

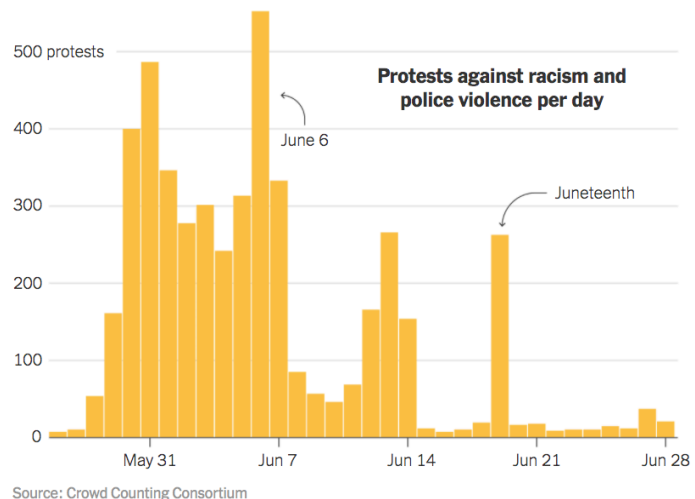
2020: A Historical Year So Far



Let's be real. From March to August 2020, we all witnessed some **historical** world events. The world experienced a pandemic; and we are *still* in it. Italy, Spain, India and other nations around the world went on **government ordered lockdowns** for weeks on end. In March, the United States entered a massive economic downturn with millions of people laid off from work. The Summer Olympics, to be held in Japan, were postponed to 2021. Police brutality awareness not only hit the national news but was discussed around the world in places such as Great Britain and Australia. In politics, Joe Biden officially became the Democratic party frontrunner for the presidential race. Twitter and Instagram became **the** media sources for news coverage as average people recorded protests, riots, and events discussed on the news. The news, today, is *still* trying to figure out how to manage the pandemic with regards to schools, restaurants, gyms, sporting events, and so forth. Let's take a look at some of these historical moments from 2k20 and examine some of the roots of these moments...

The Civil Rights Movement in America

They say that “history repeats itself”, and that line could never be more true than now. Well, history doesn’t necessarily repeat itself, but it demonstrates the same constant lessons. In the 1960s, the **Civil Rights Movement** made national headlines. Blacks and whites alike marched, protested, boycotted, and fought for equal rights for African-Americans. African-Americans wanted equal voting rights, the right to own property, the rights to equal education, and to be treated equal to their white counterparts in public. Recently, we’ve seen new boycotts, protests, and marches in cities like Minneapolis, New York, San Francisco, Washington, DC, Atlanta, and Philadelphia just to name a few. One of the largest topics of protest this year has been police brutality/police treatment of the accused. The chart above indicates the number of police brutality protests since May 2020.



Civil Rights Movement: 1950s-1960s: [Click for Flick!](#)

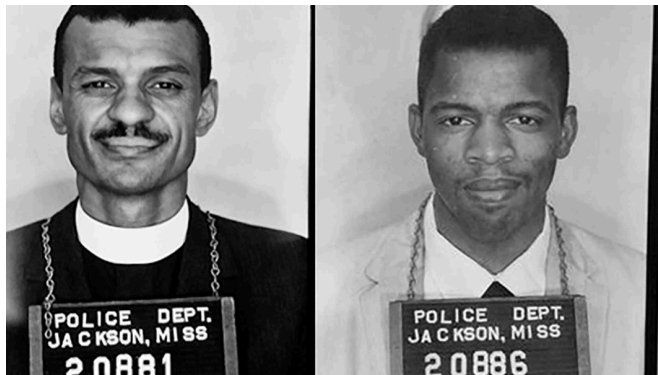
In the 1960s there were both peaceful and violent protests with regards to the Civil Rights Movement. In the 1960s some of these protests made the national news on television, which was still considered fairly new at the time, causing unrest and riots across the nation. In 1960, a handful of Black college students sat at a restaurant counter for “Whites only” in Greensboro, North Carolina where they were *violently* attacked and beaten by white students on national TV!

