Police Brutality and Race in the 1990s

Institution Affiliation

Date

The state of race relations in the late 10980s and early 1990s was negative and highly chaotic. During this period, there was civil unrest caused by rebellions against police and courts. The relationship between the Los Angeles police department and Angelenos, particularly black Americans, was based on a negative sentiment in which tension and riots were prevalent. Other factors contributing to the Los Angeles riots include the increased state of unemployment during the period with more than 150,000 job losses (S[mithsonian Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWqPRUsJlZaDp-PVbqEch9g), 2017).It increased the number of young men with time on their hands for participating in the riots. The implied imagery of the poem "if we must die" advocates for the courage of the black community to fight against oppression and discrimination. It is similar to NWA's 1988 song, which talks of taking out cops that threaten black Americans as a fight against racism ([DynamicLyrics](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFtYmTZqRqDUcbJsp4kq-2A), Nov 15, 2015). From the video and poem, emotions of anger and resentment towards the police are present. The Smithsonian documentary arguing encourages the talk about race which I agree will help to avoid riots, resentment between officers and black people. American society is more complex and diversified, not only based on the white and black dynamic but also on other factors such as religion.

References

[DynamicLyrics](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFtYmTZqRqDUcbJsp4kq-2A), (Nov 15, 2015). N.W.A - Fuck Tha Police – Lyrics. Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZM4TFrpnu88

# S[mithsonian Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWqPRUsJlZaDp-PVbqEch9g) (Apr 16, 2017). The Lost Tapes: LA Riots (Full Episode). Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jK88wmL1EZk