



BlackEconomics.org®

“Exiting No Man’s Land”

A “dog-eat-dog” capitalist world collides violently with a truly humane world. Unfortunately, most of us do not reflect robustly the expected behaviors of either world. On the one hand, we are unwilling to kill to achieve maximum profits as we should under capitalism. On the other hand, we are unwilling to display the utmost in humanitarianism as we should to save our brother’s life when the latter’s life is at stake.

This behavioral dialectic is brought into stark relief in the case of George Floyd, but it plays out too many times each day across the US and in the world. Most of us are in no man’s land. While we remain captive in the US, we should identify and execute the correct behaviors to ensure our sanity and to help perpetuate the existence of our world.

George Floyd represents the helpless lamb who was murdered and buried. He was resurrected as a symbol of the suffering Black American servant who helped bring justice when his murderer was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 22 and one-half years in prison. Floyd’s life and death are expected to bring police reforms that will make life better for us all. Is this the mechanism for correcting a degenerate world? Why did George Floyd’s life have to be sacrificed to generate change?

Why did the four or five Black men standers by take no action to save George Floyd’s life?

Under other circumstances those bystanders would tell you that they love Black people and that they love their brother. What was required of them? To rush the police on the scene as many times as necessary to break the “knee-on-the-neck hold,” change the dynamics of the situation, and save George Floyd’s life.

You say: “Their lives were at stake.” We say: “Many Black Americans put their lives on the line voluntarily and repeatedly during 1960s Civil Rights Era. Remember police guns, dogs, fire hoses, beatings, and incarcerations? What has changed in 50 years? We have become apathetic and have lost some of our humanity.

Even with improved legal governance of the police proposed because of George Floyd’s murder, without sufficient funds to enforce that governance, and without citizens’ willingness to put their lives on the line to enforce that governance, the status quo will be sustained—potentially in a slightly altered form. Police murders of Black men and women have not abated since George Floyd’s murder.

On the capitalism front, Black America has no “dog-eat-dog” or “cut-throat” mentality. How do we expect to succeed at capitalism if we are unwilling to bank with Black banks, patronize Black businesses vigorously,

organize long-term economic actions against enterprises that have a history of unfair treatment of us, and to strongarm outsiders out of our areas of influence so that Black enterprises can arise? We are too willing to go along to get along and unwilling to suffer the inconvenience of being without the satiation of our appetites, which are created by those who do not have our best interest at heart—only their bottom lines.

We are in no man’s land. We are without principles required to succeed at capitalism and without the humanity that will allow us to truly succeed in all aspects of life. Most problematically, we have no long-term strategic plan for success, and our stated intentions and actions flip-flop from one day and event to the next. As the late Kwame Ture made clear (paraphrasing): “Those who keep changing their principles, have no principles at all.”

Our suggestion is that Black America develop a strong sense of humanity by loving ourselves and what is good and correct for us.

After claiming that achievement, then appropriate actions on all fronts will become transparent.

We should enact intensified capitalistic principles by ensuring the formation of clean, up-to-date, and economically vibrant areas of influence. With intact areas of influence that operate successfully we will be a confident and independent people willing to protect what we have fashioned. The latter condition will be evidenced, in part, by self-policed areas of influence. And when our people confront outside police forces, then we will draw on our humanity—willingly placing our lives on the line to protect the lives of our brothers and sisters. There should be no more George Floyds.

We should exit no man’s land.

B. Robinson
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