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***Special Issue on the Impact of Black Lives Matter Movement in the Era of COVID-19 Pandemic***

**A MOVEMENT EMERGING FROM MURDER DURING THE ERA OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE DICHOTOMY OF GOOD VERSUS EVIL**

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Aim/Purpose	The purpose of this theoretical paper was to examine the Black Lives Matter Movement and the Covid-19 pandemic in light of the good versus evil dichotomy.
Background	African Americans, particularly males, are at an increased risk of dying from excessive police violence and abuse; the tragic death of George Floyd epitomizes this phenomenon. African Americans are also more likely than their Caucasian counterparts to contract and die from the COVID-19 disease and receive substandard care from health care workers. The social injustices amongst African Americans have led to the growth of social justice movements, such as Black Lives Matter (BLM). Researchers on the BLM and COVID-19 pandemic have not examined the issue from the perspective of good versus evil to gain a better understanding of the social constructs.
Methodology	An evaluation of 48 journal articles, books, and websites from 1930 to 2021 was analyzed to better understand the study variables.
Findings	The question of the good versus evil dichotomy in relation to the BLM and COVID-19 pandemic is a convoluted conceptual question, which is a social construct, and therefore, upbringing, experience, and culture mediate people's moral code.
Impact on Society	A better understanding of the BLM amid the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to more awareness and analysis of our ethics and tolerance for those who we consider different.
Keywords	Black Lives Matter, Covid-19, good versus evil dichotomy

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## INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 will mark a significant time in history because of the deadly widespread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease. Additionally, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest incited by the killing of George Floyd while he was arrested and taken into police custody could be the largest movement in U.S. history. Of the two national events (the COVID-19 pandemic and BLM protest), the COVID-19 pandemic first ensued and has been tragically affecting many people cross-culturally. In September 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed there have been over 29 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, and over 900 deaths (World Health Organization, 2020). Other negative effects of COVID-19 include excess mortality rates (Lu et al., 2020), increased unemployment rates (Federal Reserve, 2020), changes in educational modalities (online versus face-to-face), increased cases of child filicide-suicide (Mamun, et al., 2020), and psychological consequences (Tandon, 2020), such as depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorders (Dubey, et al., 2020).

Undisputedly, the effects of COVID-19 have upended the lives of many people, but minority groups have been significantly affected with higher cases of infection and mortality rates (Selden & Berdalh, 2020). A common assumption is that pre-existing illnesses in minority groups increase the severity of the COVID-19 disease (Selden & Berdalh, 2020). Another assumption is that Social Determinants of Health (i.e., discrimination, access to healthcare, and socioeconomic status) cause negative health outcomes in minority groups (CDC, 2020). Given the predisposition of poor health outcomes in minority groups and the increased risk of contracting COVID-19, the BLM protest emerged at an inopportune moment. Specifically, the need to minimize and contain the spread of COVID-19 through maintaining social distancing opposes the core premise of the BLM protest, which calls for people to unite and to contest social injustices among minority people.

Past researchers on the topic of the COVID-19 pandemic and the BLM movement have examined the impact of the protest primarily in relation to new case transmission (Neyman & Dalsey, 2020; Valentine et al., 2020) and stay-at-home versus foot-traffic behaviors (Dave et al., 2020). However, researchers failed to investigate the behaviors leading to and following the BLM movement and COVID-19 pandemic in relation to our moral code. Therefore, the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of this paper will focus on the following theories: (a) Freud's Theory of Moral Development, (b) Utilitarianism theory, and (c) Kant's Theory of Ethics.

The impact of the BLM protest during the Era of Covid-19 pandemic will be analyzed considering the good and evil dichotomy. The authors of this paper present two questions: Do we have an innate ability to self-sacrifice for the good of helping others, or we are programmed to make moral decisions based on authoritative figures? The next section will include an examination of the tragic life and murder of George Floyd.

