

By now, most, if not all, have seen the painful video of George Floyd gasping for breath and pleading for his life as he lay dying on the asphalt. It makes no difference if Mr. Floyd was resisting arrest or using illicit drugs, all of us can agree that Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin deserves to spend many, many years in prison.

Republicans and Democrats have also spoken up on the issue. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that the killing was “the latest disturbing chapter in our long, unfinished American struggle to ensure that equal justice under law is not conditional on the color of one’s skin.” The President made his feelings known soon after the video emerged on the internet: “I feel very, very badly,” Trump said Thursday of George Floyd’s death while handcuffed and in the custody of Minneapolis police. “That’s a very shocking sight.” Trump later called to offer his condolences with Mr. Floyd’s family.

But is the killing of George Floyd—a black man—at the hands of Derek Chauvin—a white man—an example of systemic racism and bigotry engrained in America’s police forces? Many Democrats believe it is. Former President Barack Obama tweeted that it was “tragically, painfully, maddeningly ‘normal’” for black Americans to be treated differently by police officers and the justice system. NBA superstar LeBron James also tweeted out, “Why Doesn’t America Love US!!!!????TOO.” And current Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said that “the moment has come for our nation to deal with systemic racism.”

To better understand the issue, we must resist taking the isolated murder of George Floyd and assuming that it exemplifies the bigger picture. What do the statistics say about the rate of police officer shootings as it relates to race? Since 2015, black-Americans have made up about a quarter of fatal police shootings. In 2019, for instance, 1,004 people were fatally shot by the police. Two-hundred and thirty-five of those people were African-American. One could draw from those numbers that black-Americans are shot and killed at an unfair rate since they make up only 13% of the population. However, one must look at the crime numbers to better understand this number. In 2018, black-Americans made up 53% of the homicide offenders and 60% of the robbery offenders.

What about *unarmed* black-Americans? In 2019, nine unarmed African-Americans were shot and killed by the police, while nineteen unarmed whites were shot and killed by the police. This is despite the fact that African-Americans are incarcerated at around five times the rate of whites.

Even liberal professors have had to admit that race does not seem to be a factor in police-related shootings. A Harvard professor, Roland G. Fryer, Jr., combed through mountains of police data from Texas, Florida, and California, preparing for a paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research. “Of the most extreme use of force—officer-involved shootings—we find no racial differences in either the raw data or when contextual factors are taken into account,” Professor Fryer said. “It is the most surprising result of my career.”

In 2019, researchers from Arizona State University and Michigan State University published a paper in which they said, “when adjusting for crime, we find no systemic evidence of anti-black disparities in fatal shootings, fatal shootings of unarmed citizens, or fatal shootings involving misdemeanors of harmless objects.”

The facts simply do not confirm the claim that the police are overwhelmingly racist. Nor is America. The United States of America was built upon the proposition that all men are created equal. Under the American system, the color of one's skin is not supposed to be a barrier or hindrance to success or fair treatment. Unfortunately, at the founding of our nation, the thoughts were right, but the actions were evil. Slavery was generally accepted as a way of life with no moral strings attached. And it took some time, but eventually, America realized its wrongdoing and fought a war to end the practice and free the millions of black-Americans in bondage around the country.

In the instance of George Floyd, justice is quickly being served. Over the last week, we saw charges brought against officer Derek Chauvin, and he was placed in jail. The three police officers who stood by as Floyd died are also now being charged with "aiding and abetting murder."

But the Left uses race as a way to sow division and drive their anti-cop narrative. That's why some of the looters feel justified in their actions. According to the Left, they are victims of a racist society. Of course, some of the looters are simply opportunists who want a new iPhone or TV.

The problems facing the black community today are problems not caused by police forces. They are cultural problems that bring about fatherless children, poverty, and increased crime rates. We are not going to fix these problems through welfare or looting. It's going to take Americans recognizing the problem and implementing the social and spiritual changes necessary to correct the problem. And the cops can be a part of the solution because they are not the problem.

Are cops perfect? Of course not. Among any large group of people, there will always be a few bad apples. Derek Chauvin was one of the bad apples within the Minneapolis police force. But the facts bear out that the cops are overwhelmingly good and, on a mission, to keep their communities safe.

Every single day, police officers around the country put on their uniform and patrol the streets, looking to promote what is good and punish what is evil. Let us not vilify the entire police system because of a few isolated incidents. The facts don't show we are in the midst of an epidemic of racist police killings.