

**POLICING, BLACK LIVES MATTER AND THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE IN THE
UNITED STATES (2013-2020)**

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STATE, NIGERIA**

SEPTEMBER, 2021

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this Dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of **Master of Science (M.Sc)** in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota.

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DECLARATION

I, **GYUSE TERDOO SANDRA MURNA (19PAH01948)**, declare that I carried out this research under the supervision of Prof Sheriff Folarin of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State. I attest that the dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

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Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled “**Policing, Black Lives Matter and the Quest for Justice in the United States (2013-2020)**” is an original research work carried out by **GYUSE TERDOO SANDRA (19PAH01948)** under the supervision of Prof Sheriff S. Folarin of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota. We have examined the work and found it acceptable for the award of a Master of Science (M.Sc) in International Relations.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to God Almighty, my author and finisher. God strengthened, motivated me and guided me on this path. All glory and honour be onto his name, Amen.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS

DESCRIPTION

BLM	Black Lives Matter
DUI	Driving Under the Influence
DWI	Driving While Intoxicated
POST	Peace Officer Standard and Training
USA	United States of America
COPS	Community Oriented Policing Services
NC DPS	North Carolina Department of Public Safety

ABSTRACT

The subject of policing has been a controversial over the past 7 years. It has been no hidden fact that the United States criminal justice system is deeply flawed against people of color with the states negligent behavior towards sanctioning of police officers for the unjustified killing of African Americans in the United States. The evidence for racial disparities in the criminal justice system is well documented. The disproportionate racial impact of certain laws and policies, as well as biased decision making by justice system actors, leads to higher rates of arrest and incarceration in low-income communities of color. This research presents an overview of the ways in which the United States of America history of racism and oppression continues to manifest in the criminal justice system, and a summary of research demonstrating how the system perpetuates the disparate treatment of black people. According to the data presented here, millions of black people, their families, and their communities have been disproportionately affected by mass incarceration and insecurity. Due to the inaction of the federal government, the Black Lives Matter Movement was born, a social media hashtag that swept the nation and the world in a protest seeking justice for the lives of young African Americans unfairly killed by police officers. There has been considerable progress in criminal justice for black people, but there have also been enormous hurdles and misconceptions regarding its motive and impact on the general peace. The theory of social movement propagated by Smelner aims to understand the psychology behind protesting, with this theory the protest is examines as a body in order to understand the questions of why people protest? how people protest? and what are people protesting for? the theory explains protests are not random acts but rather a more political body working towards a common goal. The data gathered was qualitative using the discourse method of data analysis to analyze speeches, publications, interviews and news reports. The study addresses policing as concept and its effects on African American living in the United States such as mass incarceration, killings, micro aggressions and general insecurity. The Black Lives Matter Movement provides evidence and case studies into the inequalities and biases that have persisted over time in the United State, it also exposes the lack of accountability and sanctioning of police officers especially in cases involving people of color.

Keywords: policing, black lives matter, criminal justice, protest, inequality