## BACKGROUND

### ***GEORGE FLOYD'S COMPLICATED LIFE AND HORRIFIC MURDER***

Before the nationally televised killing of George Floyd, which sparked the BLM protest, George Floyd was trying to turn his life around after experiencing many unfortunate events including sub-standard living conditions, prison sentences, the death of his mother, and more profoundly his death (Serearo, 2020). Floyd was born in North Carolina and later raised by his single mother in the Third Ward, which is one of the poorest neighborhoods in Houston, Texas (Seraro, 2020). His future seemed promising; he played basketball in high school and college. His circumstances later changed for the worst when he served time in prison (Seraro, 2020). Between the years 1997 and 2013, he was

incarcerated twice for various crimes including theft, armed robbery in home invasion, drug possession, and trespassing (Seraro, 2020). After Floyd was released, he served as a mentor for his religious community and as a volunteer who delivered meals to the needy, while caring for his mother as she was in the process of recuperating from a stroke (Seraro, 2020). Floyd later moved to Minnesota to start a new life (Seraro, 2020). He worked as a truck driver and a security guard at a club where he met police officer Derek Chauvin, who also worked at the club as an off-duty security guard. Floyd later lost his job at the club due to the COVID-19 pandemic and he later contracted the virus, but fully recovered weeks later (Seraro, 2020).

On May 25th, 2020, Floyd was arrested for allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 bill at a grocery store (Seraro, 2020). Officer Chauvin, whom Floyd had previously worked with, laid on his neck for 8 minutes during the arrest and this incident led to his death (Harris & Gagne, 2020). The three other police officers who were present did not avert the incident from occurring, but rather they looked on with the bystanders without aiding Floyd as he pleaded with Officer Chauvin that he was claustrophobic (Harris & Gagne, 2020). In his final moments, bleating in terror, Floyd's words "I can't breathe" will forever be remembered by many people (Harris & Gagne, 2020). Protests began in Minnesota the day after Floyd's death and developed throughout all 50 U.S. states and throughout the world (Seraro, 2020). Protests advocated against police brutality, lack of accountability for police officers, and the systematic injustices, against minorities, primarily African American males (Seraro, 2020).

The killing of George Floyd draws attention to how little has changed on race and justice. Moreover, the need to examine social psychological concepts (prejudice, discrimination, aggression, stereotypes, social influence), ethical concepts (integrity, honesty, equality, respect, justice), and the dichotomy of good and evil. These variables will be analyzed later in the current paper, but first, the background of policing and public views in America will be discussed, followed by the Black Lives Matter movement, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both national events seem to be polar in nature, but have evolved and coincided.

### ***POLICE FORCE AND AMERICAN'S VIEWS***

The recent killings by police officers in New York, Minnesota, St Louis, and other large cities have sparked an interest in the current state of policing (Jefferson, 2020; Seraro, 2020). The stagnation in America towards inclusion and acceptance is astonishing given the legislative landmarks passed in the 1960s, including the Civil Rights Act, which provides equal protection by the law regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin (National Park Service, 2020). The debate on police brutality has suggested that Americans are still racially divided (Cato Institute, 2016), despite the longstanding movement for integration since the 1960s (National Park Service, 2020). For example, the Cato Institute (2016) conducted a national study on public attitudes toward policing in America and the study results indicated 67% of Whites, 59% of Hispanics, and 40% of Blacks have a favorable view of the police. The incidence of police violence has been investigated thoroughly and researchers on the topic have proposed that the press has aided in justifying unlawful force by distorting the public's view (Wihbey & Kille, 2016). Due to the unlawful killings by police officers, a growing consensus has emerged, which holds the police targets marginalized populations and police violence creates more harm for civilians than protection.

### ***CHARACTERISTICS OF SUSPECTS***

Undoubtedly, excessive police violence and abuse are far more pervasive and entrenched in our society than publicized. A study by the U.S. Department of Justice found that police were more likely to initiate contact with people of low-income households (\$24,999 or less) when compared to those making more money (USDOJ, 2018). A growing body of evidence also documents people of color are more targeted by police officers than their Caucasian counterparts are (NIJ, 2014). Specifically, people of color are more likely to be stopped for traffic infractions and investigated for other crimes

for which police had no evidence (Harris, 2020). More concerning, young African American males were 21 more times likely to be shot compared to young Caucasian males (Grielson et al., 2014). In another study, researchers confirmed there is a racial difference in the use of force by police officers (NBER, 2020). For example, African Americans and Hispanics were 50% more likely to experience force from police during an interaction (NBER, 2020).

