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In June 4, 1943, zoot-suiters were attacked by servicemen. It caused by conflicts between zoot-suiters and servicemen in Los Angel. It is in the background of World War II, when the government made policies to restrict rationing. Elements of racism also played an important role, and racism became the main theme of the riot in the worst moment. In my opinion, the zoot suit just triggered the riot, and it enraged whites and catalyzed the racism.

In the main event of zoot suit riot, thousands of white servicemen attacked Latino males who wear zoot suits in Mexican settlement. Police got orders to do nothing, but they arrested 500 Latinos. There were reports that Mexican American youths wanted to be arrested for protecting themselves from the servicemen. African American also suffered attacked. This event is related to World War II background and Sleepy Lagoon murder in the summer of 1942 and a series of minor events. In Sleepy Lagoon murder, 17 Mexican American youths were arrested and sent to jail in 1943. After Japanese attacked on Pearl Harbor, the government rationed the resources. Because the wool is one of important material for the manufacture of men’s suits, it was restricted to used. Although many clothes in the guidelines were forbidden effectively, zoot suits were still produced. Some whites considered wearing of zoot suits as disregarding rationing regulation. Some people just wear zoot suits which they already had. These events catalyzed the conflicts between whites and zoot suiters.

At the beginning of zoot suit riot, the mobs focused on people who wear zoot suits. As the event goes, the target was expanded to Mexican American regardless whether they wear the zoot suit or not and African American. The mobs were formed by servicemen originally. As the event goes on, many citizens joined the mob.  “The worst of the rioting occurred on the night of June 7, when thousands of servicemen and citizens prowled the streets of downtown Los Angeles, attacking zoot-suiters as well as members of minority groups who were not wearing zoot suits”.[[1]](#footnote-1) The underlying racist factor was exposed, when the riot became more and more aggressive. It can be classified as a racist riot. The zoot suit is a kind of excuse and triggers rage of whites.

Mexican American were accused of guilty by media and in this riot, and local media praised the attacks. One local paper talked about how to “de-zoot”[[2]](#footnote-2). The media, however, is on the side of whites. It always talked about Mexican American negatively and was racist. The media had described zoot suiters were dangerous and even enrage people about zoot suiters after Sleepy Lagoon murder.  Fletcher Bowron, Los Angeles mayor, stated, “There is no question of racial discrimination involved in the recent zoot-suit gang riots”.  However, the term “Zoot Suiter” became synonymous with “Mexican”[[3]](#footnote-3). Mexican American had low social status and do low-pay jobs in American history. They were discriminated for long time. In the period of zoot suit riot, the media use the event to bash Mexican American and even try to justify the attacks from whites[[4]](#footnote-4). Spanish newspaper *La Opinion’s* voice spoke pro Mexican-American. La Opinion has been widely criticized by scholars such as McWilliams and Pagan for seemingly taking the side of the servicemen during the zoot Suit Riots.

In short, at that time the media does not play the role of reporting facts and sharing various opinions. It is just a tool for racist fighting and suppressing. However, whites who is the majority have the control of mainstream and even supported by scholar and the government.

Baltimore riot happened recently has similar scenarios, but media and the government are functional with a little bias in some way. It is also a racist riot and has connection to a murder case. Baltimore riot was triggered by the death of an African American Gray, he was healthy before arrest. The riot caused substantial losses and leaded to fight between citizens and police. The words of president Obama which condemned the riot were criticized. In the aspect of conception, the zoot suit riot and Baltimore riot were caused by racism, because the race fights in violence, policy and media were the worst parts. People interpreted racist-sensitive events with a racist view rather than believing them as separated individual events. However, the underlying racist conflicts largely contribute to the sensitive cognition, and communities were not willing to have consensus to prevent the riot from making destruction. Although some people were aware of the harm of racism, they made little effect to the overall racist condition. In zoot suit riot, drunken military people made bad expressions in Mexican American communities, and rumors about servicemen searching Mexican American girls were spread. Although some older generations of Mexican American objected to zoot suiters, they were far from making consensus with whites’ community. In Baltimore riot, a mother beat son because the son throw rocks to police.[[5]](#footnote-5) Awareness of small number of people has little effect on the root of the riot.

In conclusion, zoot suit riot is a kind of racist riot, and the zoot suit is one of causes. Racist conflicts were underlying in the background of war. Mexican American had been in low social status for long time, so the attacks were for suppressing them. The media did not take responsibility to report the truth and tried to be weaponized to attack.

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