

## The Fight Over Identity

Newstex Blogs

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April 14, 2021 Wednesday 11:05 PM EST

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**Length:** 697 words

**Byline:** Ben Shapiro

### Body

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Apr 14, 2021( Newsbusters.org: <http://newsbusters.org/> Delivered by Newstex) America has been wrecked on the shoals of identity. Identity politics has been characterized casually as a form of tribalism: Americans grouping themselves according to biological or sexual characteristics, in opposition to other groups associated by biological or sexual characteristics. There is certainly truth to the idea that such tribalism has damaged America in extraordinary ways -- that tribalism acts as the sort of factionalism the Founding Fathers feared, tearing Americans from one another and forcing them into polarized units to compete against others in a battle over control. But there is another form of identity politics even more sinister than the sort of tribalism we see so openly today, a form that focuses less on politics than on identity: the redefinition of identity itself. For thousands of years, human beings established their identities by learning how to adapt to the systems in which they lived, gradually changing those systems for the better after determining the flaws within them. This is how parents traditionally civilized children -- by adapting them to their civilization. But as Carl Trueman explains in his masterful book "The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self," the post-Enlightenment era tore away at the core assumption of such notions of identity.

Instead of adapting ourselves to the institutions around us and forming our identity within those institutions, human beings in the West began to locate their identity within -- to look to their own sense of authenticity as the guide to fulfillment. In this view, identity was not formed in tandem with civilization but in opposition to it. Only by rebelling against the strictures of a surrounding society, by breaking free of convention, could individuals finally achieve fulfillment. Furthermore, fulfillment would require not merely an interior sense of identity but a sense of identity cheered and celebrated by everyone else. After all, human beings still feel the need for acceptance. To reject someone else's authentic sense of self-identification, therefore, becomes an act of emotional **violence**. We have now taken this view to its logical endpoint: total subjectivism, requiring the **destruction** of any and all conflicting viewpoints or data. Take, for example, a recent New York Times piece applauding the rise of so-called neopronouns. With the explosion of new subjective identities -- and the demand that others endorse them -- has come a wave of new pronouns. We are no longer talking about biological males demanding that others identify them as "she/her" in contravention of all available objective science. We are talking about people insisting that others call them "kitten/kittenself" or "vamp/vampself." Now, some might find this to be frivolous nonsense disconnected from any true sense of identity. But as The New York Times blithely notes, "what's the difference between an aesthetic and an identity anyway?" This is saying the quiet part out loud. For decades, those who insist that identity is constructed in opposition to society's rules -- rules that must be eliminated in order to achieve human flourishing -- have suggested that authentic identity is more than mere aesthetics. But now The Times has given away the show: When you construct identity as a tabula rasa, seeing all history and science as obstacles to happiness, identity quickly flattens into aesthetics. And we are all expected to agree with your sense of aesthetics. (Unless, as The Times notes, you identify as "**BLM**" or other terms related to Black Lives Matter. In that case, you

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are encroaching on longstanding areas of sensitivity and must atone.)When identity becomes pure aesthetics, society completely atomizes. No free society can be rooted in utter subjectivity -- someone must enforce silence from the top, bar dissenters and punish those who insist on objective data. And that's precisely what we are seeing from an authoritarian left: an authoritarian left that arrived with the promise of fulfillment and authenticity and has instead delivered emptiness and aesthetic pretension, enforced by institutional fiat.

**Load-Date:** April 14, 2021

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## BLOODY CHAOS: Democrat BLM Terror Groups RIOT, LOOT, BURN Portland and Minneapolis Again

Newstex Blogs

The Geller Report

April 12, 2021 Monday 2:50 PM EST

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**Length:** 1610 words

**Byline:** Pamela Geller

### Body

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Apr 12, 2021( The Geller Report: <https://gellerreport.com> Delivered by Newstex) Chaos erupted in Minneapolis late Sunday night after demonstrations turned violent following a police shooting at a traffic stop in the nearby city of Brooklyn Center; prompting the Governor to authorize the National Guard to restore order.'A citywide curfew was issued by Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott until 6 a.m. CT Monday. About 500 people had gathered overnight outside of a police precinct in the city and clashed with officers,' reports[1] Fox News.By John Nolte, Breitbart,[2] April 11, 2021: My weekend? Well, I live out here in Rural MAGA Land, so my weekend was like every weekend in Rural MAGA Land In a word blissful. Clean air.

Clean water. No shootings. No lootings. No riots. No racial tension. The wind was a little chillier than I would have liked. Nevertheless, I mustered through and still got my camper washed and cleaned and ready to go. Got my pickup washed. Watched movies. Grilled burgers. Chatted with neighbors. Walked dogs. It was nice. You know, the usual-usual. Thanks for asking! Isn't it odd how us Trump voters are relentlessly smeared as violent, racist, and anti-environment, and yet, out where we all live and all own guns, it's peaceful, there are no racial problems, and our air, water, and streets are safe and clean? Meanwhile, Democrat-run Portland — where Democrats have had a monopoly on power for decades — is on fire again[3]. LOL.Antifa rioters in Portland, Oregon, set a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building on fire while agents remained trapped behind blocked doors. <https://t.co/E1EjELYEfH>[4] — Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews) April 11, 2021[5]Yep, after a year of almost non-stop rioting in that lost city, left-wing Antifa terrorists are still lighting government buildings on fire, and doing so with no fear of punishment because Portland is run exclusively by Democrats and Democrats refuse to prosecute Antifa because Democrats consider Antifa to be their own personal Brownshirts. And so, over the weekend, while Rural MAGA Americans like myself enjoyed peace and harmony, Portland's Antifa monsters[6] 'set a U.S . Immigration and Customs Enforcement building on fire while agents remained trapped behind blocked doors.' Meanwhile, Democrat-run Minneapolis — where Democrats have had a monopoly on power for decades — is on fire again[7]. LOL. A little over a year after Democrat-run Minneapolis was ravaged by riots and lootings over the death of George Floyd, who died while in the custody of the Democrat-run Minneapolis police force, a whole new wave of rioting launched on Sunday after a member of the Democrat-run Minneapolis police force shot and killed a 20-year-old man during a traffic stop. According to various news reports and social media postings, it looks as though the left-wing terrorists in Black Lives Matter, numbering in the hundreds, punched in and went back to work[8]: Officers repeatedly ordered the crowd of about 500 to disperse as protesters chanted Wright's name and climbed atop the police headquarters sign, by then covered in graffiti. Police used tear gas, flash bangs and rubber bullets on the crowd. National Guard troops arrived just before midnight as looters targeted the Brooklyn Center Walmart and

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nearby shopping mall. Several businesses around the Walmart were completely destroyed, including Foot Locker, T Mobile, and a New York men's clothing store. Looting was widespread late Sunday into early Monday, spilling into north and south Minneapolis. Reports said that stores in Uptown and along Lake Street were also being looted. Oh, there's more. So much more You want to know what this all is? I'll tell you exactly what it is What this is is not my fucking problem. This is how Democrats CHOOSE to live and there's nothing I can do about that. Decade after decade after decade, Democrats continue to vote for failure in these shithole cities, continue to vote for failed policies that create pollution, hate crimes, gun violence, looting, race riots, arson, terrorism, mass-shootings, murder, and violent crime. There's no explanation for Democrats choosing to live like this other than this is a deliberate lifestyle choice. Sure, they can blame Trump voters all they want for their own problems, and heaven knows they will even though Republicans have zero say in how these shithole cities are run. But who cares if they blame us? It's just one more thing for us Trump voters to LOL at as we — people of all races, creeds, and backgrounds — enjoy our peaceful safe, clean, and harmonious lives in Rural America. You get what you vote for, and Portland and Minneapolis are getting everything they want and deserve again. Follow John Nolte on Twitter @NolteNC[9]. Follow his Facebook Page here[10]. Politics[11]Antifa[12]Black Lives Matter[13]John Nolte[14]Minneapolis[15]Portland[16]Riots[17] SOCIALMOST POPULARMeanwhile, Democrat-run Minneapolis — where Democrats have had a monopoly on power for decades — is on fire again[18].LOL . A little over a year after Democrat-run Minneapolis was ravaged by riots and lootings over the death of George Floyd, who died while in the custody of the Democrat-run Minneapolis police force, a whole new wave of rioting launched on Sunday after a member of the Democrat-run Minneapolis police force shot and killed a 20-year-old man during a traffic stop. According to various news reports and social media postings, it looks as though the left-wing terrorists in Black Lives Matter, numbering in the hundreds, punched in and went back to work[19]: Officers repeatedly ordered the crowd of about 500 to disperse as protesters chanted Wright's name and climbed atop the police headquarters sign, by then covered in graffiti. Police used tear gas, flash bangs and rubber bullets on the crowd. National Guard troops arrived just before midnight as looters targeted the Brooklyn Center Walmart and nearby shopping mall. Several businesses around the Walmart were completely destroyed, including Foot Locker, T Mobile, and a New York men's clothing store. Looting was widespread late Sunday into early Monday, spilling into north and south Minneapolis. Reports said that stores in Uptown and along Lake Street were also being looted. Oh, there's more. So much moreSHOCKING Footage Shows Rioters Looting, Complete Destruction at Stores in Minneapolis<https://t.co/l9QOIXXEVo>[20] — Dinesh D'Souza (@DineshDSouza) April 12, 2021[21] BREAKING: looting has begun in Minneapolis at a @littlecaesars[22] Looting also taking place at a foot locker and several other businesses Because #blacklivesmatter[23] [pic.twitter.com/QckvwXWYdx](https://pic.twitter.com/QckvwXWYdx)[24]; — ELIJAH SCHAFFER (@ElijahSchaffer) April 12, 2021[25]You want to know what this all is? I'll tell you exactly what it is What this is is not my fucking problem. This is how Democrats CHOOSE to live and there's nothing I can do about that. Decade after decade after decade, Democrats continue to vote for failure in these shithole cities, continue to vote for failed policies that create pollution, hate crimes, gun violence, looting, race riots, arson, terrorism, mass-shootings, murder, and violent crime. There's no explanation for Democrats choosing to live like this other than this is a deliberate lifestyle choice. Sure, they can blame Trump voters all they want for their own problems, and heaven knows they will even though Republicans have zero say in how these shithole cities are run. But who cares if they blame us? It's just one more thing for us Trump voters to LOL at as we — people of all races, creeds, and backgrounds — enjoy our peaceful safe, clean, and harmonious lives in Rural America. You get what you vote for, and Portland and Minneapolis are getting everything they want and deserve again. [ 1]: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/minneapolis-police-officer-riot-looting-national-guard-police-shooting-daunte-wright> [ 2]: <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/04/12/nolte-democrat-run-portland-and-minneapolis-are-burning-again/> [ 3]: <https://www.breitbart.com/law-and-order/2021/04/11/watch-antifa-sets-portland-ice-building-on-fire-with-officers-trapped-inside/> [ 4]: <https://t.co/E1EjELYEfH> [ 5]: [https://twitter.com/BreitbartNews/status/1381305214540648449?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/BreitbartNews/status/1381305214540648449?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) [ 6]: <https://www.breitbart.com/law-and-order/2021/04/11/watch-antifa-sets-portland-ice-building-on-fire-with-officers-trapped-inside/> [ 7]: <https://www.breitbart.com/news/man-shot-by-minnesota-officer-in-traffic-stop-crashes-dies/> [ 8]: <https://www.startribune.com/brooklyn-center-minnesota-police-fatally-shoot-black-man-during-traffic-stop/600044821/> [ 9]: <https://twitter.com/NolteNC> [ 10]: [https://www.facebook.com/JohnNolteNC/?skip\\_nax\\_wizard=true](https://www.facebook.com/JohnNolteNC/?skip_nax_wizard=true) [ 11]: <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/> [ 12]: <https://www.breitbart.com/tag/antifa/> [ 13]: <https://www.breitbart.com/tag/black-lives-matter/> [ 14]: <https://www.breitbart.com/tag/john-nolte/> [ 15]: <https://www.breitbart.com/tag/minneapolis/> [ 16]:

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**Load-Date:** April 12, 2021

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Unlawful Assembly Declared In Brooklyn Center; Fox Reporter: Some Rioters Identified Themselves As Antifa; Fireworks Explode At Brooklyn Center Riot; Police Mov....

# **Unlawful Assembly Declared In Brooklyn Center; Fox Reporter: Some Rioters Identified Themselves As Antifa; Fireworks Explode At Brooklyn Center Riot; Police Move In On Protesters In Brooklyn Center; Rioters Throwing Bottles At National Guardsmen; Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) Is Interviewed On Riots And Calls For Police Reform; Effect Of Riots On Small Businesses Examined; Some State Police May Not Need Weapons When Making Routine Traffic Stops**

Fox News Network INGRAHAM ANGLE 10:00 PM EST

April 13, 2021 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Domestic

**Length:** 9592 words

**Byline:** Laura Ingraham, Mike Tobin, Newt Gingrich

**Guests:** Jorge Ventura, James Lankford, Matt Walsh, Newt Gingrich

## **Body**

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SEAN HANNITY, FOX NEWS HOST: But we'll never be the media mob or fake news, CNN. We're always independent. And the good news is the news continues and let not your heart be trouble. Laura Ingraham is standing by to take over on a busy news night tonight. Laura.

LAURA INGRAHAM, FOX NEWS HOST: Sean, thank you. We are picking it up and continued concern for unrest Sean. In Minneapolis tonight all across the region and will be on top of every angle. Mike Tobin has been told to move out of the area as has other members of the press. Now we're seeing on social media that there are various groups, activist groups, who are urging hundreds, if not thousands of people to join the fray tonight.

And again, we're going to be covering every aspect of this as this could quickly escalate. There's concern that there, there is a "military presence along one highway corridor", which of course the Marxist activists believe is just escalating an already very difficult situation. So I'm Laura Ingraham. This is THE INGRAHAM ANGLE from Washington tonight.

This is the refusal basically by the authorities to institute a curfew in Brooklyn Center. In Minnesota, I think it's backfired on law enforcement. And now protesters are starting to grow in numbers. And as you can see from some of the video that we are ingesting into the system right now, and we're showing you live pictures, firecrackers, bottles are being thrown at police officers. And we're going to go right back to Mike Tobin, who's now on the ground there.

And so we're going to get to that in just a moment, he has to get into a safe place. And we will do that. Again, the pictures coming from there tell us that it's this story can - this story can take many forms. We keep hearing that

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there's going to be peaceful protests through the night. But Mike there, Mike Tobin is in a safe space now in a vehicle and we're going to go to him now Mike, what can you tell us?

MIKE TOBIN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: At least he can see something. But, hi Laura what it was is that you had the rows and rows of mostly state troopers had appeared to me, as they're coming in that direction. And they said your media disperse, so there wasn't any uncertainty in the command, they're given out and they're trying to maintain order. So the right thing to do is go along with those commands.

And also say, as a matter of safety, too, there were certainly a number of people in this crowd who looked like and said they were intent on causing trouble. And they weren't obeying the orders to disperse the tear gas, the non-lethal weaponry came out, and the rows and rows of police officers came out. And that's the scene now in front of the Headquarters at Brooklyn Center, Laura.

INGRAHAM: And Mike, the Mayor, I believe said tonight and predicted that a curfew would not have affected or decrease the level of violence that might occur on the street or the unrest if that's what we're calling it. Does that look like given the fact that we have as you said the usual props of umbrellas and black backpacks loaded up with Lord knows what is that look like? He was making a considered call there about the curfew to you?

TOBIN: Well, I can't tell you, you know, as far as a considered call would go, but I can tell you this, the makeup of the population out here certainly changed tonight. I think as Sunday night, it was all about the locals who are here. And they were genuine and they were angry as it goes on. You get more people coming in from out of town. I had a lot of people or several people I spoke with tonight who identified themselves as Antifa.

And angrily so you had that crowd out here and again, tonight, I saw an increased number of the kids were in the uniform, if you will, the black hoodies, the backpacks. I saw Leaf Blowers out there. Different kinds of what we saw last night, the makeshift shields and things of that nature. But it was changing dramatically in terms of the makeup of the crowd and certainly the numbers of the crowd. This was a biggest crowd of demonstrators that we have seen ever since Sunday when the saga started, Laura.

INGRAHAM: Now Mike, some of the protest groups that I'm following right now on social media are warning other activists that they're picking up on police scanners and plans to do "mass arrests of protesters", which I guess is just ticking them off even more. But apparently according to police scanner reads, and this is from three different sources.

I don't know why they would make this up are being planned along the strip mall to the north of the BCPD area. So that's something that we should also take a look out for because look, the Mayor of St. Paul and the Mayor of Minneapolis both said that they're they would not tolerate looting and violence they both made that clear, despite what we saw last night and the night before.

TOBIN: Yes, they said they won't tolerate looting and violence, but there's still looting and violence. And then you had the Mayor, Mike Elliott of this town suggests, as you noted, that if there was a curfew and was to be enforced, essentially what it sounds like he was saying is that you're drawing a line in the sand, it gives him something to defy. And then it creates a dynamic, he said an excuse for more arrests, in terms of gearing up for more for mass arrests.

I think that's what riot cops always do. Every time you see riot cops, they've got the zip strips with them. And as we saw, last night, there were upwards of 40 arrests that were made. So when you start to finding mass arrests, you know, when you're counting by a numbers of 10, I think that would constitute a mass arrest. And in a situation like this, we have a bunch of people, they declared the unlawful assembly, they got on the L-Red a number of times, counted at least four times that they said it's illegal assembly, you've got to disperse. You've got X amount of minutes. They started with 10 minutes and kept decreasing.

And ultimately, they moved in. I think it's very likely that we will see some kind of mass arrests. And I'm looking in front of me as we're driving along trying to get to a better location. I'm watching just rows and rows of Humvees

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from the National Guard. You know that some 2000 guardsmen have been activated for this. So their numbers are showing up more.

INGRAHAM: Yes, well, again, you're seeing pictures, live pictures from the Minneapolis area of Brooklyn Center, where we saw massive unrest, criminality, some peaceful protests the night few nights before, but overwhelmed by what looks like, again, people who believe that you know what happened to Mr. Wright was a criminal act, not an accident.

And apparently, Mike there was concerned that the police chief referenced an accident at one point that it was an accidental shooting, which sent a lot of these activists into the stratosphere. Like how could you say this was an accident? That's another thing that we picked up in the last couple of hours.

TOBIN: Yes, and I think you picked that up throughout the day, anyone doubting that it could have been an accident and doubting that the mistake that they say happened, that she mistook her firearm for her Taser, and, and they just simply doubt that that happened. You also heard in the press conference with Mayor Elliott today. And the new acting police chief, where the activist slash journalists were they're really badgering.

The police chief - the acting police chief had been on the job for a half hour about the unlikelihood that they thought it was an expired tag that motivated the initial traffic stuff with Daunte, right, that they believed it was a profile stop. And they were asking him what he was going to do about profiling. And his response, frankly, was it he'd been on the job less than an hour, and he didn't have a plan yet, Laura.

INGRAHAM: And so we lost the officer involved in the shooting, she resigned, the police chief stepped aside. So now, the acting police chief may be perhaps in a very unenviable position tonight. We're also learning that and people might not have picked this up earlier. But as Governor Walz said earlier today, they're going to deploy the largest police presence in Minnesota history tonight.

And we'll arrest any people who want to cause **destruction**. The curfew will be part of that. So he's referencing the curfew and this was just, you know, a few hours back, but so the largest police presence, it certainly looks like a lot of police officers. There are officers there, Mike, and we can't help but remember what happened to that police precinct on East Lake Street, last May 31st, I believe it was when it was essentially abandoned and attempt to take it down to the ground by protesters.

And we're hearing the flash yes, we're hearing the flash bangs and you're seeing more tear gas and various shots or yes, being dispersed to try to disperse this crowd. But what they're doing so far doesn't seem to have a huge effect on dispersing the crowd. Doesn't look like that's the case at least and police officers clearly after what happened almost a year ago now in the aftermath of the George Floyd shooting are themselves on edge. I mean, this is not an easy position for them to be in.