Researchers proposed several explanations for why people of color may be more targeted than Caucasians are (Grielson et al., 2014; Harris, 2020; NIJ, 2014). They have proposed minorities driving patterns may differ from the residents of the neighborhood and African American drivers have a significantly lower percentage of seatbelt use usage (NIJ, 2014). In 2015, the FBI director also proposed the following explanation:

Police officers on patrol in our nation's cities often work in environments where a hugely disproportionate percentage of street crime is committed by young men of color. Something happens to people of goodwill working in that environment. After years of police work, officers often can't help but be influenced by the cynicism they feel.

A mental shortcut becomes almost irresistible and maybe even rational by some lights. The two young black men on one side of the street look like so many others the officer has locked up. Two white men on the other side of the street—even in the same clothes—do not. The officer does not make the same association about the two white guys, whether that officer is white or black. And that drives different behavior. The officer turns toward one side of the street and not the other. We need to come to grips with the fact that this behavior complicates the relationship between police and the communities they serve. (FBI, 2015, para. 6)

The blatant bias towards people of color has led to much support towards the BLM movement and will be discussed further in the upcoming sections.

### ***BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT***

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement originated from three female activists- Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometri- who began sharing the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media platforms (Black Lives Matter, 2020). The BLM movement emanated following George Zimmerman's acquittal after he killed 17-year-old Travon Martin (Black Lives Matter, 2020). The BLM movement is centered on fighting racism and the systematic killings of African Americans. The attention towards police violence and the illegitimate killings of African Americans further grew the BLM movement as the deaths of Eric Garner and Mike Brown were nationally publicized (Black Lives Matter, 2020). Over 600 people gathered in St. Louis in support of Brown's killing (Black Lives Matter, 2020). After the march in St. Louis, organizers developed 18 different chapters of the Black Lives Matter movement in their cities (Black Lives Matter, 2020). Eric Garner's illegal killing in New York also received much attention and at least 50 demonstrations have been held nationwide (Black Lives Matter, 2020). A bystander recorded Garner pleading for his life while in police custody. Garner repeated the phrase "I can't breathe" while lying face down on a block of concrete until he became unconscious and later died (Jefferson, 2020). The phrase "I can't breathe" was again repeated by Floyd during his last minutes of life (Jefferson, 2020; Seraro, 2020). These events have led to increasing support in the BLM movement.

### ***SUPPORT FOR THE BLM MOVEMENT***

Parker et al. (2020) reported most American adults acceded to the BLM protests because of the longstanding police brutality against African Americans (Parker et al., 2020). Specifically, 67% of Americans expressed support for the BLM protests, of which most of the support received was from African Americans (Parker et al., 2020). In today's digital era, technology plays a prominent role

in regulating the behaviors of society members. Technology has also influenced the support of BLM protests, but support is seen predominantly amongst African Americans and Asians (Parker et al., 2020). For example, 51% of African Americans and 41% of Asians, compared to 38% of Hispanics and 34% of Caucasians reported sharing and posting content related to racial discrimination within the past month (Parker et al., 2020). Of all ethnic and racial minorities, Hispanics are least in support of the BLM protests (Parker, et al., 2020). The rationale for the BLM movement receiving the least support from Hispanics, amongst all ethnic and racial minorities, could be due to their identification. Pew Center of Research (2014) examined microdata from the 2000 census, surveys, and focus group interviews (Pew Center of Research, 2014). The results of the study indicated most people of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origins identified as Caucasians or “other race” (Pew Center of Research, 2014). The results indicate Hispanics view race as a sense of belongingness, moreover, identifying as Caucasians to facilitate their inclusion (Tafoya, 2005). Therefore, many Hispanics are unable to relate to and stand against the systematic oppression experienced by African Americans because this stance would lead to exclusion and they would be perceived as a minority. The backlash of the BLM movement will be discussed further in the next section.