Throughout 1961, black and white activists, known as **Freedom Riders**, took bus trips through the American South to protest segregated bus terminals and attempted to use “whites-only” restrooms and lunch counters. Their busses were set on fire and some passengers were violently dragged off the busses, beaten, and then ended up in the hospital.



In August 1963, over 250,000 people, both Black and White, marched through the streets of Washington, DC., ending at the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others gave their iconic speeches about racial equality. Shortly after this March on Washington, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

After violence in Selma, Alabama, (known as Bloody Sunday) the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X in the late 1960s, the federal government saw more civil and political unrest by the citizens. These three events led to *more* riots in the streets by both Blacks and Whites. This violence and the race riots in the streets led President Lyndon B. Johnson to sign another Civil Rights law called the **Fair Housing Act in 1968**. This new law provided equal housing opportunity regardless of race, religion, or national origin. It outlawed the refusal to sell or rent a dwelling to any person because of race, color, disability, religion, sex, familial status, or national origin...



Why on Earth would the mug shots of two men be important in history in a positive manner? Just because you get arrested it does not mean you really did anything “wrong”, it means you broke the law. But, what if the law is a bad law?

The picture here is of C.T. Vivian and John Lewis. Vivian and Lewis were active Atlantans during the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s-1960s.

Born in Missouri and raised in Illinois, C.T. Vivian first became involved in Civil Rights in the 1940s where he organized sit-in demonstrations in small towns in Illinois. From there, he studied ministry in Tennessee and in the 1950s he began teaching and preaching Gandhi's strategies to organize peaceful movements for Civil Rights. He even taught John Lewis and got over 700 Black students in Alabama scholarships to attend Historical Black Colleges in the United States!

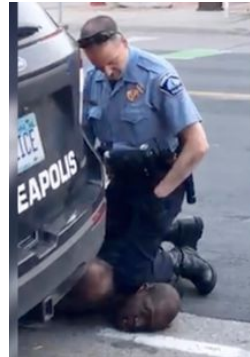
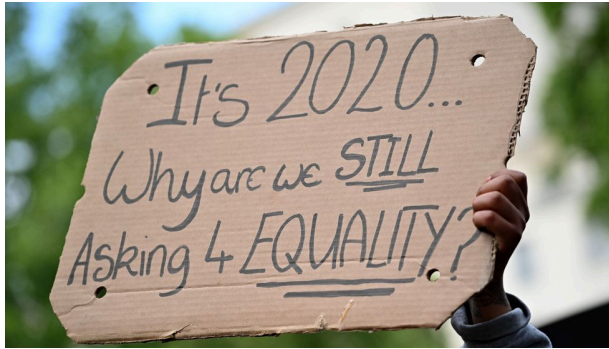
In the 1960s, Vivian was a Freedom Rider, peacefully protester, sit-in activist, and a man who marched on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Vivian moved to Atlanta in the 1970s where he spent the rest of his life fighting for the rights of the oppressed. He died, peacefully, on July 17, 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia.



Born in Troy, Alabama as the third of ten children in a poor sharecropping family, no one would think that a hero would emerge. At the age of five, a young Black boy began preaching to his family chickens on the farm. This preacher was John Lewis... In Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965, Congressman Lewis nearly lost his life on the Edmund Pettus Bridge as stick-and billy-club-wielding police and vigilantes assaulted peaceful marchers who were protesting racial segregation and white supremacy. Lewis was beaten, which was televised nationally, arrested, and sat in jail for peacefully protesting.

Lewis spoke at the March on Washington and he was one of the original six men who organized the entire march. He dedicated his life to progress on civil rights, supporting inclusive communities, and education. He ran for the House of Representatives and won a seat in 1986 where he served Atlanta for 17 terms! Lewis sponsored bills to create Election Day as a national holiday, civil rights bills, and environmental bills while in office. He was a real-life superhero.

Lewis is considered one of the greatest Congressmen to have ever been elected. Lewis introduced a bill to Congress to create the National African American History Museum in Washington, D.C. where his accolades and achievements flatter the walls. His actions were both great and in some cases controversial. Lewis boycotted the presidential inaugurations of George W. Bush and Donald Trump. He has also been arrested for peacefully protesting against issues such as the genocide in Darfur, gun-safety regulations, and other social issues. Lewis died from pancreatic cancer on July 17, 2020. Lewis is buried in Atlanta, Georgia...



