



Chapter 4: Protests in the Wake of COVID-19

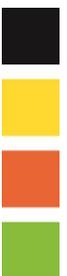
The pandemic has affected how we work, live, and protest. The outbreak of COVID-19 has influenced our perception of injustice, and living with shelter-in-place orders throughout different states has affected the way we protest.

Conversation Questions

1. How has your perception of the Black Lives Matter movement and racial injustice in the United States shifted from 2019 to today? Why?
2. How do you get news about the Black Lives Matter movement and racial injustice in the United States? How has that changed from a year ago?
3. How has the outbreak of COVID-19 affected how you receive news and information in general? What are you paying more attention to?

Key Definitions

- *Deprivation theory* - a sociological theory arguing that people who are deprived of things deemed valuable in society--whether money, justice, status or privilege--join social movements with the hope of redressing their grievances (from *Origins of Sociological Theory*)
- *Framing theory* - a theory in social sciences arguing that social construction of a social phenomenon, often by mass media sources, political or social movements, political leaders, or other actors and organizations, influences how people make sense of the world and the choices they make (from the *Psychology Wiki*)
- *Resource mobilization theory* - a theory of social movements, arguing that for movements to gain traction, they must acquire and successfully use (mobilize) resources to their advantage to achieve their goals (from the *Open Education Sociology Dictionary*)





Read

“How a History Textbook Would Describe 2020 So Far” by James West Davidson for *The Atlantic*

<https://bit.ly/2Cs4LiD>

In this re-telling of the events of the first half of 2020, Davidson describes how realities of the pandemic intersect with racial oppression in the U.S., magnifying the dangers of one another and leading to mass uprisings across the country.

“How Covid-19 Lockdowns Contributed to Black Lives Matter Protests” by Nandini Deo for *Mischiefs of Faction*

<https://bit.ly/2W2qiFG>

Political scientist Dr. Nandini Deo describes how lockdowns in different states across the U.S. in the wake of COVID-19 led to increased support for the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as how participation in protests can signal a shift in one’s values.

“Is it safe to protest during a pandemic? Experts answer our questions” by Danielle Renwick for *The Guardian*

<https://bit.ly/31Gi4GW>

Physicians and epidemiologists share information and guidelines about protesting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“A Sundown Town Sees Its First Black Lives Matter Protest” by Logan Jaffe for *ProPublica*

<https://bit.ly/2ANb687>

Logan Jaffe reports on rural Anna, Illinois, where a group of young people organize a Black Lives Matter protest that challenges the area’s white supremacist roots.

“Amid Protests, Majorities Across Racial and Ethnic Groups Express Support for the Black Lives Matter Movement” from Pew Research Center

<https://pewrsr.ch/3gPkbwv>

This Pew Research Center report investigates partisan divides in responses to the killing of George Floyd, as well as how public opinion has shifted towards supporting protests and increased investment into Black communities in the U.S.

