for by the police department. This is absolutely vile.”

-------------------------------------------------------------8--------------------------------------------------------------

"This is part of larger dialogue and conversation about justice for black people," said Jackson. "People are dissatisfied with their conditions and are speaking up because they're sick and tired." [Adam Jackson, leader of Baltimore based organization: Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle]

*April 28th, 2015. Common Dreams. By: Sarah Lazare. ‘'Structural Looting' of Black Communities Driving Protesters to Baltimore Streets’.*

==================================9==================================

City leaders engaged in a political strategy to make sure that the Freddie Gray protesters and rioters "would appear to be the aggressors," the police union, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3 (FOP), says in an "After Action Report" released today. Police at roll call were told by commanders that the department "would not respond until they [the protesters] burned, looted and destroyed the city so that it would show that the rioters were forcing our hand."

*July 8th, 2015. The Baltimore City Paper. ‘Police Union: To make rioters look like 'the aggressors,' cops were told to endure bricks’.*

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# Aff Case 11

**My partner and I stand in firm AFFIRMATION of the RESOLVED: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.**

**We provide a few definitions to further clarify the round:**

Civil Unrest: this refers to violent disruptions to a community’s or country’s typical way of life, including rioting and looting (Wolfe 09)

**Protesters: A person who publicly demonstrates strong objection to something (Oxford Dictionary)**

Responsible: the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something (Oxford Dictionary)

**Framework: Whichever team can prove, on balance, which group is more responsible for the recent civil unrest should win the round.**

**C1:  Because police are in a position of power within society, their actions ultimately carry more weight and impact.**

**subpoint a. power**

***Justice, Crime, and Ethics* (Eighth Edition) by** Michael C. **Braswell,** Belinda R. **McCarthy,** Bernard J. **McCarthy** (pages 114-115) Copyright 2015 <https://books.google.com/books?id=tHUYAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA114&lpg=PA114&dq=higher+standards+for+police+in+positions+of+power&source=bl&ots=qbHIonlXnC&sig=oRdKDKM7roFc29lMfxLvJ-gA980&hl=en&sa=X&ei=jpCdVfbUBYSpogTBuYmgBg&ved=0CB0Q6AEwADgU#v=onepage&q=higher%20standards%20for%20police%20in%20positions%20of%20power&f=false>

“...Police are perhaps the most visible living symbol of government.  They represent, both symbolically and literally, our systems of government and justice.  The decisions made by police officers affect our perceptions of government and justice.

Society’s concern with police ethics and the high standards expected of police officers cannot be solely explained based on policing’s shared characteristics with other occupations.  One must consider the unique occupational features of policing to fully understand the importance of police ethics.  **The police are vested with both powers and responsibilities that few other occupations are accorded.  Unlike governmental bureaucrats, the clergy, or teachers, the police are given the power to detain and arrest people, to search and seize property, and to use force (up to and including deadly force) in carrying out legal mandates.**  **These aspects of policing alone may require that police be held to a higher standard of behavior than other people in exchange for the enormous powers vested in them.**  In addition, police have the power to open the gates to the justice system and force people down a path they would not choose for themselves.  A police intervention, therefore, can forcefully change the course of a life and interfere with a person’s right to self-determination.  These powers vest law enforcement officials with a significant amount of authority that distinguishes them from employees in other occupations.

Police in US society are charged with a complex mission and are accorded extraordinary powers.  Society has given this assignment with the expectation that police will fulfill their responsibilities in a fair, impartial, and ethical manner (Kappeler et al., 1998; Leo, Huberts, Maesschalk, & Jurkiewicz, 2008).  This also means that the public may see the police in paradoxical roles.  It is here, in this paradox, that the rules of exceptionality exist, but it is also where exceptions to the rules between ethical rights and wrongs are cultivated.  The police are a governmental body whose ultimate mission is to protect the rights and liberties of citizens.  This responsibility is paradoxical in two senses.  First, **unethical police officers represent one of the greatest threats to these same rights and liberties.  In other words, police who violate the public trust by engaging in unethical behavior are one of the greatest threats to the protections extended to citizens in a free and democratic society.  Unethical conduct by police officers involves a threat to the right to be free from unjust and unwarranted government restrictions and intrusions**.  Second, many of the coercive authorities we grant the police to accomplish their mission consist of the very behaviors from which we desire protection.  Police officers are allowed to use violence to prevent violence; to protect freedom, they can take away our freedom, and they can seize property to prosecute property crimes.  “Having the authority to be coercive, and the discretionary nature of such authority, creates the potential for corruption and abuse.” (Braswell, 2015).  In all, policing is fraught with contradiction and ethical dilemmas even before an officer pins on a badge or makes a decision.”

Further EVIDENCE:

The York Dispatch (Pennsylvania)

January 13, 2009 Tuesday

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/lnacademic/>

“ police officers should be held to a higher standard.

They take an oath to uphold the law, and society gives them a gun and a badge and puts its fate in their hands. Our freedom could be decided on a police officer's word. We expect more from them than the average citizen.

Guidelines in Pennsylvania's Criminal Code provide for more severe sentences for people who abuse positions of trust. Who holds more trust than a police officer?

But if we're not going to hold them to a higher standard, at least hold them to the same standard.”

**Furthermore, evidence of police violating the public trust is evident in the protests that have racked the country over the past year.**

**Calabresi, 2014 reported that** [Massimo, Staff Writer, "U.S. Faults Ferguson Police for Racial Bias", Time, (March 3) http://time.com/3730894/ferguson-investigation-justice-racism/ ]

**“A Justice Department investigation opened after Brown’s shooting** [**has found**](http://time.com/3730618/ferguson-racial-bias/) **routine patterns and practices of racism in Ferguson, including the excessive use of force and unjustified arrests**, officials said Tuesday. The findings are [scathing in their detail](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/justice-dept-review-finds-pattern-of-racial-bias-among-ferguson-police/2015/03/03/27535390-c1c7-11e4-9271-610273846239_story.html?hpid=z1):

In 88 percent of the cases in which the department used force, it was against African Americans. In all of the 14 canine-bite incidents for which racial information was available, the person bitten was African American.

**In Ferguson court cases, African Americans are 68 percent less likely than others to have their cases dismissed by a municipal judge, according to the Justice review. In 2013, African Americans accounted for 92 percent of cases in which an arrest warrant was issued.**

The investigation also turned up bigoted emails, like one from November 2008 that reportedly said President Obama wouldn’t complete his first term as President because “what black man holds a steady job for four years.””

**But racism isn’t a problem found only in Ferguson. In**

**Racial Bias and Public Policy**

Jack **Glaser,** Katherine **Spencer, and** Amanda **Charbonneau in 2014 found**

**Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences 2014, Vol. 1(1) 88–94**

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**DOI: 10.1177/2372732214550403 bbs.sagepub.com**   **“Psychological research has shown that some policing decisions are affected by racial bias.** Reflecting concerns about wrongful police shootings of unarmed Black men, a batch of studies demonstrated that people implicitly associate Blacks with weapons (Payne, 2001), will recognize weapons sooner if they are paired with subliminal images of Black men (Eberhardt, Goff, Purdie, & Davies, 2004), and are faster to shoot Black men holding guns than White men holding guns and more likely to erroneously “shoot” unarmed Black than White men in a simulation (Correll, Park, Judd, & Wittenbrink, 2002). This *shooter-bias* is related to the strength of one’s implicit associations between Blacks (vs. Whites) and weapons (Glaser & Knowles, 2008).

The relevance of these findings to policing is not purely speculative: The weapon-recognition finding replicates with a sample of police officers, and police officers were more likely to focus their gaze on a Black face compared with a White face if they had been subliminally primed with crime- related concepts (Eberhardt et al., 2004). Shooter-bias, too, has been replicated with multiple, large samples of police officers (Correll et al., 2007; see also Peruche & Plant, 2006).

Racial bias in police use of lethal force appears to be a real and pronounced phenomenon with dire consequences for affected victims, families, communities, and departments. Bolstering this evidence is the finding that, in 10 known inci- dents of off-duty officers being fatally shot by on-duty offi- cers, 9 of the victims were Black or Hispanic (New York State Task Force on Police-on-Police Shootings, 2010).

Far more common than shooting or even using non-lethal force is the decision about whom to stop for investigatory pur- poses. For the same reasons that activating thoughts of crime causes police officers to look at Black people (Eberhardt et al., 2004), police are more likely to conduct discretionary stops and searches on Black and Hispanic people (Glaser, 2014). In decisions made by law enforcement officers to stop and ques- tion civilians, policy guidance coming from command staff is likely to be influential to the extent that supervisors expect a large number of stops. This will require officers to stop people at lower levels of suspicion.

The evidence from New York City’s *Stop & Frisk* program is telling. For much of the last decade and a half, the New York Police Department (NYPD) was stopping hundreds of thousands of pedestrians annually, peaking at nearly 700,000 in 2011. **Whites who were stopped and searched in the years studied yielded contraband and weapons at higher rates than did Blacks and Hispanics (Jones-Brown, Gill, & Trone, 2010).** From the framework of *outcome test* analyses of racial profiling (e.g., Knowles, Persico, & Todd, 2001)**, this is evidence of biased policing—White suspects probably have to present with greater suspiciousness to get stopped.**

**Given the *due process* and *equal protection* clauses of the *Bill of Rights*, racial profiling is unconstitutional.** Nevertheless, the policy direction delivered by the courts has allowed officers a great deal of discretion, rendering racial profiling an ineffective criminal defense. In *Terry v. Ohio* (1968), the Supreme Court set a “reasonable suspicion” standard for “pat-downs” of civilians (p. 8), resulting in the colloquial term *Terry stop* for such interactions. They extended this logic to vehicle stops, essentially ruling that racially biased stops are permissible provided there is a race-neutral pretext (*Whren v. United States*, 1996). However, in a few civil cases the courts have agreed with legal scholars about the unconstitutionality of stops based on driver race or ethnicity. Some of these cases, such as the Oakland, California, “Riders” civil rights lawsuit, have resulted in court-administered consent decrees that include orders to cease and desist in biased practices and require data collection by officers on all stop”

**Furthermore**, **racial bias has been evident in New York.**

The Huffington Post’s Saki Knafo reported that  New York Police Study Reveals 'Stark Racial Biases' October 2014

**Posted: 10/28/2014 8:18 pm EDT  Updated: 10/29/2014 10:59 am EDT**

**“Robert Gangi, director of the Police Reform Organizing Project, an advocacy group aimed at exposing unjust police practices, was more forthright. “The findings highlight what we see as the stark racial biases that are endemic to police practices in New York City,” he said.**

*Misdemeanor arrest rates in New York City*

Concern about racially biased police practices is hardly limited to New York. The death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked a national outcry over the issue last summer. On Monday, the Organization of American States held a hearing on racially biased policing in the U.S. at its Washington headquarters.  In New York, civil rights advocates have long criticized the police for stopping and frisking disproportionate numbers of black and Latino people. Mayor Bill de Blasio took office in January after promising to reform the practice.

But the new mayor appointed as the police commissioner William J. Bratton, known for his hard-nosed approach to minor offenses. That strategy came under intense scrutiny last summer, after the police grabbed Staten Island grandfather Eric Garner in a chokehold while attempting to arrest him for selling untaxed cigarettes. Garner died soon after. Critics say Bratton's "broken windows" strategy lands hard on low-income people and people of color.

**The Police Reform Organizing Project** [**released its own study**](http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/theshack/broken-windows-breaking-communities-color-new-report-states-blog-entry-1.1989715) **on low-level arrests on Tuesday.** Its researchers attended court hearings throughout New York in person, where they took notes on the race of the defendants and the seriousness of their charges. On Sept. 19, for example, **they noted that 46 of the 47 defendants at Brooklyn’s Criminal Court were people of color.** The common charges included marijuana possession, carrying an open alcohol container, and driving with a suspended license.   The police department’s press office didn’t respond to a request for comment. In the past, Bratton has defended broken windows policing by saying officers can deter serious crimes by cracking down hard on minor ones. During his first term as New York’s police commissioner, in the mid-'90s, Bratton made the theory famous and subsequently took credit for the city’s turnaround. Critics, however, note that crime was falling around the world in those years, [even in cities that didn’t wage war against low-level offenses](http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21582041-rich-world-seeing-less-and-less-crime-even-face-high-unemployment-and-economic).”

**The evidence of racism in conjunction with the responsibility entrusted with the police shows that the police are more responsible for protests than the protesters themselves.**Even more, when polic

**subpoint b. Moral Responsibility**

**Thomas, 2009** [Lawrence, Contemporary Debates in Social Philosophy, p. 304]

“King's focus here is on what the primary victims of racial injustice have a responsibility to do. But given that King believe that people other than the primary victims of racial injustice were victimized by it, his remarks can also be taken to apply to people who some might describe as innocent bystanders to acts of racism.  If this position is correct, King would describe the inaction of these so-called innocent bystanders as evil cooperation with racial injustice.

King is proposing that morally righteous people have a responsibility to protest injustice even though he recognizes that most people would not always be able to do what they ought to do.”

**writes that individuals have a moral obligation act when faced with racial injustice.  In this position inaction of “so-called bystanders” is tantamount to “evil cooperation with racial injustice”.**

**When this is viewed in conjunction with the incontrovertible proof of racial bias that has plagued both the country and police force, any individual has a moral obligation to protest and act.**

**C2:  Police actions have further exacerbated the civil unrest.**

**subpoint a.  This has been shown first through the weapons effect.**

The "weapons effect"

Research shows that the mere presence of weapons increases aggression.

Post published by [Brad J. Bushman Ph.D.](https://www.psychologytoday.com/experts/brad-j-bushman-phd) on Jan 18, 2013 in [Get Psyched!](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched)  <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect>

**“Guns not only permit violence, they can stimulate it as well. The finger pulls the trigger, but the trigger may also be pulling the finger.”**

**—Leonard Berkowitz, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin**

In 1967, Leonard Berkowitz and Anthony LePage conducted a fascinating study.[[1]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn1) First, participants were angered by a person pretending to be another participant (called a confederate). Next, participants were seated at a table that had a shotgun and a revolver on it—or, in the control condition, badminton racquets and shuttlecocks. The items on the table were described as part of another experiment that the researcher had supposedly forgotten to put away. The participant was supposed to decide what level of electric shock to deliver to the confederate who had angered them, and the electric shocks were used to measure aggression. The experimenter told participants to ignore the items on the table, but apparently they could not. Participants who saw the guns were more aggressive than were participants who saw the [sports](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/sport-and-competition) items. This effect was dubbed the “weapons effect.”

The weapons effect occurs outside of the lab too. In one field experiment,[[2]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn2) a confederate driving a pickup truck purposely remained stalled at a traffic light for 12 seconds to see whether the motorists trapped behind him would honk their horns (the measure of aggression). The truck contained either a .303-calibre military rifle in a gun rack mounted to the rear window, or no rifle. The results showed that motorists were more likely to honk their horns if the confederate was driving a truck with a gun visible in the rear window than if the confederate was driving the same truck but with no gun. What is amazing about this study is that you would have to be pretty stupid to honk your horn at a driver with a military rifle in his truck—if you were thinking, that is! But people were not thinking—they just naturally honked their horns after seeing the gun. The mere presence of a weapon automatically triggered aggression.

Research also shows that drivers with guns in their cars more likely to drive aggressively.[[3]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn3) A nationally representative sample of over 2,000 American drivers found that those who had a gun in the car were significantly more likely to make obscene gestures at other motorists (23% vs. 16%), aggressively follow another vehicle too closely (14% vs. 8%), or both (6.3% vs. 2.8%), even after controlling for many other factors related to aggressive driving (e.g., [gender](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/gender), age, urbanization, census region, driving frequency).

Human beings can identify potentially dangerous, threatening stimuli such as spiders and snakes very quickly. This makes sense from an evolutionary perspective because some spiders and snakes are poisonous, and our ancient ancestors who could identify them quickly were more likely to avoid them and live to pass on their [genes](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/genetics). Recent research shows that people can identify guns as quickly as they can identify spiders and snakes.[[4]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn5),[[5]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn6),[[6]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn7) These findings are very interesting because guns are modern threats and cannot be explained using evolutionary principles. Yet guns are a far more dangerous to people today than spiders or snakes. Poisonous spiders (e.g., Black Widows, Brown Recluses) kill about 6 Americans each year.[[7]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn8) Poisonous snakes (e.g., rattlesnakes) kill about 5 Americans each year.[[8]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn9) In comparison, guns kill about 31,000 Americans each year.[[9]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn10)

Several studies have replicated the weapons effect. A review of 56 published studies confirmed that the mere sight of weapons increases aggression in both angry and nonangry individuals.[[10]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_edn11) Perhaps the weapons effect occurs because weapons are closely linked to aggression in our brains.

[[1]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref1) Berkowitz, L., & LePage, A. (1967). Weapons as aggression-eliciting stimuli. Journal of [Personality](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/personality) and Social Psychology, 7, 202–207.

[[2]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref2) Turner, C. W., Layton, J. F., & Simons, L. S. (1975). Naturalistic studies of aggressive behavior: Aggressive stimuli, victim visibility, and horn honking. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 31, 1098–1107.

[[3]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref3) Hemenway, D., Vriniotis, M., & Miller, M. (2006). Is an armed society a polite society? Guns and road [rage](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/anger). Accident Analysis and Prevention, 38(4), 687–695.

[[4]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref5) Blanchette, I. (2006). Snakes, spiders, guns, and syringes: How specific are evolutionary constraints on the detection of threatening stimuli? The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology, 59(8), 1484–1504.

[[5]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref6) Carlson, J. M., Fee, A. L., & Reinke, K. S. (2009). Backward masked snakes and guns modulate spatial attention. [Evolutionary Psychology](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/evolutionary-psychology), 7(4), 534–544.

[[6]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref7) Fox, E., Griggs, L., & Mouchlianitis, E. (2007). The detection of [fear](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/fear)-relevant stimuli: Are guns noticed as quickly as snakes? Emotion, 7(4), 691–696.

[[7]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref8) [http://historylist.wordpress.com/2008/05/29/human-deaths-in-the-us-cause...(link is external)](http://historylist.wordpress.com/2008/05/29/human-deaths-in-the-us-caused-by-animals/)

[[8]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref9) [http://historylist.wordpress.com/2008/05/29/human-deaths-in-the-us-cause...(link is external)](http://historylist.wordpress.com/2008/05/29/human-deaths-in-the-us-caused-by-animals/)

[[9]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref10) [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2010/040.pdf(link is external)](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2010/040.pdf)

[[10]](https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/get-psyched/201301/the-weapons-effect#_ednref11) Carlson, M., Marcus-Newhall, A., & Miller, N. (1990). Effects of situational aggression cues: A quantitative review. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 58, 622–

**“Guns not only permit violence, they can stimulate it as well. The finger pulls the trigger, but the trigger may also be pulling the finger.”**

**—Leonard Berkowitz,** Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin

**The weapons effect describes a psychological reaction which releases a neuron in the brain which leads to aggression.**

“The first problem of police militarization is its exorbitant spending. According to the Center for Investigative Reporting, the Homeland Security budget for state and local policing will reach $19.2 billion by 2014, up from $15.8 billion in fiscal year 2009.153 This is a large number when compared to the overall requested department budget, which is set at $59,959,337 for the 2014 fiscal year. Much of the cost of paramilitary police units comes from the price of ongoing training, equipment upkeep, and other necessary supports. It has been estimated that the average cost to keep a 17-man SWAT unit (the minimum personal standard of the National T actical Police Officer’s Association) is $200,000. This is not including the cost of any major tactical equipment (i.e. armored personal carriers, etc).”

Jonathan Hixson from Liberty University stated in his article that militarization is “exorbitant spending” he goes on to say that in 2014 the budget for local policing reached $19.2 billion dollars out of their total budget of $59,959,337 for the 2014 fiscal year. Most of this money goes toward the ongoing training, equipment upkeep, and other necessary supports. It has been estimated that the average  cost to keep a 17-man SWAT unit which is the minimum amount of personal is around  $200,000.

**The influence of the weapons effect is particularly evident in protests that were peaceful until armed police forces appeared.**

Evidence if asked for about above: By Michael Gould-Wartofsky May 1 2015 for the Washington Post

Michael Gould-Wartofsky is a Ph. D. fellow in sociology at New York University and the author of The Occupiers: The Making of the 99 Percent Movement.

As Baltimore burned this week, the political right’s chattering class seized on the specter of civil unrest to make the case for more police, more guns and a more liberal use of force. Every broken window and burned-out building becomes a prop in their theater of the absurd, in which a rotating cast of characters takes turns rationalizing police repression.

“[T]his is why the police have militarized,” [tweeted](https://twitter.com/MelissaTweets/status/592789709832724480) Red State’s Melissa Clouthier, adding, “Lawlessness begs for more force.” Then there were the [choice words](http://mediamatters.org/research/2015/04/28/the-worst-conservative-media-reactions-to-the-b/203446) of ex-police officer and Fox News contributor Bo Dietl: “The word should go out on the street if they are going to assault cops … the cops will use deadly physical force and do what they have to do to bring peace back to that community.”

Never mind that the use of deadly force against black bodies was the spark that set off the protests in the first place. Never mind that the Baltimore Police Department showed up to a high school student walkout [in full riot gear](http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/04/how-baltimore-riots-began-mondawmin-purge), armed for battle and ready for war. Never mind that wave after wave of nonviolent civil disobedience, from Brooklyn to Baltimore, has been met with paramilitary tactics and military-grade weaponry in the years since Occupy Wall Street.

Beyond the constitutional and moral questions raised by this type of protest policing, there is also the empirical question: *Does it even work*?

New interviews with 80 participants in the Occupy and Black Lives Matter movements suggest that such policing may be having the opposite effect of the one intended. As I note in my new book, “[The Occupiers: The Making of the 99 Percent Movement](http://www.amazon.com/Occupiers-Making-99-Percent-Movement/dp/0199313911/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8),” tactics aimed at combating “violent radicalization” tend to have a radicalizing effect on protesters and an escalating effect on police encounters. Crucially, they also have a chilling effect on nonviolent forms of protest, leaving little space for anything *but* confrontation.

Take the case of Oakland, Calif., which was the scene of some of the worst violence during the Occupy protests of 2011-12, and again during the Black Lives Matter demonstrations last fall following the [Michael Brown](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/08/14/michael-brown-ferguson-missouri-timeline/14051827/) verdict. It was only when the Oakland Police Department moved in on the protesters in military formation, firing “[less-lethal](http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Hurt-Occupy-Oakland-protester-was-hit-by-beanbag-3408025.php)” weapons and [tear gas](http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Police-tear-gas-Occupy-Oakland-protesters-2325544.php) into the crowd, that some of the more militant elements in its ranks took to rioting.

Or, by way of contrast, take the case of New York City last fall, where, after [years](http://chrgj.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/suppressingprotest.pdf) of policing protests with aggressive, repressive tactics, officers were finally ordered to [stand down](http://www.wsj.com/articles/nypd-orchestrates-moves-in-eric-garner-death-protests-1417831225). While the demonstrations were disruptive, no doubt, shutting down major bridges, roads and tunnels, they were anything but violent. The only outbursts of aggression occurred in the context of “[kettles](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/crowd-control-what-is-kettling-1.1133313)”—where police box protesters in — and unprovoked arrests, which invariably trigger tensions and emotional reactions. We can expect to see more of those in the wake of Wednesday’s [crackdown](http://gothamist.com/2015/04/30/nypd_lrad_police_state_fascism.php) in Lower Manhattan.

To be sure, there are always going to be those who show up to protests raring for battle. Some of them, as the Internet has taught us, may be undercover police officers or agents provocateurs. Others may be self-styled revolutionaries who preach a diversity of tactics against what they believe to be illegitimate institutions of private property and state power. But these elements are inevitably in the minority at mass protests like the ones in Baltimore.

The more common scenario is one in which ordinary people take to the streets as a last resort, when other avenues of action have been closed off to them, and when they have no other means to be heard. When they are denied even this — their First Amendment right to peaceably assemble in public — they have one of two options available to them. They can give up and go home, or they can hold their ground and see what happens next.

What happens next tends to follow an all-too-predictable script. The police will either kettle a crowd of demonstrators or attempt to disperse them by any means necessary, whether with batons, rubber bullets, [sound cannons](http://motherboard.vice.com/read/the-new-sound-of-crowd-control) or tear-gas canisters. The use of force on an unarmed crowd — especially one drawn from an already traumatized community — tends to foreclose the possibility of nonviolent action, because you can’t demonstrate peacefully while you’re under attack, and, at worst, invites a violent response. Protesters and police become locked in a logic of escalation.

There is always a basic asymmetry of power in the encounter between protesters and police. But power does not equal legitimacy, and police departments across the country are facing an unprecedented crisis of legitimacy. Under such conditions, many people will find it rational to rebel — not least, young people of color in poor and working-class communities like Freddie Gray’s, who have long been familiar with the [illegitimate use of force](http://data.baltimoresun.com/news/police-settlements).

Under such conditions, if police and public officials were really interested in restoring peaceful order to their streets — rather than responding punitively — they would find it correspondingly rational to stand down. Instead, as we’ve seen in Baltimore, Gov. Larry Hogan opted to escalate by sending in the National Guard.

The solution to the violence in our streets is not more violence in our streets. When it comes to protest policing, less is more.

**subpoint b.  The police’s actions fail to stop protests.**

**Levs, 2014** [Josh, Staff Reporter, " Ferguson violence: Critics rip police tactics, use of military equipment," CNN, (Aug 15), http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/14/us/missouri-ferguson-police-tactics/**]**

**States that “Chief among them are decisions like deploying heavily armed officers and using military equipment, which some experts say helped to make a bad situation even worse.**

Retired Lt. Gen. Russel Honore knows a thing or two about this kind of thing, having been dispatched to New Orleans in 2005 to lead recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. What authorities in Ferguson should have done, he said, is have "front line policemen" to face protesters, not a SWAT team.

**"The tactics they are using, I don't know where they learned them from," Honore said Thursday on "CNN Newsroom." "It appears they may be making them up on the way. But this is escalating the situation."**

**Beyond that, in several situations, the police are in fact employing dishonest tactics in order to make it appear as though they are less complicit than they are.**

**This was reported in the Baltimore City Paper**

**July 8, 2015**

[**http://www.citypaper.com/news/freddiegray/bcpnews-police-union-to-make-rioters-look-like-the-aggressors-cops-were-told-to-endure-bricks-20150708-story.html#page=1**](http://www.citypaper.com/news/freddiegray/bcpnews-police-union-to-make-rioters-look-like-the-aggressors-cops-were-told-to-endure-bricks-20150708-story.html#page=1)

**“City leaders engaged in a political strategy to make sure that the Freddie Gray protesters and rioters "would appear to be the aggressors," the police union, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3 (FOP), says in an "After Action Report" released today. Police at roll call were told by commanders that the department "would not respond until they [the protesters] burned, looted and destroyed the city so that it would show that the rioters were forcing our hand."**

**Officers were ordered not to respond to looting of stores right in front of them, to use less-lethal weapons such as pepper gas in the least effective way, and even to not respond to a fellow officer's call for assistance, the report says.**

During the run-up to the rioting, the police were told not to wear protective gear—not even gloves—because it looked intimidating. And then the gear they eventually did get was often mismatched, ill-fitting, or even expired.”

