

AN ANALYSIS OF RACISM IN ANGIE THOMAS NOVEL *CONCRETE ROSE*

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ABSTRACT

This Study is entitled An Analysis Racism in Angie Thomas Novel Concrete Rose. It aims to describe the forms of racism reflected in the novel and to describe Maverick struggle to fight against Racism. The study is designed as descriptive qualitative study since the object of the study and the result of analysis are presented in descriptive form. The approach used is sociological approach The sociological approach to literary works is one type of approach in the sociology of literature that is used to analyze the events, characterizations, and settings contained in the short stories that are read. Humans take actions intentionally to accomplish their goals, at the same time, human actions have unintended consequences (unintentional consequences) of setting that impact on subsequent human actions. Humans according to this theory are agents of purposeful actors who have reasons for their activities and are able to describe those reasons repeatedly. This study describes the main character who is trying to achieve his goals by dealing with racial conflicts that occur in his environment The author concludes that there are 2 types of racism in the novel Concrete Rose. The first is Prejudice. Prejudice is a prejudice or negative assessment of an object without knowing the truth first. Angie Thomas shows indirectly how prejudice occurs. Maverick's bad prejudice occurs because he is a black person. In America they have a bad reputation. The second is discrimination. Discrimination is an act that treats a person or group differently and unfairly on the basis of the characteristics of that person or group. Discrimination by police and paramedics against the main character is very, very detrimental and has a negative impact on the main character.

Keywords: *Discrimination, Prejudice, , Racism,*

Introduction

God created person with different physical characteristic and traits. This traits and physical characteristics that they got are a gift from God. God created our different physiques and has its own purpose. This is so that they can understand and know other races or ethnicities. National association of School Psychology (NASP) (2012: 1) stated that racism is a response to the social paradigm that tolerance, accepts, and strengthens racial inequality, and it's associated with unequal racial opportunities for children to learn and develop. Racial inequalities is represented by discrimination of people who are minor in the country. Another definition state that racism is a belief that one's own race is superior to another and supportive behavior that are done to maintain the superiority. (Jones in Augoustinous an Reynold, 2001:3)

In modern era, humans show thoughts that show cultural differences that cause conflict. Religious conflicts, political conflicts, racial conflicts are increasingly rife in society. Such conflict occurs because of the prejudice or bad judgment of an ethnic or community that looks one-sided one of the ethnic or religious eyes. The case of George Floyd's death at the hands of the police in 2020 brought the slogan Black Lives Matter to the headlines, not only in the United States but around the world. The movement that demands justice for marginalized black people is protesting the brutal treatment and racial discrimination that is considered ingrained in the US police system.

In 1600, Francois Bernier came up

with the idea of distinction between humans based on the characteristics of skin color and face shape (Alo Liliweri, 2005: 21). According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, human physical characteristic in the world can be divided into four major races. The races are black, white, yellow and red. One person who introduced the concept of race was Charles Darwin.

Darwin introduced race as something that refers to biological and physical traits. One of the most obvious is the color of the skin. The United States is the country that has the history of the most racial conflicts in the world. That year, the U.S. also had two opposing blocs. It's a block. North and south block. More agrarian-based southern blocks It needs workers rather than industrial-based northern blocs. Slavery was the main cause of the civil war. in America. This war is also called the abolition war (elimination of the system). slavery). This war happened because the southern bloc wanted to secede. After the election of Abraham Lincoln as president. With the victory of the northern bloc, the slavery system was later abolished. The Slaves were freed throughout the 1860s after the proclamation. Emancipation and ratifikas amandeman thirteen years 1865. However, racial discrimination continues to this day.

The researcher is interested in analyzing racism in Angie Thomas "Concrete Rose" due to some reasons. First, This novel has just been published in 2021, January 12. and still no one has analyzed this book. Angie Thomas's latest young adult novel, "Concrete Rose," takes on this

challenge — sorting through a person's becoming — with the author's characteristic mastery. In her best-selling debut, "The Hate U Give," all eyes were on Starr Carter, a 16-year-old girl who finds her voice after witnessing a police officer kill her best friend. But Starr didn't develop into that young leader on her own; she was molded by those around her. One of those formative figures was her father, Maverick Carter. Now, Maverick is front and center in "Concrete Rose."