We have a lot of people on the ground who want to spend a lot of time vilifying every police officer, every law enforcement official regardless of background, regardless of experience, regardless of ethnicity as part of the you know as one of these activist groups Minnesota uprising just tweeted, part of the pig patrol. That's how they're being referred to. So you see that ACAB, graffiti all over the streets and street signs and the area around the George Floyd, what was that?

What is now the George Floyd Memorial area where he was - where he was killed that stands for all cops are, you know the B word. And you see that everywhere. Tonight in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, after what was another death of a black man at the hands of law enforcement. And obviously police are indicating that this was an accident. The comments of the officer, who's now resigned, indicated that she was shocked that she had shot a gun and not a Taser.

Why we have Tasers that are in the same shape as a firearm is beyond me. But nevertheless, that's what happened. So we're seeing this situation play out almost a year later. And a lot of us have wondered over the last really couple of months whether the presence of Joe Biden in the White House would calm things down. A lot of



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people blamed President Trump's attitude or tone unfairly. I might add for this unrest. But you can't blame Trump now you have Joe Biden in the White House.

He called for calm the other day, even though obviously, we had Barack Obama today tweet out that what happened to Mr. Right, indicates that we need to re-imagine policing in the United States, which is what a frankly, a lot of far Left activists are saying when they say re-imagine policing. They're saying abolish police forces altogether. But almost a year later, we see - doesn't seem like things are calming down at all. And we're seeing now large vehicles it looks like these are, if I'm not mistaken.

National Guard vehicles being brought into the area, again, as a buffer, perhaps a buffer between, "activists or criminals", and vital buildings, infrastructure for this community that's already been very, very hard hit. And I want to bring in now Former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, who's watching all of this unfold tonight. And again, Newt everybody on edge, given what we remember from just May 31st, last year after the George Floyd death, and not too far, really, seven or seven miles or so from the pictures we're looking at tonight Newt your reaction to these pictures.

NEWT GINGRICH, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Well, I mean, sooner or later, we're going to have to decide that we're not going to tolerate this kind of what basically, everybody talks about the insurrection on January 6th, we've seen wave after wave of local insurrections where people explicitly reject the police, attack the police, in many ways we have a war on cops that nobody wants to really talk about. And we have a totally one sided system right now.

Sooner or later, the society will demand that we reestablish order that we reestablish safety, and that we not tolerate people who think they have the right to go out and break the law and deliberately try to undermine what are the end of the forces of order? You know, I think there are 100 police killed this year. I don't think a single one of them led to a riot. Now one, but you have the system across the country from Seattle to Portland to now back to Minneapolis. Have people prepared on the phone or on any excuse to go out and basically break down the wall?

INGRAHAM: Well, this is a Marxist uprising is it not Newt, I mean, this is this is a classic chaos, disinformation propaganda vilification, this, the - we've seen this play out over history across history. And this is just one more example of it has nothing to do with compassion for the family of Daunte, right?

It has everything to do with tearing down a system they think is systemically racist, unjust as a capitalist free market system, they want that gone. And if they can use the death of a black man to do it, they're going to do it.

GINGRICH: And look, the fact is, in almost every case we're talking about it is poor African Americans, poor Latinos, people who are poor whites for that matter, people who are in neighborhoods, where they get preyed upon by criminals. So breaking down the forces of order actually increases the danger to the poorest Americans in a disproportionately racial way. We had one Democratic congressman yesterday.

Call for the end of policing, the end of incarceration. I want you to think about the level of madness that this suggests we already have a dramatic increase in murder rates across the country. We're having a greater increase in theft. We just had Walgreens announced that they were closing every one of their 10 drug stores in San Francisco, because they can't cope with the scale of theft that is now permitted in San Francisco.

So you're watching the decay of the entire civilization as the forces that hated use every possible excuse, and we let them get away with it. You have your video cameras nowadays, you have an ability to film every single person who's there tonight, go out and pick them up, arrest them, in some cases, put them in jail. And other cases just charge them a very steep fine, make it too expensive to go out and attack the police.

You just saw in New York, by the way, a totally one unprovoked attack on a police car by a group of thugs who wanted to actually just beat up the police if they could have gotten into the car.

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INGRAHAM: Well, no, we've had escalating attacks against police officers across the country. We've had ambushes of police officers, young, especially African American males being told over and over again, that they're hated by police. Even African American police officers are having to deal with people, who come an inch away from their face scream, spit every expletive in their face.

Who would want to be a police officer in an environment and especially a blue state where you let a criminals run wild with intermittent arrests, and then they're just released in their back on the street the next day?

GINGRICH: Well, as you point out, we've seen this before in the 1970s, as the forces of law collapsed in the lead to a whole series of movies, like the Clint Eastwood series with Dirty Harry, in which basically, vigilantism came back into being because people just wouldn't tolerate the level of fear, or the level of threat that was happening around them.

And this is what people need to understand - the police collapse as a system, you're going to have a genuine fight between people who are protecting their property, people who are protecting their lives, and those who are the forces of violence, of criminality, and who want to dominate by force. This is a very dangerous period. We've been here at least three times since World War II, in the 70s, where all only culminated in massive problems.

Again, I think you have it going on right now. There's no reason this has to be happening. And there's no excuse for it to happen. We need the rule of law. If a policeman does something wrong, it ought to be investigated, they ought to be tried. And this is the great irony about tonight, in Minneapolis or in Minnesota you have a trial underway of a policeman who has been accused of killing a person. So the system is working.

At this very moment, you now have a whole new cycle, where people say, I'll go out in the streets. And as you point out, it rapidly deteriorates and begins to be trashed the local store, which is very often minority owned, it begins to be burn things down. And we do not have to tolerate this as a society. But we have to have the courage to stand up and say, this is wrong. And people who engage in it, are either going to go to jail or face very, very severe fines.

INGRAHAM: Yes, I don't think these mayors and these in these blue states have any credibility. They look like they've been way soft on this. They're empathizing with criminals, and instantly thinking the worst of most police officers. And so the police officers, they're not going to lose their livelihood lose their pension, for - at some point, they're going to decide for what Newt, I'm going to put my stick my neck out there when I can be sued for everything I have.

In some cases there's qualified immunity, but they can they can loser into everything they work for. And then they're thought of in the worst possible light as criminals are coddled that's what - it's just I can't believe what I'm saying. I love Minneapolis. I love Minnesota. It's a wonderful state. This is just disgusting tonight, disgusting. They're making an effort right now apparently Newt what is the announcement?

TOBIN: Want me to step out of the shot?

INGRAHAM: Yes, they are going to start arresting people, apparently immediately moving on. They're moving in. Yes. Yes. Mike Tobin is telling us they're moving and now we're going to go to Mike Tobin on the ground. Mike, what do you say?

TOBIN: OK, watching the rows and rows, you talk about the largest showing police of law enforcement ever. This is certainly a sizable showing of law enforcement and they are now marching and marching out. Northwest in North Humbled Avenue if you can see, I don't know if you can see that but some of the water bottles are getting thrown at the police in the right here. Those are mostly state troopers according to their uniforms.

And you still have - I call it about 200 people who are more than 200 people who are out of here and you've got this back and forth game that takes place where they throw the objects at the police back up as much as they can. And they wait till I guess fine where the line is drawn. Laura, we've watched this play out time and time again. Here's a guy in front of you who's got a board that he's using as a makeshift seal.

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And you talk about that ACAB spray paint graffiti that you talked about power we've got - we've got a couple of the flash bangs if you will a lot of smoke is probably got some gas in it and a lot of the bottles going over the crowded offices floor Laura.

INGRAHAM: Mike, no, you were just talking about the ACAB all cops are you know the B word I'm not going to say it. And we just talked about that graffiti which is everywhere across Minneapolis and this particular area and it was just on one of the shields that you were referencing.

So true to true to form, they're completely painting with a broad brush every police officer who ever put his or her life on the line put on the uniform because they love the community and want the community to be safe. This is how much these so called protesters care about the people of Minneapolis and Minneapolis suburbs. They don't care one bit about them.

I'm sorry this, what we're seeing tonight is a devastation of a community that's already been hurt enormously. Mike, do you get a sense that people are dispersing or they just standing their ground.

TOBIN: Some of them are dispersing and for some of them is back and forth kind of game. I think you can see in the shot right now you got really the same group of people who are standing out in front of the police headquarters, kneeling with the umbrellas now doing the same thing with the umbrellas facing the police officers hoping that that umbrella would do what effective work against some of the less than lethal weaponry that the police in the right gear have and are ready to deploy.

As we're backing up here now away from police headquarters, I can tell you that we're getting very close to the strip mall. That was looted. What was that? Last night I'm trying to keep them all straight here. Last night the family of the dollar tree was looted. It was actually set on fire for a while but the fire crews what they accompany better than National Guard were actually gained control were able to gain control that situation. Now you're getting - those are peoples loud here that behavior versus a violation.

And they're telling people to resist. Some of the announcements today they've been making have been telling the media to disperse, even though the curfew is that I've read thus far, the media are exempted from the from the curfew. But when they're out here in the field, they're telling us to disperse when they tell me to disperse as we saw earlier night. My crew and I were going to go but we're watching it.

INGRAHAM: Yes, well, the 10:00 p.m. curfew is Minnesota time correct? I mean, it's obviously it's in Minnesota time so OK, so right hasn't reached the 10:00 p.m. curfew that the City of Minneapolis issued more than five hours ago now. So they continue to say that don't think we're - don't think we're just threatening these are idle threats. Every one of you on the street is going to be arrested for unlawful assembly and if you're committing any acts of violence, we're going to arrest you for that as well.

So it seems to me Mike that they know how quickly this got out of control the other night. They don't want these images of these stores. Some of - and some of these stores that were - as we're going to show people a little bit later on have just been rebuilt from last May's riots and just been, you know, restocked with - in some cases, alcohol and other cases other goods and things that they do for the people in the community.

So a lot of these small business owners, they're fed up. I mean, they don't they don't want to go through this again. It's heart wrenching for them. Mike, thank you so much for being with us tonight we're going to be back with you later on in the hour.

Now I want to turn now to Jorge Ventura. He's a field corresponded with the Daily Caller and on the St. Jorge, you're right in the middle of the protests at the Brooklyn Center. So what are you saying, I see you got a helmet on to protect you because I saw some of the objects flying in the air, very peacefully.

