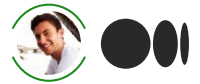


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Dimitri Antoniou

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Stop condemning violent protest; condemn racial violence



Dimitri Antoniou May 31, 2020 · 2 min read

If you condemn others' response to George Floyd's murder, answer me any of the following questions truthfully:

If police murdered your husband, what would you do? If they murdered your sister, friend, or father, how would you react? If every day, police abused and murdered members of your neighborhood and community, where would your actions stop? If citizens and police alike harassed, assaulted, and murdered you for nothing more than your appearance, how long would your calls for peaceful protest last?

If you watch these events and speak first to the injustice of violent protest; if you rally your community to open carry and counter-protest against protesters; if you try to define what is and isn't "okay" for people to respond with; if, if, if... if you are silencing the voices shouting out right now instead of augmenting them, then I believe that you value your own power and comfort more than the lives of American citizens.

If you read this and believe you really would be sitting peacefully in the grass holding a sign, let's talk. If you watched the protests and your first thought was "They shouldn't be doing that!", let's talk. If you attend and/or arm yourself for counter-protest, let's talk. If you in any way shape or form support the actions of the police, the words of our President, and/or denounce the actions taken by protesters, let's talk.

Because I believe you are on the wrong side of this moment, and will be on the wrong side of history, and I don't want that for you or us. We will reflect back on the early decades of the 2000's as a time of shame and disgrace in our country for how we responded, and didn't respond, to racial violence. White Americans in 2019–2020 will be remembered as complicit in murder the same way we were to slavery and segregation. We will think back with shame and say, "We chose comfort over justice, self over neighbor, comfort over equality. We allowed this to continue to happen."

Our government is carelessly killing people of color, and our Dictator 'President' is endorsing it. He has failed to mention the murderer, Derek Chauvin, in any of his tweets, but has spent plenty of time condemning protesters (who he calls "thugs"), invoking "unlimited power of our military" and threatening the use of "most vicious dogs and most ominous weapons." He has turned Floyd's death into a political rallying point, laying blame upon the "radical left" and linking the cause of the "Minneapolis Riot" with the Democratic authorities of the state, instead of, you know, the murder of a citizen by its police.

If you disagree, engage with me or your network now. If you are unwilling to engage, then sit on the wrong side of history knowing you didn't even try.

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