

# 7ES Framework Analysis: Black Lives Matter Social Movement

**Date:** October 19, 2025

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**AI Assistant:** Claude Sonnet 4, Anthropic (Standard analytical output style)

**Test Conditions:** VALIDATION CONFIRMED - No access to previous chat sessions detected. No user preferences or historical data available that could bias this analysis. Clean room analytical conditions maintained.

**Subject:** Black Lives Matter Social Movement

**Reference File:** 7ES\_REF\_v1.1.txt

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## Executive Summary

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) social movement can be effectively analyzed through the 7ES framework, revealing a complex system with multiple distinct subsystems operating within each element. The analysis identifies BLM as a multi-layered movement with parallel processing pathways, diverse input mechanisms, and multiple output channels operating simultaneously across local, national, and global scales.

## Key Findings

- **Multiple Input Subsystems:** Three distinct input pathways identified (incident-driven, organizational, and cultural)
  - **Parallel Processing Mechanisms:** Four concurrent processing subsystems operating at different scales
  - **Diverse Output Channels:** Five primary output mechanisms with varying temporal and spatial characteristics
  - **Layered Control Systems:** Both endogenous and exogenous control mechanisms operating recursively
  - **Complex Feedback Loops:** Active and passive feedback systems confirming movement viability and coherence
  - **Multi-scale Interface Systems:** Digital, physical, and institutional interface mechanisms
  - **Dynamic Environment Interactions:** Political, social, media, and legal environmental contexts
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# **Element 1: Input - Multiple Distinct Subsystems**

## **Subsystem 1A: Incident-Driven Inputs**

- Police violence incidents and injustices serving as catalytic inputs
- Media coverage of racial incidents
- Legal case outcomes and judicial decisions
- Immediate, high-intensity inputs that trigger rapid system activation

## **Subsystem 1B: Organizational Inputs**

- Resources from established civil rights organizations
- Funding from foundations and individual donors
- Strategic guidance from experienced activists
- Continuous, structured inputs providing sustained energy

## **Subsystem 1C: Cultural/Experiential Inputs**

- Personal experiences of racism and discrimination
- Historical narratives and collective memory
- Academic research and documentation
- Ongoing, diffuse inputs maintaining system coherence

These three input subsystems operate through different mechanisms - reactive (1A), proactive (1B), and foundational (1C) - creating a robust multi-channel input system.

# **Element 2: Output - Five Parallel Output Channels**

## **Subsystem 2A: Direct Action Outputs**

- Protests, demonstrations, and civil disobedience
- Immediate, visible responses to inputs

## **Subsystem 2B: Policy/Legislative Outputs**

- Advocacy for police reform legislation
- Policy recommendations and proposals
- Institutional change initiatives

## **Subsystem 2C: Cultural/Educational Outputs**

- Consciousness-raising and education campaigns
- Narrative transformation efforts
- Media and artistic expressions

## **Subsystem 2D: Economic Outputs**

- Boycotts and divestment campaigns
- Support for Black-owned businesses
- Economic pressure tactics

## **Subsystem 2E: Legal Outputs**

- Legal challenges and litigation

- Court cases and legal precedent setting
- Rights-based advocacy

Each output subsystem operates through different mechanisms and timescales, from immediate direct action to long-term institutional change.

## **Element 3: Processing - Four Concurrent Processing Mechanisms**

### **Subsystem 3A: Collective Sense-Making**

- Community discussions and dialogue
- Social media discourse and information sharing
- Interpretation of events and experiences

### **Subsystem 3B: Strategic Planning**

- Organizational decision-making processes
- Campaign development and coordination
- Resource allocation and tactical planning

### **Subsystem 3C: Movement Building**

- Recruitment and mobilization activities
- Coalition formation and alliance building
- Capacity development and training

### **Subsystem 3D: Cultural Production**

- Creation of narratives, symbols, and meanings
- Development of movement identity and messaging
- Artistic and creative expression processes

These processing subsystems operate simultaneously but at different scales and speeds, from real-time collective processing to longer-term strategic development.