JORGE VENTURA, DAILY CALLER REPORTER: We're seeing a lot of back and forth, but there's still a few hundred, we have a rider still out of here just going back and forth with the police department. The police

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department has issued multiple warnings for the crowd to disperse and they have not - we're also even right behind you see a National Guard trucking. Even right here we'll give you guys a quick look at the ceiling. Right here we have a group about 80 here still not leaving and standing their ground down.

And we have seen National Guard and Brooklyn PD use crowd control munitions to try to get control the crowd, but it's still kind of chaotic scenes. Right now you're hearing a lot of fireworks, quite loud sound popping off right now in the background, but still a few hundred out still here standing their ground right now as we speak.

INGRAHAM: Now, Jorge, the crowd that you can actually make out. Is it a diverse crowd? I mean, I see a lot of you know, Mike said there were some Antifa there, that he was able to get to identify themselves as linked to Antifa but there seem to be a lot of people who are maybe they're not from the local community.

It seems like there's a lot of people maybe their presser, they'll be bused in or they're professional activists. It's difficult to say but I don't know, if you can see better, than we can.

VENTURA: Yes, it's been - a little bit difficult to say it has been a mixed we have seen some Antifa flags, we're seeing a mix of "Black Lives Matter" activists as well and as well as some locals and we have some folks that are coming out of town. So it is a mix between all and they all right now just seem very angry and are they are pretty adamant that they're going to stand here fight the guy, like I said, we see this in lots of rounds of tear gas used tonight. And even though some folks have left, there are still a few hundred out still here.

Like I said it's a mix between Antifa for "Black Lives Matter". And then you do have those folks that do come out around this time just to cause trouble when potential civil rights does pop off, just like we're seeing here tonight from the Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis.

INGRAHAM: And Jorge that concern has been repeatedly stated that another police precinct in the area could be in jeopardy, and they are just - at the authorities are just not going to let that happen. I mean, last year was such a colossal embarrassment for Minneapolis to see that third police precinct I believe it was a third police precinct. My memory serves me correct. Correct me if I'm wrong. That was, you know, never recovered.

And it was just abandoned, because it was surrounded by so many violent protesters and they had burned somebody the adjoining nearby structures that we filmed. That was back in August, when we were there - filming the buildings. In some cases, they were still smoldering, even a few months later, you could still smell the, you know, the chemicals and the other components of the structures still smoldering. That's how that's how bad the burn was in that area.

VENTURA: Yes, so this time around, we are seeing the police department, Brooklyn PD as well as Minneapolis - Minnesota State Trooper and the National Guard work hand in hand to protect the police department right behind me, you see a flower just popped off. But the bad thing about this actually that it leaves all the small businesses in the area very vulnerable, and law enforcement knows who is charged.

And we've seen multiple businesses have burned down and looted during this - for a second night in a row. We should have heard of reports of some looting, as well. But that's basically the really the negative thing about protecting the police department is the rest of the city. It's kind of in protective and vulnerable. And right now law enforcement is really spread thin between the National Guard and State Troopers and the local PD here at the Brooklyn Center.

INGRAHAM: People have to remember is that as Jorge said when you have such a large police presence, in one part of the city, does that leave other parts of the city completely vulnerable? You can't have - you can't cover every corner of an area as big as this is and for everybody who knows this particular part of Minnesota and I do. This is not a small area. This is a lot of square, you know square miles you have to deal with and you don't have enough, you don't have enough forces to be able to guarantee safety at every street corner.

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That's where the criminals come in. And they're not thinking of Daunte right, or his family or his poor mother who's suffering. They're not thinking about that at all. They're thinking about what they can take and get away with. And that's where you saw Jorge, all the strings, you know, the streaming line of cars pulling up to various stores, the Verizon store and also liquor stores in the area over the last few days are just streams of cars pulling up going in, taking out cases and going back in some cases for round two and round three of loading.

So that's where that was happening. Jorge will go back to you, as the scene unfolds. Let's bring in Oklahoma Senator James Lankford, who's been watching this unfold and Senator we originally had you come on tonight talk about the other story that we're covering this week can't cover it at night, at the border. We're opening the door to problems, criminality perhaps, and obviously COVID concerns and terrorism concerns. But now we have this, thousands of miles away to the north. Your reaction to what continues to be a breakdown of law and order?

SEN. JAMES LANKFORD (R-OK): Yes, a painful night to be able to watch all that's going on as it's gone on day after day after day for a while here. As we saw last summer, day after day of riots and protests and all the things that were moving during that time period as well.

I'd say my heart goes out to Duante Wright's family. But my heart also goes out to all of these law enforcement folks, because they hug their husband or their wife and their kids, and they suited up to be able to come help protect law and order. And it seems odd that all these protesters are out there, now violent people, that are causing this riot, seem to forget all those families that are on the other side of that as well.

So those law enforcement folks, we owe them a tremendous amount of respect for what they're doing to try to engage with lawless people in that community and try to restore some order. And for whatever reason, those folks on the left continue to talk about abolish ICE, abolish the police department, reimagine law enforcement, all those things they continue to do while these folks continue to be able to stand for basic law and order in our country.

INGRAHAM: Well, we have now Princeton Professor Eddie Glaude Jr., Senator. He didn't mince his words giving his views on the police and those who support the police. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

EDDIE GLAUDE JR. MSNBC CONTRIBUTOR: We have to honestly confront who we are. Policing in this country is rooted deeply in racist presuppositions about the criminality of black and brown folk. There's no compromise with those who believe that America belongs only to white people.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

INGRAHAM: Senator, this is a man now Biden invited to the White House recently on what his White House should look like, bringing diversity in the Biden administration. And you just heard his view of police forces across the country.

LANKFORD: Yes, when I talk to folks in every corner of my state, in every community, every place, they want basic law and order. They want to have the rule of law. They want to have good police officers in their area. They want to be safe. They don't want to deal with what we're dealing with already this year, record number of carjacking, record number of murders, all kinds of damage that is happening in their community. So no one really wants that.

And all this talk that is happening right now on the left, to say our retaliation of the police is either to abolish the police or abolish ICE or get rid of Border Patrol or get rid of barriers, but now talking about reimaging law enforcement. Then they go the next step. Then they start actually taking them on when they try to actually stand for justice. Last summer we had hearings in the Senate dealing with all the violence that was happening at a federal courthouse in Portland. At that time Senator Harris, who was on the same committee that I serve on, on Homeland Security, all of her questions were around, did you test the teargas on pregnant women? When you launched that teargas, were you concerned about the effect on pregnant women? And it was a riot just like what we're seeing tonight. If there are pregnant women in this crowd, they've obviously been clearly told to be able to watch out. But

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that was all of her concern about that. It wasn't about what was happening and the violence and the damage and attacking law enforcement, and the law enforcement officers that are having to think about their own families back home and what they're thinking today.

INGRAHAM: Senator, the Brooklyn Center Mayor today said that police, when they're making traffic stops, shouldn't even necessarily have weapons on them. Now, we're going to show everybody a video of what happened in New Mexico just recently to a police officer who made a traffic stop. OK, so he's says I don't believe that officers need to necessarily have weapons every time they are making a traffic stop.

Senator Lankford, this is not about Duante Wright. This is about nationalizing the police, removing any local or state control over law enforcement, and federalizing the entire thing. This has nothing to do with Duante Wright. Everybody watching this unfold on the streets, the violent aspect of it, has nothing to do with mourning the loss of life, which everybody feels horrifically about. This is -- reimagining is reimagining no police. That's what it is.

LANKFORD: Yes, that is exactly right, focus on federalizing police. They want to federalize all elections. They want to federalize all law enforcement. It's a constant drawing of power towards D.C., saying D.C. folks know better than everyone else, and so we'll just run everything from Washington D.C. with a centralized government that's here. That's never who we have been. We're always at our best when we allow local control and we allow management. We've all got checks and balance and process. There's always mistakes, there's always errors, and there's always people that do the wrong thing.

So we actually deal with that, but not just put a blanket view on everybody, every local law enforcement is bad when these are some remarkable people that put on that badge every single day and try to bring stability to our nation that we are absolutely dependent on to be able to step in to harm's way and to be able to help protect us.

INGRAHAM: Senator, thank you so much. And we'll have you back on the other crisis that's all happening during the Biden tenure. Remember, it was supposed to be calm and unity? I don't see a lot of unity out there in the streets. You've got Biden in the White House. Don't blame Trump. Senator, thank you.

Here's Matt Walsh, host of "The Matt Walsh Show." Matt, the officer said she accidentally killed this man on Sunday. She's already resigned. Tomorrow she's going to be charged. So that's not enough justice for the people out there on the street who are bringing the black backpacks with the bricks in them.

MATT WALSH, HOST, "THE MATT WALSH SHOW": We know, look for BLM -- here's one thing that I'm really sick of, is every time we have a riot like this, we have to hear from the media and people on social media about the pain and suffering and sorrow of these rioters and there's just so overcome by pain.

First of all, when you're out there attacking innocent people and burning businesses to the ground, I don't give a damn about your pain anymore. You lose the right to have your pain taken seriously. Second of all, I don't believe that you're in pain. You can watch the video of them burning a Dollar Tree and looting. And you listen to the video, people are laughing and having a great time just casually walking out with armfuls of stolen items. That's not what being in pain looks like.

But we also know that BLM -- listen, if they cared about black lives, generally speaking, why are we waiting specifically for these rare cases of unarmed black men being shot by cops? Despite what you hear from the media, that happens very rarely. In fact, it's more often than white people are shot by cops, whether armed or unarmed. But why are we waiting for that? This point comes up quite a bit because it's a good point that cities across the nation, every single day, there are people, the body count rises and rises of people being killed and discarded like their lives mean nothing, many of them black people, and BLM has nothing to say about it.

There was a woman, just one example, two years ago, a woman named Brittany Hill. This video is out there. You can watch it. It's the most horrifying video you've probably ever seen in your life. She's in Chicago, she's standing outside her house, holding her one-year-old baby. Two gang members drive by and shoot and kill her while she is

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holding her baby. This is on video, OK. **BLM** has nothing to say about her whatsoever. We have to wait for a guy like Duante Wright to pretend we care.