**The police are not using the weapons they have properly-- through both ignorance, and perhaps even worse, intentional incompetence.**

**This is a violation of the power invested in them.  At this point, not only are the police responsible for the civil unrest, but civilians are in fact obligated to act in response.**

**--------**

Interesting article:

Seven Reasons Police Brutality Is Systemic, Not Anecdotal

By [BONNIE KRISTIAN](http://www.theamericanconservative.com/author/bonnie-kristian) • [July 2, 2014, 6:00 AM](http://www.theamericanconservative.com/2014/07/02/seven-reasons-police-brutality-is-systematic-not-anecdotal/)

[Darrin Manning](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jan/27/darrin-manning-high-school-deserving-victims)’s unprovoked “stop and frisk” encounter with the Philadelphia police left him hospitalized with a ruptured testicle. Neykeyia Parker was violently dragged out of her car and [aggressively arrested](http://www.kens5.com/news/Woman-says-she-was-assaulted-by-HPD-officer-in-front-of-5-year-old-son-261189071.html) in front of her young child for “trespassing” at her own apartment complex in Houston. A Georgia toddler was burned when police [threw a flash grenade](http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2014/05/baby-in-coma-after-police-grenade-dropped-in-crib-during-drug-raid/) into his playpen during a raid, and the manager of a Chicago tanning salon was confronted by a raiding police officer bellowing that he would kill her and her family, captured on the salon’s [surveillance](http://www.suntimes.com/27487657-761/lawsuit-chicago-cops-physically-verbally-abuse-woman-on-video.html#.U4-tJfldVbd). An elderly man in Ohio was left in need of facial reconstructive surgery after police entered his home [without a warrant](http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/summit-county/2014/06/03/police-brutality-claim/9937387/) to sort out a dispute about a trailer.

These stories are a small selection of recent police brutality reports, as police misconduct has become a fixture of the news cycle.

But the plural of anecdote is not data, and the media is inevitably drawn toward tales of conflict. Despite the increasing frequency with which we hear of misbehaving cops, many Americans maintain a default respect for the man in uniform. As an NYPD assistant chief [put it](http://www.qchron.com/editions/eastern/high-standards-a-vow-from-new-nypd-co/article_97bd4ce7-81ff-5a8a-986a-039161bb9334.html), “We don’t want a few bad apples or a few rogue cops damaging” the police’s good name.

This is an attractive proposal, certainly, but unfortunately it doesn’t hold up to scrutiny. Here are seven reasons why police misconduct is a systemic problem, not “a few bad apples”:

1. Many departments don’t provide adequate training in nonviolent solutions.

This is particularly obvious when it comes to dealing with family pets. “Police kill family dog” is practically its own subgenre of police brutality reports, and most of these cases—like the story of the [Minnesota children](http://reason.com/blog/2012/08/10/st-paul-cops-shoot-dog-in-wrong-door-rai) who were made to sit, handcuffed, next to their dead and bleeding pet—are all too preventable. [Some](http://magicvalley.com/news/local/dog-shootings-by-police-prompt-mandatory-training-in-other-states/article_7fffa720-a3ee-11e3-8f11-001a4bcf887a.html)police departments have [begun](http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/03/02/3057358/working-to-curb-dog-shootings.html) to train their officers to deal more appropriately with pets, but Thomas Aveni of the Police Policy Studies Council, a police consulting firm, [says](http://www.post-gazette.com/frontpage/2014/02/09/Killing-of-dogs-by-police-becoming-an-issue/stories/201402090132) it’s still extremely rare. In the absence of this training, police are less likely to view violence as a last resort.

2. Standards for what constitutes brutality vary widely.

“Excess is in the eyes of the beholder,” [explains](http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2014/01/14/22293714-what-is-police-brutality-depends-on-where-you-live) William Terrill, a former police officer and professor of criminal justice at Michigan State. “To one officer ‘objectively reasonable’ means that if you don’t give me your license, I get to use soft hands, and in another town the same resistance means I can pull you through the car window, [or] I can tase you.” The special deference police are widely given in American culture feeds this inconsistency of standards, producing something of a legal Wild West. While national legislation would likely only complicate matters further, local or state-wide ballot propositions should allow the public—not the police—to define reasonable use of force.

3. Consequences for misconduct are minimal.

In central New Jersey, for instance, 99 percent of police brutality complaints [are never investigated](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/07/police-brutality-new-jersey-report_n_4555166.html?utm_hp_ref=police-brutality). Nor can that be explained away as stereotypical New Jersey corruption. Only [one out of every three](http://www.copblock.org/2841/police-brutality-statistics/) accused cops are convicted nationwide, while the conviction rate for civilians is [literally double that](http://translucence.files.wordpress.com/2011/07/police-brutality-stats.png). In Chicago, the numbers are even more skewed: There were 10,000 abuse complaints filed against the Chicago PD between 2002 and 2004, [and just 19 of them](http://www.copblock.org/17484/infographic-a-neutral-look-police-brutality/) ”resulted in meaningful disciplinary action.” On a national level, [upwards of 95 percent](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-12-17-Copmisconduct_N.htm) of police misconduct cases referred for federal prosecution are declined by prosecutors because, as reported in USA Today, juries “are conditioned to believe cops, and victims’ credibility is often challenged.” Failure to remedy this police/civilian double standard cultivates an abuse-friendly legal environment.

4. Settlements are shifted to taxpayers.

Those officers who are found guilty of brutality typically find the settlement to their victims paid from city coffers. Research from Human Rights Watch [reveals that](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/journalism/cases/katrina/Human%20Rights%20Watch/uspohtml/uspo30.htm) in some places, taxpayers “are paying three times for officers who repeatedly commit abuses: once to cover their salaries while they commit abuses; next to pay settlements or civil jury awards against officers; and a third time through payments into police ‘defense’ funds provided by the cities.” In larger cities, these settlements easily cost the public tens of millions of dollars annually while removing a substantial incentive against police misconduct.

5. Minorities are unfairly targeted.

“Simply put,” [says](http://www.amazon.com/Police-Brutality-Anthology-Norton-Paperback/dp/0393321630/ref=sr_1_1?) University of Florida law professor Katheryn K. Russell, “the public face of a police brutality victim is a young man who is Black or Latino.” In this case, [research](http://www.amazon.com/Race-Police-Brutality-Dilemma-Deviance/dp/0791476197) [suggests](http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.1525/sp.2013.12056?uid=3739736&uid=2&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21104260832903) [perception](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/journalism/cases/katrina/Human%20Rights%20Watch/uspohtml/uspo17.htm) matches reality. To give a particularly striking example, one Florida city’s “stop and frisk” policy has been [explicitly aimed](http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2014/05/where-blacks-suffer-under-stop-and-frisk-on-steroids/371869/) at all black men. Since 2008, this has led to 99,980 stops which did not produce an arrest in a city with a population of just 110,000. One man alone was stopped 258 times at his job in four years, and arrested for trespassing while working on 62 occasions. Failure to address this issue communicates to police that minorities are a safe target for abuse.

6. Police are increasingly militarized.

During President Obama’s gun control push, he [argued](http://www.ijreview.com/2013/02/34445-obama-weapons-of-war-have-no-place-on-streets/) that “weapons of war have no place on our streets;” but as Radley Balko has amply documented in his 2013 book, [Rise of the Warrior Cop](https://www.amazon.com/Rise-Warrior-Cop-Militarization-Americas/dp/1610392116/ref=as_sl_pc_ss_til?tag=theamericonse-20&linkCode=w01&linkId=PDEJUIAD6FISNMEC&creativeASIN=1610392116), local police are often equipped with weapons powerful enough to conquer a small country. Police use of highly armed SWAT teams has [risen by 1,500 percent](http://motherboard.vice.com/blog/police-militarization-an-interview-with-radley-balko) in the last two decades, and many police departments have cultivated an “us vs. them” mentality toward the public they ostensibly serve. Although possession of these weapons does not cause misconduct, as the old saying goes, when you have a hammer everything begins to look like a nail.

7. Police themselves say misconduct is remarkably widespread.

Here’s the real clincher. **A Department of Justice** [**study revealed**](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/181312.pdf) **that a whopping 84 percent of police officers report that they’ve seen colleagues use excessive force on civilians, and 61 percent admit they don’t always report “even serious criminal violations that involve abuse of authority by fellow officers.”**

This self-reporting moves us well beyond anecdote into the realm of data: Police brutality is a pervasive problem, exacerbated by systemic failures to curb it. That’s not to say that every officer is ill-intentioned or abusive, but it is to suggest that the common assumption that police are generally using their authority in a trustworthy manner merits serious reconsideration. As John Adams wrote to Jefferson, “Power always thinks it has a great soul,” and it cannot be trusted if left unchecked.

The good news is that the first step toward preventing police brutality is well-documented and fairly simple: Keep police constantly on camera. A [2012 study in Rialto, Calif.](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/04/california-police-body-cameras-cuts-violence-complaints-rialto) found that when officers were required to wear cameras recording all their interactions with citizens, “public complaints against officers plunged 88% compared with the previous 12 months. Officers’ use of force fell by 60%.” The simple knowledge that they were being watched dramatically altered police behavior.

Coupled with additional reforms, like making officers pay their own settlements and providing better training for dealing with pets, camera use could produce a significant decrease in police misconduct. It is not unrealistic to think that police brutality reports could be made far more unusual—but only once we acknowledge that it’s not just a few bad apples.

Bonnie Kristian is a writer who lives in the Twin Cities. She is a communications consultant for Young Americans for Liberty and a graduate student at Bethel Seminary. Find her at [bonniekristian.com](http://bonniekristian.com/) and [@bonniekristian](https://twitter.com/bonniekristian).

# Aff Case 12

Let me be clear - no one is above the law. Not a politician, not a priest, not a criminal, not a police officer. We are all accountable for our actions.

Antonio Villaraigosa

Because the police force needs to take proper responsibility for the actions that they have committed:

My partner and I stand in the unwavering **AFFIRMATION(Police=Bad)**

Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States

**In order to establish clarity within this round of debate we have defined the following terms**

Civil Unrest: We are making the distinction from civil unrest and civil strife. We are interpreting civil unrest as over dissent or discontent with current status, whereas civil strife is actively harming and endangering others of the populace either economically, socially, or mentally

(Don't read if 2nd) Militarization: We are defining the Militarization of police forces as the government providing them with modern military gear, including machine guns, tactical vehicles, and other military equipment.

**Framing**

Responsible: We are determining responsibility for the civil unrest as either those who began the civil unrest or were responsible for civil rest continuing.

***Contentions***

**Contention 1: The police are directly responsible for the civil unrest due to the acts that they performed**

**Contention 2: Police Acted in a Discriminatory Manner Towards Protests**

**Contention 1: The police are directly responsible for the civil unrest due to the acts that they performed**

**Subpoint a) the police are directly responsible for the spark or beginning of these protests in numerous cases**

In the case of the Freddie Gray murder, the state court of Maryland, six police officers were found guilty of taking a part in these horrid acts. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/02/us/freddie-gray-autopsy-report-given-to-baltimore-prosecutors.html?_r=0>).A quote from Marilyn Mosby, the attorney for this case:

“ The officers who arrested him failed to establish probable cause for Mr. Gray’s arrest, as no crime had been committed, At no point did he[Officer Goodson] seek, nor did he render, any medical help for Mr. Gray,

The significance is that the police are the cause of the civil unrest by beginning these actions,such as the violation of department procedure, and the murders of Michael Brown, Eric garner, and Freddy gray

**Subpoint b) the police are responsible for continued exacerbation of civil unrest**

According to Ryan J Reilly 2015,

**having St. Louis County police snipers perch on top of tactical vehicles and point their weapons at crowds of peaceful protesters in broad daylight was "inappropriate" and "served only to increase tensions between the protesters and the police**

In Ferguson, the police fired tear gas into hundreds of protesters, including children, and then began to fire rubber bullets into the crowd. This is important because the police are not taking actions that would de-escalate these situations of civil unrest. police action in these cases is propagating violence and increasing civil unrest.

Another instance of the police propagating civil unrest is the case of what happened during the Eric Garner Riots where police stopped doing their civic duty of policing. This prevented the city from getting the income it usually relies on. In fact, the police abandoning their duty got so bad as to cut down traffic tickets given during the course of the protest by 92% according to the New York Daily and In addition, they also cut down arrests by 56%. The police were disrupting the normal function of the justice system in this case and to that end, causing civil unrest.

**Contention 2: Police Acted in a Discriminatory Manner Towards Protests**

**SUBPOINT A: 14th Amendment**

Police have been showing racially discriminatory behavior towards protesters, inciting civil unrest. in Calabresi 2015 it states:

“A Justice Department investigation opened after Brown’s shooting [has found](http://time.com/3730618/ferguson-racial-bias/) routine patterns and practices of racism in Ferguson, including the excessive use of force and unjustified arrests, officials said Tuesday.”

This substantial difference puts the police in contention with the 14th amendment, allowing individuals equal treatment under the law. By discriminating against African Americans and other minorities, police are causing civil unrest by taking away the rights of US citizens and breaking from the norm.

**SUBPOINT B: Discrimination against anti-police protesters**

Police departments in the United States have been using excessive force against protesters against certain police actions such as those in New York or Baltimore. In cases such as “Occupy Wa0ll Street”, police did not deploy riot police or other more violent methods. In cities like Ferguson, the police response with SWAT equipment and other riot gear was much faster than that of responses to protesters unrelated to the police.

**Because we as United States Citizens need to take a stand against the injustices done by the police force, we urge you to vote in the AFFIRMATION**

(1-1)

Reilly, Ryan. "Intimidating, Unconstitutional Police Tactics In Ferguson Incited More Unrest, Says DOJ Expert Report." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 30 June 2015. Web. 8 July 2015. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/30/ferguson-protests-police-response\_n\_7698548.html>

(3-1)

Calabresi, Massimo. "U.S. Faults Ferguson Police for Racial Bias." Time. Time, 3 Mar. 2015. Web. 8 July 2015. <<http://time.com/3730894/ferguson-investigation-justice-racism/>>.

(3-2)

Packman, David. "The Problem with Prosecuting Police in Washington State." PoliceMisconductnet. 27 Feb. 2011. Web. 8 July 2015. <<http://www.policemisconduct.net/the-problem-with-prosecuting-police-in-washington-state/>>.

# Neg Case 1

**CON CASE**

My partner and I stand in firm negation for the resolution resolved: police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.

**Definitions**

Civil Unrest: this refers to violent disruptions to a community’s or country’s typical way of life,

including rioting and looting

Protest: An act of objecting or a gesture of disapproval, from the Merriam Webster dictionary.

OBSERVATION: We should weigh events which civil unrest occurs rather than instances which spark it.

**CONTENTION 1: PROTESTERS PERPETUATE CIVIL UNREST.**

1. Baltimore

The riots in Baltimore that occurred after Freddie Gray’s death “began peacefully with more than 1,000 people.” However, the protests began to get out of hand the day of Freddie Gray’s funeral, in which multiple stores were looted and burned, and multiple police officers injured. The Police Commissioner of Baltimore even stated that he believed that the tensions between the police and protesters were “dying down.” **(Bacon)** The reason that the protests got out of hand was due to a group of 100 protesters that broke off from the main group and began to riot and loot near Mondawmin mall in Baltimore **(Stolberg)**. The fact that these protests continued for as long as they did is proof that Protesters perpetuate civil unrest because without these protesters carrying on the civil unrest, the length and magnitude of civil unrest would not have been as great, and thus protesters are responsible for civil unrest.

1. Ferguson

After the death of Michael brown, protesters gathered in Ferguson Missouri, in order to show their disapproval for the lack of indictment of officer Darren Wilson. When the verdict reached by the grand jury was announced, “the officers started taking rocks and batteries.” **(Davey)**These protests then escalated into widespread riots throughout Ferguson and across the nation. According to reports, “Protesters swarmed Interstate 44 and blocked all traffic” **(Davey)** in the area. Among other harms, which we will get into later, protesters clearly illustrated that they engaged and perpetuated civil unrest. Thus, due to the fact that protesters escalate civil unrest, they are responsible for recent civil unrest in the United States.

**CONTENTION 2: PROTESTERS CAUSE TANGIBLE HARM.**

1. Physical harm.

“Protesters had thrown bottles at officers outside the Western District police station on the day Gray died.” **(George)**

In Ferguson MI, “two police officers were shot and seriously wounded shortly after midnight outside the Ferguson, Mo., police department.” **(Chappell)** In addition, Protests in Denver turned violent when “Four police officers were hurt, one critically, after a car hit them during a high school student protest over a grand jury's decision not to indict the police officer who shot an unarmed teenager in Ferguson, Mo.” **(Hughes)**

In Baltimore demonstrators smashed windows, “threw rocks and bottles and damaged police cruisers.” **(Stolberg)** In addition, 100 protesters “split from the main group as the City Hall rally was breaking up and went on a rampage, throwing cans, bottles and trash bins at police officers, and breaking windows in some businesses.” **(Stolberg)** One local police officer expressed his fear of the situation by saying the city was “a powder keg.” **(Stolberg)** In addition, 15 officers were injured in one night, as well as two hospitalized. **(Bacon)** Protesters hurled rocks at cruisers which had officers inside, and jumped on the roof and hood as well as smashing windows. **(Bacon)** Due to the fact that Protesters cause physical harm not only in the cities of incidence, but across the nation, they are responsible for civil unrest in the united states.

1. Economic harm

In an article by the New York Times in 2014, a Little Caesar's pizza, Walgreens, Prime Beauty Supply, and convenience store were seriously damaged due to protests in Ferguson. **(The New York Times)** In addition, An organization that supports youth and families’ building that was being constructed was burned to the ground by protesters. In Baltimore, The University of Maryland Baltimore was forced to shut down. Time magazine says in 2015 "A federal survey estimates that at least $9 million in damages [resulted](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/13/us-usa-police-baltimore-idUSKBN0NY2EF20150513) from the Baltimore riots sparked by the death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray."

**CONTENTION 3: PROTESTERS HARM THOSE WHO ARE MEANT TO HELP THEM.**

Reported by Justin George for the Baltimore Sun in July of 2015 regarding riots in Baltimore: "**About 160 officers were injured in the riots"** And later in the same report "**Their objective was simple, according to Deputy Commissioner Dean Palmere: "Protect assets, protect life."** **(George)** What we essentially see here is that while the police officials’ main job is to protect and serve, specifically protect assets and protect life, the protesters are turning to violence and harming those officials. According to a 2015 report by the Washington Post two police officers were killed as cause for retribution, even though they were not the police from the Eric Garner case. These cards point to the fact that protesters are harming and even killing police officers when they are on duty to keep violent protests in check. This relates back to the resolution because while protesters may have an obligation to protest, they do not have an obligation or even a right to harm those in their community whose job is to keep them safe. In Baltimore, officers were ordered not to arrest protesters because “they could be isolated and surrounded by mobs.” **(George)** Additionally, Police officers attempted to make arrests during the protests, other protesters were “forced to guard them amid all the chaos when transport vans weren't available.”**(George)** This illustrates that Protesters harm those who are meant to help them because not only did they perpetuate civil unrest in New York, Baltimore, and Ferguson, the fact that police were unable to make legitimate arrests shows that protesters were causing civil unrest because the polices’ job is to make arrests in order to keep their communities safe, mainly by the way of making arrests, when they are unable to do that, civil unrest occurs, and since the protesters are not allowing them to make arrests, they are responsible for civil unrest.

### Cards

DEFINITIONS

Cambridge Online Dictionary

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/responsible>

› **being the** [**cause**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/cause) **of a** [**particular**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/particular)[**action**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/action) **or** [**situation**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/situation)**, esp. haarmful or** [**unpleasant**](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/unpleasant) **one:** *We are not responsible for things getting* [*lost*](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/lost) *in the* [*mail*](http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/american-english/mail)*.*

**Responsible** *adjective* **(GOOD JUDGMENT)**

CONTENTION 1: SUBPOINT A

**Baltimore police, protesters clash; 15 officers hurt**

**Bacon, 2015** (John, USA Today Writer since 1983, "Baltimore police, protesters clash; 15 officers hurt," *USA TODAY,* 4-28-2015, http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/04/27/baltimore-credible-threat/26454875/)

Residents of Baltimore are dealing with the damage left behind by **rioters who looted stores and set buildings on fire after Freddie Gray was laid to rest.** Gray suffered a fatal spinal cord injury while in police custody. VPC **Rioters in Baltimore hurled rocks at police, destroyed patrol cars and looted and burned stores as demonstrations over the death of a black man in police custody turned violent Monday. Police said 15 officers were injured and two remained hospitalized Monday evening.** "All are going to be OK but sustained heavy damage to their bodies," Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said in a news conference late Monday night. **One officer was hit in the head and another suffered severe damage to his knee cap**, Batts said. **The police commissioner said at the news conference that he believes that the tensions were on the down side and on their way to dying down.** Batts said it was his understanding that a number of gangs met and decided that each group would "take out a police officer" after the Monday's funeral of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old man who suffered a fatal spinal injury after being in custody with Baltimore city police. Batts implored parents to take control of their children who might be taking part in the rioting and said what troubled him was that the structures that were being destroyed took great effort to erect in ailing communities that need them. Many communities do not survive riots, he said. "I've seen cities that haven't recovered 50 years later," he said. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency in the city and activated the National Guard to assist city and state police, calling it a "last resort'' to restore order. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake called the rioters "thugs" and said the city was imposing a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew starting Tuesday. She said she asked Hogan to send in the Guard. "We are deploying every resource possible to gain control of the situation and ensure peace moving forward,'' she said. Referring to the looters, she said during a television interview: "I don't understand how stealing jeans is going to bring justice to Mr. Gray." She said the city would get to the bottom of whether the rioters were from Baltimore or from outside the city. "We won't stand by and let our community be destroyed," Rawlings-Blake said. The Baltimore Orioles postponed a scheduled Monday night game with the Chicago White Sox. The violence was taking place about two and a half miles from the Camden Yards baseball stadium that is home to the Orioles. Police said more than two dozen people were arrested. The city's schools were canceled for Tuesday. After darkness fell, **a large building under construction near a Baptist church was engulfed in fire**. A spokesman for the mayor, Kevin Harris, said **the fire was related to the riots.** He said the Mary Harvin Transformation Center was under construction and that no one was believed to be in the building at the time**. The center is described online as a community-based organization that supports youth and families.** U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch dispatched the Justice Department's civil rights chief and director of the agency's community policing office to Baltimore in wake of rioting there. **She condemned "senseless acts of violence**.'' "In the days ahead, I intend to work with leaders throughout Baltimore to ensure that we can protect the security and civil rights of all residents,'' Lynch said. "And I will bring the full resources of the Department of Justice to bear in protecting those under threat, investigating wrongdoing, and securing an end to violence.**'' Dozens of people could be seen throwing bricks, rocks and other objects at officers and at patrol cars with officers inside just hours after funeral services for Freddie Gray.** Some **demonstrators attacked a stopped police car, leaping on the roof and hood and smashing windows. At least two other police vehicles were set on fire.** Police officers moved in and took down several people near the damaged car. But no police could be seen as **rioters looted stores including a CVS pharmacy, a check cashing store, a liquor store and a cell phone store**. A short time later, **smoke billowed from the broken windows of the pharmacy.** Police said via Twitter that **rioters cut a hose firefighters were using to battle the blaze**. Police said on Twitter that **looters were "continuing to break into businesses and set cars on fire'' in the area, and that they were responding to reports of looting inside Mondawmin Mall**. The rioting came after days of protests over the death of Gray, 25, who suffered a fatal spinal injury after being taken into custody by Baltimore city police. It was the latest in a series of deadly encounters with police around the country that has triggered a national debate over the use of force, especially against suspects who are black. Linda Singh, adjunct general of the Maryland National Guard, said they were bringing in Guard troops in armored Humvee vehicles. "We are going to be out in massive force,'' she said. As night approached, **Baltimore police used Twitter to describe protesters as "a violent and aggressive group''** and urged citizens to avoid the area. Numerous police officers in riot gear responded to the demonstrations near a mall in northwest Baltimore. Police described many of the protesters as juveniles. A flier circulated on social media called for a period of violence Monday afternoon to begin at the Mondawmin Mall and move downtown toward City Hall, Associated Press reported. Outside the mall, **a young person threw a flaming trash can at the line of officers.** The **University of Maryland Baltimore shut down its campus**, hours after city police announced a "credible threat" that local gangs were targeting police officers. The police department said the Criminal Intelligence Unit had obtained information indicating **"members of various gangs including the Black Guerilla Family, Bloods and Crips have entered into a partnership to 'take out' law enforcement officers.**" The department said law enforcement agencies and officers should take appropriate precautions. It was not clear if the threat to officers was directly tied to the concern for safety at the school. The campus shut down at 2 p.m. "at the recommendation of the BPD." The school cited unidentified "activities (that) may be potentially violent and UMB could be in the path of any violence. "The safety of our students and employees is of paramount importance please vacate the campus as soon as possible." The schools alert was issued shortly after the funeral of Freddie Gray, which drew thousands of mourners to the downtown Baltimore church. Gray's death April 19 while in police custody set off a week of protests. Most of the protest were quiet — until Saturday night. That **protest began peacefully with more than 1,000 people** rallying at City Hall. Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said he moved through the crowd, promising that his office was making systemic changes. Batts, who is black, said the organized protest had essentially wrapped up when tense confrontations resulted in violence. He has blamed the violence on "agitators." **The protesters "became very violent. They began to throw objects," Batts said Saturday night. "They picked up aluminum barricades and smashed windows at our bars and pubs." Patrol cars were smashed. Six police officers suffered minor injuries; 34 people were arrested.** Batts said some residents moved between police and the angry crowd, urging the protesters not to damage the city. He commended police officers for showing "tremendous restraint" and city residents for helping tamp down the unrest. "I am proud of our residents and our police officers," Batts said. "The vast majority of residents out here did a good job. ... A small number of people felt like they had to turn this into an ugly day."

