

September 29, 2017 – MORE IGNORANCE

A couple of our favorites comment on NFL protests and the fake news that spawned them. Roger Simon is first.

... We now live in such a victim culture that even mega-rich athletes and movie actors claim victimhood. Maybe we should rewrite Sly Stone's "Everybody Is a Star" as "Everybody Is a Victim."

The problem with this of course is that little gets solved by playing the victim. It's just a dumb show, a bunch of guys refusing to stand for the National Anthem. Meaningless, except to their egos. This kind of behavior is, in reality, the enemy of action, taking things backwards and giving people an excuse not to do something substantive. Does anyone seriously expect the current "protest" by the football players to have any result (other than turning fans off football)? What could it be? Improvement for poor black communities?

Oh, come on. If you want to improve poor black communities, round up some money and start a business there. Be entrepreneurial. Make something. Build something....

Heather Mac Donald writes on fake news.

The FBI released its official crime tally for 2016 today, and the data flies in the face of the rhetoric that professional athletes rehearsed in revived Black Lives Matter protests over the weekend. Nearly 900 additional blacks were killed in 2016 compared with 2015, bringing the black homicide-victim total to 7,881. Those 7,881 "black bodies," in the parlance of Ta-Nehisi Coates, are 1,305 more than the number of white victims (which in this case includes most Hispanics) for the same period, though blacks are only 13 percent of the nation's population. The increase in black homicide deaths last year comes on top of a previous 900-victim increase between 2014 and 2015.

Who is killing these black victims? Not whites, and not the police, but other blacks. ...

... Violent crime has now risen by a significant amount for two consecutive years. The total number of violent crimes rose 4.1 percent in 2016, and estimated homicides rose 8.6 percent. In 2015, violent crime rose by nearly 4 percent and estimated homicides by nearly 11 percent. The last time violence rose two years in a row was 2005–06. The reason for the current increase is what I have called the Ferguson Effect. Cops are backing off of proactive policing in high-crime minority neighborhoods, and criminals are becoming emboldened. Having been told incessantly by politicians, the media, and Black Lives Matter activists that they are bigoted for getting out of their cars and questioning someone loitering on a known drug corner at 2 AM, many officers are instead just driving by. Such stops are discretionary; cops don't have to make them. And when political elites demonize the police for just such proactive policing, we shouldn't be surprised when cops get the message and do less of it. ...

*... Four studies came out in 2016 alone rebutting the charge that police shootings are racially biased. If there is a bias in police shootings, it works in favor of blacks and against whites. That truth has not stopped the ongoing demonization of the police—including, now, by many of the country's **ignorant professional athletes**. The toll will be felt, as always, in the inner city, by the thousands of law-abiding people there who desperately want more police protection.*

Pajamas Media

[Kneeling for a Self-Deceiving Lie](#)

by Roger L. Simon

Forget Donald Trump for a moment (assuming that's possible) and go back to what initiated this whole escalating orgy of racial accusation that has overtaken football and other sports and you find one of the more despicable and self-destructive lies of our time -- that the police are targeting minority communities.

Heather Mac Donald's excellent "[The War on Cops](#)" is chock full of statistics demonstrating why this is not only a lie, but the complete opposite of reality. Unfortunately, Mac Donald is white and therefore, I'm told, disqualified, so I will quote a short version from the Wall Street Journal's [Jason Riley](#), who happens to be black:

In New York City, home to the nation's largest police force, officer-involved shootings have fallen by more than 90% since the early 1970s, and national trends have been similarly dramatic.

A Justice Department [report](#) published in 2001 noted that between 1976 and 1998, the teen and adult population grew by 47 million people, and the number of police officers increased by more than 200,000, yet the number of people killed by police "did not generally rise" over this period. Moreover, a "**growing percentage of felons killed by police are white, and a declining percentage are black.**" A separate Justice study released in 2011 also reported a decline in killings by police, between 1980 and 2008. And according to figures from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate at which police kill blacks has fallen by 70% since the late 1960s. [bold mine]

So why are all these multi-millionaires insulting the country that made them wildly rich and creating a national (even international) crisis about police brutality when, with rare exceptions, it's no longer there? Do they actually believe their own lie?

Probably, to some extent, they do. After all, they're surrounded by it. The media -- aka Democrats with press passes -- constantly rattle on about the evils of the police in order to stir the racial pot. It even got worse *after* Barack Obama was elected. (Not surprising, really, when you think about it.)

The Democratic Party depends on racism -- more precisely the *perception* of racism -- for its survival. Without a seeming non-stop race crisis in our country, that party would no longer exist, at least as presently constituted. It would hemorrhage voters, with large numbers of African-Americans soon tiring of the Democrats' fusty socialist economic schemes that have failed black people especially.

Our inner cities, almost exclusively under the control of Democrats for decades, have been wrecked, families shattered, in part, by the policies of that party. We all know that. The football

players deep down know that and so do the cynical team owners. They're all participating in a pathetic charade, pretending (or convincing themselves) the police are the problem in black communities. The police aren't the ones shooting each other in Chicago and Baltimore. They're the ones trying to stop that from happening. This is so obvious that it's not even the elephant in the room. It's the brontosaurus in the room.