And also by the way, if they care about police brutality, then we are we waiting for only when black people are killed by cops? Ashli Babbitt, white woman, unarmed, protester on January 6th, she was shot at point blank range in the neck by a police officer. And any time you see a **BLM** hashtag or someone claiming **BLM** on Twitter, search their name, and Ashli Babbitt, see what they had to say about Ashli Babbitt when she went down, because either they said nothing, or they actually celebrated the fact that in this case an unarmed woman was shot dead. So I don't buy it. I don't buy that they care about police brutality and I don't buy that they care about black lives.

INGRAHAM: It's a fraud. No, Matt, you're 100 percent right. And what we're seeing tonight, this isn't Minnesota, OK? I spent a lot of time in Minnesota. Everyone knows that. I repeat it maybe too often. I have extended family in Minnesota. I'm there every summer, OK? This is not -- what we're seeing right now is in Columbus. But you got my point earlier. Yes, and now what we're seeing now is in Columbus. This is expanded, where protesters have broken into police headquarters, Matt, going to your point. Police had it locked by handcuffs. Now, this is going to be going on coast to coast unless, as Newt Gingrich said, unless they stop it. Unless they use appropriate legal force to stop the criminality, it's going to spread.

WALSH: Yes, look at -- first of all, breaking into a police station. And we know that they did that. As you mentioned earlier in the show, we know what happened in Minneapolis. They broke into a police station and burned it almost to the ground. And the cops abandoned it basically, had to run for their lives. And now we're seeing the same kinds of things. I thought that attacks on government buildings, that counts as an insurrection. That's what we were told on January 6th.

We know what happened January 6th, the response to that. Look at the response to that. They militarized the Capitol for months, it still is, after that happened. And yet this sort of thing occurs in cities like in Minneapolis and across the country, and not the same kind of response. The reason is that the politicians, they care about their own safety. And so if you come to where we live, then we're going to bring down the hammer. But just average people, whoever works at the Dollar Store in Minneapolis, politicians don't care about them. They don't rate. And they don't rate politically as far as politicians are concerned. So you're not going to get the same kind of response.

INGRAHAM: No. The razor wire only goes in when you're protecting Nancy Pelosi. Matt, thank you so much.

And I want to go back to FOX News correspondent Mike Tobin. Mike, what did the police just announce?

MIKE TOBIN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: If you look behind me, it may look a bit the same as the shot we just gave you 15 minutes ago. But the thing is the whole thing is happening a little further northwest here on North Humboldt Drive. What you have is these rows and rows of state troopers in the riot gear. They make their announcement. This is an unlawful assembly. Everybody has got to disburse or they're going to be arrested, and then they advance this line. Every time they advance the line, you see the protesters scramble.

And the net effect, though, as I can tell you from just observing, is the numbers are decreasing. The scary part is when the numbers are decreasing, you still have the same amount of people. They have just gone somewhere else. And what we have seen on past experience and what we've seen with past experience, when you scattered the demonstrators from one place, they go somewhere else and oftentimes they'll loot. So I can tell you what I see here in the immediate area. What I can't tell you is what they're doing in other parts of the town right now.

But you've got the rows and rows of riot cops. You've got a couple of tactical vehicles with their lights on. They're advancing north here on the road. And you still have this cat and mouse game with the demonstrators. They want to throw a few things, they want to taunt the cops, see how much they can get away with. Laura?

INGRAHAM: And Mike, is there any sense that police are ready to go in other vulnerable parts of Minneapolis, St. Paul tonight? Obviously we're talking about, as I said earlier, a very large area to cover. It's a lot of ground to cover

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even with increased police presence. How concerned might they be about these other vulnerable areas and the individuals who live in them?

TOBIN: I think they are concerned about other cities in the area, and that's why you had the curfew extended not just to this town, but curfews in so many of the surrounding towns. In terms of having to manpower to actually go into all these areas, one of the things that we heard from Chief Arradondo time and time again, as he does the briefings about Operation Safety Net, is the difference this time around is that law enforcement had time to plan.

I want to point out one visual to you right now. There's a guy walking past us with a helmet, the white helmet. And he has got the leaf blower, there, Laura. And again, that's a technique we saw pioneered out in Portland, we saw pioneered out in Seattle.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: -- you will be violating Minnesota state statute --

TOBIN: Laura?

INGRAHAM: Yes, and there you're hearing the announcement again. Mike, that's about at least the third or fourth time we've heard that announcement made within the hour. And so they have to marry that sound with the actual movement of vehicles and police officers. Otherwise, they'll just be making announcement after announcement. How much ground do you think these vehicles have covered in the past half-hours since you've been watching just on camera with us, or 43 minutes, I guess?

TOBIN: Better than a quarter mile. They started to the southeast side of the police headquarters when they came outside of the fence, massed down the road, and they're just marching here. They're saying north, but if you look at Google Maps, anyway, it looks like it's a little more northwest. And so they covered a good quarter mile plus. And again, the net effect is that the number of demonstrators went from about 2,000 to now, I guess ballpark it that I could see, somewhere around 80 or 100.

INGRAHAM: Duante Wright's parents, Mike, rejected the police explanation or narrative over the fatal shooting. That happened earlier today in their first television interview. They said they don't believe what the police say about their son's fatal shooting, and giving an interview to "Good Morning America." And that probably, obviously just made a very difficult situation maybe understandably so much worse, because they're obviously in an enormous amount of pain. But they're not buying what the police are saying, that this was an accident.

TOBIN: And a lot of the people that you hear out on the street, even talking with the people surrounding Ben Crump's team, they don't buy that it was an accident. Someone going for the wrong -- you've heard the narrative, going for the wrong weapon. They don't buy that it was an accident. You heard from some of the family suggest, or some of the activists, I should say, who were in the press conference with Mayor Mike Elliott and the new interim police chief suggesting they don't even believe that he was pulled over for an expired tag. They say that he was simply pulled over for a profile stop.

One of the things you heard from the mother of Duante Wright was her belief that he was pulled over because the air freshener hanging from his rearview mirror got the attention of police. So you get all these different narratives that come out. The only official narrative we have from the police was that he was pulled over for an expired tag. In the course of checking his i.d., they determined he had an outstand warrant for a pistol without a permit, Laura.

INGRAHAM: And Mike, just to give people a sense of the geography here, and there goes that announcement again -- this is all taking place about 10 miles from where the Derek Chauvin trial continues day after day. Do you sense there is a crossover in the crowd there, a crossover, have you seen any indication the people who are gathered there are also gathered because of the Chauvin trial and where that might be headed?

TOBIN: Absolutely. And you had a lot of people who were preparing, and you've seen there have been nightly demonstrated during the course of the Derek Chauvin trial, and so you had some of those people out here. But you also have a lot of the out of towners particularly who are showing up tonight. I don't know that everyone is an out of



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towners. They appear out of town to me, in certainly how they increase numbers who are showing up here. I haven't been able to check everyone's I.D.s and addresses, so that's why I'm cautioning as I throw that out to you.

But I think you have a lot of people who were gearing up for the end of the Derek Chauvin trial, particularly if it was a verdict that they weren't happy with, they were planning to descend on this area, hence the need for Operation Safety Net. Then this unpredictable event upset a lot of people and triggered what we're seeing now, Laura.

INGRAHAM: Yes, again, the Target on Lake Street was looted yesterday. We had other small businesses just terribly looted and vandalized and just laid waste to a lot of volunteers out there this morning. Again, Mike, it seems like a replay of what we saw last June 1st, June 2nd. That would be the damage done and then there would be the people showing up to try to clean it up only to have it damaged again the next night. So we're slowing the footage now of some of the badly damaged small businesses along with those big box stores that were getting hammered as well. But clearly a lot of people taking advantage of police presence being deployed elsewhere in the region and not necessarily at the locality where they want to take a lot of free stuff, essentially.

Mike, what is the movement on the ground now? Have they made more headway, authorities, to try to disperse this?

TOBIN: Not a lot of movement since we've been speaking. We've heard the announcement come out a couple of times, and usually the announcement comes ahead of a big advance of this line. The announcement has come out a couple of times. Just seen a couple of flashbangs come out of the row of police in the riot gear. It actually went over our heads and seemed to blow past where everybody is standing here. But that has happened over the last few minutes. But since we've been speaking, this line hasn't moved at all. And what I see with the demonstrators is they're just standing around seeing what happens next. There is a degree of gamesmanship that comes on with each one of these things, comes along with each one of these things, and I think that's a stage we're in now, Laura.

INGRAHAM: At least 53 people, according to one report, have been arrested in two different cities near Brooklyn Center in Minneapolis. So we'll continue to follow that. Mike, thanks so much.

And I want to bring back former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Newt, I mentioned that the mayor of this Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, was wondering whether his officers' executive vehicle stops needed weapons, so traffic stops and the like. Now, I want folks to take a look at this video that was released earlier today out of New Mexico.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

(END VIDEO CLIP)

INGRAHAM: Now because the video was so horrific, the man gunned down was Officer Darian Jarrott. The assailant then went up to him with an AR-15, and he was face down on the pavement, Newt, and he shot him at point blank in the back of the head. So I would imagine that officers probably do need weapons at traffic stops. Maybe someone can send a memo to the mayor.

NEWT GINGRICH, FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: Look, I think we have to recognize that we've allowed America to become much more dangerous. We've allowed criminals to become much bolder and more savage. And we've adopted a series of rules and laws and attitudes that are just going to continue to erode civilization.

And the people it really puts at risk are the poor. You'll notice the food -- rather the giant store that was burned and looted, that had local people working in it. Its customers were local people. The strip mall that was attacked, that had local people working in it. Its customers were local people. This doesn't affect the rich. This affects the poorest Americans, it affects African Americans, Latinos, people who are living in a neighborhood. And they're victimized, and the rest of us tolerate it.

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So I think we're going to have to tighten up dramatically, probably starting not just in Minneapolis, but starting in Portland and Seattle, and making a decision that we're going to not going to tolerate an anti- civilization violent mob moving from city to city, and local thugs who kill innocent people, including two and three-year-old kids who are killed in drive-by shooting. What the left has done in this country is madness, and it is driving us towards, I think, a very, very dangerous environment where people ultimately will in fact feel that they have to protect themselves if the government won't protect them. It's a very dangerous moment in American history.

