

Protests sparked by George Floyd's death are still raging

For several days, Americans have awakened to **searing** images. A police station in Minneapolis **engulfed** in flames. A police truck in New York driving into a sea of protesters. Scores of riot policemen, unidentifiable behind their helmets and face shields, storming down a residential street in Minneapolis, and firing paint rounds at people who did not run inside quickly enough.

searing 灼热的; 剧烈的

engulf 吞没; 吞噬

The **proximate** cause for the protests was the killing of George Floyd, who died on May 25th after Derek Chauvin, then an officer with the Minneapolis Police Department, pressed his knee into Mr Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes — almost three of them after police failed to detect Mr Floyd's **pulse**.

proximate 近似的; 最近的

pulse 脉搏; 脉冲

On May 29th Mr Chauvin was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree **manslaughter**. But his arrest did not **quell** the demonstrations that Mr Floyd's death sparked. America is now **wracked** by the most widespread, sustained unrest it has seen in more than 50 years.

manslaughter 过失杀人

quell 平息; 镇压

wrack 使受折磨; 破坏

That is in part because the current outcry is about more than just Mr Floyd. Crowds across America have chanted "Hands up, don't shoot", a slogan used to draw attention to the abnormally high number of police killings in America — 1,099 people last year — particularly of African-Americans, who are three times more likely than white people to be killed by police.

While one might imagine that a violent summer during a pandemic and a period of mass unemployment might **dent** a sitting president's chances of re-election, widespread **revulsion** at civic unrest helped put Richard Nixon into the White House in 1968. Mr Trump no doubt hopes for the same effect this year.

dent 削弱; 减少

revulsion 剧变; 厌恶