## **Element 4: Controls - Layered Control Mechanisms**

### **Endogenous Controls:**

- Organizational structures and leadership
- Movement principles and values (e.g., decentralization, intersectionality)
- Internal accountability mechanisms
- Consensus-building processes

### **Exogenous Controls:**

- Legal frameworks and regulations
- Police and state responses
- Media coverage patterns
- Political and electoral constraints

The control systems exhibit both proactive constraint mechanisms (movement principles)

and reactive regulatory responses (state controls), operating recursively across local and national scales.

## **Element 5: Feedback - Active and Passive Systems**

### **Active Feedback (Dynamic):**

- Media coverage and public opinion polling
- Participant engagement and turnout metrics
- Policy response and institutional reactions
- Opposition and counter-movement responses

### **Passive Feedback (Implicit):**

- Continued existence and persistence of the movement
- Ongoing organizational activity and presence
- Sustained public awareness and discourse
- Cultural penetration and narrative influence

The movement's continued coherence and viability across multiple years and varying political conditions serves as passive feedback confirming operational effectiveness.

## **Element 6: Interface - Multi-Scale Interface Systems**

### **Digital Interfaces:**

- Social media platforms and hashtag campaigns
- Websites and digital organizing tools
- Online fundraising and communication systems

### **Physical Interfaces:**

- Street protests and public demonstrations
- Community meetings and town halls
- Direct interactions with officials and institutions

### **Institutional Interfaces:**

- Engagement with legislative bodies
- Interactions with law enforcement agencies
- Relationships with media organizations
- Collaborations with other social movements

Each interface type operates through different protocols and enables different forms of system interaction.

## **Element 7: Environment - Dynamic Multi-Context System**

### **Political Environment:**

- Electoral cycles and political leadership changes
- Policy debates and legislative processes

- Government responses and administrative actions

#### **Social Environment:**

- Public opinion and cultural attitudes
- Demographic changes and generational shifts
- Other social movements and civil society organizations

#### **Media Environment:**

- Traditional and social media landscapes
- Information flows and narrative frameworks
- Platform algorithms and communication technologies

#### **Legal Environment:**

- Constitutional protections and legal precedents
- Court decisions and judicial interpretations
- Law enforcement policies and practices

The environmental context is highly dynamic, with rapid changes across political, technological, and social dimensions affecting movement operations.

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## **Conclusions**

The Black Lives Matter movement demonstrates the full applicability of the 7ES framework to complex social movements. Each of the seven elements exhibits multiple distinct subsystems operating through different mechanisms, scales, and timeframes. The analysis reveals:

1. **Fractal Hierarchy Confirmed:** Subsystems within each element follow the same 7ES structure, with inputs to one subsystem serving as outputs from another.
2. **Multiple Pathway Architecture:** The movement operates through parallel and sequential pathways rather than single unified functions, providing resilience and adaptability.
3. **Recursive Control Systems:** Both endogenous and exogenous controls operate at multiple scales, creating complex regulatory dynamics.
4. **Dynamic System Coherence:** Despite decentralized structure, the movement maintains coherence through multiple feedback mechanisms and shared interface systems.
5. **Environmental Responsiveness:** The movement demonstrates sophisticated adaptation to changing environmental conditions across political, social, and technological dimensions.

The 7ES framework successfully captures the complexity of BLM as a multi-scale, adaptive social system with emergent properties arising from the interaction of its constituent subsystems.

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# Appendix

**User Prompt for This Session:** "The purpose of this chat session is to analyze the Social Movement, Black Lives Matter, and determine if it can be analyzed via the 7ES framework defined in the attached 7ES\_REF\_v1.1.txt reference file. Pay particular attention to whether any of the seven elements exhibit multiple distinct subsystems or pathways (for example, are there multiple types of inputs, processing pathways, or output channels that operate through different mechanisms). For each element identified, examine whether it represents a single unified function or multiple parallel/sequential subsystems. Provide a formal report (artifact) of your findings and follow the Report Output Markup."