**Scenes of Chaos in Baltimore as Thousands Protest Freddie Gray’s Death**

**Stolberg, 2015** (Sheryl, , "Scenes of Chaos in Baltimore as Thousands Protest Freddie Gray’s Death," *New York Times,* <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/26/us/baltimore-crowd-swells-in-protest-of-freddie-grays-death.html>, 4-25-2015)

BALTIMORE — A largely peaceful protest over the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man who suffered a spinal cord injury in police custody, gave way to scattered scenes of chaos here on Saturday night, as **demonstrators smashed a downtown storefront window, threw rocks and bottles and damaged police cruisers, while officers in riot gear broke up skirmishes** and made 12 arrests near Camden Yards. Shortly before 10 p.m., Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake convened a news conference at City Hall, where she appeared with several others — including Mr. Gray’s twin sister, Fredericka; a prominent pastor, Jamal Bryant; and City Councilman Brandon Scott — to appeal for calm. By that time the disturbances had largely settled. Mr. Gray’s sister, appearing composed less than 48 hours before her brother’s scheduled funeral, spoke only briefly, saying, “Freddie Gray would not want this. Freddie’s father and mother does not want the violence.” There, Malik Shabazz, president of Black Lawyers for Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based group that called for the demonstration and advertised it on social media, told the crowd that he would release them in an hour, adding: “Shut it down if you want to! Shut it down!” Mr. Shabazz said in a later interview that his rhetoric was intended only to encourage civil disobedience — not violence — but added that he was “not surprised” by the scattered angry outbursts because people here “haven’t received justice.” Saturday’s trouble began in the early evening, **when a group of protesters, as many as 100 by some accounts, split from the main group as the City Hall rally was breaking up and went on a rampage, throwing cans, bottles and trash bins at police officers, and breaking windows in some businesses.** As the breakaway group reached Camden Yards, where the Baltimore Orioles were playing the Boston Red Sox on Saturday night, it was met by police officers in riot gear. **Protesters smashed windows of some cars and blocked the corner of Pratt and Light Streets, a major intersection that is a main route to Interstate 95 and out of the city.** The department used its Twitter feed to urge demonstrators to remain peaceful, and blamed the problems on “isolated pockets of people from out of town causing disturbances downtown.” Late in the ballgame, police briefly instructed fans to remain in the stadium “until further notice,” but the crowd was eventually released. Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said at a news conference that 1,200 officers had been deployed. The department spokesman, Capt. J. Eric Kowalczyk, told a local television station that the police were determined to protect the protesters’ rights to “peaceful expression.” Ahead of Saturday’s protest, state and city officials warned against outsiders coming into Baltimore to cause the type of unrest that roiled Ferguson, Mo., after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in August. Gov. Larry Hogan sent dozens of state troopers to Baltimore at the request of Mayor Rawlings-Blake, who urged those taking to the city’s streets to remain peaceful. “If you’re going to come here, come here to help us, not to hurt us,” she said. But at Saturday night’s news conference, Rev. Bryant — who has led other protests here this week but was noticeably absent from the demonstration on Saturday — said the disruption was “not the byproduct of outside agitators,” but rather of “internal frustration,” noting that “99 percent of those who participated over the last couple of days” had been peaceful. He urged Baltimore residents to go to “houses of faith,” on Sunday. “We are not asking you not to protest; we are not asking you not to lift your voice,” he said, adding, “The Bible is clear: Be angry but sin not. Rioting and looting will not give us justice, nor will it turn the tide.” Local leaders of Saturday’s march — including Carron Morgan, 18, Mr. Gray’s first cousin, and an in-law of Mr. Gray’s who gave his name only as Juan — seemed determined to keep the demonstration from getting out of hand. During the afternoon, as the marchers made their way downtown, some young people started kicking dents into cars while other demonstrators told them to stop. “I want outside people to come in,” Mr. Morgan said as he watched people gather early Saturday afternoon at the Gilmor Homes. “But I want them to understand that we don’t want to harm any police officers. We just want justice.” During the rally at City Hall, before the evening skirmishes erupted, Juan marveled at how smoothly the afternoon had gone. “I just want to say how proud I am,” he told the crowd. “They said a young black man couldn’t lead his people. Did we prove them wrong?” The death of Mr. Gray, who is to be buried here on Monday, has unleashed intense frustration and anger in Baltimore, a majority black city whose mayor and police commissioner are also African-American. Baltimore has a long history of tense relations between police and black residents, and while Ms. Rawlings-Blake and Mr. Batts have said they are trying to make improvements, the death has clearly opened a wound. Mr. Gray was chased and restrained by police on bicycles at the Gilmor Homes on the morning of April 12; a cellphone video of his arrest shows him being dragged into a police transport van, seemingly limp and screaming in pain. The police have acknowledged that he should have received medical treatment immediately at the scene of the arrest, and have also said that he rode in the van unbuckled, prompting speculation here that he may have been given a so-called “rough ride,” in which he was intentionally jostled. After officers got him to the police station, medics rushed him to the hospital, where he slipped into a coma and died last Sunday. Six Baltimore officers have been suspended with pay while the Baltimore Police Department carries out a criminal investigation. (Some demonstrators carried signs on Saturday reading, “No paid vacations.”) The Justice Department also is reviewing the case for possible civil rights violations. Mr. Gray’s family has hired a third party to conduct an independent investigation. Funeral services are scheduled for Monday at the new Shiloh Baptist Church in West Baltimore. There, Tessa Hill-Aston, the president of the Baltimore N.A.A.C.P., remembered a West Baltimore death similar to Mr. Gray’s, in 1994. She worked for the city housing authority at the time, and said she spent all night in the Gilmor Homes to keep the community calm. Asked what has changed since then, she frowned and said, “Nothing.” Surveying the crowd, she said she was glad so many people of different races had turned out, adding, “It shows enough is enough.” While the march proceeded in an orderly and peaceful fashion, one participant, Omar Newberns, who works as a security officer here and rode his bicycle alongside the other demonstrators, said he was concerned about the spate of police killings involving black men — and what might happen if the police involved in Mr. Gray’s death are not prosecuted and convicted. **“This is a powder keg right now,” Mr. Newberns said.** “New York and Ferguson and all those other places are just preliminary to introduce it to the nation,” he said. “It could become another Watts. If things don’t get taken care of here, the whole nation could be set afire. I don’t want that to happen.” Until Friday, efforts to pinpoint how and when Mr. Gray was injured had focused on what happened inside the van, with a lawyer for the officers involved playing down the suggestion, based on the cellphone video, that Mr. Gray had been hurt before he was placed inside. The police have acknowledged gaps in the timeline involving three stops made by the van. According to Police Department accounts, at the first stop, officers placed leg bars on Mr. Gray, who they said had become irate; the second stop was made to pick up another arrestee. At the third, Mr. Gray had to be picked up off the floor. Mr. Gray’s family said that his spinal cord had been 80 percent severed, and that his voice box had been crushed. Mr. Gray’s death was the latest in a string of fatal police encounters with unarmed and mostly black civilians that have forced a national debate about how law enforcement officers use lethal force on the job, especially in high-crime and minority communities. Many of the protesters Saturday dismissed statements by Baltimore officials that the protests should remain local. “They need a little history,” Larry Holmes, a Manhattan-based activist with the Peoples Power Assemblies, told the crowd on Saturday. “Martin Luther King was an outside agitator. Malcolm X was an agitator. Jesus Christ was an agitator.” “You can’t keep a problem like police brutality a local thing,” Mr. Holmes said. “The world is watching Baltimore now.”

CONTENTION 1: SUBPOINT B

**Protests Flare After Ferguson Police Officer Is Not Indicted**

By MONICA DAVEY and JULIE BOSMAN NOV. 24, 2014

**Davey, 2015** (Monica, "Protests Flare after Ferguson Police Officer Is Not Indicted," *New York Times*, 11-24-2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/25/us/ferguson-darren-wilson-shooting-michael-brown-grand-jury.html?\_r=0)

CLAYTON, Mo. — A St. Louis County grand jury has brought no criminal charges against Darren Wilson, a white police officer who fatally shot Michael Brown, an unarmed African-American teenager, more than three months ago in nearby Ferguson. **The decision by the grand jury of nine whites and three blacks was announced Monday night by the St. Louis County prosecutor, Robert P. McCulloch, at a news conference packed with reporters from around the world. The killing, on a residential street in Ferguson, set off weeks of civil unrest** — and a national debate — fueled by protesters’ outrage over what they called a pattern of police brutality against young black men. Mr. McCulloch said Officer Wilson had faced charges ranging from first-degree murder to involuntary manslaughter. Word of the decision set off a new wave of anger among hundreds who had gathered outside the Ferguson Police Department**. Police officers in riot gear stood in a line as demonstrators chanted and threw signs and other objects toward them as the news spread.** “The system failed us again,” one woman said. In downtown Ferguson, the sound of breaking glass could be heard as crowds ran through the streets. As the night went on**, the situation grew more intense and chaotic in several locations around the region. Bottles and rocks were thrown at officers, and windows of businesses were smashed. Several police cars were burned; buildings, including a Walgreens, a meat market and a storage facility, were on fire, and looting was reported in several businesses. Gunshots could be heard along the streets of Ferguson, and law enforcement authorities deployed smoke and gas to control the crowds.** In St. Louis, **protesters swarmed Interstate 44** and **blocked all traffic** near the neighborhood where another man was shot by police this fall. Before midnight, **St. Louis County police officers reported heavy automatic gunfire in the area where some of the largest protests were taking place. Flights to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport were not permitted to land late Monday as a safety precaution, officials said.** Mayor James Knowles III of Ferguson, reached on his cellphone late Monday, said he was there and wanted to see National Guard troops, some of whom were stationed at a police command center, move to protect his city. “They’re here in the area,” he said. “I don’t know why they’re not deploying.” Just after 1 a.m., Gov. Jay Nixon called up additional members of the National Guard to Ferguson, where they will provide security for the police headquarters. At a news conference around 1:30 a.m., Jon Belmar, the St. Louis County police chief, said at least a dozen buildings had been set on fire. **“As soon as Mr. McCulloch announced the verdict, the officers started taking rocks and batteries,”** said Chief Belmar, who said he personally heard about 150 shots fired. He said the police did not fire a shot. He added that **29 people were arrested.** “I didn’t foresee an evening like this,” Chief Belmar said. The night’s damage had been far worse than any of the nights of unrest that had followed the shooting in August, he said. Mr. Brown’s family issued a statement expressing sadness, but calling for peaceful protest and a campaign to require body cameras on police officers nationwide. “We are profoundly disappointed that the killer of our child will not face the consequence of his actions,” the statement said. “While we understand that many others share our pain, we ask that you channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change. We need to work together to fix the system that allowed this to happen.” But outside the police station, Lesley McSpadden, Mr. Brown’s mother, voiced frustration with the decision. “They wrong!” she yelled, pointing toward the police officers standing outside of the station. “Y’all know y’all wrong!” At the White House, President Obama appealed for peaceful protest and “care and restraint” from law enforcement after the grand jury’s decision not to indict Officer Wilson, even as he said the situation spoke to broader racial challenges in America. “We have made enormous progress in race relations over the course of the past several decades,” Mr. Obama said in the briefing room, where he made an unusual late-night appearance to respond to the decision. “But what is also true is that there are still problems, and communities of color aren’t just making these problems up.” Protests, often well organized and orderly, also occurred in cities across the country, including Los Angeles, Seattle, Philadelphia and Chicago, where about 200 mostly young and mostly white protesters gathered at police headquarters, despite frigid temperatures and light snow. In a lengthy news conference, Mr. McCulloch described the series of events, step by step, that had led to the shooting, and the enormous array of evidence and witnesses brought before the grand jury. He described an altercation inside Officer Wilson’s vehicle, after which Officer Wilson had Mr. Brown’s blood on his weapon, shirt and pants, the prosecutor said, as well as swelling and redness on his face. “Physical evidence does not look away as events unfold,” he said. **Mr. McCulloch also pointed to inconsistent and changing statements from witnesses, including observations about the position of Mr. Brown’s hands. Some witnesses have said he had his hands up as the final shots were fired. The prosecutor, who had faced widespread calls to recuse himself after opponents cited what they called flawed investigations, took the unusual step of directing his staff to present “absolutely everything” — rather than a witness or two — to the grand jury.** Even before the decision was announced, National Guard troops were sent to a police command post; political leaders, including Governor Nixon, flew in to hold last-minute meetings with community members; schools closed for the week; and businesses and residents, including parents of schoolchildren, braced for what might come next. Mr. Nixon, who had declared a state of emergency and called up the Missouri National Guard last week, called for peace and calm in a news conference several hours before the decision was announced. “Our shared hope and expectation is that regardless of the decision, people on all sides show tolerance, mutual respect and restraint,” he said. Yet many here questioned why the authorities would announce the decision in the evening, rather than waiting for daylight hours. Furious, sometimes violent, demonstrations and tense clashes with the police took place late into the night for several weeks in August, and some law enforcement officers had urged a daytime announcement. Over a period of weeks, many leaders here had suggested that a Sunday morning announcement would be best, but the grand jury, which had been meeting on the case since Aug. 20, finished its work on Monday. Asked about the timing, Mr. Nixon said it had been the choice of Mr. McCulloch. Many of the elaborate plans for how the grand jury’s decision would be released — including 48-hour notice for the police after the decision — appeared to have been scrapped. The family of Mr. Brown, 18, who was killed by Officer Wilson on Aug. 9, was notified by prosecutors in the afternoon, after some reports had already appeared on television and online. A lawyer for the family expressed frustration that they had not been told sooner. The lawyer, Benjamin Crump, added that the family would be exploring their legal options now that the grand jury has failed to indict Officer Wilson. **“They don’t trust this prosecutor; they never did from the beginning,” Mr. Crump said. “And they are going to try to see if they can do something to get some positive change out of this because they understand this system needs to be changed.”** Since August, Officer Wilson has stayed close to St. Louis, reading news articles and following television coverage of the case, those close to him said. He has made no public statements or appearances. In a private ceremony in October, he married his fiancée, Barbara Spradling, also a Ferguson police officer, court records show. Officer Wilson, who testified before the grand jury for more than four hours, saying he was convinced that his life was in danger, remains on paid administrative leave from the police department, but local officials said they expected that he would resign in the coming days, regardless of the grand jury’s decision. The Brown family has, by contrast, traveled widely to speak out, including appearing at the BET Hip Hop Awards, meeting with United Nations officials in Geneva and talking with protesters near the spot where Mr. Brown was killed. Mr. Brown’s father, Michael Brown Sr., handed out turkeys to needy families over the weekend, and he filmed a [public service announcement](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4LkX7PZCoo) urging calm once the grand jury decision was announced. The parents have been pushing for what supporters have called the Michael Brown Law, which would require officers to wear body cameras. **As the news of the decision spread, school officials were deciding whether to open schools on Tuesday. At least one district canceled after-school and evening activities, and at least four announced they would not hold classes on Tuesday.** All around**, there were signs of businesses closing at the prospect of trouble. At least two area malls, including the St. Louis Galleria and the Plaza Frontenac, closed early on Monday evening.** Another investigation, a federal civil rights inquiry into the case, continues, though federal officials have said that the evidence so far does not support such a case against Officer Wilson. A second federal investigation is examining whether the Ferguson police have engaged in a pattern of civil rights violations. ***Correction: November 29, 2014*** *A picture caption on Tuesday with the continuation of an article misidentified, in some editions, the Missouri official shown speaking at a news conference. He is Robert P. McCulloch, the St. Louis County prosecutor, not Gov. Jay Nixon.*

CONTENTION 2: SUBPOINT A

**'Hold the line' protected lives, police top brass say; Debate continues over tactics used by Baltimore police during civil unrest in the spring**

CITATION: **George, 2015** (Justin, Baltimore Crime Reporter, "'Hold the line' commands protected lives during riot, police say," *The Baltimore Sun*, 6-30-2015, http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/crime/blog/bs-md-ci-riot-deployments-20150629-story.html#page=1)

**Baltimore police commanders acknowledge that they ordered officers not to engage rioters multiple times on the day of Freddie Gray's funeral but said they did so to protect officers and citizens as they prioritized life over property.** In an interview with The Baltimore Sun, police Commissioner Anthony W. Batts and six top commanders who directed deployments on April 27 denied that they gave blanket orders to do nothing as rioters looted, raided businesses and even attacked officers with impunity. More than two months after riots broke out across Baltimore, top brass and rank-and-file officers continue to spar over how platoons of officers were deployed that day. **About 160 officers were injured in the riots and businesses suffered millions of dollars in damage.** Batts has repeatedly denied issuing a "stand down" order -- akin to ordering a withdrawal -- while officers say they were in effect given such an order, either over the radio or in person, when they were told "do not engage" or "hold the line." **Commanders told The Sun that they asked officers to "hold the line" as part of an overall deployment strategy to create a barrier between rioters and police operations and potentially vulnerable people. If officers broke lines during a faceoff with rock-throwing protesters, for instance, they could be isolated and surrounded by mobs. And if officers broke the line to make arrests, they might have been forced to guard them amid all the chaos when transport vans weren't available.** "There's an amount of discipline necessary to navigate your way through a civil disturbance," Deputy Commissioner Kevin Davis said. **But some officers say they should have been able to break their shoulder-to-shoulder lines and charge rioters, make arrests and quell the disturbance. The police union supports their claims**, and the organization is expected to release an "after action report" in the coming weeks that should include many first-hand accounts from officers. The union has requested texts, emails and radio transmissions between police commanders and City Hall for review. As of Tuesday, the union had received only one tape from the voluminous riot transmission record. The police union's president, Lt. Gene Ryan, said the Police Department could clear up any misconceptions or rumors by releasing the requested communications. "If they have nothing to hide -- and they always talk about being transparent -- how come they haven't given me the tapes of the radio transmissions?" Ryan said. "If they have nothing to hide, why not give me what we asked them for?" Police have said they will share information, and both the agency and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake say they have called for their own probes into how deployments were handled. Some officers have said they believe the mayor was behind the alleged "stand down" order so Baltimore police would not look as aggressive as body-armor-wearing officers responding to unrest last year in Ferguson, Mo. Rawlings-Blake has denied that and said she would never allow people to loot, destroy or burn businesses. "The mayor never gave an order to police to stand down, and there have been multiple officers who have come forward and have said there was no such order given either by the mayor or by the command staff," spokesman Kevin Harris said. "I can say unequivocally that the mayor never gave such an order or told the command staff to give such an order." Batts and his top commanders said officers are confusing "stand down" with "hold the line" -- a command they acknowledge was given repeatedly. **Their objective was simple, according to Deputy Commissioner Dean Palmere: "Protect assets, protect life."** An attorney for several officers who were injured during the riots and have filed workers' compensation claims said many of his clients contend that when commanders ordered officers not to engage rioters, they were putting all officers in danger. "At Mondawmin, they were getting pummeled there, and there were commanders behind them saying 'Don't engage,' " Baltimore attorney Warren S. Alperstein said. Gray was arrested on April 12 in West Baltimore after officers on bicycles said he ran from them after making eye contact. Police found what they say was an illegal pocket knife and cuffed his hands and legs and put him in the back of a police transport van. Police and prosecutors say officers denied Gray medical help, and he was found unresponsive by the time the van arrived at the Western District police station. He had suffered a spinal injury and died a week later. The Baltimore state's attorney's office charged six officers involved in the arrest or transport of Gray with a range of criminal charges including second-degree murder and reckless endangerment. The officers have pleaded not guilty. **Gray's death launched Baltimore into weeks of protests that culminated with a day of rioting across the city, including arson, looting and violent clashes between police and rock throwers. More than 380 businesses reported damage, and 61 buildings were burned, according to city officials. Officers sustained injuries ranging "from concussions to fractures to really bad head wounds, facial wounds, stitches, staples," Alperstein said.** Alperstein said his clients understand the directive to not engage was a planned strategy. "Everybody that I've talked to said it was very clear we weren't to engage," Alperstein said. But **Alperstein said police should have been better prepared for violence on Monday, April 27. Protesters had thrown bottles at officers outside the Western District police station on the day Gray died. And violence escalated on Saturday, April 25, when rioters broke windows, destroyed police cars and hurled large objects at officers outside Oriole Park at Camden Yards.** Some officers say police commanders set the tone for Monday by also taking a hands-off approach on Saturday. Commanders counted that police did make about 13 arrests on that day, even while they were outnumbered and outflanked. Other area law enforcement agencies assisted city police during the riots on Monday. Baltimore County police spokesman Cpl. John Wachter said he has seen television news reports and heard rumors about city officers being told to "stand down." But he said he doesn't have information that county officers were told to stand down. Wicomico County Sheriff Michael A. Lewis said his officers heard orders for police to avoid engaging rioters. Lewis said he never heard a direct "stand down" order, but the message was clear. "I never heard the order 'stand down,' " he said. "What I heard was 'hold the line, hold the line, retreat, retreat,' as guys were shouting, 'They're hitting us with bottles; they're hitting us with bricks.' " **Lewis and his team got to Baltimore around 2:10 a.m. on April 28 and were assigned to guard Baltimore police headquarters. Throughout the night until about 4:30 a.m., Lewis said, he heard calls for help from officers over police communications.** "Police officers screaming on the radio," Lewis recalls. "Everybody could hear what was going on. Those guys getting their asses kicked. I repeatedly heard, 'Hold the line, hold the line. Do not go after them.' " **Baltimore police acknowledge that officers didn't have adequate riot gear other than helmets. Some officers were still getting shields days later, and police did not have enough "turtle gear," or body armor to equip all officers.** Asked why, Palmere said, Baltimore police are not alone. **"Every major police organization is upgrading their gear," the deputy commissioner said.** Palmere was among several officers involved in deployments who unequivocally said they never told officers to stand down, withdraw or relax. They included Deputy Commissioner Kevin Davis, Lt. Col. Melissa Hyatt, Lt. Col. Sean Miller, Acting Lt. Col. William Marcus and Maj. Marc Partee. Over nearly three hours, the commanders discussed how they had prepared for violence on April 27 before unexpected flashpoints began popping up all over the city, spreading officers too thin. Before the riots began, Hyatt, the police incident commander that day, had prioritized how officers would respond to violence. Most officers were assigned to form "skirmish lines" or a unified front that aimed to stop protesters and, later, rioters from breaking through and outflanking police. **Tactical "arrest teams" were put on standby to make arrests as soon as property was destroyed or front-line officers were threatened. Behind the lines, police wanted to keep access open for arrest teams, police transport wagons, paramedics, firefighters and reinforcements. The lines were also created to protect injured officers, as well as the more than a dozen people police did arrest. Many times, Hyatt said, incident command was deciding how to redeploy officers to areas where civilian and police lives were being threatened. Officers were sometimes told to stand by. Street-level commanders kept asking to be allowed to make arrests, Hyatt said, but incident command was evaluating if officers were needed elsewhere or if transport vans could get there. Leaving skirmish lines would open up holes for attack, leaving important access points inaccessible and putting injured officers at risk,** commanders said. "If five or 10 jump out to arrest someone," Miller said, rioters would have a hole to run through and attack "the backs" of officers. Batts acknowledged that police were consistently outnumbered and outflanked -- something he said he foresaw when he asked area law enforcement agencies to send Baltimore at least 1,000 officers days before any violence occurred. **Baltimore police received 200 extra officers in the days leading up to violence. At Mondawmin Mall, about 150 to 200 officers responded the afternoon riots began. As violence spread, many officers were redeployed, but police couldn't abandon areas they had under control. Lines became thinner and thinner, Batts said.** While commanders said they understand officers' frustration watching looters smash open stores but insist that holding the line was often the best way to keep officers safe. "It's a protective feature," Hyatt said. Baltimore Sun reporters Luke Broadwater and Alison Knezevich contributed to this article.

**2 Police Officers Shot Amid Protest At Ferguson Police Department**

MARCH 12, 2015 3:14 AM ET

BILL CHAPPELL MARK KATKOV

**Chappell, 2015** (Bill, "2 Police Officers Shot Amid Protest At Ferguson Police Department," *NPR.org*, <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/03/12/392470720/two-police-officers-shot-outside-the-ferguson-police-department>, 3-12-2015)

Police in riot gear respond to demonstrators blocking traffic during a protest Wednesday outside the Ferguson Police Department in Missouri*. As the protests were ending, someone fired at the police and wounded two officers*.*St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said two police officers were shot and seriously wounded shortly after midnight outside the Ferguson, Mo., police department*. The shooting occurred as a protest outside the police station had begun to wind down.*A St. Louis County police officer and an officer from nearby Webster Groves, Mo., were shot*, according to Belmar. He did not identify them by name.The Webster Groves officer was struck once in the face. He is 32 years old and a five-year veteran of the force, Belmar said. He said the St. Louis County officer is 41 years old and a 14-year veteran of the force. That officer was struck once in the shoulder.We will be updating this story with the latest developments. For more coverage, please visit our friends at St. Louis Public Radio, who are live-blogging the events.Update at 1:46 p.m. ET Officers Released From HospitalBoth officers have been released from hospital, reporter Tim Lloyd of St. Louis Public radio reports.The family of Michael Brown, the 18-year-old black man shot dead in Ferguson by a white police officer last August, called the shooting "senseless" and said their "thoughts and prayers remain with the officers injured during this morning's shooting and their families." In a statement, they said:"We reject any kind of violence directed toward members of law enforcement. It cannot and will not be tolerated."We specifically denounce the actions of stand-alone agitators who unsuccessfully attempt to derail the otherwise peaceful and non-violent movement that has emerged throughout this nation to confront police brutality and to forward the cause of equality under the law for all."Attorney General Eric Holder called the shooting "inexcusable and repugnant."Update at 10:10 a.m. ET: Injury Updates, And More DetailsThe two police officers who were shot had been standing in a line of more than a dozen officers, Belmar said at a news conference Thursday morning.Belmar said the Webster Groves officer was shot just below his right eye, and that the bullet is now lodged in the back of his head. The St. Louis County officer was struck in the shoulder, and the bullet passed through and exited his back.He said, based on the shell casings found on the scene, the weapon used is believed to be a handgun. The St. Louis County Police Department has posted evidence photographs on Facebook.Despite the serious nature of the injuries, Belmar said, the officers aren't expected to have any "remarkable long-term injuries." He said he had spoken with both of the officers."I think it's a miracle that we haven't had any instances similar to this" before now, Belmar said, noting other occurrences of gunfire at protests in Ferguson."When you look at the tenor of at least some of the people" involved in protests, he said, it is difficult for officers to discern who might pose a threat.The St. Louis County police chief added that when shots were fired last night, the officers saw muzzle flashes later estimated to be about 125 yards away. He said the officers drew their weapons but did not discharge them."Ladies and gentlemen, we were very close to what happened in New York," Belmar said, referring to the recent fatal shooting of two officers there."This is really an ambush, is what it is," he said later.Belmar said he had been surprised by the amount of "agitation" at the protest.At one point, he acknowledged that there was "an unfortunate association" between whoever fired the shots and the protesters who were there for what he called "the right reasons."Belmar also said he hasn't confirmed reports that rocks or bottles had been thrown at the officers during Wednesday night's protest. He repeatedly said it is "very difficult" for officers to identify potential threats in such situations.Our original post continues:Belmar described both gunshot wounds as "very serious injuries." Their wounds are not believed to be life-threatening. Both officers are being treated in a local hospital and their families are with them, according to Belmar.The protests followed the resignation of Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson earlier Wednesday, a move that followed a scathing report of racial bias in the Ferguson police department by the U.S. Department of Justice. Many in the crowd were reportedly calling for the town's mayor to resign, as well."The shots came just after midnight as people were starting to leave," reports St. Louis Public Radio. "Belmar said he believed the shooters were embedded in the group that remained, a point fiercely disputed by protesters on the scene."The member station notes that several protesters who witnessed the shooting say the shots had been fired from behind them.