### ***CRITIQUE OF THE BLM MOVEMENT***

Minorities are often marginalized in environments, such as the United States, where different social groups demand equal rights (Hughey, 2014; Selden & 2020). In White-dominated societies, the demand for equality amongst minorities is often met with backlash (Hughey, 2014). For instance, critics counterargued the BLM movement with the declaration of “All Lives Matter”. However, “All Lives Matter” is just another way of minimizing the longstanding systematic oppression against African Americans and the refusal to acknowledge the problem that all lives are not valued equally in the United States. Other critics have proposed BLM protests stem from people’s secret agenda to engage in criminal behaviors. Interestingly, these views are mediated by political influences. For instance, this view is supported most by Republicans (80%), rather than their Democrat counterparts (40%; Pew Center of Research, 2014).

It is important to note that anti-BLM critics are not always racially motivated. Instead, some people have opposed the BLM movement for other reasons that defy their personal and religious beliefs. For instance, critics of the BLM movement cited statements published on the organization’s website, including the following, “We affirm the lives of Black queer and trans folks.... and all Black lives along the gender spectrum.” (Black Lives Matter, 2020, para. 6-7). The previously mentioned example counters the core beliefs of many Christians and other conservatives. However, the BLM movement’s core belief is not necessarily in support of sexual diversity, but rather the respect for all people regardless of sexual preferences, race, and other minority groups (Black Lives Matter, 2020). The Covid-19 pandemic will be discussed in the subsequent section.

## **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Parallel to George Floyd’s tragic murder, and other similar incidents, the COVID 19 pandemic has led to uncovering other facets that contribute to the issue of race in America. To date, over 300 Americans and 70 million globally have died due to the COVID-19 pandemic (CDC, 2021a). Moreover, the mortality and hospitalization rates were higher among minority groups in the United States, particularly in the African American community. For instance, African Americans experience a higher rate of hospitalization (2.9), mortality (1.9), and case rate ratios (1.9), when compared to their Caucasian counterparts (CDC, 2021a). It is worth noting that the infection rates reported as case rate ratios were almost the same in African American communities as compared to Caucasians. However, the hospitalization rates and the mortality rates in African American communities were significantly higher (CDC, 2021a).

CDC (2021a) referred to the following as some predisposing factors that can result in an increase in community spread and in individual adverse outcomes: (a) crowded closed spaces, (b) close personal contact, and (c) the duration of exposure. Through inspecting the correlation between the occupation category and the COVID-19 related infection, hospitalization, and death rates, it was found that African Americans were more presumably to hold positions that are deemed essential, such as posts in healthcare, transportation, food services, and cleaning services (Rogers et al., 2020). Consequently, this places African Americans at a greater risk of contracting COVID-19 and enduring subsequent complications (Rogers et al., 2020).

Although African Americans are more likely to be impacted by the COVID-19 disease, there is a general mistrust in the healthcare system, which stems from past unethical incidents:

- The Tuskegee Syphilis Study in African American males (Alsan & Wanamaker, 2017)
- The sterilization of minority females without consent (Kluchin, 2007)
- The inadequate and segregated healthcare service provided to African Americans during the Spanish Flu (Gamble, 2010)
- Georgia Warm Springs Polio Rehab Center offered services only to Caucasians, based on a false scientific argument that Blacks were not impacted by the disease (Rogers, 2007).

Within the same concept, an early analysis conducted by the Associated Press revealed that Blacks are significantly falling behind the general population in registering for and receiving the COVID-19 vaccines (Associated Press, 2021). Based on the aforementioned data in this section, it is indisputably true that while the BLM movement has emerged in response to George Floyd's brutal murder and similar incidents, the calls for reforms in the United States and a better understanding of our ethical code are needed. The next section will include a theoretical analysis of the BLM movement and COVID-19 pandemic in relation to the Good versus evil Dichotomy.

## **THEORETICAL ANALYSIS: BLM, COVID-19, AND GOOD VS. EVIL DICHOTOMY**

The Black Lives Matter Movement (BLM) and the COVID-19 pandemic have called for contrasting tactics: the BLM protests called for large gatherings that defied the social distancing guidelines established by the Centers for Disease and Control to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Critics have argued that the BLM protests led to more cases of COVID-19. However, Neyman and Dalsey's (2020) database analysis study indicated protests did not significantly contribute to an increase in COVID-19 cases. Similarly, Dave et al. (2020) conducted an event-study analysis 5 weeks following the onset of the BLM protest to determine whether the protest led to an increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths. Study results did not establish a causal relationship between the two variables, partly because of increased stay-at-homes behaviors following the protest (Dave et al., 2020). However, African Americans are three times more likely than their Caucasian American counterparts to contract COVID-19 (National Urban League, 2020). Furthermore, doctors have downplayed African American patients' complaints of pain, prescribed weaker treatments, and withheld cardiac treatments from Black patients who were in need (National Urban League, 2020).