INGRAHAM: Yes, and Newt, people at some point will -- and this is just how it always goes -- will take defense of their family and their property into their own hands. We saw that during the L.A. riots when store owners stood outside with shotguns and said no, you won't, you're not going to take this. And you've seen that to some extent in Minnesota, Minneapolis, over the past 72 hours where you do have people saying, police can't do it, we're going to do it ourselves. And for the most part, they've been able to protect their stores, the ones who have done that.

GINGRICH: Look, you're presently going to see neighborhood defense associations, and you're going to see a much greater neighborhood hostility to criminals, to drug dealers, to violent people. We've been in a long cycle here of year-by-year ceding ground to the violent, the corrupt, and frankly, the evil. And I think that it's now reaching the critical mass.

Pictures from New York in particular have been just horrific, mobs with no provocation, none of the excuses you have in Minneapolis, mobs have been out doing things in daylight with absolutely no fear of the law, no fear of the police, no fear of the news media. We're not going to tolerate that very long historically. We never have. And I think you'll see the American people move pretty dramatically back towards insisting that they be protected by the government and insisting that they have the right to protect themselves if the government won't protect them.

INGRAHAM: Newt, let's remember what happened in New York City. When New York City was just a zombie land of crime in the 70s and into the 80s, we had ebbs and flows. But I remember as a kid, certain parts of New York you just couldn't go into. I lived in Connecticut, but I would go into the city. And then it ushered in the era of Giuliani. People were fed up.

And so Barack Obama weighed in on all of this, Newt, today, totally irresponsible, tweeting that "Our hearts are heavy over yet another shooting of a black man, Daunte Wright. It's important to conduct a full and transparent investigation, but this is also a reminder of just how badly we need to reimagine policing and public safety in the country." Newt, there hasn't even been a full investigation of what happened with this female officer. And the former president of the United States with all of his celebrity is saying this?

GINGRICH: If Obama took crime in Chicago seriously, and you looked at the number of people killed in Chicago, innocent people killed in Chicago during the Obama presidency, and his total neglect of innocent people, most of them African American, the victims of violent crime are African American much more than the victims of any police brutality. And that's one of the great lies that the left tells. It does not want to confront the fact that the people you're watching on TV right now are dangerous largely to local minorities. They're not dangerous to the Nancy Pelosis in a secure neighborhood, or to the very rich or to Barack Obama. But they're very dangerous to local poor people and to people of color.

INGRAHAM: You see the authorities moving in in some of these pictures on the crowd that will not disburse. And to your point, Newt, in the area right around where George Floyd was killed, there's like a three or four square block area, it's all blocked off to any regular traffic. And there's basically just dividers and people sitting at convention tables, essentially preventing the free flow of people in and out of the area. You have to basically go through some rudimentary screening. And I'm thinking to myself, who is getting rich off of this? The neighborhoods not improving because of this giant situation going on around where George Floyd was killed. I understand there's a memorial there, and that's fine. But I don't know what kind of commerce exists around there at all.

GINGRICH: I think one of the things we have to do is eliminate no-go zones, whether it's in Minneapolis or Portland or Seattle. We just have to say flatly, the United States is one country, and we're not going to tolerate local people

Unlawful Assembly Declared In Brooklyn Center; Fox Reporter: Some Rioters Identified Themselves As Antifa;  
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in effect seceding, creating mini-countries that they then dominate and control, again, usually to the disadvantage of people of color.

INGRAHAM: Again, we're seeing live pictures from this unfolding situation in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, after the Duante Wright killing, the police narrative on this, and seems to jive. There has to be a full investigation, obviously, with just a tragic accident where a police officer, 29 years on the force, pulled a gun instead of a taser in this stop of Mr. Wright, who apparently did have a warrant out, outstanding warrant. And he was shot. The women exclaimed I shot him. She seemed genuinely shocked and horrified. But again, there needs to be an investigation, Newt. And we can't have people chiming in one way or the other on this until there is an investigation. That's the rule of law as well.

Newt, thank you.

Let's go back to Jorge Ventura, who is a field correspondent with "The Daily Caller." Jorge, moments ago we saw some police starting to move pretty aggressively against these folks. Now the curfew is almost upon us. It looks like the crackdown might begin.

JORGE VENTURA, REPORTER, "THE DAILY CALLER": Yes. Right now we're actually seeing the crowd disburse. Finally, the National Guard and Minnesota state troopers are pushing the crowd back. And we're starting to see them disburse. Now I actually see people, we're going to do a quick pan. But I would say now there are probably 100 people out here. They're still hearing chants of Black Lives Matter, chants of Duante Wright. But now the crackdown is happening. And all of Brooklyn Center Police Department has been cleared. There are no more protesters or any people in that area. It's all law enforcement. And anyone who even goes by there will get arrested. So we are seeing law enforcement clear out the area right now, and we'll continue. Right now I would say there's now probably less than 100 people still out here right now.

INGRAHAM: There are sporadic reports, Jorge, of other problems in the Minneapolis area as this is unfolding. We don't have pictures of them, but again, when you have that much of a police presence in one part of the city, curfew or no curfew, there's only so much ground that you can cover. You can't cover it all, and you certainly can't protect every business, which leads back to Newt's point that until law enforcement gets serious and puts down what is ultimately an insurrection against enforcing the rule of law, unless they start doing that, then you're just going to keep getting more of it. And this is just the tip of the iceberg, Jorge. If this trial of Derek Chauvin doesn't go the way they want it to go, what happens then?

VENTURA: I'd say we're going to see a repeat of last summer where these groups start to attack every major city. And it seems almost every big city goes into flames. Every small business suffers, especially the minority businesses. The black and brown businesses get hurt when this stuff happens. They get destroyed. And it's a really sad thing for these communities. Even at the scene right now, right here just in front of the police department are a bunch of apartments and families. You actually see a lot of families and their kids actually looking out the windows while all this chaotic scene, it's happening right now.

But one thing that hopefully is coming is that Minnesota P.D. and the state troopers have learned a lesson from last year and hopefully they --

INGRAHAM: We've got to go, Jorge. Thank you for your reports tonight.

We're going to be following this now with Shannon Bream. She continues our live coverage out of Minnesota next. Shannon Bream.

**Load-Date:** April 14, 2021

## Richmond's Rage of the Woke

Newstex Blogs

Bacon's Rebellion

April 12, 2021 Monday 4:00 PM EST

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### Body

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Apr 12, 2021( Bacon's Rebellion: <https://www.baconsrebellion.com/wp/> Delivered by Newstex) <https://www.baconsrebellion.com/app/uploads/2021/04/graffiti-covered-bronze-equestrian-statue-of-Robert-E-Lee-full1.jpg> The bronze equestrian statue (1890) of Robert E. Lee covered in graffiti, September 2020 (Photo courtesy of author) by Catesby Leigh Beautifully landscaped with ample medians and harmoniously lined with gracious houses in various historic styles, Richmond, Virginia's block-paved Monument Avenue and its several statuary tributes to Confederate leaders were once recognized as a triumph of American urban design. The residential frontages served admirably as a variegated frame for the monuments, creating a superb urban tableau that it made no sense to eradicate—especially as the monuments lost ideological currency with the passage of time, as monuments often do. But after the mayhem triggered by George Floyd's fatal arrest in Minneapolis in May 2020, the 14 blocks of the avenue comprising a National Historic Landmark District present a sorry spectacle.

Bare pedestals, with the vandals' graffiti not entirely washed away, stand on the avenue's median. Statues of General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson, the cavalry commander J. E. B. Stuart, Confederate president Jefferson Davis, and the world-renowned oceanographer Matthew Fontaine Maury, who played an inconspicuous role in the Confederate war effort, are gone—victims of fanaticism fueled by Twitter slogans drawing, in turn, on national-guilt and systemic-racism narratives in which Americans have been increasingly indoctrinated. The magnificent bronze equestrian statue of Robert E. Lee still stands at the center of a turfed circle 200 feet wide that is Monument Avenue's principal node and was the point of departure for its creation at the end of the nineteenth century. But the monument's majestically rusticated, 40-foot-tall granite pedestal has been hideously defaced by Black Lives Matter agitators' spray-painting. The circle, previously enclosed within a ring of heavily graffitied jersey barriers, and, since January, within an additional ring of chain-link fencing eight feet tall, degenerated into an anarchists' playground last year. The New York Times Style Magazine has perversely hailed the monument's nihilistic 'transformation' as the most influential work of 'protest art' since World War II. Located in the Confederacy's capital, Monument Avenue was the South's most important venue for commemoration of the Lost Cause. The quality of its statuary was of a distinctly higher order than the many undistinguished, often cheaply mass-produced 'Silent Sentinel' statues of lone Confederate soldiers, standing at parade rest in front of many a courthouse portico—not to mention Stone Mountain, Georgia's huge, kitschy relief of Lee, Jackson, and Davis on horseback. While Americans overwhelmingly deplore the vandalization or destruction of statues of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Frederick Douglass and other abolition advocates, as well as figures of Christ and the Virgin Mary, Confederate monuments have a far more precarious hold on public affections. In recent years—and particularly during Donald Trump's presidency—they have become increasingly controversial in the South itself. Since the BLM protests erupted, dozens of these monuments have been banished from courthouse squares, parks, and other public spaces, from the Carolinas to Texas—in small towns as well as big cities. In Virginia, which has seen the