**Cop critically hurt at Ferguson protest in Denver**

Trevor Hughes, USA TODAY 5:39 p.m. EST December 3, 2014

**Hughes, 2014** (Trevor, "Cop critically hurt at Ferguson protest in Denver," *USA TODAY*, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/12/03/denver-high-school-walkout-protest-dont-shoot/19846479/>, 12-3-2014)

DENVER — *Four police officers were hurt, one critically, after a car hit them during a high school student protest over a grand jury's decision not to indict the police officer who shot an unarmed teenager in Ferguson, Mo.* Denver Police *said the officers were part of a bicycle unit providing crowd control during a march down Colfax Avenue downtown when a car plowed into them around noon.* The car's driver suffered a "medical issue," and was also being treated at a hospital following the crash, police said. *The critically injured officer was in surgery as of 2 p.m, police said.* Hundreds of Denver's East High School students left classes shortly before 11 a.m., marching down the 16th Street Mall pedestrian district, some of them chanting "hands up, don't shoot." That call has become a rallying cry for people upset about the shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, at the hands of a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo., on Aug. 9. A grand jury declined to indict the police officer, a decision announced Nov. 24 that set off a wave of rioting and protests in Ferguson and across the country. Police said three of the officers hurt Wednesday have nine years of service, and the fourth has 17 years of service. The mall is Denver's main tourist shopping area, and all of the officers were assigned to patrol it, police said. Two of the officers had been treated and released from the hospital by 2 p.m, police said. Students told the Denver Post that they saw the car's driver having what looked like a seizure at the time of the crash On Tuesday, students at all three high schools in the Ferguson-Florissant School District walked out of class to protest the decision by the grand jury to not indict former Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson for the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson this August. Last week's grand jury decision sparked protests across the country -- including a march in Boulder and three consecutive nights of protests in Denver that led to multiple arrests for obstruction of roadways.

SUBPOINT B

Time, 2014(The New York Times, "The Damage in Ferguson," *The New York Times,*  http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/11/25/us/ferguson-photos.html,11-25-2014)

Little Caesars

The Little Caesars pizza store was set afire. Although firefighters extinguished the blaze, there was little left when the store manager, here comforting an employee, arrived on Tuesday.

Walgreens

Social media posts showed a fire in a merchandise display in the Walgreens drug store and people rushing in to loot as it spread. Fire trucks arrived before the blaze destroyed the building.

A fire at Prime Beauty Supply toppled its brick walls into a pile.

The store, which advertised itself as the largest black owned boutique in St. Louis, was gutted by fire. The owner, Juanita Morris, told CNN that she had been "dressing the women of St. Louis for 28 years" and that she would rebuild.

The store, which Michael Brown was in before he was killed, was looted.

Toppa, 2015 (Sabrina, The Baltimore Riots Cost an Estimated

$9 Million in Damages,*Time Magazine,* May 14 2015)

The Baltimore Riots Cost an Estimated

$9 Million in Damages

Sabrina Toppa @SabrinaToppa May 14, 2015

Over 30 businesses and at least one

home suffered major damage from April

25 to May 3, survey says

**A federal survey estimates that at least $9**

**million in damages resulted from the**

**Baltimore riots sparked by the death of**

**25 year old**

**Freddie Gray.**

The Small Business Administration’s

survey calculated damages of $8,927,000

to over 30 businesses and damage of at

least $60,000 to one home during the

violence from April 25 to May 3, Reuters

reports.

Smaller damages were reported by 254 businesses and another home, leaving Maryland

Senator Barbara Mikulski to push for disaster centers to be set up to assist business

owners.

The Baltimore mayor’s office added that 144 vehicles and 15 buildings were incinerated

during the violence, with the Baltimore Fire Department noting 61 structural fires from

incidents like arson and looting on April 27 and 28.

CONTENTION 3:

SEE GEORGE CARD

# Neg Case 2

My Partner and I stand in firm negation of the following resolution which states Resolved: ON Balance, Police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.

My Partner and I have supplied the following definitions from Merriam Webster Dictionary:

**Civil Unrest:** a situation in which many of the people in a country are angry and hold protests or act violently.

Framework:

Contention 1: Alternate causation

Sub A: Paid Protestors

Many Protesters were not protesting against or for the police.  Many of them weren’t even protesting for racial justice, but rather financial incentive.

According to Himelfarb in 2015, “Liberal billionaire George Soros has played a critical role in financing the Ferguson, Missouri, protest movement, giving at least $33 million in one year to back already established groups that "emboldened" on-the-ground activists there.”  The article goes on to say that,

“Soros' backing ‘gave rise to a combustible protest movement that transformed a one-day criminal event in Missouri into a 24-hour-a-day cause celebré.’”  This article shows how George Soros gave these people, who would never have gone and protested anyways, the incentive to go and create unnecessary havoc.

Referring back to the resolution, about the responsibility for creating unrest, the Himelfarb card shows how the responsibility falls on George Soros and the protesters being paid.  Not the police.

In addition to George Soros, Lisa Fithian, a Left Wing activist, coached the protesters in Fegurson.  According to Klein in 2015, “Fithian is a legendary organizer who once announced she seeks to “create crisis, because crisis is that edge where change is possible.”

the article goes on to say “Fithian was “leading a training session for demonstrators, instructing a hundred people to shuffle through a small lime green room in the back of a nonprofit office, simulating chaos.”

This shows how Ms. Fithian and the protesters she gathered deserve the direct responsibility of the civil unrest, and not the police.

Sub B: Social Media

**In recent civil unrest, social media has become an important in recognizing events the media does not pick up on fast enough. Georgia Wells of the Wall Street Journal explains**

Georgia Wells, 12-4-2014, "Ferguson to New York, Social Media Is the Organizer’s Biggest Megaphone," WSJ, http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2014/12/04/ferguson-to-new-york-social-media-is-the-organizers-biggest-megaphone/

Hayes notes **that social media has** also **made it more likely that mainstream media will notice an event, if not as it is unfolding, then later when reporters notice the trail of photos and comments on Twitter and Facebook.** “Before we had Twitter and Facebook, the main chance for people to learn about our event was if the media covered it,” she said. “Now with social media, we cover our own story.”

**This is because social media makes access to information more available to others at a speed that conventional news outlets cannot. Joshua Tucker of the Washington Post reports that information**

**Social media, therefore, can play an important role in** facilitating protest by making it easier for individuals to acquire information. This can include: Information about **the plan[ing] and actual location and timing of protests** Information about how safe participation is (is there violence? fires? tear gas?) Information about how many other people are currently participating in protests **In addition to providing information about the protests**, **social media** might **affect people’s motivation to participate in the protest. This could be done in many ways, but could include: Triggering feelings of group identity** (e.g, the many references seen to “black lives matter” in tweets regarding the Ferguson protests) **Triggering feelings of injustice Triggering emotions such as anger.**

**Mark Trujillo in 2014 explains** **that these conditions play a major role in stoking tension and igniting nation-wide protests that frequently turn violent. He specifically highlights how just a few hours after the St Louis prosecutor’s decision regarding Officer Wilson received more than 3.5million tweets and ignited nation-wide protests.**

Contention 2: Police use militarization to keep the community safe

Contention 2: Police use militarization to keep the community safe

Allan Conkey in 2015 said that Police access to military equipment and training is not a form of militarization, rather a necessity to ensure officers can adequately protect communities and themselves while facing the challenges of unlawful activity

Conkey 2015 [Allan Conkey, Professor of Criminal Justice at the American Military University, “Police Militarization: Reality, Hype, or Natural Evolution” February 9, 2015, http://inpublicsafety.com/2015/02/police-militarization-reality-hype-or-natural-evolution/]

Such police-involved incidents are not in themselves evidence that police are or are not becoming militarized. The term “militarization” is often confused with advances in equipment and techniques based on a changing world (versus true militarization). A police force benefitting from military equipment and training is not necessarily a bad thing.¶

Weighing the Evidence¶ Some coverage and commentary on the NYPD choking incident involving Eric Garner, seemed to imply that chokeholds are reserved for use in the armed forces and an officer applying one is somehow proof of growing militarization within law enforcement. Yet, at best, one might argue it is a shared tactic that is not new to law enforcement. Former NYC Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly severely limited the use of chokeholds back in 1995 (some might say it was banned except for extreme circumstances such as when an officer’s safety is in jeopardy).¶ If such tactics are not in themselves proof of a growing police militarization epidemic then what about reports of police departments inheriting surplus equipment such as armored personnel carriers?¶ Let us first answer a question with a question: Should U.S. law enforcement today still use single-shot weapons just as their earlier counterparts did? Of course not. This attempt at humor is an effort to highlight just how ridiculous such a notion would be.¶ Keeping Up in a Changing World¶The reality is that times have changed and these changes include weaponry, tactics, body armor, and other equipment. Criminals today have benefitted from those changes, too.¶

To understand why police must enhance weaponry and tactics one only needs to consider recent incidents such as the terrorist attacks in Paris, France, or past events such as the 1997 North Hollywood Bank of America robbery where assailants were heavily armed with assault weapons and protected by bullet-proof armor. During the latter incident, two bank robbers were initially countered by first responders equipped with small arms.¶

What happens when a criminal armed with automatic assault weapons and full-body armor takes on first responders with 38s and other small arms? The answer can sadly be seen in the initial outcome of the 1997 bank event: 11 officers and seven innocent bystanders were shot and injured. Only after SWAT arrived with AR-15s and an armored vehicle (yes an armored vehicle…go figure) was that situation contained and the robbers killed.¶

Ultimately, this incident was a catalyst for a number of changes within the LAPD, such as better armor for officers and vehicles as well as greater accessibility to assault weapons. While some might argue to the contrary, such changes in themselves do not result in confirmation that police militarization has somehow occurred. Rather, such changes equate only to the very necessary natural evolution within law enforcement to counter the reality of the changing world and the criminal threat.¶The Graying Line Between Police and Military¶I am not saying that the line between civilian law enforcement and the military has not grayed to some degree in the past few decades. But such graying is based more on the reality of changing equipment, improved technology, and the post-9/11 world, which requires law enforcement and the military to build mutual working relationships and, where applicable, for civilian law enforcement to benefit from changes in technology and tactics from the military.¶While no one should be advocating for civilian law enforcement to become the military (each has their specific and very important roles), the opposite also holds significant weight. That is, law enforcement has a sacred duty to be capable and prepared to protect the communities they serve.¶

For law enforcement not to benefit from military training and advanced technology would seem, at best, to be a mistake and, at worst, simply turning a blind eye to both history and the world we live in.

Regnery in 2014 again reiterates that the Exchange of military equipment is crucial for police operations as it ensures financial strain does not shut down departments and enables better protection of the general public as well as the officers themselves

Regnery 2014 [Alfred S. Regnery, Published Author writing for Breitbart, “Police militarization: it’s not about the equipment, it’s about keeping the peace” August 19, 2014,<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2014/08/19/militarization-of-law-enforcement-not-about-equipment-about-keeping-the-peace/>]

So what is going on? No question the police have acquired tons of surplus military equipment in recent years, and no question that many have developed SWAT teams and have used various military tactics, sometimes way in excess of what is needed.¶ [But] Let’s look at the facts:¶The Pentagon has distributed, according to the Police Foundation, $5.1 billion of surplus military equipment to local police departments. The Department of Homeland Security distributes another $1 billion worth of equipment. Despite the outcry, Congress does not seem to object: an attempt to end the program just a couple of months ago was defeated by the House of Representatives in a vote of 355-62.¶Law enforcement has been badly squeezed by budget cuts. Virtually every big-city department has had to cut personnel and cut back on equipment purchases because of lack of funds. Getting free vehicles, weapons, helicopters, night vision equipment, and the rest is welcome relief. Reports and news articles over the last four years have given the public a small glimpse into the devastating impact budget cuts have had on police departments. From Chicago and Baltimore to Pennsylvania and Detroit, underfunding has led to less personnel and equipment and more communities for each officer to police. Some departments are even scrambling to make more of these cuts to avoid pension collapses.¶ Jim Bueermann, president of the Police Foundation, told the Los Angeles Times last week “A lot of departments jumped at the opportunity to acquire things they normally could not afford. But just because we can get the equipment, it doesn’t mean we should use it.”¶ Ever since we learned that people are willing to use airplanes full of people as weapons, policing has changed and requires different strategies and tactics than it once did. If acts of terrorism do occur, the requisite equipment and strategies to control the situation will be most welcome¶Violence against the police continues, day to day, unabated. From the assault in Southern California last year by a former officer that resulted in the deaths of four officials to the most recent example – Ferguson, Missouri – police are at high risk. In Ferguson riots, looting, attacks on other demonstrators and on the police became so acute that the governor – a Democrat who certainly consulted White House officials and the Justice Department first – imposed a curfew (which was ignored) and finally dispatched the National Guard to quell the riots. Most of us remember the mayhem caused by rioters in Los Angeles in 1992 – 50 people dead, 500 injured, $1 billion worth of property destruction. Police are not going to control such violence with pellet guns.¶[ [And] America’s cities are hardly armed camps. Most of the military equipment is safely stashed away in warehouses and rarely seen or used. I defy readers of this column to send in comments pointing out excess uses of military equipment or tactics by the police that they have personally seen, not just read about on the internet or seen on television. I’d be surprised if there are more than a handful. Like so many other issues, it only takes one or two ill-advised uses to rile up the politicians, the press, and all the go-alongs to imagine that democracy is threatened, war is coming to our cities, and the police, not the criminals, are the threat.¶1501 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in the last ten years – one every 58 hours, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Foundation, and during the same period there have been 58,261 assaults against police officers resulting in 15,658 injuries. Police are trained to use restraint and no more force than necessary for the situation at hand, and rarely cross these bounds. It hardly seems unreasonable that sometimes they need to resort to a higher level of force to protect themselves and their colleagues, not to mention the general public. I spoke with former Attorney General Ed Meese, a long-time student of policing and advocate of good police work, who told me “when police officers face unusually dangerous situations, they need all possible protective equipment, including specialized gear and vehicles that may be used by the military. But,” Meese added, “officers and supervisors must take extreme care and utilize special safety measures to avoid the risks that come with the severe hazards involved in such exceptional use.”¶Although gun violence is far lower than it was twenty years ago, there is still plenty of it. The National Institute of Justice reports that nearly 500,000 people were victimized with guns in 2011, most of the guns being illegal and unregistered. The proliferation of illegal guns often requires more “militarized” law enforcement response. My guess is that most of those victims would not object to police having some surplus military equipment.¶ Although there are certainly abusive uses of SWAT teams, they are used effectively and legitimately in almost all cases. The misuses, often in situations that turn out to be absurd, make for titillating news stories and fodder for pundits and politicians to denounce the whole concept. But in situations involving terrorism, hostages, and criminals with high-powered weapons, SWAT teams have been proven to be an effective weapon to dispel violence and restore the peace.¶

Military equipment and tactics are often used as a demonstration of available force, resulting in the age-old military concept of “peace through strength.” The arrival of an armored SWAT team, for example, in a potentially violent situation, well before anything actually happens, will convince the offender that he has no chance of survival unless he surrenders. Similarly, just the arrival of an ominous-looking armored vehicle at a crime or riot scene can convince criminals that the better plan is to retreat before the equipment must be used. According to John Burke, who was team leader of 30 SWAT team members at the Detroit FBI office and trained countless SWAT team members at the FBI Academy, it is all about the professionalism and training of the team. “A well-trained SWAT team has no desire to shoot or injure anybody,” Burke told me. “If good judgment is used, which from my experience it almost always is, a SWAT team is the a very effective way of restoring and keeping the peace.”¶There is no question that there are cases where the armoring up of police forces has been misused, often foolishly or because of lack of good training, good judgment, and good leadership. But those misuses are far outweighed by the effective demonstration and use of “militarization” by law enforcement And because we are looking to On Balance, you will be voting for the Negation for the reason that police militarizing is not a cause to civil unrest, but however is to protect the people . To condemn the practice overall because of a handful of misuses makes no more sense than to ban the purchase and ownership of handguns, rifles, and shotguns because a few people misuse them.

### Cards

**Wells 2014- Social media spreads rage**

Georgia Wells, 12-4-2014, "Ferguson to New York, Social Media Is the Organizer’s Biggest Megaphone," WSJ, http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2014/12/04/ferguson-to-new-york-social-media-is-the-organizers-biggest-megaphone/

Hayes notes **that social media has** also **made it more likely that mainstream media will notice an event, if not as it is unfolding, then later when reporters notice the trail of photos and comments on Twitter and Facebook.** “Before we had Twitter and Facebook, the main chance for people to learn about our event was if the media covered it,” she said. “Now with social media, we cover our own story.”

**Tucker 2014-Social Media caused protests**

Joshua Tucker, 11-25-2014, “Washington Post:Tweeting Ferguson: how social media can (and cannot) facilitate protest,” News Max, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/11/25/tweeting-ferguson-how-social-media-can-and-can-not-facilitate-protest/>

**Social media, therefore, can play an important role in** facilitating protest by making it easier for individuals to acquire information. This can include: Information about **the plan[ing] and actual location and timing of protests** Information about how safe participation is (is there violence? fires? tear gas?) Information about how many other people are currently participating in protests **In addition to providing information about the protests**, **social media** might **affect people’s motivation to participate in the protest. This could be done in many ways, but could include: Triggering feelings of group identity** (e.g, the many references seen to “black lives matter” in tweets regarding the Ferguson protests) **Triggering feelings of injustice Triggering emotions such as anger.**

**Trujillo 2014-Social Media can be used to cause widespread outrage**

Mark Rujillo, 12/27/14, The Hill writer, The Hill, “Amid protests, social media's role is praised and scrutinized”, News Max

<http://thehill.com/policy/technology/228069-amid-protests-social-medias-role-is-praised-and-scrutinized>

**that these conditions play a major role in stoking tension and igniting nation-wide protests that frequently turn violent. He specifically highlights how just a few hours after the St Louis prosecutor’s decision regarding Officer Wilson received more than 3.5million tweets and ignited nation-wide protests.**

**Himelfarb 2015- Soros paid protesters**

Joel Himelfarb, 1-15-2015, "Washington Times: George Soros Funded Ferguson Protests," Newsmax, <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/george-soros-funded-ferguson-protests/2015/01/15/id/618934/>

**Liberal billionaire George Soros has played a critical role in financing the Ferguson, Missouri, protest movement, giving at least $33 million in one year to back already established groups that "emboldened" on-the-ground activists there,** [**The Washington Times reports.**](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/14/george-soros-funds-ferguson-protests-hopes-to-spur/)

**Soros' backing "gave rise to a combustible protest movement that transformed a one-day criminal event in Missouri into a 24-hour-a-day cause celebré," the paper said.**

A plethora of groups shared funding from Soros and closely collaborated, referring to each other's news columns and creating in effect an "echo chamber" of sorts using Twitter and Facebook, the Times reports.

**Klein 2015: Lisa Fithian Trained Protesters**

Aaron Klein, 11-26-2014, " Top Occupy organizer trained Ferguson protesters ," WND, http://www.wnd.com/2014/11/top-occupy-organizer-trained-ferguson-protesters/

**Fithian is a legendary organizer who once announced she seeks to “create crisis, because crisis is that edge where change is possible.”**

She was one of the luminaries of the Occupy Wall Street movement and was a lead organizer in the infamous 1999 Seattle riots against the World Trade Organization that descended into violence.

The 1999 WTO event in Seattle devolved into widespread rioting in which more than 40,000 protesters, some using violent tactics, descended on the city, prompting police to use tear gas and rubber bullets. The clash became known as “The Battle of Seattle.”

[According to Discover the Networks](http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/printgroupProfile.asp?grpid=7694), Fithian specializes in aggressive “direct action” tactics.

Prior to the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown shooting case, [Fithian was interviewed Nov. 14 on NPR.](http://www.wnyc.org/story/ferguson-braces-for-grand-jurys-decision-on-michael-brown-shooting/)

NPR host Emanuele Berry stated **Fithian was “leading a training session for demonstrators, instructing a hundred people to shuffle through a small lime green room in the back of a nonprofit office, simulating chaos.”**

# Neg Case 3

Negative

We negate. We observe that Merriam Webster dictionary defines civil unrest as a situation in which many of the people in a country are angry and hold protests or act violently.

 Merriam­Webster. “Definition of unrest”.  Merriam­Webster.  Merriam­Webster Incorporated.  2015.< http://www.merriam­webster.com/dictionary/unrest >

**Contention 1: Alternate Causation**

**Economic factors play a significant role in civil unrest.**

**Economist 11**, N/A "Unrest in Peace." The Economist. The Economist Newspaper, 22 Oct. 2011. Web. 08 July 2015.

Instability is often blamed on creeping austerity. After the riots in London in August, Ken Livingstone, a former mayor, declared that “the economic stagnation and cuts being imposed by the Tory government inevitably create social division.” A recent paper by Jacopo Ponticelli and Hans-Joachim Voth of Barcelona's Universitat Pompeu Fabra suggests he may have a point. They assemble[d] a data set of chaotic episodes in Europe between 1919 and 2009—a mix of protests, strikes, assassinations and attempted revolutions—and find a tight relationship between fiscal austerity and unrest. He concludes that episodes of instability occur twice as often when spending cuts reach 5% of GDP as when expenditure is rising. Such dangers are well appreciated in the emerging world, which has much greater experience of austerity. [And thus] Cuts have often been associated with civil violence. In a separate study of fiscal consolidation in Latin America between 1937 and 1995, Mr Voth pinpoints a tight link between fiscal consolidation and instability, across democracies and autocracies alike. Protests induced by austerity also attract far more participants than demonstrations sparked by other causes. In a sample of European protests from 1980 to 1995, austerity-focused protests attracted over 700,000 people on average, the authors find. Anti-war protests averaged just under 15,000 attendees.

**This cause can explain two recent civil unrests.**

**First Ferguson. Logan 15,**

Logan, Tim. "Ferguson's Mounting Racial and Economic Stress Set Stage for Turmoil." Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles Times, 16 Aug. 2014. Web. 07 July 2015.

The recession hurt, too. This part of the St. Louis region took the brunt of the foreclosure crisis, with subprime loans turning bad and investors scooping up cheap houses to rent. Auto plants that had sustained a black middle class shut down. **Since 2000, the median household income in Ferguson has fallen by 30% when adjusted for inflation, to about $36,000. In the census tract where Brown lived, median income is less than $27,000. Just half of the adults work**. The Rev. Steven Lawler, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ferguson, really saw the change in 2008, when visits to his food pantry soared. They haven't gone down since. It's a shortage of everything. It's a shortage of jobs. Of African Americans on the police force and in government. Of people not being able to get a good education. - Shermale Humphrey "I know there are places where an economic recovery's happening," he said. "But in the places where people are most stressed, there hasn't been a recovery."

**Second, Baltimore Democrat 15**

Democrat 15, [Democrat, Cool, (Journalist MSNBC), “The Economic Devastation Fueling The Anger In Baltimore | ThinkProgress, April 29, 2015

Freddie Gray grew up in a neighborhood particularly plagued by the problems that have long faced the city of Baltimore. In Sandtown­Winchester, more than half of the people between the ages of 16 and 64 are out of work and the unemployment rate is double that for the city at one in five. Median income is just $24,000 for a family of four, and nearly a third of families live in poverty. Meanwhile, somewhere between a quarter to a third of the buildings are vacant, compared to 5 percent in the city as a whole.

Thus, because of these economic hardship that is the clearest explanation for recent civil unrest meaning that the police can not be responsible as it would be ridiculous to tie economic hardship to the police.

**Contention 2: Protesters are responsible because of the recent escalation of conflict.**

While police can certainly be considered responsible for acts of racial injustice, they are not the primary drivers of civil unrest. Michael Snyder in May of this year explains that recent protests have turned to increasingly violent means, looting stores, harming property, and even maliciously targeting life. Snyder provides examples of this violence, citing events in Baltimore, Oregon, Seattle, New York, and South Carolina where the lives of community members and police officers were threatened, resulting in injury, hospitalization, and in some instances even fatal attacks. This leads to two impacts making protesters responsible. First, injuries of the police. In a report published today by the Wall Street Journal

Calvert 15, [Scott, Calvert (Journalist of the Wall Street Journalist) “Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts Dismissed”] July 8, 2015.

More than 130 officers were injured by bricks, rocks and other objects during the unrest on April 27 — which broke out hours after Gray's funeral. In May, Batts apologized to the city's officers, saying he put them in harm's way. Gray, 25, died April 19, one week after sustaining a severe spinal cord injury while in police custody. His death galvanized protesters from {in} Baltimore and beyond who said it was the latest example of an entrenched culture of police brutality in the city. After the protests turned destructive, hundreds of businesses were damaged as instances of looting and arson broke out across the city, particularly in West Baltimore.

Second, financial loss due to looting. Poppick 14 reports

Poppick 14, [Susie, Poppick "Can Ferguson Recover? The Lasting Economic Impact of Violent Unrest." Time. Time, 25 Nov. 2014. Web. 07 July 2015.]

A grand jury decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson for the shooting of unarmed black teen Michael Brown has stoked anger in Ferguson, Mo., where **peaceful protests have given way to looting and violence, virtually shutting down the city of Ferguson last night**. “People don’t want to come into the area,” Jason Bryant, a local pastor, told TIME. The events echo those in August, when the shooting first caused long-standing tensions to erupt into violence, theft — and shuttered storefronts. **TIME reported** last night **that local retailers have seen sales slow by as much as 80%**. **While the loss of local business may seem trivial next to the potential for additional violence** — not to mention the civil rights and other legal issues at stake — **there is a danger that rioting could disrupt the lives and livelihoods of Ferguson residents for years to come. In the ten years after the 1992 Los Angeles riots, for example, the city lost nearly $4 billion in taxable sales, according to research conducted by Victor Matheson of College of the Holy Cross and Robert Baade of Lake Forest College. “Social unrest can have a lasting negative impact on a local economy in a way that’s much more persistent than even a natural disaster**,” says Matheson. “Though Hurricane Andrew caused more damage upfront, businesses were able to bounce back as soon as cleanup began. We didn’t see that in Los Angeles.” Matheson and Baade found that the steps toward recovery are relatively clear after natural disasters: Communities tend to join together to build shelters, clean up, and storm-proof structures against future events. After rioting, by contrast, it’s much harder rebuild confidence and community trust among frightened business owners, or to convince new employers to move in. “It’s not as simple to just stamp out violence and anger,” Matheson says. And reluctance to rebuild is dangerous because it is self-perpetuating, he adds.Concerns about lasting damage to business-owner confidence similarly followed riots in London in 2011 (also triggered by a police shooting), and economic aftershocks are still felt today, despite the commitment of more than $116 million in riot-recovery funding.