## Report Output Markup Outline:

{Report Title}

Date: {today's date}

User : {For our chat session the user is "Clinton Alden, The KOSMOS Institute of Systems Theory"}

AI Assistant: {identify yourself, version, and output "style" setting}

Test Conditions: {provide validation statement indicating you can not access previous chat sessions, or that the user you are interacting with doesn't have any "preferences" saved, that would in anyway skew or bias the output of this session. Our goal for chat sessions is to create a Clair Patterson like clean room. HALT THE TEST IF YOU CAN DETECT ANY INTERFERENCE}

Subject: {Subject of chat session}

Reference File: {our reference file is "7ES\_REF\_v1.1.txt"}

{section divider}

{Executive Summary}

{Key Findings}

{section divider}

{report details, provide section dividers as necessary }

{conclusion(s)}

{appendix:

Reproduce the User Prompt for this session

Reproduce Report Output Markup outline (so independent researchers can replicate this test)

Reproduce the entire code of the attached Reference File}

## Attached Reference File (7ES\_REF\_v1.1.txt):

[ The 7ES (Element Structure) Framework Reference File - 7-25.2025 Ver. 1.1 ]

# Revised the definition of the element FEEDBACK - 10-10-2025 - C.Alden

Each of the seven elements , input, output, processing, controls, feedback, interface, environment, represents a necessary function in any operational system. And each element functions as a subsystem governed by the same 7ES structure. Inputs to one subsystem can be outputs of another, creating a fractal hierarchy. This recursion enables continuous auditability across scales (e.g., an electron's energy state

(Output) becomes atomic bonding (Input)).

#### Element 1: Input

Definition: inputs are resources, signals, or stimuli that enter a system from its environment, initiating or modifying internal processes.

#### Element 2: Output

Definition: Outputs are the results, actions, or signals that a system produces, which are transmitted to its environment or to other systems. These may be tangible products, behavioral actions, information, or transformations that re-enter the environment or interface with other systems.

#### Element 3: Processing

Definition: Processing involves the transformation or manipulation of inputs within a system to produce outputs. This includes metabolism in biological systems, computation in machines, or decision-making in organizations.

#### Element 4: Controls

Definition: Controls are mechanisms within a system that guide, regulate, or constrain its behavior to achieve desired outcomes. Controls enforce constraints, ensure consistency, and may be internal (endogenous) or external (exogenous).

Controls are proactive constraints embedded in a system's design to guide behavior in advance, while feedback is reactive input derived from outcomes used to refine or correct that behavior after execution.

For example, A thermostat senses room temperature (feedback) and compares it to a set point. If the temperature deviates, it sends a signal to activate heating or cooling (control). Here, the thermostat exemplifies a subsystem that performs both feedback and control functions, illustrating how elements can be nested and recursive in complex systems.

#### Element 5: Feedback

Definition: Feedback is the existential or operational state of a system that confirms, regulates, or challenges its coherence and viability. It is the necessary information about a system's relationship with its own operational constraints.

- It can be active (dynamic): An explicit signal or data loop used for correction or amplification (e.g., a thermostat reading, proprioception).

- It can be passive (implicit): The mere persistence of the system's structure and function, which serves as a continuous confirmation that its processes are within viable parameters. The system's continued existence is

the feedback.

#### Element 6: Interface

Definition: An interface is the point of interaction or communication between a system and its environment or between subsystems within a larger system. Interfaces are the boundaries or touchpoints between systems. They mediate exchanges, enforce compatibility, and determine whether interaction is possible or coherent across system types.

#### Element 7: Environment

Definition: The environment encompasses all external conditions and systems that interact with or influence the system in question. It provides context, limitations, and potential for interaction or change.

The 7ES Framework can be applied across biological, technological, ecological, and social domains.

Biological Systems: Organisms receive Input (nutrients), Process (metabolism), and Output (energy, waste). Controls include genetic programming; Feedback comes through homeostasis. Interface occurs at cellular membranes; Environment includes habitat and ecology.

Economic Systems: Labor and capital act as Inputs; value creation and distribution constitute Processing and Output. Controls include regulation and policy; market signals serve as Feedback. Interfaces appear in trade and communication. The Environment is the broader socio-political economy.

Technological Systems: Sensors collect Input; Processing units transform data; Outputs may be actions or information. Controls are coded algorithms; Feedback loops enable AI learning. Interfaces include APIs or user interfaces. The Environment may be digital or physical.

By defining systems through Input, Output, Processing, Controls, Feedback, Interface, and Environment, it provides a language accessible to scientists, technologists, and theorists alike.