They meet Maverick on a pivotal day, years before the events of "The Hate U Give," in the vibrant world of Garden Heights. At 17 years old, he's just discovered he's the father of a 3-month-old son. The sudden weight of his newfound responsibility forces him to make a choice: continue running with the King Lords, the gang he's come into by way of his now-imprisoned father; or face the cost of leaving the gang and try to build a life for himself and his family outside of selling drugs. Besides he struggles to survive to support his family, he also struggles to against a situation where he was an ethnic minority.

Research Method

The literary history approach uses a sociological approach as the main theory because of this research. The main goal of this approach is to understand how the original reader of the work understood and meant it. The author will explain about the historical approach as a supporter of the theory of racism so that readers can

understand and explore the social conditions of racism that occur in the United States. what's more, it identifies the black struggle

Racism is one of the dominant discriminations in the United States. This is because of the position of black people as a minority and their racial history. They are discriminated against because they come from slavery. Then some prejudices arise based on their physical appearance and characteristics of their behavior. This condition makes it difficult for them to live a normal life and get some opportunities.

The method of the study is very important in presenting the analysis of data as well as concluding. The method used in this thesis research is the descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative research will be used in this study, according to Moleong (2009: 6) The purpose of this study is to reveal the events or facts, circumstances, phenomena, variables, and circumstances that occur in literary work and present what happened. This method is being used to understand how and why something happened, not only what, when, or where something occurred. This study interprets and describes the data concerned with the current situation, attitudes, and views that occur in a society, also the contradiction between two or more circumstances, and the relationship towards a condition.

The method used in this writing was applied in determining data source, data collection, and data analysis. How to analyze this research is done by analyzing the object which is Angie Thomas's Novel "Concrete Rose" which contains elements

of internalized racism. Besides, there is also a library study that can facilitate the research, especially in the discussion chapter. Internet research is also being applied to support and widen the ideas of the researcher as well as to get materials and insights that are needed. Those ideas and concepts are then going to be selected and interpreted before being analyzed to get the conclusion of the study.

This Theory is used to Describing the kinds of racism are suffered in Angie Thomas “Concrete Rose” and Describing the ways the main character struggling against the racism

Discussion

It has been noted previously that the purpose of the study is to find the forms of racism and his struggles for resisting the racism as depicted in Angie Thomas’. Based on the objective of the study, this chapter is divided into two parts. In the first part, the researcher present the analysis of the form of racism depicted in the novel. The second part of the research presents the analysis of Maverick’s struggle for resisting racism.

1. Racism

In Angie Thomas’ *Concrete Rose*, it pretty much shows how white people dominane. Black people are underestimated in terms of personality, education, economy, and law. In the following, the researcher will describe the analysis of the types of prejudice and discrimination.

a.) Prejudice

Prejudice is described as negative state towards other people from different

racess. Prejudice is often done by white people to the colored people. It is frequently motivated by the hate of white people toward colored people without any reasonable causes. Prejudice is commonly the result generalization of some groups toward the other groups. The perception toward every individual is often seen from the general perception toward his group.

In the novel, prejudice is shown by the attitude of white people towards the main character who has black skin.

Mr. Wyatt don’t say anything for a real long time.

He sighs. “Son, one of the biggest lies ever told is that Black men don’t feel emotions. Guess it’s easier to not see us as human when you think we’re heartless. Fact of the matter is, we feel things. Hurt, pain, sadness, all of it. We got a right to show them feelings as much as anybodyelse.”(Thomas, 2021: 108)

It can be seen from the quote above that prejudice against black people is actually just a lie. Prejudices like they feel emotionless and have no heart. make black people a race that is often avoided.

One of the windows roll down, and this muscular, light-skinned dude call out, “Lisa! Let’s go!”

She roll her eyes with a groan. “Seriously?”

That’s her older brother, Carlos. He never liked me. First time I called Lisa, he interrogated me like he was the police.

“How old are you? Whatschool do you go to? What kinda grades do you get? Are you in a gang?” All kinds of stuff that wasn’t his business. When he met me, I was wearing gray and black, which proved I’m Kinging. Fool turned his nose up at me like I was a bug under his shoe. He home from college this summer, and I can’t wait for his ass to go back to school.(Thomas, 2021: 13)

Maverick is a 17-year-old boy who gets some racism in the neighborhood where he lives. He has a girlfriend named Lisa. A white girl who has beautiful brown eyes. Carlos is Lisa's older brother who doesn't like Maverick for no apparent reason. The way Carlos treats Maverick indicates that he underestimates Maverick because he is black.