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most dramatic outburst of defacement and officially sanctioned removal of monuments of any state, opinion has been split on the fate of the Confederate landmarks. A September 2020 Associated Press poll found 46 percent of Virginians in favor of removal and 42 percent opposed, with a margin of error of 4 percent. While the South leans red on the whole, Virginia is blue. And despite years of mass-media vilification of all things Confederate, and Virginia Republicans generally treating the monuments issue like kryptonite, the state has seen nothing like a solid consensus supporting removal. That hasn't prevented politicians like Virginia governor Ralph Northam and Richmond mayor Levar Stoney from getting with the iconoclastic program. The legality of their efforts is dubious in Richmond's case. But while the damage will almost certainly not be reversed where most of the city's Confederate statues are concerned, Northam's June 2020 order for the removal of the Lee equestrian is another matter. For the record, I have Confederates in my attic, including a great uncle on my father's side who served as a private in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and was killed at 18 and, on my mother's, a great-great grandfather who directed the strategically vital Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond before, during, and after the Civil War. For my money, two quotations from Wilfred McClay's fine history of the United States, *Land of Hope*<sup>[1]</sup>, serve as a useful point of departure when pondering the fate of Confederate monuments. The first is Gettysburg hero Joshua Chamberlain's recollection of the scene in April 1865 when Lee's men surrendered their weapons and banners: 'Before us in proud humiliation stood the embodiment of manhood: men whom neither toils and sufferings, nor the fact of death, nor disaster, nor hopelessness could bend from their resolve; standing before us now, thin, worn, and famished, but erect, and with eyes looking into ours, waking memories that bound us together as no other bond; was not such manhood to be welcomed back into a Union so tested and assured?' [https://www.baconsrebellion.com/app/uploads/2021/04/JeffersonDavisLOC\\_HABS1.jpg](https://www.baconsrebellion.com/app/uploads/2021/04/JeffersonDavisLOC_HABS1.jpg) A vintage photo of Monument Avenue's Jefferson Davis memorial, erected in 1907 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS) The second quote is from another Yankee, an old soldier asked why he had taken up arms against the British at Concord decades before: 'Young man, what we meant going for those red-coats was this: we always had governed ourselves, and we always meant to. They didn't mean we should.' Some Confederate monuments—such as those to Lee, Jackson, and Stuart on Monument Avenue—represent acts of homage rendered to revered commanders, plain and simple. But those two quotations encapsulate the message that Southerners, especially Southern women grouped in the United Daughters of the Confederacy, wished to convey in many of the hundreds of Confederate memorials that they erected in the public square, mostly between 1890 and 1920: that the South's Lost Cause, no less than the American Revolution, was a valiant struggle for independence waged against an invading army. We know that there is more to the story. We know that one Southern state after another, in proclaiming its secession from the Union, cited the threat to slavery posed by Lincoln's election to the presidency as justification. If slavery is mentioned on a single Confederate pedestal, it would be news to me. What we do often encounter are belabored exercises in Lost Cause apologetics, as with Monument Avenue's bombastic 1907 encomium to Jefferson Davis—over whose statue, with the right arm histrionically extended in oratorical appeal, loomed a deified Vindicatrix crowning a column 60 feet tall. On the Davis statue's now-naked pedestal one can still read tributes such as this: As citizen, soldier, statesman, he enhanced the glory and enlarged the fame of the United States. When his allegiance to that government was terminated by his sovereign state, as president of the Confederate States he exalted his country before the nations. Maybe not. In any event, the ornate semicircular columnar screen that framed the statues of Davis and his vindicating goddess is still in place, terminating in piers once crowned by bronze urns brimming with banners and perched on martial implements. They're gone. So are the piers' bronze plaques, inscribed with lengthy tributes to the Confederate army and navy. It would be hard to find a monument that more ostentatiously reflected a region 'so long trained to believing what it wanted to believe' or better embodied the old Southern penchant for the grandiose rhetorical gesture, as observed by W. J. Cash in his brilliant 1941 cultural study, *The Mind of the South*. It is a sign of the times that the Davis monument has been dismantled—his statue having been toppled by a mob on June 10 as police stood by, while the deity was removed weeks later by a construction crew retained by Stoney. Erected by the Daughters, the now-dismembered monument spoke volumes about Lost Cause panegyric and propaganda. And in aesthetic terms, it enriched the avenue's physiognomy. The South's segregationist Jim Crow regime crumbled over half a century ago, and the first African-American mayor of Richmond (whose population is half black) assumed office in 1977. In the intervening decades, Monument Avenue has retained its function as a celebratory venue not just for Richmond but also for the surrounding region—a place for charity walks and marathons, Saturday morning jogging groups, bike races, moonlight bike rides, and an Easter festival with people promenading past porch parties and street vendors, on their way to the celebrated bonnet contest at the Lee Monument, where women young and old (and even some males of

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the species) have appeared in more or less hilarious headdress, sometimes accompanied by more or less hilariously attired canines. The statuary has served as an impressive backdrop for citizens of all races and threatened nobody. to tell the whole story, or even the real story. That task belongs to historians. Monuments have always enshrined particular aspects of experience and elevated them to a symbolic, ideal, or mythic realm—an essentially artistic task—and for this reason, monuments can retain an aesthetic or cultural value that endures even after their mythic power has faded. They also retain historical value, as physical testaments to the loyalties, memories, convictions, or illusions of those who erected them. And, of course, as testaments to valor and fortitude that, in the case of Lee, Jackson, and Stuart, for example, are anything but mythical. The devotees of politically correct iconoclasm would have us believe that Confederate monuments have no significance or value independent of the Jim Crow regime, which began taking root in the late 1870s, and that to defend their preservation is to defend white supremacy. That may apply to a coterie of far-right misfits. But on the whole the indictment is bunk. Monument Avenue was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1997 for reasons having everything to do with culture and history and nothing to do with advocacy of white supremacy. And yet, in Richmond itself, no effective opposition to the lawless **destruction** committed by Black Lives Matter, antifa and kindred groups, or the authorities' capitulation to them, emerged last year. Business leaders kept silent even as numerous retail outlets and other private properties were attacked by vandals and arsonists. The day the Davis statue was hauled down, the publisher of the Richmond Times Dispatch, always a key figure in the city's business community, issued a privilege-checking pronouncement that said nothing about the acute civil disorder and the authorities' failure to enforce the law. 'We believe Black Lives Matter,' he assured readers. 'At the RTD, we have work to do. Our team is not diverse enough, but we are committed to changing that. . . . As a 60-something white male raised in a suburban setting, I am acutely aware how experiences must change to foster awareness.' It's as if these people hoped the mob's destructiveness would hasten a 'progressive' rebranding of the River City. Meantime, some scholars and preservationists underwent conversion experiences inspiring fulsome approval of the monuments' removal. Others remained silent. 'I don't want my house firebombed,' said one. In short, the mob's chant—'Whose streets? Our streets!'—was no idle boast. All told, a dozen statues or landmarks with Confederate associations were among those that came down in Richmond last June and July. A lofty Corinthian column on Libby Hill, principal landmark of the beautiful old Church Hill neighborhood in the city's east end, is now bereft of its silent sentinel (1894), shown with his rifle and bayonet perched on a tree stump at his side. Across town, in a small plaza not far from Monument Avenue, the mob yanked a much finer work, a bronze statue of an artilleryman, off the pedestal of the Richmond Howitzers monument (1892). Somewhat reminiscent of the ancient Greek Doryphoros, or Spear-Bearer, the artilleryman was shown in uniform rather than nude, and clasping a tamper instead of a spear. Monument Avenue's figurative but modernistic Maury monument (1929)—removed, like the Libby Hill sentinel, on Stoney's orders—showed the seated scientist in mufti, with a swirlingly allegorical, multi-figured portrayal of storms and floods girding the base of the large globe above him.<https://www.baconsrebellion.com/app/uploads/2021/04/JeffersonDavis0920.jpg> The Davis memorial as it looked in September 2020 (courtesy of author) As for Lee, he is mounted on a horse fortunately larger than Traveler, the rather diminutive equine he rode in real life. He holds his hat at his side and looks into the distance. The French sculptor Antonin Merci modeled the statue making use of a death mask provided by Lee's family. Like the Jackson (1919) and Stuart (1907) monuments, the Lee equestrian, inaugurated in 1890 before a crowd estimated at from 100,000 to 150,000 spectators, is devoid of Lost Cause apologetics. The inscription on its once-splendid pedestal consists of exactly one word: Lee. The statue has some paint on it but shows no sign of serious damage. Because the monument was deeded to the state along with the circle, this is the one Monument Avenue landmark Stoney could not remove. The year it was completed, Virginia's governor, acting with the state legislature's authorization, signed a deed that included the state's 'guarantee that she will hold [the Lee] statue and pedestal and circle of ground perpetually sacred to the monumental purpose to which they have been devoted and that she will faithfully guard it and affectionately protect it.' Litigation over the Lee statue has now reached the Supreme Court of Virginia, which is unlikely to rule against Northam even though the way the state legislature went about approving his removal order is legally questionable. But because bedrock principles governing contracts are involved, the monument's fate could wind up in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court. The removal of Confederate statues began to attract more support after a young racist psychopath, Dylan Roof, slaughtered nine African-American parishioners in a Charleston, S.C. church in 2015. The massacre was a major factor in New Orleans's removal of its three principal Confederate monuments. But the future of Richmond's only began to be seriously questioned after the violent confrontation between neo-Nazis and Klansmen and a far larger number of counter-

