Between the 1890’s and 1830’s, the anti-lynching movement reached its peak in the United States. Lynching was a form of terrorism used to repress African-Americans after emancipation during Reconstruction to suppress their voices and enforce racial subordination and segregation. In 1892, a woman, newspaper editor, suffragist, sociologist, and founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ida B. Wells launched the anti-lynching campaign in response to her newspaper’s office and printing press being destroyed. Ms. Wells used her investigative journalism skills to publish and distribute (20,000) pamphlets and write editorials documenting the horrors of lynching and its impact on communities. To ensure her message of dissent reached more Americans, Ms. Wells launched a speaking tour in New York, published her data in other newspapers and organized boycotts. To support her efforts, Ms. Wells also completed two tours in Europe to organize the anti-lynching campaign in Europe to protest lynching in America and urge the United States government to act to secure the safety and constitutional rights of African-American citizens.

In 1955, the brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi became the seed for the Civil Rights Movement. On September 15, 1955, photographer David Jackson's pictures of Emmett Till's tortured body were published in Jet Magazine. On January 24, 1956, Look Magazine printed the confessions of the killers who murdered the little boy. One hundred days after Emmett's death, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery city bus and was arrested for violating Alabama's bus segregation laws. The Women's Democratic Council, under Jo Ann Robinson, called for a citywide bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr. who brought Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent resistance campaign to America for racial equality.

On July 13, 2013, The Black Lives Matter movement began as a phrase on Facebook, in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Shortly thereafter Black Lives Matter became a hashtag, a national, and an international movement for social justice. Like the anti-lynching movement and the civil rights movement of the 1960’s, this movement was started by women. Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi are the original founding members of the organization to bring awareness to state sanctioned violence via police activity against citizens of color. The BLM organizers recognize the influence of other movements of dissent including; Anti-Apartheid, the Civil Rights Movement, Pan-Africanism, Occupy Wall Street, the LGBTQ movement and feminist movements. Besides rallies and die-ins, the BLM movement utilizes hashtags, memes and tweets to mobilize and activate voices and actions of dissent. Unlike the previous movements for racial equality, with the availability of social media and digital technology... anyone with a smartphone can become an investigative reporter, commentator and agitator in the name of dissent. In May of 2020, the highly publicized killing of George Floyd of Minneapolis, MN by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin sparked a massive uprising throughout the country. A new wave of the Black Lives Matter spread throughout the country because of yet another misuse of power.
RESOURCES

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- Happy Birthday Philando Castile (ColorLines)
- What Students Are Saying About the George Floyd Protests (The New York Times)

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- 33 Powerful Black Lives Matter Murals (The Verge)

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- The Class Politics of Black Lives Matter (Dissent)
- BLACK LIVES MATTER..... What We Believe
- Some of the Loudest Voices from the Women’s March Were the Youngest (Vox)
- Black Lives, Protest, and Democracy (Harvard Kennedy School)

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- A Single Photo From Baton Rouge That’s Hard to Forget (The Atlantic)
- All of the Moving Photos from George Floyd’s Memorial in Minnesota & Around the World (People)
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- Black Tweets Matter (Smithsonian)
- A People’s History of Black Twitter, Part II (Wired)

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- Black Youth Project
- We The Protestors
- Art, Imagination, and the Quest for Racial Justice
- The Newberry - Dissent and Democracy in Modern American History
- Black Lives Matter: Continuing the Civil Rights Movement
- National Constitution Center - Amendment I
- Solutions Journalism

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- Republicans Push Wave Of Anti-Protest Bills In 'Alternative Universe' Backlash (NPR)

Data
- An Analysis of #BlackLivesMatter and Other Twitter Hashtags Related to