“Them cops told you they questioned me, didn’t they? I told them I ain’t do nothing! They wouldn’t listen to me!”

He almost in tears. Cops get real dirty when they want some info. Who knows what they did to a crackhead? “I believe you,” I say. “You wouldn’t kill nobody.(Thomas, 2021:199)”

Tony is a black man and he was suspected of being Dre's killer before. from the quote above we can see that the police interrogated and cornered Tony as the cause of Dre's death.

He would bring his nosy butt over here. “Nothing. I got it.”

“My co-pay is twenty dollars,” Lisa explains. “Mav’s trying to pay but

—”

This dude push me aside. He take out his wallet and hand the lady the twenty. “Somebody here has too many kids to pay for.”

Man, if we weren’t in this doctor’s office . . . “I only got one other kid,fool.”

“Apparently one too many. Exactly how do you plan on taking care of my sister’s child?”

My jaw tighten. “That ain’t your concern.”(Thomas, 2021: 156)

Carlos has thoughts of belittling Maverick that he will not be able to support Lisa's child. Maverick's job and Maverick's unstable financial condition made Carlos dislike Maverick even more.

In another quote there is Mr. Wyatt who thinks that the Black men have less insight. White people often have such prejudices for no reason. with a judgmental attitude such as laughing or avoiding.

“You’re gonna need a business loan, son,” Mr. Wyatt says. “As a Black man, you walk into a bank without some type of education, they’re gonna laugh you out of there. Then let’s say the store ends up closing or it’s not bringing in enough money. You’ll need something else to fall back on. Plan for that ahead of time and increase your education.”(Thomas, 2021: 171)

Faye, man of Maverick told Maverick if in fact he doesn't want to be a gang member because he thinks a gang will only have a negative impact on Maverick, especially since he lives as a minority

citizen.

No mother want their son in a gang, but no mother want their son dead either. Pops made so many enemies in the streets that I need somebody to have my back. He told Ma I had to join. Kinging run in my blood anyway. Ma's brothers claimed it, then Pops and his cousins. It's like a fraternity for us.

Ma think I'm an "associate" though, aka somebody who only claim it and don't sling or put in work. She say this whole King Lord thing is temporary. She drill it into my head all the time—get my high school diploma and go away to college so I can get the hell away from all of this.(Thomas,2021:14)

Pops is Maverick's father and Ma is Maverick's mother. Maverick is part of the King Lords gang. This gang consists of black people. Maverick is a weed seller.

I take the necklace outta my pocket. The pendant spell out "Maverick" in cursive. It's made outta real gold with li'l diamonds along it. I got a dude in the mall to make it the other week.

"Oh my God!" Lisa gasp as she take it. "It's beautiful."

"Okay, Mav," Keisha says. "I see you spending dough on your girl." "Hell yeah. You know how I do."

"Them necklaces cost big money," Dre says. "Where you get dough for that?"

Dre don't know I sell more than weed with King, and I wanna keep it that way. It took

a lot to convince him to let me sell weed in the first place. (Thomas, 2021: 12)

Likewise, we can see the quote below. Mr. Wyatt told Maverick not to join his gang because Mr. Wyatt doesn't want drama and foolishness to happen because of his gang who are notorious for selling drugs

"Good," Mr. Wyatt says. "You can start the same day that school starts. Four hours after school, all day on Saturdays, and off on Sundays. Jamal handles things then. Some days you'll work here in the store. Other days, in my garden. I don't tolerate foolishness, and I don't tolerate gang drama."

Mr. Wyatt know we claim King Lords. It's pretty normal around here,messed up as that is.

Dre drape his arm around my shoulder. "He won't bring any foolishness or drama, Mr. Wyatt."(Thomas, 2021:44)

Mr. Wyatt's prejudice against the Maverick gang had reasons. for Maverick to focus on his son. actually Mr. Wyatt is kind to Maverick although he is a bit stingy.

Maverick comes from a poor family, therefore, he sells weed to got more money. Their buyers are mostly white people. Indeed, as we can see, those two races are wrong because they have done drug transactions. However, we can see from this that the black race is often the object of criminals.

Halfway through the day, I'm dragging

myself around.

I fell asleep in US history. It was boring anyway. I'm tired of hearing 'bout all these fucked-up white people who did fucked-up stuff, yet people wanna call them heroes. Phillips talked 'bout how Columbus discovered America, and all I could think was how the hell can you "discover" a place where people already lived?