We now live in such a victim culture that even mega-rich athletes and movie actors claim victimhood. Maybe we should rewrite Sly Stone's "Everybody Is a Star" as "Everybody Is a Victim."

The problem with this of course is that little gets solved by playing the victim. It's just a dumb show, a bunch of guys refusing to stand for the National Anthem. Meaningless, except to their egos. This kind of behavior is, in reality, the enemy of action, taking things backwards and giving people an excuse not to do something substantive. Does anyone seriously expect the current "protest" by the football players to have any result (other than turning fans off football)? What could it be? Improvement for poor black communities?

Oh, come on. If you want to improve poor black communities, round up some money and start a business there. Be entrepreneurial. Make something. Build something.... Oh, wait. Then you might have to deal with Donald Trump. (I knew I couldn't keep him out of this.)

City Journal

[Hard Data, Hollow Protests](#)

by Heather Mac Donald

The [FBI released](#) its official crime tally for 2016 today, and the data flies in the face of the rhetoric that professional athletes rehearsed in revived Black Lives Matter protests over the weekend. Nearly 900 additional blacks were killed in 2016 compared with 2015, bringing the black homicide-victim total to 7,881. Those 7,881 "black bodies," in the parlance of Ta-Nehisi Coates, are 1,305 more than the number of white victims (which in this case includes most Hispanics) for the same period, though blacks are only 13 percent of the nation's population. The increase in black homicide deaths last year comes on top of a previous 900-victim increase between 2014 and 2015.

Who is killing these black victims? Not whites, and not the police, but other blacks. In 2016, the police fatally shot 233 blacks, the vast majority armed and dangerous, [according](#) to the *Washington Post*. The *Post* categorized only 16 black male victims of police shootings as "unarmed." That classification masks assaults against officers and violent resistance to arrest. Contrary to the Black Lives Matter narrative, the police have much more to fear from black males than black males have to fear from the police. In 2015, a police officer was 18.5 times more likely to be killed by a black male than an unarmed black male was to be killed by a police officer. Black males have made up 42 percent of all cop-killers over the last decade, though they are only 6 percent of the population. That 18.5 ratio undoubtedly worsened in 2016, in light of the 53 percent increase in gun murders of officers—committed vastly and disproportionately by black males. Among all homicide suspects whose race was known, white killers of blacks numbered only 243.

Violent crime has now risen by a significant amount for two consecutive years. The total number of violent crimes rose 4.1 percent in 2016, and estimated homicides rose 8.6 percent. In 2015, violent crime rose by nearly 4 percent and estimated homicides by nearly 11 percent. The last time violence rose two years in a row was 2005–06. The reason for the current increase is what I have called the Ferguson Effect. Cops are backing off of proactive policing in high-crime minority neighborhoods, and criminals are becoming emboldened. Having been told incessantly by politicians, the media, and Black Lives Matter activists that they are bigoted for getting out of their cars and questioning someone loitering on a known drug corner at 2 AM, many officers are instead just driving by. Such stops are discretionary; cops don't have to make them. And when political elites demonize the police for just such proactive policing, we shouldn't be surprised when cops get the message and do less of it. Seventy-two percent of the nation's officers say that they and their colleagues are now less willing to stop and question suspicious persons, according to a Pew Research poll released in January. The reason is the persistent anti-cop climate.

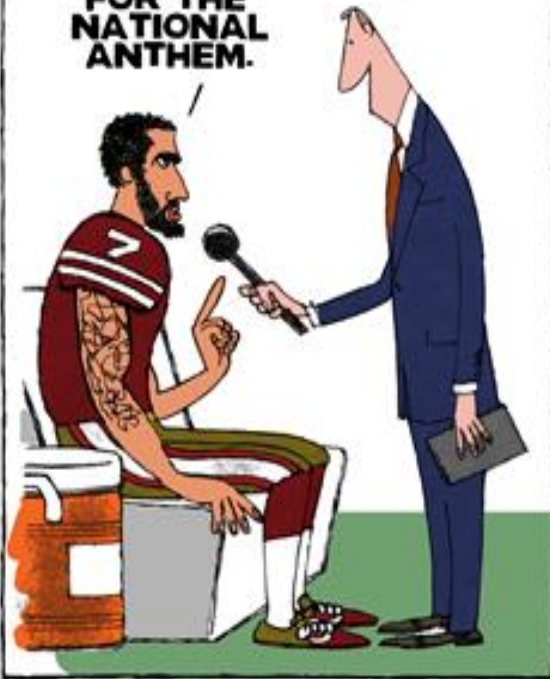
Four studies came out in 2016 alone rebutting the charge that police shootings are racially biased. If there is a bias in police shootings, it works in favor of blacks and against whites. That truth has not stopped the ongoing demonization of the police—including, now, by many of the country's ignorant professional athletes. The toll will be felt, as always, in the inner city, by the thousands of law-abiding people there who desperately want more police protection.

Heather Mac Donald is the Thomas W. Smith Fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a contributing editor of City Journal.





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CREATORS SYNDICATE

S. KELLY

**SO TO
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