The Economic Severity of the Rodney King Riots

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The Rodney King Riots

The Rodney King riots had a significant economic impact on the entirety of the nation and, in the wake of the controversial issues regarding Rodney King, raised awareness in regards to the socioeconomic conditions that belong to those of “lower class.”

The Riots Themselves

- Six days of actual riots took place, during which there were several beatings, especially of Reginald Denny, a White truck-driver who was nearly murdered by Black assailants in response to King’s beating.
- As a result of said violence, the National Guard was called in to establish order.

The Economic Aftermath

- There was over 1 billion dollars in property damages.
- Businesses were destroyed, and as a result of high costs, it was very difficult to rebuild.
- As a result of the unintended violence, there was a rapid increase in weapons sales, as a response to the notion that “the police isn’t doing their job correctly.”

Background

- Rodney King was an African American male who was brutally beaten by police for suspected speeding.
- An all-White jury acquitted the officers of any misconduct in regards to their behavior during the actions involving King.
- As a result, several riots took place, resulting in mass lootings
- In the aftermath, over 1 billion dollars of damages were incurred, and several businesses were lost or destroyed.

Social Impact

- There has been a demographic change in Los Angeles towards more Hispanic and African Americans than before the riots.
- Crime rate has seen a significant reduction.
- The racial tension in Los Angeles has decreased significantly.
- There has also been correlated reports to a decrease in crime activity.

Overview

- There exists a hugely negative aftermath from an economic perspective.
- However, there is a huge social benefit to society, years later in regards to the protests.
- Moral: Weigh the economic costs of a riot against the social benefits before enacting one.

The Man, The Legend

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