

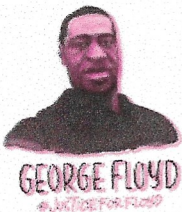
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Module 1 Discussion/Introduction to Law/ Abolish the police?

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In the aftermath of the tragic death of George Floyd, after his arrest by police in Minnesota in the summer of 2020, a seemingly substantial number of folks insisted we should "abolish the police." Some others, not as radical, declared we should "defund the police" -- spend less money on police forces, their equipment, etc. and more money on other type of social responses to crimes, addictions and mental disturbances.

On the other hand, many other commentators responded that these calls to get rid of the police, or substantially reduce the size of police forces and their resources, were utterly irresponsible. These advocates alleged that a reduced police presence, particularly in high crime cities and neighborhoods, would disproportionately end up harming folks without substantial resources the most. Well-off citizens, these commentators argued, would create and pay for their own security forces and other protective measures -- but just for their homes, their blocks and their neighborhoods -- and that the poorer citizens, often citizens of color, would be forced to continue living in the higher crime areas with even less protection than they had before.

What do you think?

(1) Can we just get rid of police all over the country?

(2) Should we slash the resources spent on law enforcement agencies and distribute some of their functions to social agencies, mental health facilities and the like?

(3) Should we continue to have police to protect citizens but insist that they be much better selected -- that, for example, they be extremely carefully screened for psychological impulses toward violence? Should all police be far better trained in learning how to deal with violent confrontations, particularly those started by persons suffering from alcohol, drug and/or mental issues?

GIVE YOUR OPINIONS ON ALL THREE ISSUES LISTED!

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