#BlackLivesMatter: [Flick](#)

The 1960s Civil Rights Movement saw a lot of legislation (laws) passed and major social changes were made that had long lasting effects. However, not **all** of the nation was on board. It's 2020, and we *still* see racism, antisemitism, and bigotry in the nation. It is hard to believe that over 150 years have passed since the end of the Civil War and the nation *still* sees hate and racism towards Blacks and other minorities. Hate and bigotry is taught. That's it. People teach other people hate, bigotry, and racism. I cannot explain it other than that. No one is *born* racist.

How did people see racism in the 1960s? The use of television became the most important mode of media. The TV got the message out. Today, we hold incredible power in the palms of our hands. We have access to the entire world if you think of it. Our smartphones make *us* the news reporters. We can record, photograph, and post the news. YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook did not exist before 2001. Hard to believe? Now, they are *the* way to post and read about news and information. Honestly, I (Mr. Barry), cannot go a single day without seeing something political or something about social rights posted on social media. We have apps such as CNN, Politico, FoxNews, and more that provide the news to us 24 hours a day.

Let's use a recent event as an example of this power that we hold. On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a Black American man was killed during an arrest after allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill in Minneapolis. A white police officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes. This event was eventually recorded by a bystander who then posted the video online. After Floyd's death, protests of police violence toward black people quickly spread across the United States and internationally. The death of George Floyd became a national, and international, headline. ([Flick from protests/riots](#))



Screaming, “I can’t breathe”, Floyd was among one of thousands of minorities who have faced police brutality in the last 20 years. What made this similar to the 1991 beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police was that it was filmed. The video went viral and the nation was following trends on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc. Murals were painted, rallies sprung up, and his death was just one more instance where Black Americans felt helpless against the justice system.

Peaceful protests erupted during the day and were then hijacked at dusk by looters, rioters, and those with bad intentions. These people, unfortunately, used the protests to commit their crimes believing they would not be caught and punished for their crimes as police stood helpless before the massive crowds. A Target was set on fire in Minneapolis. The police department building in Minneapolis was destroyed and set afire shortly after the incident. Police cars were burned and destroyed in downtown Atlanta. Lenox Mall was vandalized and looted. Store owners stood their ground in front of their work with guns, knives, and clubs. The nation had not seen riots such as these since 1991 and even today the nation does not know what to do. Some believe the police departments should be defunded and that money be spent elsewhere in the government. Some believe the police forces need more people of color in their rankings to prevent these atrocities.



#BlackLivesMatter has the potential to be the *next* Civil Rights movement, however the organization has not taken on the same momentum as those movements in the 1960s. **#BlackLivesMatter** is an unorganized movement that advocates for nonviolent civil disobedience. One of the major differences between the 1960s Civil Rights Movement and the **#BLM** movement is the organization and leadership. The Civil Rights Movement had organized leadership through Southern Christian religious organizations. These organizations also had planned meetings to practice nonviolent protesting. Since 2012, **#BLM** has appeared on the news, social media, and around the world, but they do not have anywhere near the organization that the Civil Rights Movement had. The most recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery (in Brunswick, Georgia), [Rayshard Brooks \(in Atlanta\)](#) Breonna Taylor in the USA have sparked another wave of protests over the past few months in the US, under the Black Lives Matter (BLM) banner, but the organization is done far more on social media than in sit-down meetings with leaders of a movement.

Another very big problem during this **#BlackLivesMatter** movement is that the nation has seen two **very** different leaders in the oval office. President Obama and President Trump could not be any more different in their ideologies and beliefs.



In 2014, a New York City police officer was recorded placing Eric Garner in a fatal chokehold. Mr. Garner's dying words, "I can't breathe," became a slogan for demonstrators. In an address after a Staten Island grand jury declined to indict the officer who killed Garner, President Obama said:

Right now, unfortunately, we are seeing too many instances where people just do not have confidence that folks are being treated fairly. And in some cases, those may be misperceptions; but in some cases, that's a reality. And it is incumbent upon all of us, as Americans, regardless of race, region, faith, that we recognize this is an American problem, and not just a black problem or a brown problem or a Native American problem.