Given the previously discussed unethical events in history, it is no surprise that African Americans are less likely to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus because of safety concerns and affordability (Associated Press, 2021; Callaghan et al., 2021). A general mistrust in the health system amongst African Americans, particularly older African American males, stems from unethical failures in history, such as the Tuskegee Syphilis Study (Alsan & Wanamaker, 2017). The Tuskegee study spanned 40

years and initially involved 600 Black men: 399 were positive for syphilis and 201 did not have the disease (CDC, 2021b). The African American men were not (a) informed of the studies' purpose, (b) given proper treatment, and (c) offered penicillin to the men when the treatment became available (CDC, 2021b). Unethical events in history have caused African Americans to protest because they face a choice between two equally unpleasant alternatives: to be killed by the police or to be killed by the disease. Interestingly, many non-African American protesters joined in the fight against social injustices. The behaviors leading and following BLM protest and the COVID-19 pandemic, leads to questions of the good versus evil dichotomy: Do we have innate goodness to self-sacrifice and help others, or we are programmed to make decisions based on authoritative figures?

### ***INNATE GOODNESS***

For many centuries, many philosophers have inquired about the good versus evil dichotomy. Psychologists Sigmund Freud argued that morality is developed from a tension between individuals' needs and the needs of society members (Levine & Munsch, 2020). Freud described the psyche in three parts: (a) Id, (b) ego, and (c) superego (Levine & Munsch, 2020). The id is the part of the mind that focuses on what feels good regardless of the consequences (Levine & Munsch, 2020). The superego is morally inclined and considers actions before making them and aligns its beliefs with societal expectations (Levine & Munsch, 2020). The ego is a realistic part that balances between the id and superego (Levine & Munsch, 2020). The three parts of the psyche are shaped by our upbringing, experiences, and culture. Therefore, according to Freud, our moral code can only be developed by repressing our needs for the better good of society members (Levine & Munsch, 2020), and it gradually evolves into a subjective perspective. Another explanation points to the utilitarianism theory, which holds that actions are considered ethical if the actions result in happiness amongst the great number of society members (Bentham, 1789). This reasoning could explain why people joined the BLM protests despite the risk of contracting the COVID-19 disease.

### ***EVIL AND CONTROL***

Kant's Moral Theory holds that actions are only right if it follows the universal principle (Kant, 1785). Therefore, laws established and carried out by the police are right because it is the universal moral code. However, with this approach, the government strategically encourages society members to favor moral judgment to incite control. A similar argument about obedience and control is epitomized in the killing of Floyd because the rookie officers who were involved in the incident argued they deferred control to the veteran officer, and the veteran officer argued he was assisting an arrest in progress (Harris & Gagne, 2020; Miller et al., 2020). Although each of the officers reported different accounts of the incident and perceived their role in the arrest significantly differently, they indirectly suggested the killing of Floyd was acceptable because they were following their job duties and respecting the chain of command (Harris & Gagne, 2020; Miller et al., 2020). Along the same line of reasoning, Freud (1930) asserted people's needs to gain power, wealth, and success skews their judgment. Furthermore, the false standards of measurement lead to danger because of a lack of understanding of the differences in people and their mental life (Freud, 1930).

Another example points to Milgram's obedience study results that suggested people blindly followed instructions that could kill simply because they received directives from an authoritative figure (Milgram, 1974). However, in Milgram's 1978 study, some participants refused to continue with the experiment, and participants who continued with the study expressed to the authoritative figure a concern for the pain administered to the test subjects. Therefore, juxtaposing Milgram's study results could imply that people do not always have a general orientation to be obedient when obedience opposes their core values and beliefs. The analysis of the good versus evil dichotomy in relationship to the BLM and COVID-19 pandemic raises many unanswered questions about morality, control, and obedience. However, the BLM movement amid the COVID-19 pandemic is not just about Black People fight for justice and equality, but rather good people fighting against the forces of evil.