Funny how that work. (Thomas, 2021: 60)

And white people who want to dominate the situation. And even if they commit crimes they want to be considered righteous. This is stated in the novel where Maverick says that the white race wants to always be seen as a hero

Another proof is that Maverick's mistake in betraying Lisa and having children with Lesha by accident makes Maverick seen as a black man who has no heart and feelings.

"Wait, this is the asshole who had a baby with another girl?" the blond boy asks.

First off, who the hell is he? Second, why she telling him my business? Third, who the fuck he think he talking to? I step toward him. "Who you calling a asshole?" He ball his fists like he wanna square up. Man, I'll beat the mess outta this fool. (Thomas, 2021: 64)

Racist treatment was also shown when he took Lisa to the obstetrician with Carlos, Lisa's brother. When he was in the elevator with a white woman. The attitude shown by the white woman shows that she is very afraid that the maverick will doing

a crime suddenly the woman pulled her bag and walked away from Maverick even though what she thought was not necessarily what happened.

Lisa's doctor's office is on the fifth floor of a skyscraper. People walk around the main lobby in suits with briefcases. I'm real outta place in my hoodie, jeans, and backpack. I get on the elevator with this white lady, and she pull her purse closer, like she scared I'm gon' snatch it. People way more scared of me than they oughta be. (Thomas, 2021:149)

The black race has always been seen as a bad and dangerous person. Like Maverick's statement above. Evidently when a white woman pulled her bag for fear that Maverick would steal it.

Doubts or prejudices that arise within Maverick itself. Maverick doesn't believe that there are so many black people in important jobs. The belief that black people can afford to have jobs on par with white people in America. like the quote below

There's a knock on the door and this heavy-set Black lady with freckles come in. "Well, hello! I'm Dr. Byrd. How are you two today?"

Wait a minute. Black receptionist, Black nurse, Black doctor. Everybody who work here is Black. I didn't know that was... "possible" (Thomas, 2021:78)

Because there is a mindset that black people cannot be equal to white people,

it may have an impact on black people to be pessimistic about their actual abilities.

He look like a Black “Stone Cold” Steve Austin, bald and wide-shouldered. Bet he lift weights bigger than me.

“Not a problem. Come in, have a seat.”

His office kinda dope. He got framed black-and-white pictures on the walls of all these important-looking Black people. I only recognize Malcolm X and Huey Newton, the founder of the Black Panthers. Pops put me onto them. I never heard them mentioned in a history class.(Thomas,2021: 175)

Maverick, a black man, is very impressed when he sees the elements that make it seem as if black people are valued. According to him, there are still many who respect black people.

“Okay, good. Wear your seat belt at all times and use the signal lights when you switch lanes. The left lane is for passing, the right is for slower traffic. Stay in the right as much as possible, and don’t go over the speed limit.”

I look at her. “Says the part-time NASCAR driver.”

“Who isn’t a Black boy, driving down the highway,” she says. “Don’t give the police a reason to pull you over. If they do”(Thomas,2021: 186)

Ma really cares about Maverick so she doesn't get a ticket because she doesn't want her child to create a bad impression. Moreover, Maverick is a Black people. So he

also has to maintain his image even though the problem of racism cannot be eliminated.

I gotta say, this campus real pretty. It’s exactly like them colleges you see on TV: the big brick buildings, the perfect lawns, and the statues and fountains. Only difference from the colleges on TV is that all the students are Black. Ma said that Markham is a HBCU, historically Black college and university.(Thomas,2021:191)

The negative prejudices that arise are not entirely bad. Evidence that black people can create a good reputation is seen in the quote above that there are universities where all students are black.

b.) Discrimination

Discrimination is unpleasant treatment that is given to the inferior races and done by superior races irrationally and causes a dangerous impact for them. One form of the discrimination toward colored people is done by seizing the right of colored people. In the novels, discrimination done by the white to the black is conducted by giving unfair treatment to the black. The evidence of this condition can be seen in the following quotation:

The paramedics didn’t try to save him. It’s like they took one look at him and gave up. I cussed them out. Swore I’d kick their asses if they didn’t do their job. See, they don’t know my cousin like I do. He a fighter, man. I don’t give a damn that a bullet was in his head, he would’ve come back. He would’ve.

They put a white sheet over him and left him

in the street. He wasn't a person no more. He was a crime scene. (Thomas,2021:81)

When Dre was shot, Maverick calls an ambulance. However, when the medics were on the scene. Medics did not try to save his cousin. They look normal when the situation is critical. Eventually Dre died at the scene. Maverick is furious at the medics for not trying to save his cousin. Maverick lost his cousin once and for all.

