

Reading The Riot

(President Elect Biden's press conference during the attempted seize of the Capitol)

“Let me be very clear! The scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not reflect a true America! Do not represent who we are! What we are seeing are a small number of extremist!”

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On Today's episode I will be doing a close reading of the recent riots

Welcome to The Black Box News.

I'm Cyrah Ward.

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(Theme music plays)

“Your piercing gaze.

Makes my blood boil.

I feel so out of place.

I'll topple your scale finally awake. I will escape your judgement day...”

....

Protestors, hard heads, mob, rioters, white supremacist, insurrectionist, terrorist, domestic terrorist.

As we all sat back and witnessed the attempted intervening of the recounting of electoral votes we were bombarded with the world's scrambled efforts to figure out just the right words to describe what we all were seeing. There is no doubt that such events were worthy of language that evoked fear, seriousness, and urgency but maybe just maybe a more appropriate descriptive observation of the unfortunate events is to simply call it a performance of racial solidarity.

Now you may be giving me a sort of side eye right now but lets really break things down. A performance is the action or process of carrying out something or accomplishing a task or function. Therefore, walking down the street is a type of performance just as watching actors deliver lines on a stage is a type of performance. Now if we look at the word racial we see that it simply means relating to the major groupings of people with shared ancestral heritage commonly determined by physical or social qualities.

But there is something about this word solidarity that is important. Solidarity means the unity, mutual support, or agreement of feelings or actions, within a group and/or among individuals with a common interest. For example, as a Black Woman I am amazed at the solidarity Black folks have around the fact that seasoning is the most important step when cooking. Or the agreement that Beyonce is one of the best performers of our time, or that Obama was the most swagged out president we will ever see, or even that Morgan Freeman has never been young a day in his life.

One must note that what a group of people stand in solidarity with no matter how true or false doesn't quite matter as it is the pure agreement on said ideas or concepts that suddenly give these moments of unity power.

Alright so I know you like aye yo Cyrah...we have the definition of Performance, racial and solidarity but what does it become when placed together or concert with one another? Don't worry I got you!

See the performance of racial solidarity is the physical act of people from similar upbringings banding together in support of one unified topic or event of which they seek to affect social or political change. One could argue that the siege of the Capitol, though extravagant, was simply a performance of racial solidarity.

Now I know simplifying such horrific events to just a few simple words feels like a misrepresentation of what some are calling terrorism with the help of our President Elect of course labeling said events as other worldly and not being a true representation of Who we are as a country. But if we just take a moment to step back and look at the history of the performance of racial solidarity in the name of justice, we will see that a more appropriate observation would be that The United States was built on the theatrical performances of terrorism for what folks called back then an assertion and protection of their rights....

However, as a society we actively refuse to admit that this is the foundation of America. Hence why the media has settled on declaring that last week's events are somehow only deriving from hate group culture such as the good ole' KKK. It is by no mistake that White people are the only racial group capable of maintaining cultural capital while othering their very own people as an individualistic survival technique so as not to be seen as "those crazy white people".

See the reality is that the KKK is not the only white institutional hate group in our history. How easily we forget that the deeply rooted agenda of the police task force was and is still to stand in solidarity with whiteness and all its best interest. History shows that from the beginning policing was built on the very idea that the performance of racial solidarity was the key to maintaining a

social order that guaranteed white privilege a head seat at the table while black folk were forced into the kitchen when company would come.

I mean lets be real, policing originated from slave patrolling where white men would hunt and capture any slave with or without a permit if caught in the woods with a flame as a light source. Don't believe me go ahead and watch NPR's report on The History of Policing in America with expert Kahlil Gibran Muhhamad the professor of History, Race, and Public Policy at Harvard. In this report Professor Muhhamad explainins how white men slave patrolers we allowed to dispense a corporal punishment of 30 lashes at the time of detainment. Seriously, they captured slaves simply for trying to reclaim their right to freedom. From then on black people would be framed as criminals despite being targeted victims of white anxiety-induced racial solidarity performances.

Rayshard Brooks- a black man shot and killed for falling asleep in the drive through line of a Wendy's

Daniel Prude- a black man suffocated to death as a result of a mental health episode

George Floyd- a black man suffocated to death for allegedly trying to use counterfeit money

Breonna Taylor- a black woman killed while being sleep in her home

Atatiana Jefferson- a black woman killed while again in her own home

Now do you see?

The very foundation of utilizing violence and terror as a way to protect white people, property, privilege, and power are quite frankly the bricks that built the White House. The police as a whole has stood in solidarity with the interest of the institution of whiteness- which explains the lack of police presence at a heavily advertised and nationally planned "march".

So you tell me how it is possible that President Elect Biden could sugar coat such mob violence as not reflecting who we are as the true America despite their clear rhetoric to return this true America back to the good ole days of white supremacy and black and brown inferiority? Well maybe the real question is how is it possible that after 400 years America is still in the first two stages of grief – shock and denial?

Now I want you to ask yourself...

Have you checked outside the BOX?

....

(Theme music plays)

“Cause I’m not hidin anymore.

See I have got a reason to be.

And I’m gone keep on movin movin shakin. You won’t ever get a hold of me.”

...

Thank you so much for listening. Our Vibes is a song called The Table provided by April+Vista. You can catch playback of this episode, past episodes, and all others to come by visiting EnthronedOne.com/theblackbox.

I’m Cyrah Ward.

Artivist. Black Woman. Griot.

Yall stay blessed now!

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(Theme music plays)

“Oh oh no...

And though you keep me From the table

When company, comes knockin one things for sure

There is nothing you can do to starve my soul

To starve my soul”

(Music fades out)