## METHODS

The literature documents that African Americans are more targeted by the police, than their White counterparts are (Harris, 2020, NIJ, 2014). Consequently, the racial injustices in America have incited protests, such as the BLM movement, despite the health risk of contracting the COVID-19 disease. The previously discussed problem leads to questions on morality: Do we have an innate ability to self-sacrifice for the good of helping others, or are we programmed to make moral decisions based on authoritative figures?

The current paper employed a non-empirical research approach; meaning although the paper has components of empirical evidence, it focuses more on the analysis (Cropanzano, 2009). Cropanzano (2009) explained that theoretical methods either propose new conceptual models or establish a causal relationship between existing theories and societal issues. The latter approach was used in the current research paper to gain a better understanding of why people placed their lives at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the BLM movement.

The researchers of this paper evaluated 48 journal articles, books, and websites published from 1930 to 2021. The selected publications were used because most were scholarly and summarized concepts that were significant to the study variables. Also, several theoretical perspectives—Freud’s Theory of Moral Development, utilitarianism theory, Kant’s Moral Theory—and case studies—George Floyd’s murder, Milgram’s obedience study, and Tuskegee Syphilis—were analyzed to understand the motivation of good versus evil behaviors.

The main limitation of the current paper is the type of research methods used: non-empirical (Hess & Abd-Elsayed, 2019). Non-empirical studies include personal observations based on the works of literature and the subjectivity of these types of studies could lead to biases in the conclusions. However, although this approach is closely tied to philosophy, the researchers mitigated some of the limitations by the use of triangulation and literature analysis on empirical studies.

## RESULTS

It is still not fully understood whether people have an innate ability to self-sacrifice for the good of helping others, or are programmed to make decisions based on authoritative figures. The results indicate good and evil are socially constructed concepts, and therefore, upbringing, experience, and culture determine what people constitute as right and wrong. Freud theorized that our moral code could only be developed by repressing our needs for the better good of society members (Levine & Munsch, 2020). Similarly, the utilitarianism theory posited our actions are ethical when it results in happiness amongst the greater good of society members. In contrast, Kant’s Moral Theory holds that actions are only right if they follow the universal code. It is not clear what constitutes right or wrong because our beliefs differ significantly.

Events such as the Tuskegee Syphilis, the Killing of George Floyd, and Milgram’s obedience study imply that we are programmed, and our moral code is greatly influenced by authority. However, other events have implied that our innate ability is to do good. For instance, some participants in Milgram’s study refused to continue with the experimenter’s orders to administer a shock to the test subjects. Similarly, people cross-culturally and in the United States placed themselves at-risk and joined the BLM protests during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

The co-occurrence of the BLM movement and the COVID-19 pandemic has raised debates on the health concerns of mass gatherings to fight for social injustices. The findings of the study will contribute to the body of knowledge because of the analysis of the two events-BLM movement and COVID-from a theoretical approach. The theoretical contribution could help researchers and practitioners to have a better understanding of our innate versus learned behaviors in relation to inequality, injustice, and public health concerns.

The paper also provides insight into the racial and health disparities of unlawful murders and COVID-19 cases, primarily amongst African American males. Lead practitioners in the law enforcement field should closely investigate racial discrimination allegations amongst police and develop best practices against racial profiling. Lead practitioners in health care should introduce formal courses to raise awareness to promote empathy and understanding when caring for a diverse population. Further researchers should conduct both qualitative and quantitative studies based on a theoretical and conceptual framework to collect more comprehensive data on the motivation of BLM protest in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

No doubt, millions of protesters were willing to risk their lives to fight against tragic events, such as the George Floyd Killing. But the BLM movement and the COVID-19 pandemic have raised many questions about the good versus evil dichotomy. Why do society members accommodate privilege and power? Many bystanders taped the killing of Floyd but did not come to his aide. Moreover, rookie officers did not intervene and desist the officer in charge as he lay on Floyd's neck for 8 minutes. Do we have an innate ability to self-sacrifice for the good of helping others? Are we programmed to make moral decisions based on authoritative figures? The good and evil dichotomy is a socially constructed concept, and therefore, upbringing, experience, and culture determine what people constitute as right and wrong.

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