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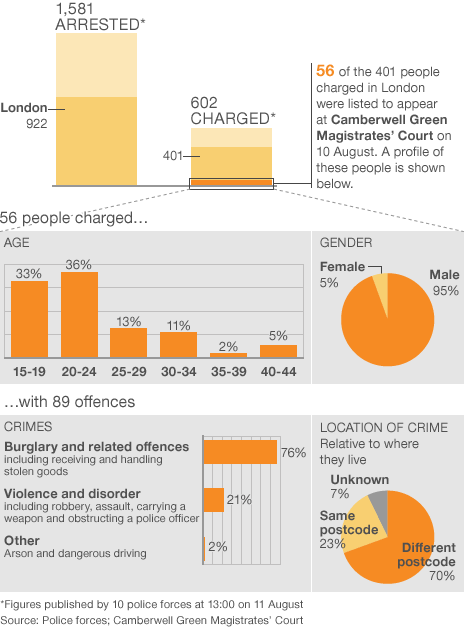
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**Introduction (1)**

For the past two years, British society had faced a huge impact from the London riots, and it shocked many in the UK and the international communities at large. It has been shown that the causes are loosely based on criminal organizations, economic issues or discrimination to ethnic groups in the UK. The reason why this topic is chosen is because the background of the UK society could be understood and how the event can affect people’s perception at present. In addition, I would like to explore the probable causes and the connections that lead to the 2011 London Riots, and the three main causes will be explained in details in this essay.

**Overview (2)**

In the beginning, a man named Mark Dugan was shot by a police officer on 04 August 2011 due to the possession of firearms and eventually resulting in mourning of his death by family members including his fiancée and this troubled the black community. It has been observed that Mark Dugan was a good man and planned to marry his fiancée, Semone Wilson, to start a new life after moving out of Tottenham (Barkham and Henley, 2011). Also, his fiancée argued that Mark Dugan was not a gangster and if he had carried a gun, he would run away from the crowd after she told the guardian (Barkham and Henly, 2011), therefore this resulted in a serious protest and pursuit of justice after his death.



(BBC News, 2011)

This graph shows a brief overview of the arrestees from the riots. It shows that about 90% of the rioters were males, aged between 20 and 24.

**The Causes (3)**

**Causes of social media influence (3.1)**

**Social media influence**

Before the riots, gangster communities had attracted dozens of people by offering opportunities. Statistically, the majority of the members of the gangs were young people (Castella, 2011). Moreover, the leaders commanded them by the use of social media, especially Blackberry messaging and other closed networks to inform them of optimal time to launch an assault (Castella, 2011). Another factor was the widespread popularity of hip-hop and rap music among young people, who use such music to fuel their minds to misbehave. A reporter stated the attentions are drawn from the gang culture, which was glorified on videos posted on YouTube and The Spifftv (Gentleman, 2011), likewise by games such as GTA (Grand Theft Auto) series. MTV’s are also said to play a part in steering the youth’s mindset toward the gang cultures. With the ongoing events of gangster traditions, young people viewed it as a sign of excitement that has been ongoing since the past years.

On the other hand, most of the members in the riots did not take part, and most of them were there for the looting where Gavin Knight proves misunderstandings were rampant when teenagers were classified as a gang member for simply wearing a hoodie. Therefore he claims there were hundreds of anonymous people with different backgrounds taking in part of the riots (Castella, 2011). In addition, there is evidence that the young people suffered from the poor family backgrounds. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ), with support of the Home Office, indicated the majority of the youngsters were insufficiently educated by families and schools, subsequently lacking of their own allowance due to their poor family backgrounds (Travis, 2011).

**How the influence of media spread throughout the UK?**

In a matter of days, the riots broke out in several places in the UK after the protest. As the use of Facebook, Twitter and other social networks proliferated, gang leaders hosted social groups on site to attract people to protest. In fact, other people outside of London such as Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham followed the same pattern after they had joined the crowed of rioters as they could be said to be copycat of the London riots (BBC, 2011).