This is an American problem. When anybody in this country is not being treated equally under the law, that's a problem.

Less than a month after Mr. Garner's death, an officer in Ferguson, Mo., shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, setting off weeks of protests. When a grand jury declined to bring charges against the officer in that case, President Obama said:

We need to recognize that this is not just an issue for Ferguson. This is an issue for America. We have made enormous progress in race relations over the course of the past several decades. I've witnessed that in my own life. And to deny that progress I think is to deny America's capacity for change.



But what is also true is that there are still problems, and communities of color aren't just making these problems up.

Police officers have killed many unarmed civilians since President Trump took office in 2017. Trump has rarely commented on the issues of police brutality and he has been much likelier to speak out when officers are killed in the line of duty.

On July 14, Trump was asked about the issue in an interview with CBS News' Catherine Herridge. She began: "Let's talk about George Floyd, you said George Floyd's death was a terrible thing. Terrible," said Trump. Then Herridge followed with: "Why are African Americans still dying at the hands of law enforcement?" The president immediately pivoted. "And so are white people. So are white people," Trump said in response. "What a terrible question to ask. So are white people. More white people by the way. More white people."



Asked why Black Americans are killed by police, Trump responds, "So ... In an interview with CBS News, the president also said he believed waving the Confederate flag was a matter of freedom of speech. [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com)



Police departments are not required to report comprehensive data on police killings, but researchers have compiled statistics showing Black Americans are more likely to die at the hands of law enforcement than White people. One study published in 2018 found that Black men are roughly 3.5 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement than White men. Another study released in 2019 found that one in 1,000 Black men in the U.S. can expect to die at the hands of police over the course of their lifetimes.

One of the loudest responses to the killing of George Floyd is “**Defund the Police**”. [Defund The Police Flick](#)

Despite Calls to Defund the Police, Some Cities Are Spending More

San Diego is increasing its Police Department budget by about 5%, the largest boost by any major city this year

Since 2016 when President Trump took office, there have been a few instances where racism has unfortunately made national headlines. Focusing his campaign on building a wall between the United States and Mexico and “Make America Great Again” have become two rallying points that can send mixed messages. “Build That Wall” certainly sends the message that the United States takes border control seriously. The US wants to prevent illegal immigration, the smuggling of illegal substances and other goods to the US. The US also wants to create a safer environment between the two nations at the border. The message also sends that a physical barrier is needed between two friendly nations.



The catchphrase “Make America Great Again” has also caught some negative press. In 1980, Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan used this phrase to win over a nation that was struggling economically and had suffered major political scandals such as Watergate and the Gerald Ford presidency, which did practically nothing to protect itself from the Soviet Union. Trying to stir patriotism and get the nation back up on their feet, this catchphrase helped Reagan win the election of 1980. Reagan was seen as one of the most successful and likeable Republican presidents and people of the Republican party often try to connect themselves with Ronald Reagan’s beliefs in order to become popular. Insert Donald Trump here...Those red hats and his constant rhetoric on Twitter were a few reasons Donald Trump won the Republican ticket and election in 2016.

Trump has become a very polarizing figure in office with his followers and some of his tweets/messages during rallies. Since Trump took office, some people argue that the president has created this safe feeling where the “silent majority” is now in charge. Trump and Republicans have now called themselves a silent majority because they remained quiet during the Obama administration, while they silently disagreed with his ideas and policies.



The term “white nationalism” has unfortunately become a common term in the more recent years, and especially since Trump took office. The incident that made the biggest impact on the headlines was in Charlottesville, VA in 2017. The statue of Robert E. Lee was protested and many requested that it come down. Here is what happened: [Charlottesville Protest](#)

