

CWBR Statement on National Protests

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Recommended Citation

(2020) "CWBR Statement on National Protests," *Civil War Book Review*. Vol. 22 : Iss. 2 .

DOI: 10.31390/cwbr.22.2.02

Available at: <https://repository.lsu.edu/cwbr/vol22/iss2/2>

CWBR Statement on National Protests

June 4th, 2020

The recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others have called Americans to action in the midst of a national crisis. As historians of the American Civil War and Reconstruction eras, we understand that these tragic events are not isolated, random, or exceptional. They are a part of a broader legacy of racial oppression, economic injustice, and militarized policing that we have failed to confront and resolve as a nation.

The staff of LSU's *Civil War Book Review* unanimously and firmly aligns with the cause of humanity and justice. We stand with Black Lives Matter and the national movement for equal justice, law enforcement reform, and a more equitable society. We support the ongoing peaceful protests across the country and their efforts to promote essential and overdue changes to our institutions.

We condemn abuses of power, police brutality, and other forms of state violence directed against peaceful protestors. We denounce the actions and ideologies of white supremacists and other radical provocateurs who aim to incite violence and destruction, and to sow further division in a grieving nation.

We call upon local, state, and national officials to act with empathy, to unite and to heal a nation wrought by inequity, poverty, resentment, and demagoguery. We urge them to pursue a course of de-escalation, not "domination," and to implement policy changes that will not only secure peace but equity. We encourage everyone to act with compassion, to call out racism and injustice when you see it, and to continue protecting one another in the midst of this pandemic. To champion equal justice and opportunity for those who have been denied them their full worth is to assure them for everyone.

Sincerely,

-Editorial Board, *Civil War Book Review*, Louisiana State University

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