

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the development of fight for civil rights in the United States with particular focus on the movement Black Lives Matter. Furthermore, it focuses on the feminist aspect of activist movements, and explores the neglect women are usually forced to deal with when it comes to this particular social issue. In specific examples, I show how women are often overlooked when it comes to cases of police brutality and basic human rights. Using the enlightening literature by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Toni Morrison and Leila Mottley, but also important works by activists and scholars such as Robin DiAngelo, bell hooks, Mikki Kendall, and Angela Y. Davis, I attempt to demonstrate the depth of this particular problematics, and the importance of understanding it, in order to eradicate police brutality and systemic racism.

This thesis will consist of four chapters: in the first chapter I take a look at the history of development of civil rights and what preceded, and also influenced the Black Lives Matter movement. The second chapter then focuses on Black Lives Matter itself, how it came to be and how it evolved from a simple hashtag into the world-known movement it is today. The third chapter focuses on the main theme of the Black Lives Matter movement, which is police brutality and the state-issued violence against people of color. In the fourth chapter I provide socio-cultural analysis of the demographic in the United States, as well as the concept of white fragility, postulated by Robin DiAngelo, and the impact it has on people of color living in the United States.