PUBLISHED JUL. 8, 2020, AT 7:00 AM

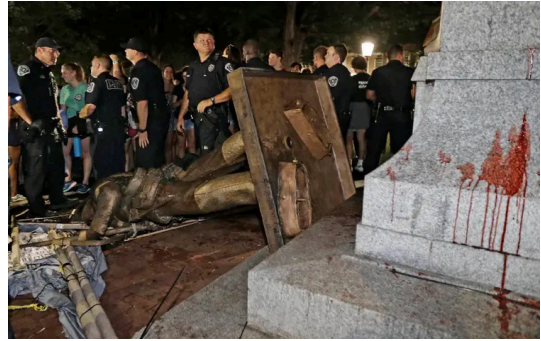
Confederate Statues Were Never Really About Preserving History

By [Ryan Best](#)

Charlottesville divided the nation, and President Trump did everything **but** help heal the wounds of the people affected in this tragic incident. This then became a momentous event in what would become the “Statue Movement” as I like to call it, where people across the nation want certain statues and monuments of figures in American history to be taken down. There are certainly two sides to this argument as some people believe taking these statues down is erasing or cancelling history, while others believe the statue removals are finally recognizing some people glorified in history were actually cruel people. Figures like Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Jefferson Davis, and others who were polarizing figures related to racism.

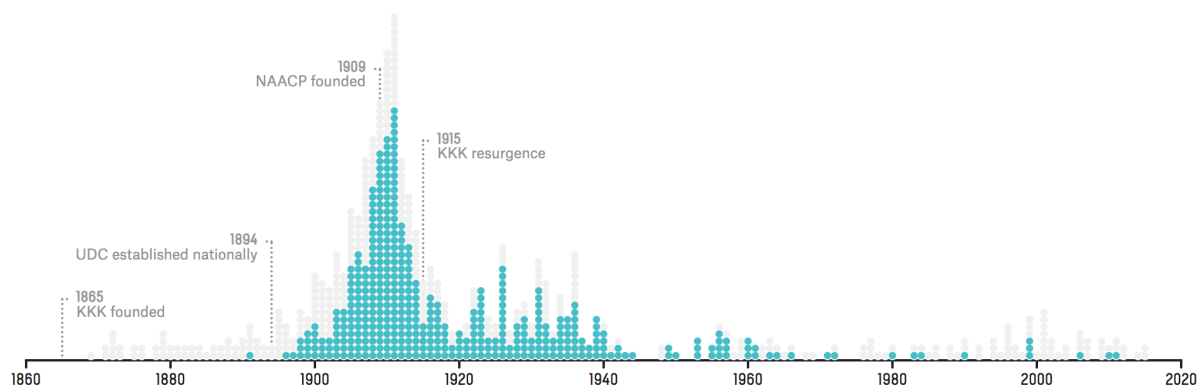
OK, so how did we get here? [VOX: How Southern Societies Rewrote History](#)

In June and July 2020, President Trump has railed against tearing down statues across the country — and has been particularly dogged in his defense of Confederate monuments. But his argument that they are benign symbols of America’s past is misleading. An overwhelming majority of Confederate memorials weren’t erected in the years directly following the Civil War. Instead, most were put up decades later. Nor were they built just to commemorate fallen generals and soldiers; they were installed as symbols of white supremacy during periods of U.S. history when Black Americans’ civil rights were aggressively under attack.



In total, at least 830 such monuments were constructed across the U.S, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which maintains a comprehensive database of Confederate monuments and symbols. The biggest spike in Confederate memorials came during the early 1900s, soon after Southern states enacted a number of sweeping laws to disenfranchise Black Americans and segregate society. During this period, more than 400 monuments were built as part of an organized strategy to reshape Civil War history. And this effort was largely spearheaded by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who sponsored hundreds of statues, predominantly in the South in the early 20th century — and as recently as 2011

Monuments sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy



The United Daughters of the Confederacy’s goal, in all the work that they did, was to prepare future generations of white Southerners to respect and defend the principles of the Confederacy.” It wasn’t just Confederate monuments, either. They also rejected any school textbook that said slavery was the central cause of the Civil War; they praised the Ku Klux Klan and gave speeches that distorted the cruelty of American slavery and defended slave owners.

