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Extended Abstract Bachelor Thesis

**Economic Causes and Consequences of the Black Lives
Matter Movement in the USA and UK**

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Economic Causes and Consequences of the Black Lives Matter Movement in the USA and UK

Abstract

The struggles that black people experience, such as racism and discrimination, have persisted for so long. That is because they are embedded in the very fabric of our society and institutions. In other words, these struggles are somewhat systemic. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has been working toward ending these struggles by calling out injustices against black people and protesting against police brutality. BLM movement has also been a great promoter of diversity and inclusion in workplaces, as it understands that black people have not had the opportunities that white people have. This thesis will determine the Economic Causes and Consequences of the Black Lives Matter Movement in the USA and UK. The author will also discuss the social and economic hardships black people experience and what the BLM movement has done to combat these hardships as well as its motives. This will allow the author to determine whether the BLM movement has been effective in its fight against the struggles that black people experience. The author argues that the efforts made by the BLM movement have been effective at raising awareness of and reducing these struggles, while also acknowledging that it will take long to end them.

Keywords

Black Lives Matter (BLM), structural inequality, socioeconomic status, social divisions, social movements.

Ekonomické příčiny a důsledky hnutí Black Lives Matter v USA a Velké Británii

Abstrakt

Projevy rasismu a rasové diskriminace, se kterými se černoši potýkají, ve společnosti stále přetrvávají. Je tomu tak proto, že jsou zakořeněny do samotné struktury naší společnosti a institucí. Jinými slovy, tyto problémy jsou systematického původu. Hnutí Black Lives Matter (BLM) se snaží o překonání těchto problémů tím, že poukazuje na nespravedlnosti mířené vůči černochům a protestuje proti policejní brutalitě. Hnutí BLM také významně propaguje diverzitu a inkluzi v pracovním prostředí, protože vnímá jako další související problém i to, že černoši nemají rovné pracovní příležitosti. Tato bakalářská práce zjišťuje ekonomické příčiny a důsledky hnutí Black Lives Matter v USA a Velké Británii. Autor se bude zabývat sociálními a ekonomickými těžkostmi a překážkami kterým černoši čelí, a tím, co hnutí BLM v boji s těmito těžkostmi udělalo. To autorovi umožní posoudit, zda bylo hnutí BLM ve svých snahách efektivní. Autor tvrdí, že úsilí vynaložené hnutím BM bylo účinné do té míry, že zvýšilo povědomí o těchto problémech a rovněž pomohlo tyto problémy zmírnit, zároveň ale uznává, že jejich úplné překonání bude trvat ještě dlouho.

Klíčová slova

Black Lives Matter (BLM), strukturální nerovnost, socioekonomický status, sociální rozdělení, sociální hnutí.

About the study

This thesis examines the economic causes and consequences of the Black Lives Matter movement in the USA and UK. Step by step, the thesis investigates the reasons why Black Lives Matter was formed in the first place and some of the unspoken tragedies that planted the seed of the BLM movement. Above all, it explains what the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement is. It also highlights some theories on social movements and links them to strategies adopted by BLM movement to seek an audience with either corporations or the government. In this thesis, the author guides the reader by structurally introducing the civil rights movement of 1960s that campaigned against discrimination, segregation, and racial profiling to bring equality between blacks and whites. According to American Civil Liberties Union, racial profiling refers to discriminatory practice by law enforcement officials of targeting individuals for suspicion of crime based on individuals' race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin. Despite being unarmed, Trayvon Martin was shot dead for wearing a hoodie and walking through the streets of Sanford, Florida. Zimmerman, the shooter, was found not guilty of all charged related to Martin's death. This and many other incidences birthed the BLM movement.

This study also elaborates the economic and social hardships faced by Blacks in the UK and USA. Some of the economic inequalities can be traced back to the days of slavery. Back in the day, it was impossible for blacks in the UK and USA to own property as they were considered property(slaves) themselves. Furthermore, education, particularly further education, among blacks has not seen significant improvement. In England, for instance, the percentage of participants in further education for blacks in 2011 was 6.5% and 6.8% in 2019, increasing only by 0.3%. By comparison, the Asian ethnic group had 8.4% in 2011 and 9.6% in 2019 (GOV.UK, 2021). Likewise, in the US, there has not been a significant improvement in the number of blacks who attain further education. In 2010, the percentage of adults aged 25 and older who had completed a bachelor's or higher degree for blacks was 18%. This number slightly increased in 2016 to 21% (National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Educational Attainment). The lower education level among blacks is also reflected in unemployment figures. Most of the social problems black people face in the UK and the US are because of their economic standing. Since many come from working-class backgrounds where money is scarce, problems such as poverty, lack of opportunity, discrimination, child abuse, crime, and neglect are likely to be present. A child growing up in an environment replete with these problems, as many black children do, finds it difficult to excel at school, let alone in life.

Actions taken by BLM movement to combat these hardships include promoting racial justice in education, protesting police violence, stopping the adoration of history's racist and colonial icons, and using social media and celebrities to spread their message.

In the practical part, a unique online survey was made with questions focusing on the general views of university students towards BLM movement, their perceptions and if they understood the goals and motives of such movement. The results were compared to publicly available data and materials. The criteria considered in the research were geographical

location, age category, and ethnicity because participants views of BLM may differ according to the three mentioned criteria.

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