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protestors, including a significant antifa contingent, in the liberal college town of Charlottesville in August 2017. The white supremacists were rallying in defense of Charlottesville's equestrian statue of Lee, which the city council had voted to remove. A 32-year-old woman was fatally struck when one of them drove his Dodge Challenger into a crowd of counter-protesters. In the aftermath of the Charlottesville riot, then-Governor Terry McAuliffe acted to prevent a similar confrontation at the Lee monument in Richmond by signing an ordinance—which remains in effect, and which Northam, Stoney, and the police mainly honored in the breach during the **BLM** protests—that aside from limiting public gatherings at Lee Circle to 500 people, prohibited weapons or anything that could be used as a weapon, along with food, beverages, and any sort of encampment. The ordinance also prohibited climbing on the monument and imposed a dawn-to-dusk curfew at the site. In 2018, a blue-ribbon commission assigned by Stoney to review the status of Monument Avenue's Confederate landmarks proposed removal of the Jefferson Davis monument and leaving the others in place with new signage providing historical context, plus a range of cultural and educational initiatives. The wisest, if not the wokest, course might have been to leave the avenue alone and offer exhibits including different perspectives on its commemorative art in the fine English Renaissance mansion, designed by John Russell Pope, adjacent to the Davis monument site. The mansion is now home to the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design. In any event, and despite Stoney's vehement denunciations of them, Richmond's Confederate monuments seemed safe. But not for long. Early in 2019, Northam's medical school yearbook page from 35 years before with a photo showing one man in blackface and another in Klan garb turned up. Then his VMI yearbook page emerged, giving one of his two nicknames as 'Coonman,' a racial slur. There were many calls for the governor's resignation in the ensuing uproar. Northam weathered the storm, but he sought to repair the political damage by focusing on a racial-justice agenda. With a view to facilitating removal of Confederate monuments, he signed legislative amendments last year empowering cities to 'remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover'—but not alter or destroy—war memorials. Thirty days' public notice was required to permit citizens to submit their views at an open meeting. Then came George Floyd's death in police custody. It was the moment **BLM** and its allies had been waiting for. They certainly weren't interested in observing the niceties of the new monuments legislation, not to speak of the McAuliffe ordinance concerning the Lee Monument. Nor, as it turned out, were Northam and Stoney. Many of Monument Avenue's well-heeled denizens were at first sympathetic to the demonstrators. And though **BLM** and its allies hardly mobilized the 'mass protests' some have claimed, demonstrations did initially attract thousands of peaceful participants, black and white alike. After that, the city confronted agitators usually numbering in the low hundreds who were mostly white and often violent. Over the course of two weeks in June, they toppled five statues (including the Davis) without a single instance of police intervention. Christopher Columbus was pulled down from his pedestal in Byrd Park, spray painted, set on fire, and dragged into a nearby lake. The agitators blocked streets and vandalized private property. Even during the first weekend of protests, May 29 to 31, Richmond firefighters responded to nearly 50 fires attributed to **BLM** agitators. The Daughters' headquarters, prominently situated in the city's museum district, was set on fire, causing \$1.5 million in structural damage.<https://www.baconsrebellion.com/app/uploads/2021/04/JEBStuartLOC-HABS.jpg> A vintage photo of the 1907 J. E. B. Stuart monument (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, HABS) Unruly demonstrations subsequently took place at Richmond police headquarters, at Stoney's downtown apartment building, at the home of the city council member whose district includes Lee Circle, at the home of the state attorney for Richmond, at the downtown office of a law firm that obtained an injunction against the Lee monument's removal, and at the city courthouse. According to her attorney, members of the Monument Avenue household of 96-year-old Helen Marie Taylor, a plaintiff in lawsuits against Northam and Stoney and the city council arising from their monument removal campaign, were roughed up and her house was vandalized. From the outset, protesters occupied Lee Circle, unofficially renamed in honor of Marcus-David Peters, an unarmed black teacher fatally shot in 2018 by a Richmond police officer on I-95 while in a violently deranged state. (A state attorney who is now Virginia's attorney general determined that the shooting was justified.) Despite sporadic police efforts to enforce the McAuliffe ordinance, the circle became a campground. A carnival atmosphere prevailed on June and July nights when thirtysomething video artists Dustin Klein and Alex Criqui projected images of the Black Power clenched-fist icon, Floyd, Breonna Taylor—the 26-year-old Louisville ER technician killed in an early-morning police raid—and distinguished African-American historical figures on the Lee Monument, along with quotations and slogans. Within weeks of Floyd's death, however, there were armed protesters, including white men in body armor, at the circle. Aside from hearing gunshots, theTimes-Dispatchreported in August, people in the Lee Monument's vicinity had 'witnessed assaults, caught visitors defecating and urinating on their property, and struggled to sleep through the noise.' The noise was mainly attributable to drum-beating and truck-born double-decker loudspeakers at the circle,

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firecrackers, and police planes circling overhead on an almost nightly basis. The Lee monument is located a mere couple of miles from the Governor's Mansion, and Northam is responsible for the state's abject failure to protect it in accordance with the 1890 deed as well as the McAuliffe ordinance. The chain-link fence that went up in January was about eight months late. And it should have been reinforced, from the disturbances' outset, by a detachment of state or city police charged with keeping order at the site. Instead of restoring order, Northam and Stoney elected to placate the mob, with Stoney relying on his declaration of a state of emergency to carry out his statutory cleansing campaign. (Northam's emergency order for Richmond included an 8P.M.to 6A.M.curfew that protesters ignored, along with his Covid-19-motivated restrictions on public gatherings.) In June, a **BLM** member had his head cut open when protestors toppled a statue adorning an elaborate Confederate monument in Portsmouth, Virginia, as police looked on. Resorting to a pretext swiftly adopted by numerous public authorities throughout the South, Stoney cited 'failing to remove the [Confederate] statues now' as 'a severe, immediate and growing threat to public safety' when a construction crew removed Monument Avenue's Stonewall Jackson equestrian from its pedestal on July 1. He called the statues' removal a 'temporary' emergency measure while making it clear he regarded their banishment as permanent, declaring 'I think the healing can now begin in the city of Richmond.' By July 9, the crew had removed five other statues linked to the Confederacy. The problem—as the interim city attorney, Haskell Brown III, had warned Stoney—was that the state of emergency did not authorize the Confederate monuments' removal. Stoney's action has been contested in circuit court and in the state Supreme Court; in no case has it been sanctioned. The Supreme Court has ruled that an anonymous plaintiff brought suit too late. A Richmond circuit judge, on the other hand, called Stoney's action 'wrongful' in a February hearing but ruled that putting the statues back up would be 'a futile act' because the city would presumably just take them down again, this time in a legal manner. Stoney also agreed, again on his own authority, to a \$1.8 million contract with a Norfolk businessman and political donor who arranged for out-of-state crews to do the removal work. (Virginia contractors allegedly weren't interested.) That contract, uncovered by veteran Virginia journalist James A. Bacon, is now under investigation by a state prosecutor. The white-majority city council voted unanimously to approve a Confederate monument-removal ordinance on August 3, after publishing notice of the meeting early in July. But by the time the council voted, the statues had already been in storage at the city's wastewater treatment plant for weeks. The ordinance was drafted as if Stoney hadn't already presented the council with a fait accompli. This is banana republic stuff. And on this past April Fool's Day, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in a Charlottesville case declaring that the amended monuments law applies only to works erected after 1997, meaning that the law doesn't mean what Northam, the legislature, and the general public thought it meant. 'Those statues stood high for over 100 years and it was for a reason,' Stoney declared on July 1, 'and it was to intimidate and to show black and brown people in this city who was in charge.' Leaving aside the Orwellian switcheroo of making the statues the culprits instead of the vandals, Stoney was regurgitating a familiar leftist talking point, and it is false. Those statues represent tributes to valor as well as attempts to salvage redemption from the misery, privation, death, and defeat brought on by a four-year siege of the Confederate capital. Their creation was less a matter of Jim Crow's advent than of the passing of the generation that fought bravely and suffered acutely. Two cannons on Monument Avenue that Stoney removed marked the inner and outer defensive perimeters, respectively, on the city's western flank. <https://www.baconsrebellion.com/app/uploads/2021/04/RumorsOfWar.jpg> 'Rumors of War,' artist Kehinde Wiley's response to the Stuart monument (courtesy of author) The only Confederate monument still standing on the streets of Richmond is the dignified 1891 statue of A. P. Hill, an able Stonewall Jackson subordinate killed in the final days of the war, on a traffic circle on the city's north side. This monument has stronger legal protection because Hill and his wife are buried underneath. But it will not be there much longer. The city is only now getting around to studying its options for the disposition of Confederate statues that Stoney removed or the mob pulled down. The more than 20 would-be recipients range from the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation to a pair of conceptualist artists who want to have the Stonewall equestrian cut into fragments in a New Jersey foundry for sale to help Richmond public schools close racial gaps. Stoney went on to win re-election last November, but his demagoguery certainly didn't win the agitators' support. More than 300 of them were charged as a result of the chronic disorders that lasted for months. Though the raucous gatherings had recently ceased, there were still garden plots and basketball hoops on Lee Circle when I visited early last fall. The pavement around the monument featured 'Fuck Stoney' and other graffiti crudely insulting 'Mayor Baloney.' 'Fuck Ralph Northam' was also inscribed in large letters, along with variations on the 'fuck the police' theme. Even now the graffiti is visible despite being whitewashed, while boarded-up shopfronts repeatedly catch a driver's attention on the city's main commercial thoroughfare, Broad Street. Traffic was light when I made a late-March weekday visit and few people were on the



## Richmond's Rage of the Woke

streets, despite the pleasant weather. Aside from the Covid pandemic's ongoing impact, a pervasive sense of insecurity, of public order all too susceptible to further disruption, appears to grip the River City. And all the agitation has done absolutely nothing to improve life for Richmond's most vulnerable African-Americans—who, if anything, were adversely affected by the diversion of police to the **BLM** protests. Shootings surged over the summer in the city's black neighborhoods, and children as young as three figured among the victims. Yet this **violence** didn't provoke any demonstrations. Do black lives only matter when they're cut short by cops? Late in 2019, African-American artist Kehinde Wiley's knock-off of the J. E. B. Stuart equestrian was installed at a prominent site on the grounds of Richmond's Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The pedestal is inscribed 'Rumors of War.' Instead of the dashing cavalry commander, a young black man in contemporary attire, with a clutch of dreadlocks pointing picturesquely upward, is mounted. The pose of the man and his horse are identical to the Stuart, save that Wiley's figure clasps the back of his saddle rather than a sword. 'Rumors of War' might be dismissed as grist for the postmodern mill, or even a publicity stunt. Yet its installation elicited a thoughtful comment from a Virginia Museum curator—when it looked like Richmond's Confederate statues might survive the clamor for their removal. 'It takes a different vision to say, 'Leave them up,'" the curator told the Washington Post. 'Let's see how we can appropriate, reverberate, echo. It's an eloquent call and response.' That's the kind of nuanced, quintessentially liberal opinion—whether expressed by curators, historians, preservationists, or the prominent Richmonders who helped foot the \$2 million bill for the Wiley sculpture's acquisition and installation—that got canceled amid the chaos triggered by Floyd's death. The monumental 'call' to which Wiley 'responded,' of course, got canceled, too. Catesby Leigh writes about public art and architecture and lives in Washington, D.C. This essay ran originally in The City Journal[2], and is republished here with permission. Related [ 1]: <https://amzn.to/3dPevL> [ 2]: <https://www.city-journal.org/confederate-monuments-richmond-virginia>

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