And thus, because protesters are the ones actively engaging in looting they are responsible for the recent civil unrest.

# Neg Case 4

My partner and I strongly negate the Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary responsibility is defined as "the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something.” As well as define protesters as "A person who publicly demonstrates strong objection to something." And for this round we would like to define recent as any event in the past year.

Framework: Since the resolution states on balance if we can prove there is more blame  to be put on the protesters than the police or that there is equal blame between the two parties then we should win this round.

**Contention 1: Protesters are becoming more violent and causing severe property damage**

**Subpoint A: Baltimore**

According to the **Baltimore Sun** **on April 25th, 2015** A window at the Michael Kors store at the Gallery at HarborPlace was smashed by a trash can and some downtown restaurants were damaged, including Frank and Nic's, West End Grille, and Dempsey's Brew Pub & Restaurant at Camden Yards. Other damage included looting at the 7-Eleven at 301 N. Howard Street.**(Washington Post April 26th)** As of about 9 p.m., police said a dozen people had been arrested.Residents here shaken by violent protests over the death of a man in police custody awoke Sunday to sweep up shattered glass and board up broken windows, while authorities upped the count of those arrested to nearly three dozen. The impact of Saturday’s demonstrations was felt in both the sea of boarded, abandoned homes in West Baltimore and in the gleaming waterfront along the Inner Harbor, where protesters had vowed to shut down the city with the slogan “No business as usual.” Authorities said Sunday that 35 people had been arrested — 31 adults and four juveniles — on charges that included failure to disperse, rioting, assaulting police, burglary, theft and destruction of property. Police said two journalists who were “inadvertently detained” were freed without charges**(Biz Journals December 4th, 2014) (New York Daily News April 28th 2015)** Peaceful protests were held across the city throughout the day as residents did their best to clean up the destruction left after a tumultuous Monday night. More than 100 vehicles were destroyed, some 15 buildings were torched and more than 200 people were arrested overnight, police reported.The riots will cost the city at least $20 million.. This shows that not only are the protesters becoming more violent they are causing serious damages to the community.

**Subpoint B: Ferguson**

**(Alan Taylor The Atlantic)** In Ferguson, Missouri, where Officer Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown last August, demonstrations quickly turned violent, despite calls for peaceful protest from the Brown family and members of the community. Cars were smashed, stores looted, and at least a dozen buildings were set on fire, as a heavy police presence tried to establish order. Due to safety concerns including sporadic gunfire, firefighters were unable to respond quickly, and a number of businesses burned to the ground. As the night became early morning, arrests were made, streets were cleared and most fires were extinguished.The value of buildings in the Ferguson area that were destroyed in last week's riots amounts to nearly $4.6 million. In Ferguson alone, 17 businesses saw their buildings damaged so badly they are currently deemed "unsafe structures," according to a list provided by the city manager's office. Together, the Ferguson buildings have an appraised value of about $3 million, based on St. Louis County assessor records. The businesses destroyed include Little Caesar's Pizza and Hidden Treasures on North Florissant Road, and [McDonald's](http://www.bizjournals.com/profiles/company/us/il/oak_brook/mcdonald%27s_corporation/1324790), [Public Storage](http://www.bizjournals.com/profiles/company/us/ca/glendale/public_storage_inc/19637) and several others on West Florissant Avenue. Nearby Dellwood had eight buildings that burned completely, according to that city manager's office. The building values for those locations totaled about $1.6 million. Among them were the [AutoZone](http://www.bizjournals.com/profiles/company/us/tn/memphis/autozone_inc/1999919), [O'Reilly Auto Parts](http://www.bizjournals.com/profiles/company/us/mo/springfield/o%27reilly_auto_parts/2785120) and [Conoco](http://www.bizjournals.com/profiles/company/us/tx/houston/conocophillips/518625) Gas Station on West Florissant Avenue.

**Subpoint C: UC Berkley**

The demonstration Saturday night in the city away from the University of California, Berkeley campus started peacefully, but a group of protesters turned violent and threw bricks, wrenches and other items at police. It was the first serious reports of violence at these protests which have occurred nationally since the grand jury’s decision not to indict a NYC police officer in Garner’s death. (New York Daily News Joel Landau December 7th, 2014)

**Contention 2: The police are needed to keep the community safe**

The current national discussion about law enforcement is understandably focused on race, particularly the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police. It's a topic that can't be ignored, even during a time when we honor slain officers. However, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, a 45-year old man suffering from a traumatic brain injury became lost and disoriented. A deputy sheriff specially trained and equipped by Project Lifesaver located the man 1.5 miles from his home within 20 minutes. A traditional search normally would have involved the time and expense to taxpayers of up to 264 searchers and 924 man-hours.1 In another case, a 79-year-old man with Alzheimer’s disease left his house in Chesapeake, Virginia, driving his truck and could not find his way back home. After searching the neighborhood, a police helicopter was called in with a Project Lifesaver team and equipment. In just 35 minutes, the helicopter located the man via the signal transmitted from his bracelet. He was found 14 miles from his home. Before joining Project Lifesaver, the man had wandered off and was missing for 2½ days. This shows that while police do mess up sometimes they still do keep their community safe.

**Contention 3: There are alternate causes of civil unrest**

Police departments aren’t the only government departments with racial injustice. In fact, the legal and judicial system is historically accountable (**Professor David Card?)**for example  **(AUG 30, 2012 Inimai Chettiar)**We’ve presented [data](http://www.progressivestates.org/news/dispatch/racial-impact-statements-addressing-racial-disparities-in-criminal-justice-systems) pleading for reform to remove the chokehold of poverty-to-prison from our communities: people of color make up [30 percent](http://www.theroot.com/views/portrait-black-america-eve-2010-census) of the United States’ population, but account for [60 percent](http://www.sentencingproject.org/template/page.cfm?id=122) of those in prison; black defendants receive longer prison sentence than white defendants; black Americans are far more likely to be arrested than white people. Specifically in recent events courts have obscured evidence, unjustifiably demanded police presence at protests, and failed to equitably protect the community. These acts leads to civil unrest because the failure in indict officers which caused these protests to turn from peaceful to violent. Holding the police responsible shifts focus away from the root cause of injustice and fails to alleviate the burden felt by communities for the violent actions of protesters. This resoundingly shows that police are not more responsible for civil unrest.

And for these reasons my partner and I urge for a strong con ballet.

# Neg Case 5

My Partner and I stand in NEGATION of the topic, Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.

Definitions: On Balance: taking everything into account, Responsible: chargeable with being the author, cause, or occasion of something, Protest:an expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent, often in opposition to something a person is powerless to prevent or avoid, Protester: a person who publicly demonstrates strong objection to something; a demonstrator, Unjust:not based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair.

**Contention 1: Protesters choose to react to police action and cause civil unrest to do so.** We think that, while the actions of the police are what protesters are protesting, the protesters CHOSE to react to the actions of the police. Though protesters are reacting to police, they don’t have to be reacting.

Subpoint A: In the case of the death of Eric Garner. Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, and Michael Slager the police had done something unjust and the protesters had a right to protest. Because of them protesting that caused civil unrest and then caused the police to react violently which made the protesters react violently. These protesters reacted inappropriately to the police officers who had pulled guns on them in an attempt to dissuade protesters and restore normality to the community.

**Contention 2: The police are trying to protect and serve and the protesters are trying to disrupt the community.** The job of the police is to protect their community, and they are doing just that during events of civil unrest. It is their job to stop civil unrest and restore normal function to the community they are serving, and that is what they are doing. Regardless of how they do it, it is better than them not reacting and therefore not doing their jobs.

Subpoint A: The violent protests aren’t the most important protests. The protesters that erupted after the death of Eric Garner in NYC walked through Union Highway after the Rockefeller Christmas lighting event at 8:30 pm which made a lot of people not be able to get back to their homes, The bad thing was is that their encouraging more random people to protest. Whilst walking through the highways stopping copious amounts of cars some of the people in the cars actually supported the protests even though that they are the ones being

Subpoint B: What the protesters have done is incredibly disabling to the community, The protesters in Ferguson have burned down more than twelve buildings and most of them will have to be completely rebuilt. Two police cars were basically melted onto the road, In Baltimore and NYC have had 29.4+ million dollars according to John Clarke, Ian Simpson, and Nate Reymond.

### Cards

**Ferguson damage**

"’I know that there's at least a dozen buildings that have been set on fire,’ St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said at a press conference today. ‘Most of those are total losses. I know that I have two St. Louis County police cars that are basically melted on Florissant Road, just to the north of Suburban [Avenue].’”

**Murray, 2014** (Rheana, writer for ABC news, “A Look at the Destruction After Ferguson Riots”, ABC, 25 November)

**Reaction to lack of indictment**

“On the streets of the city, from Tompkinsville to Times Square, many expressed their outrage with some of the last words Mr. Garner uttered before being wrestled to the ground: “This stops today,” people chanted. “I can’t breathe,” others shouted.

While hundreds of angry but generally peaceful demonstrators took to the streets in Manhattan as well as in Washington and other cities, the police in New York reported relatively few arrests, a stark contrast to the riots that unfolded in Ferguson in the hours after the grand jury decision was announced in the Brown case.”

**Goodman and Baker, 2014** (J. David and Al, reporters for the *New York Times*, “Wave of Protests After Grand Jury Doesn’t Indict Officer in Eric Garner Chokehold Case”, *New York Times*, 3 December)

**Reaction to Wilson decision**

“In Richmond, students from Virginia Commonwealth University, joined by students at Virginia Union University, started marching around 11 p.m. Monday night, chanting "No justice, no peace," and singing "Amazing Grace," CBS News 6 reported.

At Ohio University, about 100 students gathered in the student center and refused to leave at midnight (when the center closes), saying that they were occupying the building to protest the failure to indict the police officer who shot Brown, *The Columbus Dispatch* reported. University staffers, after trying without success to get the students to leave, said that they could stay.”

**Jaschik, 2014** (Scott, reporter for *Inside Higher Ed,* “Students Protest Over Ferguson, *Inside Higher Ed*, 25 November)

“The group walked slowly north, weaving through taxis and cars all at a dead stop. Some drivers were unimpressed, but others were giving out high fives, taking photos and honking horns.”

**Caulderwood, 2014** (Kathleen, Writer for the *International Business Times*, “Eric Garner Protesters Shut Down West Side Highway In New York City”, *International Business Times*, December 4, 2014)

# Neg Case 6

Neg

Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protester for recent civil unrest in the US

Definitions:

Civil Unrest- “Civil unrest involves is a disruption of the typical social order; it can involve a strike or protest, and it can be peaceful or involve violence.” - Sternheimer 12

Responsible- “Liable to be called to account as the primary cause, motive, or agent <a committee responsible for the job> (2) being the cause or explanation” – Webster 15

Contention 1: Protesters use excessive violence

While police can certainly be considered responsible for acts of racial injustice, they are not the primary drivers of civil unrest.

Michael Snyder in May of this year explains that

recent protests have turned to increasingly violent means, looting stores, harming property, and even maliciously targeting life. Snyder provides examples of this violence, citing events in Baltimore, Oregon, Seattle, New York, and South Carolina where the lives of community members and police officers were threatened, resulting in injury, hospitalization, and in some instances even fatal attacks.

Michelle Maiese in 2004 describes

as fundamental to social stability and peace. Ultimately, recent actions by protesters employ means of excessive violence that delay solutions to the problem and only promote greater unrest that risks the stability and well-being of the entire nation.

Contention Two: Social Media indicates Protesters are more responsible

Throughout the last year social media platforms, such as twitter, tumblr, and facebook have been utilized to convey outrage over police actions and bring groups of protesters together.

Professor Tucker in 2014 explains that

social media plays a significant role in garnering support and involvement in protests as it creates a rapid exchange of information. These platforms have in turn served as primary drivers of civil unrest as they bring massive groups of people together and incite outrage and violent action.

Mark Trujillo in 2014 explains that

these conditions play a major role in stoking tension and igniting nation-wide protests that frequently turn violent. He specifically highlights how just a few hours after the St Louis prosecutor’s decision regarding Officer Wilson received more than 3.5million tweets and ignited nation-wide protests.

Justin Fenton and Erica Green in April of this year add that

in Baltimore it was social media that brought rioters and looters to the street, spurring on violence and unrest across the city. In light of the role of social media in fanning the flames of tension and aggression, it becomes clear that unrest is largely caused by this use of social media, which in turn indicates that protesters are more responsible than police in recent showings of violence.

# Neg Case 7

We are proud to NEGATE the resolution resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.

We provide the following definitions for clarity in today’s round:

**Civil Unrest**: This refers to disruptions to a community’s or country’s typical way of life, including rioting and looting (Wolfe 09)

**Responsible**: being the source or cause

**Protesters:** To participate in a public demonstration in opposition to something

**Framework:** Today if the Con can prove to you that the protesters are equally as responsible or more responsible than police for the civil unrest in the United States then you will be voting for the Con.

**Contention 1: Paid Protesting**

Many protesters were not protesting against or for the police. Most of these protesters were just protesting because of financial incentive. These protesters were generating their own spark from George Soros, a liberal billionaire, who paid protesters to take part in these protests. According to the Riddell in 2015 with the Washington Times, “In all, Mr. Soros gave at least $33 million in one year to support already-established groups that emboldened the grass-roots, on-the-ground activists in Ferguson.” The title of the article tells us that he did this to attempt to spur civil action. This directly shows how the responsibility of this civil unrests falls on the incentivized protesters, because they were paid to go create civil unrest. However these paid protests aren’t limited to Ferguson. According to Herridge in 2015, “While further analysis is being conducted on the data, it suggests the presence of "professional protesters" or anarchists taking advantage of Freddie Gray's death to incite more violence.” This evidence shows us that these paid protesters and anarchists only have intention of inciting more violence, and not protesting against the police. This would show that the responsibility for the civil unrest falls directly on the protesters, and not the police.

The impact of this is that the protesters were the direct cause of the rioting from their monetary incentive. This shows how in no way the police could be responsible for these protests, and you ought to vote con on this point alone.

**Contention 2: Bandwagon Rioting**

In the midst of peaceful protests which occurred in Ferguson and Baltimore, Tammerlin in 14 writes that “people whose anger has nothing to do with the killing use the occasion as an opportunity to unleash their own pent-up rage. Opportunists bust store windows and loot. An already tense situation escalates -- endangering more lives.” This proves that the protesters are not responding to anything that the police did but rather creating civil unrests on their own. They protest and riot simply for the sake of protesting and rioting. Now, there are two kinds of bandwagon protesting, first is the protesting that occurs from people just joining in for the sake of exacerbating chaos. And second is the protesting that occurs because people are joining in support of the protesters movement. Madhandi in 2014 says that others have been inspired by the Ferguson protests and are looking to shed light on issues of importance to Americans. Protests broke out in a number of U.S. cities following the decision on Monday by a grand jury not to indict Darren Wilson. However, marches and rallies had been planned in many of the nation’s largest cities, from New York to Chicago to Houston, regardless of the jury’s finding.

These were in response to the protests happening in Ferguson, Baltimore, and New York City. The Associated Press says that there were response protests in 27 cities nationwide.

### Cards

Contention 1

Herridge 2015: Professional Protesters

Catherine Herridge, 4-28-2015, "Social media analysis suggests links between Baltimore and Ferguson violence," Fox News, http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2015/04/28/social-media-analysis-suggests-links-between-baltimore-and-ferguson-violence/

The firm, which asked to remain anonymous because of its government work, found between 20 and 50 social media accounts in Baltimore that were also tied to the peak period of violence in Ferguson. While further analysis is being conducted on the data, it suggests the presence of "professional protesters" or anarchists taking advantage of Freddie Gray's death to incite more violence.

Gray, 25, died April 18, a week after being injured while in police custody. A wave of violence erupted in Baltimore following his funeral Monday.

Riddell 2015- George Soros Paid protesters

 Mike Palmer, Stansberry Research, 6-23-2015, "PSI $5 Book\_NewTaxLaw With Bankruptcy ADV\_AOL-A4D," Crux, http://thecrux.com/dyncontent/load4\_psi-5-book\_newtaxlaw-with-bankruptcy/?cid=MKT057534&eid=MKT086076&snaid=&step=start&affId=455058&s1=429173569

[Mr. Soros](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/george-soros/) spurred the [Ferguson](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/ferguson/) protest movement through years of funding and mobilizing groups across the U.S., according to interviews with key players and financial records reviewed by The Washington Times.

In all, [Mr. Soros](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/george-soros/) gave at least $33 million in one year to support already-established groups that emboldened the grass-roots, on-the-ground activists in [Ferguson](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/ferguson/), according to the most recent tax filings of his nonprofit [Open Society](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/open-society/) Foundations.

The financial tether from [Mr. Soros](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/george-soros/) to the activist groups gave rise to a combustible protest movement that transformed a one-day criminal event in Missouri into a 24-hour-a-day national cause celebre.

Contention 2

Tammerlin 2014: Protesting to let out anger

Tammerlin, Drummond: Oakland Tribune Columnist, 8-20-2014, "Drummond:

Ferguson deja-vu for Oakland," ContraCostaTimes, http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\_26374423/drummond-ferguson-deja-vu-oakland

A white police officer shoots and kills a young unarmed African-American man. Angry protesters fill the streets. By day, the crowds demanding justice are peaceful. Once the skies darken, violence breaks out. People whose anger has nothing to do with the killing use the occasion as an opportunity to unleash their own pent-up rage. They throw rocks, bottles of urine and feces at the police. Opportunists bust store windows and loot. An already tense situation escalates -- endangering more lives. The media coverage focuses on the rioting, which pulls focus from the victim and the ongoing larger issue of police brutality against African-Americans.

Madhani 2014: explains that many protesting movements have come from the riots in Ferguson, not from the police.

Madhani, Aamer, December 8 2014, Ferguson has become a springboard for many movements, USA Today, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/12/05/ferguson-protests-broaden-occupy-wall-street/19917015/>

From Washington, D.C. to Portland, Ore., demonstrators are increasingly connecting their outrage over the grand jury decisions in the Brown and Garner cases with calls for government action to eradicate poverty, overhaul the public education system, end corporate welfare and overhaul American consumer culture. Problems of police brutality and racial profiling are closely tied to ongoing crises of education, healthcare and unemployment in the African-American community, says Brittany Packnett, executive director of Teach For America-St. Louis and a member of Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's Ferguson Commission. "'Ferguson has laid bare many systematic injustices that are present in urban communities of color and in suburbs," she said. "Across the country, we know that low income people and people of color suffer disproportionately from certain injustices and that most of those injustices are highly interconnected." Activists who have been at the center of the movement in Ferguson say it's an important signal that others have been inspired by the Ferguson protests and are looking to shed light on issues of importance to Americans. But some Ferguson activists say they are also mindful that tying too many different messages to the Michael Brown cause could diminish their movement's central goals.

Mcwhirter 2014: finds that the Ferguson protests have spread far across America.

Mcwhirter, Cameron, November 25 2014, Protesters Turn Out in U.S. Cities Following Ferguson Decision, Wall Street Journal, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-cities-prepare-for-reaction-to-ferguson-grand-jury-decision-1416874256>

Protests broke out in a number of U.S. cities following the decision on Monday by a grand jury not to indict [Darren Wilson] a Ferguson, Mo., police officer in the shooting death of a black teenager. Marches and rallies had been planned in many of the nation’s largest cities, from New York to Chicago to Houston, regardless of the jury’s finding. In New York, hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Union Square in Manhattan. When the grand jury decision was announced, word quickly spread through the crowd. In a few minutes, most were holding one fist up in the air as they observed a moment of silence that lasted nearly five minutes.

Payne and Ellis 2015: Protesters across US

Ed Payne and Ralph Ellis, Cnn, 4-29-2015, "Marchers support Baltimore

protesters across U.S.," CNN, http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/29/us/nationwide-freddie-gray-protests/

Denver police report nine arrests in Wednesday's demonstrations. The charges include assault of a police officer, robbery, resisting police, disobedience to lawful orders, obstructing roadways, and interference. [Previous story, posted at 10:54 p.m. ET] (CNN) -- In cities across the United States, marchers took to the streets to show support for protesters in Baltimore and to complain about police violence in their own towns. On Wednesday night, several hundred people streamed into Union Square for an "NYC Rise Up & Shut It Down With Baltimore" rally. Protesters headed west on 17th Street and were met by New York City Police officers who pushed them back. A small scuffle broke out between the two front lines and police placed at least 20 people in zip ties in the street. The NYPD also handed out fliers and used loudspeakers to tell protesters and pedestrians to stay on the sidewalk. One person was placed in ambulance and taken away. The crowd headed toward Times Square. A law enforcement source told CNN that more than 60 people were arrested during the demonstrations. The rally was organized through social media, much like protests over the killing of Eric Garner, who died while police held him in what appeared to be a chokehold. The demonstrators chanted "Black Lives Matter" and "Justice for Freddie Gray" -- the Baltimore man whose death sparked street confrontations in Baltimore.

Associated Press 2014: 27 cities nationwide respond with protests

Associated Press, 12-10-2014, "As California police protesters block traffic, organizers try to

shut down Oakland federal building," AL, http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2014/12/as\_california\_police\_protester.html

BERKELEY, California -- Hundreds of protesters angered at the killing of unarmed black men by white police officers marched through downtown Berkeley streets for a fourth straight night, briefly blocking traffic on a highway and delaying metro and train services. A demonstration Wednesday produced fewer fireworks. About 50 people tried to shut down a federal building in Oakland, where they chanted "white silence equals violence -- black lives matter." Protesters blocked the front and back entrances to the building, but employees entered through side entrances. No arrests were reported at the peaceful demonstration. "As white people, we are outraged by the constant and ongoing violations against black people's lives from Ferguson to Oakland to San Francisco to Cleveland to Staten Island," said Jason Wallach of Showing Up for Racial Justice. Organizers said the "act of civil disobedience" will happen in at least 27 cities nationwide.

### Answers

#### AT: Racial Bias

We won’t deny that Racial Bias is an issue that needs to be fixed. However, the first reason you won’t be buying this argument is that the topic we are debating today deals with Civil Unrest and whether or not the police are responsible for it. Second, even if this was a debate about Racial Bias, those things are institutional issues that are not the fault of the Police. Third, even if you don’t buy that argument, in the statistics that they read about warrants being issued and cases being dismissed, those are both actions taken by judges who are not the police and are in a different branch of government. Finally, the 4th reason you shouldn’t accept their argument is that in the stats that the Pro read about use of force and Canine bites, these are already parts of the status quo and the norms of the cities in which they happen. As unfortunate as it is, this isn’t something that sparked the civil unrest because they are in the status quo and these protests are not norms of the cities.

#### AT: Impact

The pro wants you to believe that it was the racially biased acts of the police that sparked the civil unrest. However, like we said earlier, these things such as force uses and dog bites were already in the status quo and the other stats they read weren’t even the police’s actions. People don’t normally protest which means that these biases weren’t the cause of the civil unrest.

#### AT: Militarization

The protesters in Ferguson, Baltimore, and New York had all started out with peaceful protests. Then, as they were started to be dealt with by the police, the protesters escalated the conflicts by now turning the protests into more of a fight than a protest. They did this by meeting in groups before the protests and arming themselves with bricks and rocks. Tucker in 14 says that Social Media drives civil unrest by bringing groups of people together. He goes on to say that groups of protesters were using social media to plan meetings before the protests themselves. After the point where the protesters escalated the situation, the police may or may not have handled things correctly. However, because of our definition of the range of Civil Unrest from peace towards violence and responsibility which also includes continuing the civil unrest and making it worse, the protesters are responsible. Even if you don’t buy that argument, the police may have caused the protests, but the protesters caused the Civil Unrest. The definition of militarization from freedictionary.com is to equip and train for war. Two things with that, the Pro wouldn’t be worried about them having arms if we were in a war versus a riot and second, the police didn’t receive the training they needed because they didn’t have time. What has been happening is resupplying… Not militarization. Our Regnery in 14 card says exactly that the police need the supplies in order that they don’t run out in the middle of the ordeal. The final reason you will reject this argument is because all that the Aff is saying to you is the police get weapons and supplies, and then they use it and they talk about swat raids increasing. They put this into no timeframe or context with the civil unrest and haven’t talked about the police using them in the riots. How do we know that “them using the things they receive doesn’t mean one time” or how do we know that crime is going up and they need swat teams more often.

Militarization programs are helping

#### AT: Impact

The Pro said very specifically that the police were threatening people unnecessarily; however, in the case when the protesters are attacking the police with bricks and rocks, they need to take some defensive action and protect themselves meaning that the police were not unnecessarily threatening people. Second, they have not told you of a single incident where someone was accidentally shot. We have to keep in mind that the police officers spend years training to be where they are and the swat teams train even more. Because of these two things, their impact does not hold any weight in today’s round. The third reason you should not buy into their impact is because in the midst of an ongoing riot, the police will need supplies and they have been getting them from the pentagon. Again, this is resupplying. During an ongoing riot like the civil unrest we are talking about, the police will need extra supplies to be readily available. The pentagon can supply those arms for them very quickly.