But now the movement to memorialize the Confederacy has finally faced a period of reckoning — more than 80 statues have been either removed or relocated since 2015. That year, nine Black churchgoers were killed in Charleston, South Carolina, by an avowed white supremacist obsessed with Confederate symbology, sparking a public outcry to remove statues that celebrate the Confederacy. In total, at least eight statues were removed in 2015 and 2016, and 36 more were removed in 2017, the year a rally to protest the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, turned violent. Already, at least another 26 have been taken down in 2020 in response to the police killing of George Floyd, which led to protests worldwide. Because of these movements, President Trump signed an Executive Order punishing those who vandalize statues or monuments. Flick: [Trump Responds to Monument Destruction](#)

Essay Q's

MLA format -- 12 Font, Times New Roman, one-inch margins, double-spaced -- Minimum two pages typed -- NO first person, must be written in the third person (do not write I, me, us, our, we, etc.) Choose TWO Q's. Each essay Q is worth 25 points.

1. Explain whether you think the Black Lives Matter Movement is more or less similar to the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Based on the reading and our discussions, do you think the Black Lives Matter Movement has been a successful movement? Success is measured in the eyes of the beholder on this one...Use examples from both movements to prove your stance.
 2. Should the monuments of Confederate soldiers, former presidents, and other historical figures be removed from their current locations? Explain why/why not. What should the nation do with these monuments/statues? Explain your answer in detail using examples from the videos and text.
 3. Is “defunding the police” a logical solution to what people believe is a problem of police brutality/violence. Provide examples of how defunding the police can solve the problem(s) or create more problem(s). How else could the police brutality/violence issue(s) be solved? Explain your answer in detail using examples from the videos and text.
-

Speaking of history repeating itself... Let's take a brief look at the **Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918**. Here are some facts:

- The pandemic started (maybe, no one is quite sure) in Kansas at Fort Riley in 1918. The soldiers there were training to go to Europe to go to war in WWI, thus carrying the disease overseas to the rest of the world.
- By the end, 675,000 Americans would die of the disease (as opposed to the 53,402 Americans that died fighting the war.) About 50 million people worldwide would die of the disease (as opposed to the 40 million who died in the war) *This was not a good few years for humans on the planet.

Being in the middle of a pandemic ourselves, we can certainly relate to the fear our ancestors had of becoming ill. Some people might even be able to relate to the fight against wearing a mask, because it happened then, too.

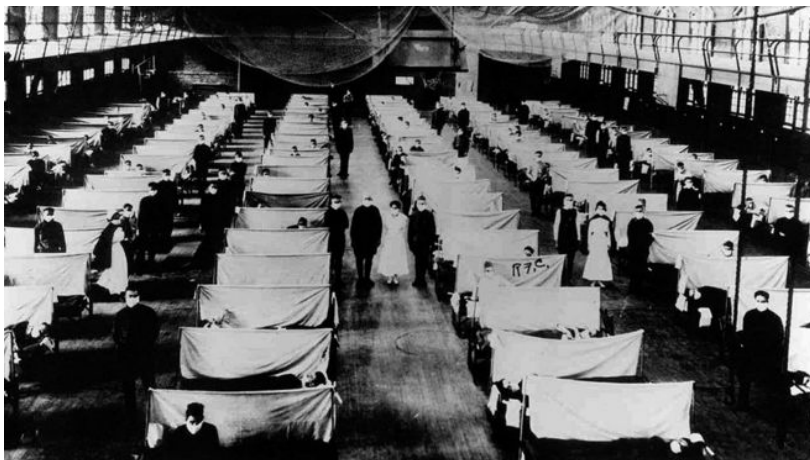


Pro-maskers and...



“mask slackers,” as they were called. \$5 fine.

Hospitals were overcrowded, like some today...See below!



A warehouse being used to house patients in the UK...

Services were shut down, just like today. Check out these newspaper headlines from Kentucky from 1918-1919...

It's very easy to get frightened and dragged down by the uncertainty of it all, and probably not much help to examine it.

But, as Mr. Rogers said, ***"Look for the helpers."***



Healthcare workers created "Information Desks" in public places to answer questions to the public -- San Francisco



Who were the heroes of the Pandemic of 1918?
Can you guess?

Women!!!! Nurses, specifically!



At the turn of the 19th and into the 20th century, almost all nurses were female, and almost all doctors were male. And, like today, there were more nurses than doctors.

