**Detroit & Los Angeles Riots**

**How would you compare the riots in Detroit and Los Angeles? Were the conditions in each city and the expectations of those involved in these riots the same or different?**

The riots in Detroit and Los Angeles were both racially motivated. The conditions of each city mirrored each other. In the months proceeding Pearl Harbor, the United States ramped up their military presence. An unfortunate consequence was the racial tensions that also increased; by 1943 more than 200 riots, and racial conflicts had erupted across the country. Both the Detroit and Los Angeles riots lasted a few days and only ended after military authorities intervened. When comparing and contrasting both riots, each was perpetrated mainly by white individuals but, on the contrary, the Detroit riots were focused on African Americans whereas the Los Angeles riots were focused towards Latinos. In the aftermath of the riots a major viewpoint was that the minorities of which were attacked in each respective city were the cause, rather than the overwhelming number of perpetrators being white.

**What is the explanation of historians Dominican Capeci and Martha Wilkerson for the Detroit Riot? Was the riot for personal gain, an irrational act, or a form of protest?**

Historians Dominican Capeci and Martha Wilkerson painted a vivid picture of the riots in Detroit. The explanation given was that the African Americans “must have sensed the potential for personal and racial advancement.” Contrary to what logic would say they deduced that the “law-abiding and hard-working men stood side-by-side with lawbreakers.” In reading this article I couldn’t help, but think of the comparison of Hurricane Katrina and how African Americans were described and how they were described in this article. At the same time Capeci and Wilkerson state “their riot activities arose from the accumulation of blocked socioeconomic opportunities, which they attributed to white racism.” I found shocking to find out that the median age for white individuals who were arrested was substantially younger than those of African Americans, twenty and twenty-seven respectively. When comparing the psychographics of African Americans and the whites involved in the riot there was a stark divergence between the two. Whites were more likely to be less educated, single, younger and more likely to be found further away from their dwelling, which was entirely the opposite for African Americans. While both parties were in the wrong, each seemingly had different reasons behind their malicious acts.

**Can Capeci and Wilkerson’s explanation for the Detroit riot be applied to the Zoot Suit Riots? Do the chapter’s sources offer evidence that WWII changed the expectations of African Americans and Mexican Americans?**

The explanation given by Capeci and Wilkerson could be applied to the Zoot Suit Riots in some regards. Both were racially-motivated, and both had a loss of life. However, the difference between the two is obvious — Detroit was due to socioeconomic reasons and the Zoot Suit Riots were because of the white mens desire to cleanse their city of the Latino members. What I found most shocking was the comments made that the servicemen also had intimate encounters with Latino women, yet their anger stemmed against the Latino race as a whole. It seemed incredibly hypocritical for the servicemen and disheartening as servicemen are held to a higher standard. One major difference was the fear received by those who were attacked. In Detroit, at least based on our reading, I couldn’t find where men were begging to be arrested rather than go outside. The level of fear induced against Latinos was so high that they felt the need to be arrested rather than go outside with the imminent threat of being beat up by Anglos (A Governor’s Citizen’s Committee Report on Los Angeles Riots (1943).