#### Conkey 2015- Police access to military equipment and training is not a form of militarization, rather a necessity to ensure officers can adequately protect communities and themselves while facing the challenges of unlawful activity

Conkey 2015 [Allan Conkey, Professor of Criminal Justice at the American Military University, “Police Militarization: Reality, Hype, or Natural Evolution” February 9, 2015, http://inpublicsafety.com/2015/02/police-militarization-reality-hype-or-natural-evolution/]

Such police-involved incidents are not in themselves evidence that police are or are not becoming militarized. The term “militarization” is often confused with advances in equipment and techniques based on a changing world (versus true militarization). A police force benefitting from military equipment and training is not necessarily a bad thing.¶ Weighing the Evidence¶ Some coverage and commentary on the NYPD choking incident involving Eric Garner, seemed to imply that chokeholds are reserved for use in the armed forces and an officer applying one is somehow proof of growing militarization within law enforcement. Yet, at best, one might argue it is a shared tactic that is not new to law enforcement. Former NYC Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly severely limited the use of chokeholds back in 1995 (some might say it was banned except for extreme circumstances such as when an officer’s safety is in jeopardy).¶ If such tactics are not in themselves proof of a growing police militarization epidemic then what about reports of police departments inheriting surplus equipment such as armored personnel carriers?¶ Let us first answer a question with a question: Should U.S. law enforcement today still use single-shot weapons just as their earlier counterparts did? Of course not. This attempt at humor is an effort to highlight just how ridiculous such a notion would be.¶ Keeping Up in a Changing World¶The reality is that times have changed and these changes include weaponry, tactics, body armor, and other equipment. Criminals today have benefitted from those changes, too.¶To understand why police must enhance weaponry and tactics one only needs to consider recent incidents such as the terrorist attacks in Paris, France, or past events such as the 1997 North Hollywood Bank of America robbery where assailants were heavily armed with assault weapons and protected by bullet-proof armor. During the latter incident, two bank robbers were initially countered by first responders equipped with small arms.¶What happens when a criminal armed with automatic assault weapons and full-body armor takes on first responders with 38s and other small arms? The answer can sadly be seen in the initial outcome of the 1997 bank event: 11 officers and seven innocent bystanders were shot and injured. Only after SWAT arrived with AR-15s and an armored vehicle (yes an armored vehicle…go figure) was that situation contained and the robbers killed.¶Ultimately, this incident was a catalyst for a number of changes within the LAPD, such as better armor for officers and vehicles as well as greater accessibility to assault weapons. While some might argue to the contrary, such changes in themselves do not result in confirmation that police militarization has somehow occurred. Rather, such changes equate only to the very necessary natural evolution within law enforcement to counter the reality of the changing world and the criminal threat.¶The Graying Line Between Police and Military¶I am not saying that the line between civilian law enforcement and the military has not grayed to some degree in the past few decades. But such graying is based more on the reality of changing equipment, improved technology, and the post-9/11 world, which requires law enforcement and the military to build mutual working relationships and, where applicable, for civilian law enforcement to benefit from changes in technology and tactics from the military.¶While no one should be advocating for civilian law enforcement to become the military (each has their specific and very important roles), the opposite also holds significant weight. That is, law enforcement has a sacred duty to be capable and prepared to protect the communities they serve.¶For law enforcement not to benefit from military training and advanced technology would seem, at best, to be a mistake and, at worst, simply turning a blind eye to both history and the world we live in.

#### AT: Thomas 9/Obligation to Protest

The Thomas in 9 Card that my opponents read says that people have an obligation to protest injustice. However, it does not say that using violent methods is the way to go about it which is wha t is happening in the civil unrest. They don’t have an obligation to commit their own injustices.

Protesting for the sake of protesting not to speak against the injustice

Paid to protest – George Soros

Why not adjusting policies and taking other action in order to resolve the obligation of the people

#### AT: Police are in a position of power

Not all cops – a few bad applies

Citizens have obligation to be peaceful

Two wrongs don’t make a right

#### AT: Police not held accountable

If we look to Baltimore, we can see that the police who allegedly killed Freddie Gray have been held accountable for their actions and indicted.  However, the lack of indictments were clearly not the source of the civil unrest which is proven by the fact that just because police are indicted, doesn’t mean that the protesting will stop.  In Baltimore, even after the police were indicted, the protests continued.  Therefore, the police being held accountable is not stopping the civil unrest.  And the reason that people are protesting is not to keep the police accountable but to speak out against their injustices.  Even then, in Ferguson, the protesting begun before the grand jury had even released their verdict on whether or not to indict officer Wilson.

**Japan Times 2015: Protest after Indictment**

Baltimore, 5-2-2015, "Baltimore protests continue after six police are charged in death of African-American man," Japan Times, http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/05/02/world/crime-legal-world/thousands-seek-justice-baltimore-six-police-charged-death-african-american-man/#.VZ7ljvlVikr

BALTIMORE – Numerous protesters were arrested for defying a curfew in Baltimore on Friday night, hours after six police were charged over the death of an African-American man whose spine was snapped while in custody.

Thousands of demonstrators had hit the street earlier in the day, despite the charges against the six officers.

The charges — ranging from second-degree murder and manslaughter to misconduct — were set out in a surprise announcement by Maryland state prosecutor Marilyn Mosby.

All six officers — three of them black and three white — were taken into custody and later posted bond, reports said.

**Tammerlin 2014: Protests before indictment review in Ferguson**

Tammerlin, Drummond: Oakland Tribune Columnist, 8-20-2014, "Drummond:

Ferguson deja-vu for Oakland," ContraCostaTimes, http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\_26374423/drummond-ferguson-deja-vu-oakland

A white police officer shoots and kills a young unarmed African-American man. Angry protesters fill the streets. By day, the crowds demanding justice are peaceful. Once the skies darken, violence breaks out. People whose anger has nothing to do with the killing use the occasion as an opportunity to unleash their own pent-up rage. They throw rocks, bottles of urine and feces at the police. Opportunists bust store windows and loot. An already tense situation escalates -- endangering more lives. The media coverage focuses on the rioting, which pulls focus from the victim and the ongoing larger issue of police brutality against African-Americans.

# Neg Case 8

Brittney Morrill & Shaylyn Goodro Negation of Civil Unrest Case

My partner and I stand in the firmest **Negation** of the resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protestors for the recent civil unrests in the United States.

The Framework for the following round is that the Affirmation will have to prove that on balance the police are more responsible for civil unrest.

For clarification of the following round we have provided these definitions:

**RESPONSIBLE:** morally accountable for ones behavior (Google Scholar)

**ON BALANCE:**  Picture a scale

**CIVIL UNREST:**  involves a disruption of the typical social order; it can involve a strike or protest, and it can be peaceful or involve violence. Both riots and rebellions are forms of **civil unrest**. From Dr. Steiner, from everyday sociology.

<http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2012/05/civil-unrest-riots-and-rebellions-whats-the-difference.html>

From <<https://www.google.com/search?q=definition+of+civil+unrest&oq=definition+of+civil+unrest&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.6381j0j7&sourceid=chrome&es_sm=93&ie=UTF-8>>

**PROTESTORS:** To participate in a public demonstration in opposition to (something)From <<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/protester>>

**Our 2 Contentions are:**

**C1- Social Media Indicates Protestors Are More Responsible**

**C2- Police Are Not Solely Responsible For Racial Injustice but more for safety**

Contention 1: Social Media Indicates Protestors Are More Responsible

Throughout the last year social media platforms, such as Twitter, Tumblr, and Facebook have been utilized to convey outrage over police actions and bring groups of protestors together. PROFESSOR TUCKER IN 2014 EXPLAINS that social media plays a significant role in gathering support and involvement in protest as it creates a rapid exchange of information. These platforms have in turn served as primary drivers of civil unrests as they bring massive groups of people together and incite outrage and violent action. MARK TRUJILLO IN 2014 EXPLAINS that these conditions play a major rule in stroking tension and igniting nation-wide protests that frequently turn violent. He specifically highlights how just a few hours after the St. Louis prosecutor's decision regarding Officer Wilson received more than 3.5 million tweets and ignited nation-wide protests. JUSTIN FENTON AND ERICA GREEN IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR ADD that in Baltimore it was social media that brought rioters and looters to the street, spurring on violence and unrest across the city. In the light of the role of social media in fanning the flames of tension and aggression, it becomes clear that unrest is largely caused by this use of social media, which in turn indicates that protesters are more responsible than police in recent showings of violence.

Contention 2: Police ARE NOT solely Responsible For Racial Injustice but More for Safety

In Fact, Legal and Judicial systems are historically accountable for these injustices. In recent events such as THE BROWN CASE; THE COURTS have obscured evidence. Police are being demanded for these violent protests, they aren't choosing to be there. In the Pre-amble of the Constitution in The United States it states; We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves.

(Definition of DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY: The concept of insuring domestic tranquility comes from the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. It means that the Federal Government owes a duty to maintenance law and peace within the country with the help of the executive branch. It aims at avoiding chaos and rebellion against the public and helps preserve family life and its attendant rights. Police, Fire department, the FBI, hospital, doctors office, and the three branches of government, they all keep us safe, so no soldiers or anyone one can come in our houses and take and look at personal belongings.) ONE OF THE " AIMS OF GOVERNMENT STATED IN THE PREABLE IS RELEAVNT TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE, INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILTY- CREATS THE MEANS TO SUPREASS RIOTS, PREVENT CRIME, AND SECURE PUBLIC SAFTEY OR ORDER." Since this country began, it has been written that police must come in when there are civil unrest to help protect the community. The root cause for the recent civil unrests are in fact the courts. Most of these violent protests have occurred right after the judges ruling. The following evidence is provided by the New York Times; the evidence states: decision set off a new wave of anger among hundreds who had gathered outside the Ferguson Police Department. One woman said. In downtown Ferguson, the sound of breaking glass could be heard as crowds ran through the streets. As the night went on, the situation grew more intense and chaotic in several locations around the region. Bottles and rocks were thrown at officers, and windows of businesses were smashed. Several police cars were burned; buildings, including a Walgreens, a meat market and a storage facility, were on fire, and looting was reported in several businesses. In St. Louis, protesters swarmed Interstate 44 and blocked all traffic. This Block on the interstate by the protestors is another example of civil unrest.

Overall, the actions of protesters escalate tension into conflict, aggression and unrest that necessitate a dramatic police response in order to protect the lives and property of society as a whole. Therefore, while in some cases the actions of police may act as a trigger or catalyst for thee gathering of protesters, Police cannot be considered responsible for recent unrest as it is the protesters themselves that do the greatest damage to the community.

Possibility of adding third contention during season.

Contention 3: Protestors directly cause civil unrest. ARE at fault for effect of civil unrest on Society (?Protestors are Direct Cause of Social Unrest in Todays Society?)

No matter what, PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY have a responsibility to be a law abiding citizen. NO MATTER what other actions or events may be going on around them.

-KEY ISSUE is protestors this is a reason to vote towards negation because it is the protestors action that is causing the RECENT civil unrest.

-Protesters have more long term harm on society - relationship between cops and protestors

\*damages they have caused, $ being wasted on trying to fix what they are destroying

-Examples of protestors throwing things at cops and all that stuff

-looters (George Soros paid people to protest then their actions were violent)

-no obligation to be violent, other methods to voice opinions.

Overall, the actions of protesters escalate tension into conflict, aggression and unrest that necessitate a dramatic police response in order to protect the lives and property of society as a whole. Therefore, while in some cases the actions of police may act as a trigger or catalyst for thee gathering of protesters, Police cannot be considered responsible for recent unrest as it is the protesters themselves that do the greatest damage to the community.

# Neg Case 9

My partner and I stand in the strongest negation of the resolution.

Resolved: On balance police are more responsible than protestors for the recent civil unrest within the united states.

We would like to start by offering the following definitions:

**Civil Unrest:** civil unrest involves a disruption of the typical social order; it can involve a strike or protest, and it can be peaceful or involve violence. Both riots and rebellions are forms of civil unrest. ( Sternheimer, 2012)

**Police:** an organized civil force for maintaining order, preventing and detecting crime, and enforcing the laws. ( Dictionary.com 2015 )

**Protestors: “**A person who publicly demonstrates strong objection to something” - Oxford Dictionary, 2015

**Contention one : Institutional Status Quo**

Ferguson was simply a tipping point against racial injustice **James Wertsch reports in 2014, that**

The death of Mr Brown was, of course, shocking and newsworthy but, unfortunately, in America it was not all that unusual. **ProPublica, for example, reports that from 2010 to 2012, police shot and killed 1,217 people in the United States. Among these, young black males were 21 times more likely to be killed than their white counterparts. For many years, however, episodes such as the one in Ferguson have not raised major public outcries.** So what is it that makes this one different' For starters, in contrast to other cases, where public uproar quickly died down, the demonstrations that started in August continued for months and flared up again with the decision last month not to bring criminal charges against Mr Wilson. The makeup of the protesters has been noteworthy. Local African Americans have been in the lead, but whites and other racial and ethnic groups have consistently shown up and continued to speak out. Groups from other regions have joined in the protest, travelling to Ferguson or organising demonstrations in other cities. **These facts suggest that the protests in Ferguson may be about something larger than the death of a particular black man. Specifically, they point to a "tipping point" in America's debate over race and civil rights.** Social scientists describe tipping points as sudden, unanticipated changes in attitudes and social behaviour such as those that can be found in fashion, the unexpected rise of an obscure book to be a bestseller, or an abrupt switch in public acceptance of cigarette smoking. **The interpretation of Ferguson as a tipping point is reinforced by the fact that related demonstrations have broken out over the death of another unarmed African American, Mr Eric Garner, at the hands of a white police officer in New York. The deaths of Mr Brown and Mr Garner, along with the refusal to indict the police officers in both cases, would usually have received little sustained attention.** What seems to be emerging is a new age of civil rights struggle - what might be called Civil Rights 2.0. It has certain parallels with what went on in the 1950s and 1960s, but there are major differences. Compared to today's struggle, the injustices addressed by Martin Luther King and others in the first civil rights movement were relatively easy to identify: Laws that prevented African Americans from voting and relegated them to segregated schools and universities, systematic violence and intimidation by racist groups, and legal exclusion of blacks from restaurants, hotels and public transportation. The victories over these injustices made America a much better place, but today's protests suggest America is still far from transcending the legacy of what Abraham Lincoln in 1860 called the "great moral wrong" of slavery. This is nowhere more in evidence than in the treatment of young black men in the criminal justice system today. Disproportionate numbers are killed by police or imprisoned, and this cannot be dismissed as reflecting higher levels of criminal behaviour. **Instead, evidence points to patterns of unwarranted discrimination against African Americans by police and the court system. While driving, for example, they are routinely stopped and searched by police more often than others, and they are also systematically sentenced to longer prison terms than whites for the same crimes. The racism that affects these young black men is reproduced through seemingly impersonal everyday practices, including the "institutional racism" of the legal system.** In any particular confrontation, such as the one between Mr Brown and Mr Wilson or between Mr Wilson and the legal system, the dynamics of injustice can be hard to identify because they are veiled by impersonal institutional procedures. The result, as some pundits have quipped, is that there is racism but no racists in America. In the Ferguson case, for example, institutional racism appears to have shaped the grand jury decision not to indict Mr Wilson on criminal charges related to the Aug 9 shooting. Grand jury

The impact here is that so many deaths caused by the police have gone unnoticed by protesters for years. Thus, the choice to protest in Ferguson, Baltimore, and New York, among other places, is a grassroots movement brought on entirely by protesters, as the police are defending a status quo.

**C2: Protester Impact**

**A: Protests**

**Tagline: Police undergo acts of transparency after recent protest in Ferguson.**

**Oritz, Fiona. "Police Chiefs Pledge More Transparency after Ferguson." Reuters. N.p., 17 Sept. 2014. Web. 11 July 2015.**

**Protests over the Ferguson shooting** were fed by anger that the police withheld information about the officer involved and details of the incident. The chiefs said that they had to **lead a cultural shift in policing** - emphasizing the importance of de-escalating potentially violent situations - that is often resisted by the rank and file who fear appearing soft on crime. The forum that organized the Chicago meeting does not produce binding policy, but **police departments have adopted its recommendations on the use of Tasers and body cameras.** There are risks in giving out information quickly, the chiefs said, such as tainting a grand jury, and police must be careful to note they are offering preliminary findings that may change as new details emerge.**The chiefs said that even though a police shooting might be ruled justifiable under law, they had to hold officers to higher moral and ethical standards to satisfy the community.** "All it takes is one that doesn't do the right thing, and we need to step up and separate that officer from employment and pursue criminal charges. We had a frank discussion about the leadership it takes to do that," said Brown.

Tagline: An example in which police reform benefits society.

Semuels, Alana. "How to Fix a Broken Police Department." *The Atlantic*. Atlantic Media Company, 28 May 2015. Web. 11 July 2015. <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/05/cincinnati-police-reform/393797/>.

CINCINNATI—Citizens were throwing stones and beer bottles at police officers in front of City Hall, and Maris Herold didn’t understand what they wanted. Maris HeroldShe was a police officer herself, and knew that her department had made some missteps. Most recently, an officer gunned down a 19-year-old unarmed black man, mothy Thomas—the fifteenth black man to die at the hands of police in five years. But, Herold knew, the police were investigating the incident. They were listening to the community. They were working 12-hour shifts to protect the city from looting and fires, though the disturbance would soon turn into the worst riots in the U.S. in a decade.

“I was like, ‘We’re doing everything right, obviously the police officers made mistakes and we’re trying to get to the bottom of it,’” she told me recently. Herold, who joined the police force after a career in social work, couldn’t understand what more the police could do to make amends with the community.

That was in 2001. “In the police department, we thought we had great relationships with the majority of our communities,” Tom Streicher, who was police chief from 1999 to 2011, told me. “The reality was that we found out we had superficial relationships.”

Herold now sees how little she understood about policing, transparency, and the community back then. She’s now a District Commander in the Cincinnati Police Department, where more than a decade of negotiations have led to significant reforms. Herold believes that the changes made in the department are the best way to guarantee a good relationship between a city and its police force. “I had all of these things running through my mind, but I had only half the picture at that point,” she told me. It took a long time for Cincinnati police to get the other half of the picture. The public commitment to reform came in the immediate aftermath of the riots, but five years elapsed before the police started making meaningful changes. Though they were required by the Justice Department to reform their procedures, police still chafed at being told to fix a problem they didn’t think existed. Even now, police reform in Cincinnati remains a delicate issue. The various stakeholders, including the African American community, elected officials, civil-rights lawyers and law-enforcement leaders, constantly discuss and evaluate their progress. As part of the reforms, police agreed to adopt a strategy that required them to interact frequently with members of the community, and continually re-affirmed their commitment to that strategy.

The city that once served as a prime example of broken policing now stands as a model of effective reform. Cincinnati’s lessons seem newly relevant as officials [call for police reform](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/05/the-limits-of-police-reform/393530/) in the aftermath of the deaths of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Michael Brown in Ferguson and Tamir Rice in Cleveland. Indeed, the recently released [report](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/TaskForce_FinalReport.pdf) from President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing recommends that departments adopt some of the strategies used by Cincinnati. A [task force](http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/otfcpr/links/ohtfcpr_final_report.pdf) convened by Ohio Governor John Kasich cited Cincinnati as a model for community-oriented policing and recommended that other law-enforcement agencies in that state develop similar reforms.

And on Tuesday, when the Justice Department and the city of Cleveland announced they’d entered into an agreement over how to resolve policing problems, their consent decree looked very similar to what had been drawn up in Cincinnati. Both documents stress the need for deep community involvement in policing as part of the reforms.

“The central component is the community policing,” Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams said at a news conference Tuesday. “If we don’t ensure that our officers and our community have a better relationship, then a lot of what we’re trying to implement now in terms of this agreement is going to be hard to do.”

But the lessons of Cincinnati are complicated. Success required not just the adoption of a new method of policing, but also sustained pressure from federal officials, active support by the mayor, and the participation of local communities. If Cincinnati is a model of reform, then it is equally a sobering reminder of how difficult it can be to change entrenched systems.

\* \* \*

Looking back, the results of Cincinnati’s reform efforts are startling. Between 1999 and 2014, Cincinnati saw a 69 percent reduction in police use-of-force incidents, a 42 percent reduction in citizen complaints and a 56 percent reduction in citizen injuries during encounters with police, according to a report by Robin S. Engel and M. Murat Ozer of the Institute of Crime Science at the University of Cincinnati. Violent crimes dropped from a high of 4,137 in the year after the riots, to 2,352 last year.  Misdemeanor arrests dropped from 41,708 in 2000 to 17,913 last year.

**B: Social Media**

**Social media has spread the issue of Ferguson and the like across the entire nation, amplifying our impacts even further Timpane ‘14**

The night of Ferguson was a study, according to someone who is there, in "how social media make everything everyone's business, whether you want that or not." Ferguson Democratic Committeewoman Patricia Bynes, speaking by phone from the St. Louis suburb, said social media - "Facebook, Twitter, Vine, Vimeo, YouTube" - had helped local people share their fears and feelings. "It has kept the conversation going," she said, "and it has helped inform people about the evidence and circumstances." Bynes said she also thinks **social media helped export the conflict and meaning of Ferguson to the rest of the world. Ferguson was and is everybody's business - in a way news has never been before.** Monday night, as an initially peaceful protest in the St. Louis suburb turned to violence, with a dozen buildings burned and 60 arrested, Ferguson became more than a neighborhood demonstration over a grand jury decision: It expanded into a national night of witness and protest. This night had been prepared for months. Remember: **This was one story in which the public was ahead of big media. According to the Pew Research Center, more than one million tweets with #Ferguson hashtags were traded between Aug. 9, when Michael Brown was killed, and CNN's first prime-time story on Ferguson, on Aug. 12.** In the months since, Ferguson community leaders used social media to urge peace and organize crowd-minders. "We've seen a lot of creativity in Ferguson, as with other social-movement uses of social media," says Mark Lashley, assistant professor of communication at La Salle University. "There's a mix of humor and seriousness, as you also see in protests in Hong Kong and Mexico." According to tracker site Trendsmap, as of Monday morning **the hashtag #Ferguson was buzzing all over the world, and from coast to coast, with major spikes in Missouri, of course, but also** along the I-95 corridor **between Philadelphia and New York City, and in Florida and Southern California.** People were ready. Bynes says that thanks to social media, "people felt the shock we in this community felt, when they started seeing images of Michael Brown's body in the street uncovered, and it kept being retweeted and people kept seeing it. For others it was images of the mother and stepfather at the scene. They saw the agony happening right there. It's just been a storm ever since, as it should be." On Tuesday, **organized by local and national social-media campaigns, largely peaceful protests were launched throughout the country. In Philadelphia, growing as it went, a demonstration wound from City Hall to Temple University to Rittenhouse Square. This,** too, **showed the lightning-fast power of social media.** Chris Krewson of BillyPenn.com tweeted that an early USA Today report of a no-indictment for Officer Darren Wilson was "being repeated at the Philly protest - social media is spreading #Ferguson before the cable nets.” **In New York, the Rev. Al Sharpton gave a speech in Harlem, and a large crowd marched from Union Square to Times Square** - where Police Chief Bill Bratton was sprayed with fake blood - then to Columbus Circle. **In Chicago, hundreds marched from the police station through town, sans much violence.** It had its spectacular side. **The Brooklyn Bridge and the Triborough were briefly shut down in New York, as was Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.** (In Philadelphia, protesters tried to shut down I-95 but were turned away by police.) **In Los Angeles, protesters shut down chronically constipated I-110,** which plows through the heart of the city, backing it up for miles in a glowing, snaking jam. **In Oakland, Calif., demonstrators shut down I-580.** Oakland's was one of the more violent demonstrations, with 40 people arrested and widespread property damage.

And at the gates of the White House, Jennifer Bendery tweeted: "At least 200 ppl chanting at the WH right now. 'How many black kids will you kill? Michael Brown! Emmett Till!' " **As all these things happened, people posted and tweeted all over the world.** According to the tracking site Topsy, more than 3.2 million tweets using #Ferguson were posted between Monday and Tuesday afternoons, more than 771,000 for #FergusonDecision, and hundreds of thousands more for #MichaelBrown and #BlackLivesMatter. It was a night of ironic, iconic images. One was of a cheery "SEASONS GREETINGS" in lights strung above serried ranks of SWAT teams striding through tear gas. But what may be remembered longest is the face of President Obama asking for calm - while split-screened with wild street scenes from Ferguson. Cultural commentator Lee Rosenbaum tweeted: "One of TV's most surreal moments ever. Split screen: Obama preaching peaceful solutions; scenes of tear gas, fires, smashed glass. #Ferguson."Exactly how is this all different from, say, the civil-rights demonstrations of the 1950s to 1970s? Didn't people say, "The whole world is watching," back then? Yes, they did. But as many remarked on Tuesday, today it's really true, in real time. The world was watching on live TV - BBC, Al Jazeera, China's CCTV, Russia's RT, and France 24. **But the truly new, truly now, thing is this: The world could respond. Instantly. And it did. A survey of hundreds of tweets from all over the world suggests that, to these tweeters at least, the no-indictment decision of the grand jury was yet another racist episode in American history**. The French justice minister, Christine Taubira, tweeted: "How old was #Mickael Brown ? 18. #TrayvonMartin ? 17. #TamirRice? 12. How old next? 12 month? 'Kill them before they grow' Bob Marley ChT." Many headlines reflected that feeling. Germany's Die Zeit Online led simply with "Das Ist Nicht Richtig" - "It's Not Right." And the Times of India ran a front-page headline you'd never see in the United States: "Ferguson Shooting: US Erupts in Black Anger Over Clean Chit to White Cop."**Ferguson** night **is not over. Rallies were planned in Ferguson, Philadelphia, Princeton, New York,** Toronto, **and elsewhere.**

**Police themselves are also using social media to improve transparency as well as communicate with the public. First Responder ‘15**

Police Departments Discuss Social Media Best Practices. N.p., 05 Mar. 2015. Web. 11 July 2015. http://www.firstresponder.gov/Pages/Police%20Departments%20Discuss%20Social%20Media%20Best%20Practices.aspx>

In the past year, **the use of social media for public safety purposes has increased in popularity.**  However, concerns regarding the safety and security of these new social media technologies themselves may require further discussion.  **On March 5,** [**Fairfax County Police**](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/2012/030512twitter.htm) **announced the launch of its Twitter profile** ([@fairfaxpolice](http://twitter.com/#%21/fairfaxpolice)) **to encourage a culture of engagement and gain valuable public feedback through two-way communications.  Additionally, the agency will tweet news releases, updates to the website, information on public meetings, and other information of interest to the county’s one million-plus residents** who register. The agency will hold a roundtable discussion with Fairfax County Police personnel and regional Public Information Officer partners in Northern Virginia featuring veteran tweeter and Director of Public Affairs for the Baltimore Police Department, Anthony Guglielmi.

**Evidence**

“Civil unrest involves a disruption of the typical social order; it can involve a strike or protest, and it can be peaceful or involve violence. Both riots and rebellions are forms of civil unrest. Civil unrest often occurs when a group strives to gain attention for something they just feel is unjust.” - Sternheimer, 2012

NEW YORK, NY- NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton announced Thursday that [350 heavily armed NYPD officers](http://gothamist.com/2015/01/29/nypd_machine_guns.php), called the “Strategic Response Group,” will soon be patrolling protests and the city at large. He [said](http://gothamist.com/2015/01/29/nypd_machine_guns.php) the new strain of hyper-armed police will be “…equipped and trained in ways that our normal patrol officers are not. They’ll be equipped with all the extra heavy protective gear, with the long rifles and machine guns — unfortunately sometimes necessary in these instances.” Bratton announced [their purpose](http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/01/29/bratton-unveils-plans-for-new-anti-terror-police-unit/) is specifically“…designed for dealing with events like our recent protests, or incidents like Mumbai or [what just happened in Paris](http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/01/09/french-police-corner-terror-suspects-second-shooting-hostage-taking-underway/).” Lumping protesters in with terrorists, he [said](http://gothamist.com/2015/01/29/nypd_machine_guns.php) the [permanent](http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/01/8561171/bratton-plans-new-patrol-model) force will deal with “disorder control and counterterrorism protection capabilities.” It will [allegedly](http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/01/8561171/bratton-plans-new-patrol-model) assist on crime scenes and help with “crowd control and other large-scale events.”