Doctors had *no* idea how to cure what was called the Spanish Flu during this time. There was no flu shot back then. Doctors prescribed everything they could think of: having a raw egg in orange juice every two hours, taking quinine (something they prescribed for malaria,) castor oil, all sorts of different teas made from all sorts of different things, alcohol, poultices, the list goes on and on because they tried everything.

Well, no, wait a second, doctors *prescribed* everything. Nurses administered them. Nurses made sure that their patients were cared for, had clean sheets, were cool enough or warm enough, were comfortable, washed the sheets and gowns, often made the food then brought it to the patients and cleaned up afterwards. Nurses put themselves in harm's way every day to care for their patients, and this is still true today.

Some people didn't make it to the hospitals and stayed home, and this was where the profession of visiting nurse came in. A visiting nurse would go to peoples' homes and take care of patients, sometimes up to 20-40 cases a day. A case doesn't necessarily mean only one person, either. If the father was very ill and the mother was taking care of him, sometimes the young children were neglected. There are many accounts of nurses caring for their patients, bathing the children, feeding the children, letting the mother rest, making meals and finding some sort of childcare or babysitters for the children.

Another group of women that chipped in to help were nuns. A nun is a woman belonging to a religious community and living according to vows. Usually these nuns were Catholic, so they dedicated their lives to their church and their community. There are records of nuns helping out during the Spanish Flu pandemic in communities in Dallas, New Orleans, Kentucky, New York, New Hampshire, Philadelphia (which was the hardest hit big city by the flu) and Maryland- all over the country, really. Many of these nuns were not trained as nurses; they were school teachers and secretaries for the church, yet they answered the call for help and went.

Sisters (and others) during the flu pandemic, circa 1918. See the pic below!



Why women? Most nurses were women, and certainly all nuns were women. Even today, only 13% of nurses are men. During the pandemic in 1918, most of the patients were soldiers, and these were men. In fact, 175,000+ more men than women caught the flu. Why? It's hard to say; in general, women have a higher survival rate of most illnesses than men, and, again in general, women have a longer life expectancy.

There was an interesting side effect to the pandemic of 1918. Due to the fact that so many men were ill and died, the jobs that they once held went to women. The larger amount of job openings lead people to see that women could handle jobs that they thought could only be done by men, which then lead to women having greater economic power in society, which lead to the increase of women's rights and eventually, in 1920, the right to vote for women.

Who are our helpers in our current pandemic? Certainly nurses and doctors and all healthcare workers who put themselves in danger every time they go to work. But there's been an interesting turn to volunteerism since our own pandemic started. Many people didn't just want to sit at home and wait out the pandemic, they wanted to (and continue to want to) get out there and help where they can.

Here are just a few examples:

In Poland, volunteers work to keep medical staff fed and given as much coffee as they want.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-poland-community/polish-volunteers-deliver-coffee-walk-dogs-as-coronavirus-spreads-idUSL8N2BE08M>

In New York, a group of young people take groceries and prescriptions to people who can't leave their homes.

<https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2020/04/29/invisible-hands-grocery-delivery-coronavirus-pandemic/>

In Australia, people get on bicycles and bring books to others that can't leave the house.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-australia-book-del/australia-book-shop-gets-on-its-bike-to-ease-coronavirus-shutdown-idUKKBN21B0RO>

In Arab states (like Syria, Jordan, Egypt, etc.) young people have begun to search the Internet for false and misleading information about the Coronavirus to help people (especially women who don't have as many rights as Western women have) get correct information.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/5/feature-youth-volunteers-combat-covid-19-misinformation>

Teens in the Los Angeles area help buy and deliver groceries to those who can't do it themselves.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-05-09/teen-volunteers-develop-ways-to-help-most-vulnerable-unable-to-help-themselves-during-virus-outbreak>

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1. Read one of the hyperlinked stories above and answer the "who, what, when, why, where and how" questions for it. ("Who are they? What do they do? Why do they do it?" etc.)
2. Short essay question: In at least one full paragraph, compare/contrast the Pandemic of 1918 and the Coronavirus Pandemic. Make sure you use examples from the reading.
3. Short essay question: How does it make you feel to look for the "helpers" in a crisis? Explain why.
