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Martin Luther King, Jr. and Today's World

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Martin Luther King, Jr. and Today's World

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

Martin Luther King was a firm believer in nonviolence. Gandhi's ideals of nonviolence gave King the ideas for his movement. He wanted it to be done peacefully and without violence. King had a way of uniting people and getting his ideas heard in a nonviolent way. Unfortunately, if Dr. King were here today, I believe he would be disgusted and upset with the way we as a nation have been conducting ourselves in his absence. As a nation, we have not changed for the better and have a lot of work to do on both ends to be at peace. Our nation today has many issues that lead us to act not in the way Martin Luther King would advise us to act, but instead we act out physically. Due to the way the United States is today, I believe Martin Luther King Jr. would be not only disappointed but enraged with what we are doing today.



Jessica Raniewicz

“If you saw it, you will not forget it, that Sunday afternoon in March 1965, when television brought into your home the stark horror taking place in Selma, Alabama...The television reports of this incredible mockery of democracy did more than any other mass medium to inspire millions of Americans to demand an end to this particular form of mistreatment and denial of black citizens’ rights,” –Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. and Today’s World

Martin Luther King was a firm believer in nonviolence. Gandhi’s ideals of nonviolence gave King the ideas for his movement. He wanted it to be done peacefully and without violence. King had a way of uniting people and getting his ideas heard in a nonviolent way. Unfortunately, if Dr. King were here today, I

believe he would be disgusted and upset with the way we as a nation have been conducting ourselves in his absence. As a nation, we have not changed for the better and have a lot of work to do on both ends to be at peace. Our nation today has many issues that lead us to act not in the way Martin Luther King would advise us to act, but instead we act out physically. Due to the way the United States is today, I believe Martin Luther King Jr. would be not only disappointed but enraged with what we are doing today.

The United States is supposed to be a country of freedom and equality, but with violence we are preventing these ideas from prevailing. We as a country have failed not only the dream Dr. King worked towards, but we have failed what our founding fathers fought to achieve. There have been many riots, mass shootings, and fights; when this happens we get further and further away from peace and equality. The only thing that has come out of these situations is more killing, destruction of property and the despair of the families affected. If we do not stop this madness, it will keep occurring.

One of the biggest issues the country faces is the following and respecting of the laws our country provides. The disrespect people, especially young people,

have towards not only law enforcement but also other citizens is terrible. Law enforcement keeps us safe and protects us; overall they want to keep the peace. To see people disrespecting law enforcement that protects us every day around the clock proves the point that America is on a downward spiral. People need to learn to respect the law. The law is how we all stay safe and keep things running the way it should be. Without law we would be in turmoil and there would be no order.

The Baltimore riots were one of the most disturbing acts I have seen in my life, a prime example of chaos and the unravelling of Dr. King's ideas. People were addressing the misconduct by police while Freddy Grey was in custody. Sadly he passed away and thereafter riots broke out blaming police for his death. What happened is tragic and saddening but there was still no reason for riots. No matter if the police were at fault or not, there is no reason to set police cars and local stores on fire and act like animals. There is nothing good that comes from riots, you are not heard, and instead your message gets lost in the violence. People can get hurt and even worse die. It does not make sense to have a riot in honor of someone's death that could possibly harm or kill another human being. To honor that person if there was injustice is to have a peaceful protest and use Dr. King's

ideas and actions to get one's point across. Riots just make us as a society look inhumane.

Technology has not helped this issue of violence. With technology it is possible to see only part of the picture and not have knowledge of the events leading up to the incident. People make fast judgements without all the facts. It is important to know as much as possible before making rash decisions.

It is important that as a nation we work on bringing peace and equality to the American people. In doing so we must make an effort to do it in a positive and healthy way. Violence does not help any situation. Governments and the American people need to work together on developing ways wherein people can express their disapproval without riots and violence. I believe that even though Martin Luther King Jr. would be upset with how America is working now, we as a nation can make a change. Dr. King would believe that if we all worked together we could change America to deal with our problems in a peaceful, non-violent manner.