It is not unusual for authorities to ramp up “security” efforts following attacks (such as the [ax attack](http://www.wsj.com/articles/man-who-struck-nypd-officer-with-ax-shot-to-death-1414092705) against officers in October), but the idea of machine-gun clad officers is disturbing, especially considering past NYPD abuses of [protesters](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2012/07/14-specific-allegations-of-nypd-brutality-during-occupy-wall-street/260295/) and [other residents](http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2014/04/23/3429744/heres-the-history-of-nypd-abuse-that-turned-its-pr-campaign-into-a-twitter-assault/).

The federal government, which has attempted to [feign concern with police brutality](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/obama-no-excuse-police-violence), is partially funding the militarized venture. The [Department of Homeland Security is supplying resources](http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/01/29/bratton-unveils-plans-for-new-anti-terror-police-unit/), as is the city of New York. The [Pentagon has previously provided](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/09/us/war-gear-flows-to-police-departments.html) machine guns, ammuniton, and other military gear to New York police and other local cops around the country.

The program is [set to begin](http://gothamist.com/2015/01/29/nypd_machine_guns.php) with two precincts in Queens and two in Manhattan, though Bratton did not specify when. During the announcement at a [Police Foundation breakfast](http://www.buzzfeed.com/nicolasmedinamora/nypd-to-create-heavily-armed-counter-terror-unit-that-will-p#.sdWVNL6J9) at the Mandarin Hotel, Bratton also said his [plan was backed](http://gothamist.com/2015/01/29/nypd_machine_guns.php) by both Mayor Bill de Blasio (who [came under fire](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/01/why-the-nypd-turned-its-back-on-the-city/384196/) from cops last year) and the city council.

He [said](http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/01/8561171/bratton-plans-new-patrol-model) the effort is intended to *improve* police relations with communities since “regular” police will no longer be called from their local precincts to deal with protests and alleged security threats:

“For years we’ve been asking our officers to engage in the community, but we’ve never given them time to do it, or the training.”

Such “crises” will now be handled by the machine gunning cops (machine guns are [banned](http://www.npr.org/blogs/itsallpolitics/2013/01/18/169526687/the-decades-old-gun-ban-thats-still-on-the-books) for private citizens). Bratton has also previously [asked](http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2014/12/10/nypd-eyes-wider-use-of-stun-guns/) the city for more tasers to “improve relations” by reducing fatal shootings.

In his Thursday announcement, Bratton additionally [called on the MTA](http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/01/29/bratton-unveils-plans-for-new-anti-terror-police-unit/) to install cameras on all subways-for safety, of course.

Unsurprisingly, there is outrage against the proposed plan. Priscilla Gonzalez, Organizing Director of Communities United for Police Reform, [said](http://gothamist.com/2015/01/29/nypd_machine_guns.php) Bratton’s

“…demands for less oversight of the NYPD and a more militarized police force that would use counter-terrorism tactics against protesters are deeply misguided and frankly offensive. We need an NYPD that is more accountable to New Yorkers and that stops criminalizing our communities, especially when people are taking to the streets to voice legitimate concerns about discriminatory and abusive policing. Despite growing evidence that discriminatory broken windows is a failed and harmful policing strategy, Commissioner Bratton stubbornly continues to defend and expand it.”

The move comes as [crime has dropped](http://www.newsweek.com/nyc-mayor-says-crime-down-2014-working-very-hard-resolve-nypd-work-slowdown-296821) in New York and the [police ticket-writing boycott](http://nypost.com/2014/12/29/arrests-plummet-following-execution-of-two-cops/) in protest of Mayor de Blasio led to no increase in conflict.

**Attention 3:  Police’s actions are necessary**

In Slow down, police are the good guys by

***Michael Medved, a member of the USA TODAY Board of Contributors,***

Numbers from the authoritative Bureau of Justice Statistics give some indication of the scope of the improvement. The incidence of violent crime reached its [all-time high in 1991](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/htus8008.pdf), and since that time [has been cut nearly in half](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/tables/10tbl01.xls). The homicide rate was also cut [at roughly the same pace](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4863), reaching its lowest level since 1963. If any other serious social problem — such as poverty, or marital instability — showed similarly encouraging results we would applaud policies that might have contributed to progress. Instead, the [American Civil Liberties Union insists](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/assets/jus14-warcomeshome-report-web-rel1.pdf) that "American policing has become unnecessarily and dangerously militarized, in large part through federal programs that have armed state and local law enforcement agencies with the weapons and tactics of war." [Sen. Rand Paul](http://time.com/3111474/rand-paul-ferguson-police/), R-Ky., enthusiastically agrees, decrying [1997 legislation](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/08/14/the-pentagon-gave-nearly-half-a-billion-dollars-of-military-gear-to-local-law-enforcement-last-year/) providing local police forces with free surplus equipment from the Pentagon. But statistics show such programs have done nothing to slow declining crime rates, and might have even accelerated those improvements in public safety. Moreover, there's no evidence that trigger-happy police use more deadly force because they're itching to try their new fire power. The number of annual police killings from 2005 to 2012 remained stable at about 400. Nearly all the tragic, well-publicized incidents of young black males dying at the hands of white cops occur when officers are isolated and vulnerable; none of the controversial recent shootings involved military style deployments with hordes of police in riot gear. Less than a quarter of all police uses of deadly force involved white officers firing at black suspects; in fact, a black male is [60 times more likely](http://www.statisticbrain.com/u-s-homicide-victim-demographics/) to die at the hands of [another black male](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/htus8008.pdf) than to perish through actions of a white cop. In addition to historic improvements in public safety for civilians, enhancements in training and equipment have lowered mortal risks for the officers themselves. During the 1970s, cops averaged more than [200 deaths a year in the line of duty](http://www.nleomf.org/facts/officer-fatalities-data/year.html), including hostile fire as well as fatal accidents, with fatalities reaching their peak (280) in 1974. Since that time, despite [big growth](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/csllea08.pdf) in the number of officers patrolling our streets, the allegedly "militarized" police have proved less vulnerable to assault, with only [100 officers killed in 2013](http://www.nleomf.org/facts/officer-fatalities-data/year.html) — the lowest death toll since 1944. Most Americans would celebrate this change if they knew about it because they view police officers in an overwhelmingly positive light. A [June Gallup Poll](http://www.gallup.com/poll/1597/confidence-institutions.aspx) asked respondents about their confidence levels in various institutions, and 53% expressed "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the police. [Only 16%](http://www.gallup.com/poll/1597/confidence-institutions.aspx#2) said they viewed cops with "very little" or "no" confidence. Among 16 listed institutions, the police finished near the top in public esteem, ranked below only the military and small business, and above organized religion, the medical system and the Supreme Court. Television news and Congress, by the way, finished at the very bottom. These figures demonstrate the absurdity in claims that public sentiment now sees law enforcement as a hostile, occupying army. In fact, the popularity of the military — top-rated institution in the nation, according to Gallup — suggests not all Americans object to local police replicating the discipline and professionalism of our armed forces. Even at a time of intense public controversy over policing in the black community, it's worth remembering that literally tens of thousands of African-American lives have been saved due to enhancements in police training, tactics and equipment in the past two decades. With black people making up nearly [half of all homicide victims](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/bvvc.pdf), no community has benefited more substantially from plummeting homicide rates.

**Exchange of military equipment is crucial for police operations as it ensures financial strain does not shut down departments and enables better protection of the general public as well as the officers themselves**

**Regnery 2014** [Alfred S. Regnery, Published Author writing for Breitbart, “Police militarization: it’s not about the equipment, it’s about keeping the peace” August 19, 2014, <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2014/08/19/militarization-of-law-enforcement-not-about-equipment-about-keeping-the-peace/>]

So what is going on? **No question the police have acquired tons of surplus military equipment in recent years, and no question that many have developed SWAT teams and have used various military tactics, sometimes way in excess of what is needed**.¶ **Let’s look at the facts**:¶ **The Pentagon has distributed**, according to the Police Foundation, **$5.1 billion of surplus military equipment to local police departments. The Department of Homeland Security distributes another $1 billion worth of equipment. Despite the outcry, Congress does not seem to object: an attempt to end the program just a couple of months ago was defeated by the House of Representatives in a vote of 355-62**.¶ **Law enforcement has been badly squeezed by budget cuts. Virtually every big-city department has had to cut personnel and cut back on equipment purchases because of lack of funds. Getting free vehicles, weapons, helicopters, night vision equipment, and the rest is welcome relief**. Reports and news articles over the last four years have given the public a small glimpse into the devastating impact budget cuts have had on police departments. From Chicago and Baltimore to Pennsylvania and Detroit, **underfunding has led to less personnel and equipment and more communities for each officer to police. Some departments are even scrambling to make more of these cuts to avoid pension collapses**.¶ Jim Bueermann, president of the Police Foundation, told the Los Angeles Times last week “A lot of departments jumped at the opportunity to acquire things they normally could not afford. But just because we can get the equipment, it doesn’t mean we should use it.”¶ Ever since we learned that people are willing to use airplanes full of people as weapons, policing has changed and requires different strategies and tactics than it once did. If acts of terrorism do occur, the requisite equipment and strategies to control the situation will be most welcome¶ **Violence against the police continues, day to day, unabated**. From the assault in Southern California last year by a former officer that resulted in the deaths of four officials to the most recent example – Ferguson, Missouri – **police are at high risk. In Ferguson riots, looting, attacks on other demonstrators and on the police became so acute that the governor** – a Democrat who certainly consulted White House officials and the Justice Department first – **imposed a curfew (which was ignored) and finally dispatched the National Guard to quell the riots**. Most of us remember the mayhem caused by rioters in Los Angeles in 1992 – 50 people dead, 500 injured, $1 billion worth of property destruction. Police are not going to control such violence with pellet guns.¶ **America’s cities are hardly armed camps. Most of the military equipment is safely stashed away in warehouses and rarely seen or used**. I defy readers of this column to send in comments pointing out excess uses of military equipment or tactics by the police that they have personally seen, not just read about on the internet or seen on television. I’d be surprised if there are more than a handful. Like so many other issues, **it only takes one or two ill-advised uses to rile up the politicians, the press, and all the go-alongs to imagine that democracy is threatened, war is coming to our cities, and the police, not the criminals, are the threat**.¶ **1501 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in the last ten years – one every 58 hours, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Foundation, and during the same period there have been 58,261 assaults against police officers resulting in 15,658 injuries. Police are trained to use restraint and no more force than necessary for the situation at hand, and rarely cross these bounds. It hardly seems unreasonable that sometimes they need to resort to a higher level of force to protect themselves and their colleagues, not to mention the general public**. I spoke with former Attorney General Ed Meese, a long-time student of policing and advocate of good police work, who told me “**when police officers face unusually dangerous situations, they need all possible protective equipment, including specialized gear and vehicles that may be used by the military**. But,” Meese added, “officers and supervisors must take extreme care and utilize special safety measures to avoid the risks that come with the severe hazards involved in such exceptional use.”¶ Although gun violence is far lower than it was twenty years ago, there is still plenty of it. The National Institute of Justice reports that nearly 500,000 people were victimized with guns in 2011, most of the guns being illegal and unregistered. The proliferation of illegal guns often requires more “militarized” law enforcement response. My guess is that most of those victims would not object to police having some surplus military equipment.¶ Although there are certainly abusive uses of SWAT teams, they are used effectively and legitimately in almost all cases. The misuses, often in situations that turn out to be absurd, make for titillating news stories and fodder for pundits and politicians to denounce the whole concept. But in situations involving terrorism, hostages, and criminals with high-powered weapons, SWAT teams have been proven to be an effective weapon to dispel violence and restore the peace.¶ **Military equipment and tactics are often used as a demonstration of available force, resulting in the age-old military concept of “peace through strength.” The arrival of an armored SWAT team, for example, in a potentially violent situation, well before anything actually happens, will convince the offender that he has no chance of survival unless he surrenders. Similarly, just the arrival of an ominous-looking armored vehicle at a crime or riot scene can convince criminals that the better plan is to retreat before the equipment must be used**. According to John Burke, who was team leader of 30 SWAT team members at the Detroit FBI office and trained countless SWAT team members at the FBI Academy, it is all about the professionalism and training of the team. “A well-trained SWAT team has no desire to shoot or injure anybody,” Burke told me. “If good judgment is used, which from my experience it almost always is, a SWAT team is the a very effective way of restoring and keeping the peace.”¶ **There is no question that there are cases where the armoring up of police forces has been misused, often foolishly or because of lack of good training, good judgment, and good leadership. But those misuses are far outweighed by the effective demonstration and use of “militarization” by law enforcement**. To condemn the practice overall because of a handful of misuses makes no more sense than to ban the purchase and ownership of handguns, rifles, and shotguns because a few people misuse them.

**Police access to military equipment and training is not a form of militarization, rather a necessity to ensure officers can adequately protect communities and themselves while facing the challenges of unlawful activity**

**Conkey 2015** [Allan Conkey, Professor of Criminal Justice at the American Military University, “Police Militarization: Reality, Hype, or Natural Evolution” February 9, 2015, http://inpublicsafety.com/2015/02/police-militarization-reality-hype-or-natural-evolution/]

Such police-involved incidents are not in themselves evidence that police are or are not becoming militarized. **The term “militarization” is often confused with advances in equipment and techniques based on a changing world (versus true militarization). A police force benefitting from military equipment and training is not necessarily a bad thing**.¶ Weighing the Evidence¶ Some **coverage and commentary on the NYPD choking incident involving Eric Garner, seemed to imply that chokeholds are reserved for use in the armed forces and an officer applying one is somehow proof of growing militarization within law enforcement. Yet, at best, one might argue it is a shared tactic that is not new to law enforcement**. Former NYC Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly severely limited the use of chokeholds back in 1995 (some might say it was banned except for extreme circumstances such as when an officer’s safety is in jeopardy).¶ If such tactics are not in themselves proof of a growing police militarization epidemic then what about reports of police departments inheriting surplus equipment such as armored personnel carriers?¶ Let us first answer a question with a question: **Should U.S. law enforcement today still use single-shot weapons just as their earlier counterparts did? Of course not. This attempt at humor is an effort to highlight just how ridiculous such a notion would be.**¶ Keeping Up in a Changing World¶ **The reality is that times have changed and these changes include weaponry, tactics, body armor, and other equipment. Criminals today have benefitted from those changes, too**.¶ **To understand why police must enhance weaponry and tactics one only needs to consider recent incidents such as the terrorist attacks in Paris, France, or past events such as the 1997 North Hollywood Bank of America robbery where assailants were heavily armed with assault weapons and protected by bullet-proof armor**. During the latter incident, two bank robbers were initially countered by first responders equipped with small arms.¶ **What happens when a criminal armed with automatic assault weapons and full-body armor takes on first responders** with 38s and other small arms? **The answer can sadly be seen in the initial outcome of the 1997 bank event: 11 officers and seven innocent bystanders were shot and injured**. Only after SWAT arrived with AR-15s and an armored vehicle (yes an armored vehicle…go figure) was that situation contained and the robbers killed.¶ **Ultimately, this incident was a catalyst for a number of changes within the LAPD, such as better armor for officers and vehicles as well as greater accessibility to assault weapons. While some might argue to the contrary, such changes in themselves do not result in confirmation that police militarization has somehow occurred. Rather, such changes equate only to the very necessary natural evolution within law enforcement to counter the reality of the changing world and the criminal threat.**¶ **The Graying Line Between Police and Military**¶I am not saying that the line between civilian law enforcement and the military has not grayed to some degree in the past few decades. But such graying **is based more on the reality of changing equipment, improved technology, and the post-9/11 world, which requires law enforcement and the military to build mutual working relationships and, where applicable, for civilian law enforcement to benefit from changes in technology and tactics from the military**.¶ **While no one should be advocating for civilian law enforcement to become the military (each has their specific and very important roles), the opposite also holds significant weight. That is, law enforcement has a sacred duty to be capable and prepared to protect the communities they serve.**¶ **For law enforcement not to benefit from military training and advanced technology would seem, at best, to be a mistake and, at worst, simply turning a blind eye to both history and the world we live in.**

# Neg Case 10

**“Race is there. You’re tired of hearing about it? Imagine how exhausting it is living it.”**

As the Con we agree with comedian and political analyst, Jon Stewart, and stand in firm negation to the Resolved: *On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest, in the United States.*

**Definitions:**

We define ‘civil unrest’ as referring to: disruptions to a community’s or country’s typical way of life, including peacefully protesting or rioting. **(Wolfe 09)**

**Contention One**: **Protesters are benefitting society by participating in civil unrest.**

The recent civil unrest between citizens and police forces comes about because police have been racially discriminate in their actions. As our opponent’s will surely agree, police commit unjust actions against citizens, especially African Americans. In fact, the **Department of Justice** found that 84% of police officers admit they have seen their colleagues use excessive force against civilians. When police brutality, especially based on racial bias, becomes the system citizens live under, the people have a moral responsibility to protest it and create civil unrest.

This is an accepted principle in American democracy, and **Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Lawrence Thomas** says that citizens “have a responsibility to protest injustice”. And that is exactly what began in Ferguson, which soon spread across America. "This is part of larger dialogue and conversation about justice for black people,” says **Adam Jackson**, a Baltimore protest coordinator. “People are dissatisfied with their conditions and are speaking up because they're sick and tired."

This is not a bad thing though judge. Many times in American history civil unrest is how significant social change was achieved. African Americans gained their rights in the 1960’s using civil unrest, troops were pulled out of Vietnam as a result of civil unrest, in fact, America was founded by revolutionaries using civil unrest against an unjust system. The recent civil unrest we’ve seen protesters creating and spreading against the systemic injustice towards African Americans is a tool for justice, and we should give credit where credit is due: to the protesters.

**Contention Two: Police militarization decreases the longevity of civil unrest.**

Unlike anything seen in the United States before, recent civil unrest has sparked militarization of the local police forces. This militarization is a transfer of equipment, ranging from small handguns to tanks and machine guns, from the military to police forces. Unfortunately, in recent civil unrest the police utilized this equipment, and even called in SWAT teams to quell protesters. In fact in **2014, Alfred Regnery** found that “the arrival of an armored SWAT team in a potentially violent situation, well before anything actually happens, will convince the offender that he has no chance of survival unless he surrenders.”

This militarization of police directly counters civil unrest, and this can be seen most apparently in Ferguson, where by Day 3 the police were in full riot gear and equipped with automatic weapons though there were no riots yet. Eventually when riots did break out, the police were there with tear gas and rubber bullets to quickly stop all protesters, though most were nonviolent.

It’s clear that the militarization of police officers resulted in less civil unrest and less damage to the community. When looking to history, we see that the civil unrest in previous racial equality protests is more impactful when the police don’t militarize. In the 1992 Los Angeles Riots after the death of Rodney King, when the police did not militarize L.A. suffered more damage than the Baltimore and Ferguson riots combined. This is an unfortunate truth, but proves the police have been counteracting civil unrest and furthering the current system of racial injustice.

**Contention Three: Protesters use of social media helps civil unrest spread and grow stronger.**

Throughout the last year social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr have been used by the public to convey concerns surrounding the systemic injustice found within our society. According to **Professor Tucker 2014**, social media plays an important role in “facilitating protest by making it easier for individuals to acquire information.” And that, in addition to providing information to individuals about the protest, social media also affects people's motivation to participate in protest and provides a means to bring them together. These social platforms trigger feelings of group identity through identifiable injustice, and help to bring these like-minded groups together through organized protest, so that these individuals may fulfill their duties as citizens of the U.S.

We can see this in Ferguson where, according to **Mario Trujillo, 2014**, “More than 3.5 million tweets were shared in just a few hours following a St. Louis prosecutor's announcement that a grand jury had decided not to indict police officer Darren Wilson, who killed Brown.”

So while social media not only highlights to citizens the systemic injustice within our society, it gives “hope to the hopeless that change could happen if they take joint action.”

**In conclusion,** we would like to end with the quote we began with. “Race is there. You’re tired of hearing about it? Imagine how exhausting it is living it.”

For these reasons we urge a Con ballot.

### Cards

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"People are saying they're not going to tolerate this anymore," Randolph said.

*April 21st, 2015. Irv Randolph, chief editor of the Philadelphia Tribune. CNN. ‘We're not seeing more police shootings, just more news coverage’.*

===================================2=================================

"This is part of larger dialogue and conversation about justice for black people," said Jackson. "People are dissatisfied with their conditions and are speaking up because they're sick and tired." [Adam Jackson, leader of Baltimore based organization: Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle]

*April 28th, 2015. Common Dreams. By: Sarah Lazare. ‘'Structural Looting' of Black Communities Driving Protesters to Baltimore Streets’.*

===================================3=================================

A Department of Justice [study revealed](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/181312.pdf) that a whopping 84 percent of police officers report that they’ve seen colleagues use excessive force on civilians, and 61 percent admit they don’t always report “even serious criminal violations that involve abuse of authority by fellow officers.”

*May, 2000. The Department of Justice. ‘Police Attitudes Toward Abuse of Authority: Findings from a National Study’.* [*https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/181312.pdf*](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/181312.pdf) *(page 3)*

===================================4=================================

Most of us remember the mayhem caused by rioters in Los Angeles in 1992 – 50 people dead, 500 injured, $1 billion worth of property destruction. Police are not going to control such violence with pellet guns.

--------------------------------------------------------------5-------------------------------------------------------------

In Ferguson riots, looting, attacks on other demonstrators and on the police became so acute that the governor – a Democrat who certainly consulted White House officials and the Justice Department first – imposed a curfew (which was ignored) and finally dispatched the National Guard to quell the riots.

--------------------------------------------------------------6-------------------------------------------------------------

The arrival of an armored SWAT team, for example, in a potentially violent situation, well before anything actually happens, will convince the offender that he has no chance of survival unless he surrenders.

*August 19th, 2014. Alfred Regnery. ‘Police Militarization: It’s not about the equipment, it’s about keeping the peace’.*

===================================7=================================

Platforms such as Twitter have been hailed as a boon for activists while some have criticized them as rumor mills that have heightened tensions.

--------------------------------------------------------------8-------------------------------------------------------------

"But social media is certainly spreading information faster and in the case of recent events, probably giving hope to the hopeless that change could happen if they take joint action," Roditi said.

*December 27th, 2014. Mario Trujillo (political writer). ‘Amid protests, social media’s role is praised and scrutinized’.*

==================================9==================================

Social media, therefore, can play an important role in facilitating protest by making it easier for individuals to acquire information. This can include: Information about the planned and actual location and timing of protests. Information about how safe participation is (is there violence? fires? tear gas?). Information about how many other people are currently participating in protests. In addition to providing information about the protests, social media might affect people’s motivation to participate in the protest. This could be done in many ways, but could include: Triggering feelings of group identity (e.g, the many references seen to “black lives matter” in tweets regarding the Ferguson protests). Triggering feelings of injustice. Triggering emotions such as anger.

*November 24th, 2014. Joshua Tucker (Professor of Politics at NYU). The Washington Post. ‘Tweeting Ferguson: how social media can (and cannot) facilitate protest’.*

===================================10================================

More than 3.5 million tweets were shared in just a few hours following a St. Louis prosecutor's announcement last month that a grand jury had decided not to indict police officer Darren Wilson, who killed Brown.

*December 27th, 2014. Mario Trujillo (political writer). ‘Amid protests, social media’s role is praised and scrutinized’.*

===================================11================================

Since August, roughly 300 people, including local residents and activists as well as organizers and journalists who traveled to Ferguson, have been arrested amid the protests, which have been marred by looting and arson attacks.

*December 1st, 2014. Emily Flitter. Reuters. ‘Ferguson protesters lawyer up after scores of protests’.*

==================================12=================================

Destruction is estimated at $9 million for about 285 businesses damaged during the recent unrest in Baltimore — which officials say is only a fraction of what the total will be for the damage and economic impact.

*May 13th, 2015. Yvonne Wenger. The Washington Post. ‘Damage to businesses from Baltimore rioting estimated at about $9 million’.*

==================================13=================================

Level Two can disrupt normal life and business in a whole region or country.

*Claire Wolfe, published author and blogger, “Preparing for Civil Unrest” July/August 2009.*

==================================14=================================

King is proposing that morally righteous people have a responsibility to protest injustice even though he recognizes that most people would not always be able to do what they ought to do.