**Causes of economic problems (3.2)**

**Economy in recent times**

London’s financial department has performed satisfactorily since the 2012 Olympic Games. Nevertheless, employment contraction was starting, as revealed from the seasonal adjusted index level of employment. Further, a majority of the members immigrated to London, especially from European countries, leading to the city population to increase every year. Therefore, an increasing population without a corresponding increase in the number of suitable jobs can result in unemployment and unfair cut of salary, and this did happened in 2011 which was also the causes of London riots (BBC, 2012).

**Unemployment**

In August 2011, one of noted causes for the riots that needed to be addressed was youth unemployment, and this issue was a significant factor that could link to some problems economically (Cavanagh, 2011). The general rate of employment was lower than the average of the rate in youth unemployment, and it implied the contemporary value of adolescence’s market was affected. There were many vandals and robbers who destroyed the places in the low-income neighborhoods where job opportunities were insufficient (The Week Staff, 2011). Statistically, 66 percent were under the age of 25, seventeen percent were aged between 11 and 17 and with a slight number were aged over 30 (Taylor, Rogers, Lewis, 2011). Further, these adolescents did not feel responsible for the consequences of the actions and without solicitude (The Week Staff, 2011).

**Unfair salary cut from the government and employers**

There were many employees who came up against the unfair salary cut from their employers without any early notice. Numerous employees were not treated in a fair manner, which demoralize them. Since there are so many people unemployed with no prospects, many opportunities were taken away and benefits were still contracted (Croft, 2011). As a result, this was a direct influence that brought out the riots, where many rioters used such opportunities to vent their frustrations (BBC, 2012).

**Causes of discrimination (3.3)**

**The problem from young black peoples**

The black people faced major discrimination during their periods in the UK, especially in 1981 the black community fought against the metropolitan police due to their unemployment from their skin color, where Cindi John said the use of ‘Sus law’ was one of the causes of discrimination to black people clearly to stop and search method to check their identity also, police officers treated them brutally during the riots in Brixton (John, 2006). Another problem was police officer identify black people as gang members despite the fact they are not. This long tradition of discrimination and racial profiling has been carried on to the modern day where black people are still facing inequality and racism in their workplace or at school.

**The death of Mark Duggan triggered a riot**

Mark Duggan was shot by a police officer due to suspicious of firearm possession but it has been told he was only an ordinary man. As the result of his death, the black communities were very upset and decided to carry out the protest against his wrongful death. It could be hypothesized that the engagement of the black community were triggered by the death of Mark Duggan due to his skin colour and the also the stubbornness of the police officers. This lead to the breakout of the riots likewise to the 1981 Brixton riots where Darcus argued after a young black man died in after being stabbed, the riot broke out in major fashion (Hersh, 2011).

**Problems of discrimination**

In the present day, most black people are encountering issues in searching for placements for jobs or partnership with other business partners. Besides young black men who suffer in finding a job, black women also face similar problem which led to using common names to sound less stereotypical to their employers (Wallis, Robb, 2012). Also Middle Eastern employees faced problems with employments because when the women had children’s, they will abandon their work to spend their time with them (Wallis, Robb 2012).

**Conclusion (4)**

There were many causes that build up adolescents’ discontent, and it showed the recession for the riots was inevitable exacerbating. Many young people were not able to find gainful employment, and it showed that how the economy was deplorable in London. Further, by using the social media, young people were able to disseminate and strategized on the illegal activities. By the same token, the racism faced by the black communities particularly by young black people was commonplace. Therefore, it can be said that the main cause of London riots was based on a low economic growth and high unemployment rate.

With all the damage the riots did, the government had to raise funds to more than 50 millions pounds for the recovery program, and most of the citizen in the UK had faced severe depression ranging from bankruptcy and homeless families due to the destruction of homes and buildings.

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