*Lawrence Thomas, Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Political Science at the University of Syracuse. 2009 [Lawrence, Contemporary Debates in Social Philosophy, p. 304].*

# Neg Case 11

**My partner and I stand in firm NEGATION of the RESOLVED: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for recent civil unrest in the United States.**

**We provide a few definitions to further clarify the round**

**Civil Unrest: this refers to violent disruptions to a community’s or country’s typical way of life, including rioting and looting (Wolfe 09)**

Protesters:

**Framework: Whichever team can prove which group is, on balance, more responsible, should win the round.**

**C1.  Alternative causality**

**subpoint a: economy**

**“Economic factors play a significant role in civil unrest. According to *The Economist* magazine, “Protests induced by austerity also attract far more participants than demonstrations sparked by other causes. In a sample of European protests from 1980 to 1995, austerity­ focused protests attracted over 700,000 people on average”**

**At the point where economic factors themselves can motivate protesters, there the police have no impact on the probability of protests themselves.**

**Subpoint b: judicial system**

ZUSHA ELINSON And JOE PALAZZOLO (Wall Street Journal, 2014, “Police Rarely Criminally Charged for On-Duty Shootings”)  Nov. 24, 2014 7:22 p.m. ET <http://www.wsj.com/articles/police-rarely-criminally-charged-for-on-duty-shootings-1416874955>

Police are rarely charged criminally for on-duty shootings, but law-enforcement officials and critics differ on whether this should be the case.  **New research by a Bowling Green State University criminologist shows that 41 officers in the U.S. were charged with either murder or manslaughter in connection with on-duty shootings over a seven-year period ending in 2011. Over that same period, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported 2,718** [**justified homicides by law enforcement**](http://blogs.wsj.com/numbers/why-the-data-on-justifiable-homicide-just-wont-do-1725/)**, an incomplete count, according to experts**.  “It’s very rare that an officer gets charged with a homicide offense resulting from their on-duty conduct even though people are killed on a fairly regular basis,” said Philip Stinson, an assistant professor of criminal justice at Bowling Green who received a federal grant to study arrests of police officers. **The study covers more than 6,700 cases of police officers arrested for any crime across all states.**

**The fact that police are rarely held accountable is not the fault of the police-- rather, this is a problem found within the judicial system itself.  Any lack of indictment (such as in the case of the deaths of Michael Brown, Freddie Grey, etc) is not the fault of the police.**

**At the point where the systematic injustice and racial bias is truly the fault of the judicial system, the police cannot be held responsible for “causing” the protests.**

**C2. Protesters escalate violence**

**subpoint a. disrupting community**

**ASHLEY SOUTHALL DEC. 4, 2014  (Protesters Fill Streets Across U.S. Over Decision in Garner Case, New York Times, 2014)**

The protests drew crowds in New York, Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Washington. Many chanted the last words of the man, Eric Garner, 43, of [Staten Island](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/05/nyregion/outcome-of-eric-garner-case-bares-a-staten-island-divide.html?action=click&contentCollection=N.Y.%20%2F%20Region&region=Footer&module=MoreInSection&pgtype=article): “I can’t breathe.” In some places, they grew disruptive, snarled traffic on major arteries and lay down in the streets.   **For the second night in a row, several groups of protesters roamed through Manhattan. They caused lanes to be closed on the Brooklyn Bridge, on the West Side Highway and at the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels. The protesters also targeted the Staten Island ferry terminal.**More than 200 people were arrested, the police said.  About 300 people moving north on Broadway toward Times Square lay down at 34th Street for 11 minutes of silence to commemorate the number of times Mr. Garner was heard in a video of his fatal encounter saying he could not breathe. The protesters then moved north and onto Seventh Avenue, where they were involved in a skirmish with police officers blocking the intersection of 42nd Street.   **Blocking traffic and taunting the police, marchers fanned out across New York City for a second night of protests over the decision not to indict a police officer for the death of Eric Garner.**   At least 24 people were arrested there in one of the few aggravated interactions between the police and protesters. Many were pushed to the ground or up against cars trying to drive downtown.  Earlier in Brooklyn, protesters lay down next to replica coffins inscribed with the names of the victims of fatal police shootings, then carried the coffins across the Brooklyn Bridge.   Thousands of people marched from Foley Square and [Sara D. Roosevelt Park](http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/sara-d-roosevelt-park) on the Lower East Side, converged on Canal Street and then swarmed to the West Side Highway. Waving banners and flags, they quickly marched north on the highway, blocking traffic going in both directions. At 11th Street, a police line halted part of the march. Rows of police officers and protesters faced off, sometimes exchanging words.  “We are going to clear this area or people are going to be leaving in handcuffs,” a police inspector told a group of people, some of whom responded with objections.   “Do you support the cop who killed Eric Garner?” one man shouted. A woman followed, asking the police, “Who are you working for?”   “I’m disgusted with the racism I see in society. I am just fed up,” said the woman, Maia Lorian, an actress from Bushwick, Brooklyn.  Another group from Foley Square walked through oncoming traffic on Canal Street, pausing to stage a “die-in” at the intersection on Avenue of the Americas before making its way to the West Side Highway, where it merged with other groups.

[**Peter Hermann**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/people/peter-hermann)**,** [**John Woodrow Cox**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/people/john-woodrow-cox) **and** [**Ashley Halsey III**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/people/ashley-halsey-iii)(After peaceful start, protest of Freddie Gray’s death in Baltimore turns violent  Baltimore protests take confrontational turn, 2015)

BALTIMORE — Six hours into a remarkably peaceful protest of the death of a man in police custody, a confrontation outside Camden Yards baseball park suddenly turned violent Saturday night as demonstrators clashed with fans who had turned out for a ballgame.

Before the melee was over, six unoccupied police cars had been damaged by protesters and police in riot gear and on horseback moved methodically to push the demonstrators from a key downtown intersection.

**For hours, the police had kept their distance as nearly 1,000 people angered by the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody marched from the downtrodden neighborhood where he lived and died to the more upscale Inner Harbor area and City Hall.**

After passing by the ballpark once, they returned to it a second time as fans began to make their way from parking lots and nearby bars toward the stadium for an Orioles-Red Sox game.

A confrontation occurred at three bars with sidewalk cafes, where words were exchanged, items were tossed, and tables and trash cans were toppled. A bottle shattered a restaurant window. A protester grabbed a woman’s purse, and a man chased him.

Baltimore protesters smash cars, face off with police(1:08)

Protesters confronted officers and vandalized cars during a march in downtown Baltimore against the unexplained death of a black man while in police custody. (Reuters)

**The police did not become involved. “They just stood there,” said Alan Hastings, who was having a pre-game beer with his wife.**

**After the crowd dispersed, a phalanx of police then swept down Howard Street to protect several police cars that were being pummeled. The demonstrators, now reduced in number to about 200, used a metal barrier to smash the window of one police cruiser, kicked in the windshield of another and plucked a police officer’s cap from through another shattered window, waving it as if in triumph.**

The officers, in riot gear for the first time since the day’s protest began, shouted, “Move back! Move back!” as they inched forward to clear the intersection of Camden and Pratt streets. A few of the protesters spat at them.

At 8 p.m., a police helicopter flying overhead broadcast that those in the remaining crowd would be arrested if they did not disperse. Twelve people who appeared to be causing the most trouble were arrested, Police Commissioner Anthony W. Batts said at a news conference. The others dispersed.  Most of the crowd began to leave, many heading toward their West Baltimore neighborhood. Several teenagers whom Batts identified as protesters ran into a 7-Eleven store at Howard and Fayette streets, snatching items.

**NBC NEWS reporters by ERIK ORTIZ, PHIL HELSEL, ELISHA FIELDSTADT  and NBC NEWS (Seattle May Day Protests Turn Violent as Cops Hit With Wrenches, Rock) FIRST PUBLISHED MAY 1 2015, 9:11 PM ET**

Demonstrators hit the streets in major cities across the country Friday — also known as May Day — to support workers' rights, but many demonstrations also protested police brutality in the wake of Freddie Gray's death in Baltimore, and not all protested peacefully.

Here's what has happened across the United States:

**Reported in Seattle**

**Demonstrations turned violent in Seattle after night fell, with police reporting that protesters hurled rocks and wrenches at officers and damaged 25 vehicles. Police reported that an "explosive device" was thrown at officers, and a trash bin was pushed down a hill toward police.**

Three officers were injured, two seriously enough that they were taken to a hospital, Seattle police said on Twitter. At least 16 people were arrested Friday night, police said.

"Tonight we saw assaults on police officers and senseless property damage, which cannot be tolerated," Seattle Mayor Ed Murray said in a statement. "Those who are violent will be arrested. We will work to disperse groups that are threatening the safety of our residents and businesses."

The march, which had been billed as an anti-capitalist demonstration, left Seattle Central College at around 6:30 p.m. local time, and rocks were thrown at police about an hour later, [NBC station KING 5 reported](http://www.king5.com/story/news/local/seattle/2015/05/01/may-day-friday-coverage/26724049/). Officers responded with pepper spray.

Police used flash bangs and pepper spray to try and stop protesters from entering Interstate 5 about a half hour later, the station reported.

Earlier Friday, hundreds of people marched in Seattle during May Day demonstration for worker and immigrant rights, [NBC station KING5 reported.](http://www.king5.com/story/news/local/seattle/2015/05/01/may-day-friday-coverage/26724049/)Peaceful protesters at an event different from the one that led to clashes with police chanted "Seattle stands with Baltimore" and "All night all day, we will fight for Freddie Gray," according to the station.

**The Seattle Department of Transportation said some streets were briefly closed and there were mass transit delays as marchers moved through Seattle.**

**NBC News also states**

**New York**

**A crowd estimated to be more than 1,000 in number marched in Manhattan Friday afternoon to "disarm the NYPD" after the death of Gray and other black men after encounters with the police**.

"Cops are killing civilians on a regular basis, simple as that, and it's wrong," protester Jordan Jones [told NBC New York.](http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/May-Day-Protest-Freddie-Gray-Police-Brutality-NYPD-Union-Square-New-York-Baltimore-302138331.html) Almost 100 protesters were arrested Wednesday during protests over Freddie Gray's death.

Some protesters shouted at police officers when they were told to get back onto the sidewalk, but no arrests were made Friday night, according to the NYPD.

**Portland**

**One Portland, Oregon, police officer was injured by a protester, according to police. Portland Police reported on Twitter that protesters were throwing "projectiles" and "incendiary devices" at officers.**

Police used pepper spray on protesters who tried to march on a bridge Friday afternoon and later sheriff's deputies used stingballs, filled with tiny rubber balls, on protesters who were throwing chairs at police, according to the department.

The May Day protests were bolstered by a group calling itself "Don't Shoot Portland," protesting excessive force by law enforcement, which joined hundreds of other demonstrators in the main rally.

**Minneapolis**

Students from Minneapolis Southwest High School began walking out of classes Friday morning holding banners and chanting, "No justice, no peace, prosecute the police," reported [NBC affiliate KARE](http://www.kare11.com/story/news/2015/05/01/crowd-masses-outside-black-lives-matter-court-session/26700191/).

Dozens laid down at an intersection to stage a "die-in." The Minneapolis Public Schools supported the students' decision to exercise their rights and said they wouldn't be disciplined as long as they stayed peaceful.

Also, about 200 supporters gathered outside the Hennepin County Courthouse to support people who charged in connection with [December's Mall of America "Black Lives Matter" demonstration](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/protesters-mass-mall-america-busy-shopping-day-n272326), KARE said.

**Oakland**

After tense demonstrations this week between protesters and police, people again hit the streets and gathered outside Oakland City Hall, They carried signs that read, "We stand with Baltimore," reported [NBC Bay Area](http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Black-Lives-Matter-Oakland-San-Francisco-May-Day-Protesters-Expand-Immigration-Labor-Marches-to-Police-Brutality-Race-After-Freddie-Grays-Death-302138921.html).

Protesters said they were not only rallying against police brutality but also speaking out about the high cost of living and wage disparity.

"I am sending a clear message that I don't want the tech businesses here," one protester told NBC Bay Area. "I want them to leave because they are not giving back to the community."

**Philadelphia**

Friday's protest in Philadelphia, dubbed "Philly Is Baltimore" marched on City Hall as police followed on either side of the march, [NBC Philadelphia reported.](http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/breaking/Philadelphia-Protest-Freddie-Gray-302248221.html)

While mostly peaceful, one officer suffered a bloody lip when he was struck by a hurled bottle as protesters tried to enter the Four Seasons Hotel near Rittenhouse Square. The Philadelphia Police Department applauded their officers for a "job well done" Friday night.

**Sub point b. for profit protesters**

**Some protesters aren’t even motivated by the police’s actions.  Rather, money.**

**John Blosser ( By John Blosser   |   Tuesday, 26 May 2015  Ferguson Protesters Now Protesting Over Not Getting Paid )** [**http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Ferguson-Missouri-paid-protesters/2015/05/25/id/646587/#ixzz3fcCgIeIs**](http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Ferguson-Missouri-paid-protesters/2015/05/25/id/646587/#ixzz3fcCgIeIs)

At least some of the protesters who looted, rioted, burned buildings and overturned police cars in Ferguson, Missouri, last year were promised payment of up to $5,000 per month to join the protests.  **However, when the Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE), the successor group to the now-bankrupt St. Louis branch of ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now), stiffed the protesters, they launched a sit-in protest at the headquarters of MORE and created a** [**Twitter page**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/cutthecheck) **to demand their money,** [**the Washington Times reports**](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/may/19/hired-black-lives-matter-protesters-start-cutthech/#ixzz3acmWpseK).  Former [U.S. Rep. Allen B. West](http://allenbwest.com/2015/05/paid-ferguson-protestors-now-protesting-over-not-getting-paid/) noted on his website, "Instead of being thankful for getting off the unemployment line for a few weeks and having a little fun protesting, the paid rioters who tore up Ferguson, MO, are protesting again.  "First of all, can you even imagine getting paid $5,000.00 a month for running around holding a sign and burning down an occasional building? That's around $1,250.00 per week. Try making that at McDonald's or Starbucks."  [**The Kansas City Star**](http://www.kansascity.com/news/state/missouri/article2211856.html) **estimates that the Ferguson riots, characterized as a spontaneous eruption of anger over the shooting of unarmed black criminal Michael Brown by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, cost the county $4.2 million.**[Millennial Activists United (MAU)](http://millennialau.tumblr.com/post/119036235946/cutthecheck) posted a letter on their website stating, "On May 14, 2015 many individuals and organizations of the protest movement that began in Ferguson, Missouri, organized a sit-in in the office of Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment (MORE). The demand was simple: Cut the checks. The protesters say they are unable to pay their bills after taking time to travel to Ferguson.   "Questions have been raised as to how the movement is to sustain when white non-profits are hoarding monies collected of off (sic) black bodies? When we will (sic) hold the industry of black suffering accountable? The people of the community are fed up and the accountability begins here and now," the letter continues.

Special: [New Probiotic Fat Burner Takes GNC by Stormhttps://lh6.googleusercontent.com/CzZzF9NOys331SJzNB0t75XqjtVHLIWfwZZFlN5-dIhU8eZ7st7uwcnF_ayEHqzGUHvqEJwnPfa2sYJJQvvF3bHdXurj1CnDdqwdPw05fgtAWCQ1nMtlor7ohBfhtehU47ukVSg](http://engine.newsmaxfeednetwork.com/r?e=&s=EKGvJkSvagUR_zIn3DrGLyZ8ZQA)

"There is an insidious strand of racism and white supremacy that exists in this movement. This money is typically in the hands of white people who oversee the types of services that the non-profit provides, while having select token black people to spearhead the conversations within and to the community."  MORE is funded by liberal billionaire George Soros, the Times notes, through his Open Society Foundations (OSF).   The OSF, the Times states, paid for activists from various protest groups to travel to Ferguson and take part in the demonstrations.  Akiba Solomon of Colorlines stated, "More than 500 of us have traveled from Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Nashville, Portland, Tucson, Washington, D.C., Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and other cities to support the people of Ferguson and help turn a local moment into a national movement," the Times noted.

"There's absolutely no doubt that part of the reason that Ferguson flared up was because protesters were being paid to be there. That makes you wonder how many are being paid in Baltimore? How many more will be paid in the future?" [The Right Scoop](http://therightscoop.com/protesters-went-to-ferguson-for-a-paycheck-from-acorn-are-now-angry-they-arent-being-paid-lol/#ixzz3bAXEonGg) asked.  Protesters directed much of their anger against MORE director Jeff Ordower, former Missouri head of ACORN and ACORN's Midwest operations, [FrontPage Mag reports](http://www.frontpagemag.com/2015/matthew-vadum/ferguson-rent-a-mobs-exposed/).   "The unpaid rent-a-mob operatives complain that MORE stiffed them the same way ACORN did to hired protesters throughout its 40 years of radical left-wing rabble-rousing," FrontPage Mag reports.

**At the point where protesters are not only escalating violence but additionally not always even protesting the police, the situation is being escalated in the majority by the protesters themselves.**

**C3: The police are being held accountable**

**subpoint a.  police as agents of community safety**

**Police access to military equipment and training is not a form of militarization, rather a necessity to ensure officers can adequately protect communities and themselves while facing the challenges of unlawful activity.**

**Conkey 2015 [Allan Conkey, Professor of Criminal Justice at the American Military University, “Police Militarization: Reality, Hype, or Natural Evolution” February 9, 2015, http://inpublicsafety.com/2015/02/police-militarization-reality-hype-or-natural-evolution/]**

**Such police-involved incidents are not in themselves evidence that police are or are not becoming militarized. The term “militarization” is often confused with advances in equipment and techniques based on a changing world (versus true militarization). A police force benefitting from military equipment and training is not necessarily a bad thing.¶ Weighing the Evidence¶ Some coverage and commentary on the NYPD choking incident involving Eric Garner, seemed to imply that chokeholds are reserved for use in the armed forces and an officer applying one is somehow proof of growing militarization within law enforcement. Yet, at best, one might argue it is a shared tactic that is not new to law enforcement. Former NYC Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly severely limited the use of chokeholds back in 1995 (some might say it was banned except for extreme circumstances such as when an officer’s safety is in jeopardy).¶ If such tactics are not in themselves proof of a growing police militarization epidemic then what about reports of police departments inheriting surplus equipment such as armored personnel carriers?¶ Let us first answer a question with a question: Should U.S. law enforcement today still use single-shot weapons just as their earlier counterparts did? Of course not. This attempt at humor is an effort to highlight just how ridiculous such a notion would be.¶ Keeping Up in a Changing World¶ The reality is that times have changed and these changes include weaponry, tactics, body armor, and other equipment. Criminals today have benefitted from those changes, too.¶ To understand why police must enhance weaponry and tactics one only needs to consider recent incidents such as the terrorist attacks in Paris, France, or past events such as the 1997 North Hollywood Bank of America robbery where assailants were heavily armed with assault weapons and protected by bullet-proof armor. During the latter incident, two bank robbers were initially countered by first responders equipped with small arms.¶ What happens when a criminal armed with automatic assault weapons and full-body armor takes on first responders with 38s and other small arms? The answer can sadly be seen in the initial outcome of the 1997 bank event: 11 officers and seven innocent bystanders were shot and injured. Only after SWAT arrived with AR-15s and an armored vehicle (yes an armored vehicle…go figure) was that situation contained and the robbers killed.¶ Ultimately, this incident was a catalyst for a number of changes within the LAPD, such as better armor for officers and vehicles as well as greater accessibility to assault weapons. While some might argue to the contrary, such changes in themselves do not result in confirmation that police militarization has somehow occurred. Rather, such changes equate only to the very necessary natural evolution within law enforcement to counter the reality of the changing world and the criminal threat.¶ The Graying Line Between Police and Military¶ I am not saying that the line between civilian law enforcement and the military has not grayed to some degree in the past few decades. But such graying is based more on the reality of changing equipment, improved technology, and the post-9/11 world, which requires law enforcement and the military to build mutual working relationships and, where applicable, for civilian law enforcement to benefit from changes in technology and tactics from the military.¶ While no one should be advocating for civilian law enforcement to become the military (each has their specific and very important roles), the opposite also holds significant weight. That is, law enforcement has a sacred duty to be capable and prepared to protect the communities they serve.¶ For law enforcement not to benefit from military training and advanced technology would seem, at best, to be a mistake and, at worst, simply turning a blind eye to both history and the world we live in.**

subpoint b.  police reform movements within various departments

Baltimore Indictments:

Six Baltimore Officers Indicted in Death of Freddie Gray

By [RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/p/richard_perezpena/index.html)MAY 21, 2015 New York Times

Clockwise from top left: Caesar R. Goodson Jr., Garrett E. Miller, Edward M. Nero, Alicia D. White, Brian W. Rice and William G. Porter. CreditBaltimore Police Department

A grand jury in Baltimore has indicted six police officers on homicide and assault charges in the death of Freddie Gray, who was fatally injured last month in police custody, the city’s chief prosecutor said Thursday.

The charges announced by Marilyn J. Mosby, the state’s attorney for Baltimore City, do not differ greatly from those she initially filed against the officers. But getting a grand jury to agree and deliver an indictment is a milestone in a case that has generated national attention.

The case of Mr. Gray, 25 — who was arrested and injured on April 12 and died a week later — was one in a string of recent encounters around the country in which young black men have died at the hands of the police, prompting protests, arguments about the role of race in law enforcement and claims that police practices are deeply flawed.

**After Mr. Gray’s death, the Justice Department began a civil rights investigation into the Baltimore Police Department.**

Rioting and looting broke out in Baltimore after Mr. Gray’s funeral. For several days, the city was under curfew and was patrolled by National Guard troops.

**"Unrest in Peace." *The Economist*. The Economist Newspaper, 22 Oct. 2011. Web. 02 July 2015. <http://www.economist.com/node/21533365>.**

**A2 Weapons Effect**

* Look to the Independence Institute who in a peer reviewed meta-analysis of 23 different studies determined that the weapons effect hypothesis is only correct in theory, but it doesn’t actually follow through in real life.  That’s really critical because the impact my opponents is mitigated because nothing actually happens in real life.

Gallant 15, [Paul Gallant and Joanne D. Eisen, (Independence Institute in Golden, Colorado) “Trigger-Happy:  Re-thinknig the ‘Weapons Effect’”] February 2014

**It would also be reasonable to expect that, if the weapons effect hypothesis were correct, as the number of guns in America rose, so should firearm-related violence**. During the last fifty years, per capita firearm ownership increased by more than 250 percent, and the size of the civilian gun stock increased by 500 percent.[xxxvii] In 1945, the size of the civilian gun stock (long guns and handguns) was estimated to be about 47 million guns. By 1975, this figure had jumped to nearly 140 million and by 1994 that figure had jumped to about 236 million. The weapons effect hypothesis predicts that we should have seen a steady increase in violence, and we did not.[xxxviii] In fact, while the last 20 or so years were characterized by significant fluctuations in the overall U.S. homicide rate,[xxxix]  the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, between 1993 and 1997, the firearm-related death rate had dropped to the lowest level in more than 30 years.[xl]Since any one of us might become an unpredictable perpetrator of firearm rage, weapons effect proponents use their model as a justification for decreasing firearm availability to everyone. Kleck termed this the “blunderbuss” approach, premised on the supposition that “it is impossible to distinguish between low-risk and high-risk candidates for gun ownership, that everyone is a potential killer, and that serious acts of violence and other criminal acts committed with guns are common among people with no previous record of violence.”[liii] This rationale forms the basis of gun surrender programs, which encourage firearm owners to turn in their guns to the government in exchange for money or some other inducement. Such programs would make sense if the weapons effect hypothesis were indeed valid. Even if criminals did not give up their guns, fewer non-criminals would succumb to the aggression-evoking madness caused by proximity to a firearm, thereby resulting in lowered levels of firearm-related violence.

* Turn the argument against them again because Militarization is critical in order to maintain peace and security.  This is the FOP review where officer claimed that “They lacked basic riot equipment, training, and, as events unfolded, direction from leadership and that “the passive response … allowed the disorder to grow into full scale rioting.”

Rector 15, [Kevin Rector and Justin Fenton, Both journalists of the Baltimore Sun, “FOP releases finding from ‘after action review’ of Baltimore police riot response”] July 8, 2015

Police officials have said those orders were given to protect the safety of officers and bystanders in the areas surrounding the worst of the unrest.  The 32-page review stated that officers claimed "**that they lacked basic riot equipment, training, and, as events unfolded, direction from leadership," and that "the passive response ... allowed the disorder to grow into full scale rioting**, rifles, and shotguns because a few people misuse them.

**CONTENTION 1 ECONOMY FULL CARD**

[**http://www.economist.com/node/21533365**](http://www.economist.com/node/21533365)

**Protests induced by austerity also attract far more participants than demonstrations sparked by other causes. In a sample of European protests from 1980 to 1995, austerity-focused protests attracted over 700,000 people on average, the authors find. Anti-war protests averaged just under 15,000 attendees. Tax increases do not have a significant effect on the likelihood of unrest, however, which suggests that distributional issues play a role in inciting public ire. Tax rises often have greater impact on the upper-income elite; service cuts are felt more keenly by those on lower incomes who may already feel disenfranchised.**

# Neg Case 12

Understand, our police officers put their lives on the line for us every single day. They've got a tough job to do to maintain public safety and hold accountable those who break the law

* President Barack Obama

Because we need to recognize that the police are here to do their job and protect the citizens of the United States,

My partner and I stand in the unwavering **NEGATION**

of the following resolution:

Resolved: On balance, police are more responsible than protesters for the recent civil unrest in the United States

**We are providing the following definitions in order to enhance the clarity of this debate round:**

Civil Unrest: disruptions to a country’s regular way of life, including looters and rioters

Responsibility: We are defining responsibility as being the cause or reason for the continuation of a situation

Contention 1: There are alternative causes that affect civil unrest that are more responsible than police.

Contention 2: Protesters are responsible for both the cause and the continued propagation of civil unrest.

**Contention 1: Police are not directly responsible for the recent civil unrest**

Subpoint A) Before we begin with this , my partner and I would like to mention the story of Treyvon Martin. It is a very sad story of a hispanic man shooting an unarmed black teenager. Summarized, George Zimmerman shot and killed Treyvon Martin and was not convicted of the charges brought against him. This event sparked up protests that occurred in over 100 cities including Baltimore, New York, and Los Angeles. This is relevant because it proves that the police aren’t directly responsible for civil unrest occurring in these types of situations, because when an event like this occurs in which the police did not take part in, and protests still happened, this clearly is not the fault of the police.

Subpoint b)Throughout the last year social media platforms, such as twitter, tumblr, and facebook have been utilized to convey outrage over police actions and bring groups of protesters together. **Professor Tucker in 2014 explains** that social media plays a significant role in garnering support and involvement in protests as it creates a rapid exchange of information. These platforms have in turn served as primary drivers of civil unrest as they bring massive groups of people together and incite outrage and violent action. **Mark Trujillo in 2014 explains** that these conditions play a major role in stoking tension and igniting nation-wide protests that frequently turn violent. He specifically highlights how just a few hours after the St Louis prosecutor’s decision regarding Officer Wilson received more than 3.5million tweets and ignited nation-wide protests.

**Contention 2: Protesters are responsible for both the cause and continued propagation of civil unrest**

**SUBPOINT A: Protesters have been the overall cause of civil unrest**

In places like Ferguson and Baltimore, protesters had been directly responsible for starting civil unrest. According to Reuters, damage to businesses in Baltimore alone was estimated “$9 million”. This damage was caused by rioters and looters, who caused great civil unrest, going as far as burning down an entire CVS pharmacy. Even in New York, where protests were nonviolent, civil unrest was still created by protesters. Ashley Southall 2014 states

“For the second night in a row, several groups of protesters roamed through Manhattan. They caused lanes to be closed on the Brooklyn Bridge, on the West Side Highway and at the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels.”

**SUBPOINT B: Protesters have been the reason for the propagation of civil unrest**

Many protesters have propagated further civil unrest by resorting to violent means. From Monica Davey and Julie Bosman of the NYtimes, 2015,

“As the night went on, the situation grew more intense and chaotic in several locations around the region. Bottles and rocks were thrown at officers, and windows of businesses were smashed. Several police cars were burned; buildings, including a Walgreens, a meat market and a storage facility, were on fire, and looting was reported in several businesses.”

Protesters were directly the cause for these business being destroyed and the damage to public property. This damage being done by protester civil unrest is working against the actions of the police, who are responsible for protecting their communities.

**Reuters 2015**(Thompson, Reuters, "Baltimore Rioting Damage Estimate at $9 Mln -U.S. Gov't." 13 May 2015)

**Davey and Bosman 2014**(Monica, Davey. "Protests Flare After Ferguson Police Officer Is Not Indicted." The New York Times. November 24)

**Cassell 2014** (Paul, Criminal Law Professor. “Why Michael Brown’s best friend’s story isn’t credible”, December 2.)

**Silver 2015** (Nate, “Black Americans Are Killed At 12 Times The Rate Of People In Other Developed Countries”. FiveThirtyEight. June 18)

**Packman 2011** (David, “2010 NPMSRP Police Misconduct Statistical Report”, April 5)