This causes deep sadness for the bereaved family. Especially for Keisha and Dreanna. moreover they are planning to get married soon. One form of discrimination that often occurs in the black race.

I remember when the Feds took down Pops. It was straight chaos in our house. cops everywhere with guns. They mademy folks lie on the floor, and an officer escorted me outside. I cried for Ma and Pops, begged the cops to let them go. They almost put me in a car to take me somewhere. Mr. Wyatt came outside and talked to them.(Thomas, 2021: 42)

The cops in America are notoriously harsh on black people. It can be seen in the quote above that Maverick's father pops caught pops. However, the novel does not show the crimes committed by Maverick's father. But the quote above shows how the police treat mom and dad of Maverick.

I thought Tony was long gone when Dre got killed. He came back though, so he was most likely in the area when it happened.

I look at Keisha. "You remember anything 'bout the robber?"

"Mav, I told the cops everything I heard. It must not have been enough.

They're not investigating the case anymore."

Of course they not. Dre just another "ghetto casualty" in their books. "That's why I wanna—I mean the set wanna take care of this. Anything you remember would help."

Keisha blink and blink. (Thomas, 2021: 195)

Ghetto is a term for a place where Jews live, this term was used in the 16th and 17th centuries. The ghetto is often associated as a symbol of discrimination. A ghetto is a closed place separate from the city. Maverick thinks that the police are not pursuing Dre's murder case because the police consider Dre only a victim of discrimination and that there should not be an investigation into the cause of his death.

Forget what you heard; drug addicts don't only live in the hood. I mostly sell to people whoa in 'tin the Garden —white college students who pull up 'cause they wanna try something new ,business men from down town who want a "wild" weekend ,these rich kids at SaintMary's who will spend their entire allowance to get high. (Thomas, 2021: 160)

This kind of problem is such a dilemma for the black because most of them want a good life, justice for their race, and peace in their neighborhood. However, some of them are always surrounded by drugs which are supplied by the multi-billion dollar

industry that the black its market segment. Thus, as long as the black become the market segment for the multi billion dollars industry, they will always discriminated by the white.

I don't know what it is with white kids and cocaine. Ay, if they buying, I'm selling. "Man, no problem at all. You always come through with big dough."

"It pays to have rich grandparents. That was 'just because' money." "Shiiid, can they adopt me?" I ask.

"They're racist assholes. You wouldn't want that, and they wouldn't want you."

Damn. At least he honest. (Thomas, 2021 : 161)

The white race is mostly from the rich. Teenagers who are their consumers have rich parents. From the novel quote above, there are economic factors that cause black people to be considered as the lower class in society.

4.2 Maverick Struggle Against the Racism

Maverick is a 17-year-old teenager who experiences discrimination from white people in his environment. Maverick is a teenager who comes from a poor family. In fact, he sells marijuana to make ends meet.

After the mistakes he made. He is not sure if he will be able to face all the problems of life in the next life. Moreover, he lives in America, where the problem of racism is still the biggest problem. However, he must try to support his two children in the midst of his incompetence.

I ain't shit.

I'm a drug-dealing, gangbanging, high school flunk-out—that's worse than a dropout. I got two kids by two different girls at seventeen. I hurt my momma, and I hurt Lisa, two of the main people who care about me only 'cause I made them think I'm somebody I'm not. Truth is, I'm the kinda dude who end up in the news or in one of them PSAs they show at school on what not to be. (Thomas, 2021: 198)

Maverick struggles to live by working with Mr. Wyatt even though the salary is not big or not even enough for his needs. But he is still responsible for what he does. Black people are known as individuals who lack empathy. considered criminal. The truth is that not all of them are like that. As for them, they have high solidarity, a sense of responsibility and feelings of love and affection. It is evident that Maverick wants to provide for his family in a good way. He left his old job as a weed(marijuana) seller.

A'ight yeah, back in the day when I was little, teachers would ask what I wanted to be when I grew up. I'd say stuff like an astronaut or a doctor or a vet. But at some point, I stopped imagining myself being any of that. Ain't no astronauts, doctors, or veterinarians around here. Everybody I know just tryna survive, and that's all I wanna do. (Thomas, 2021: 170)

Because Maverick think that the police doesn't care about his cousin's case,

Maverick finally tries to find out who killed Dre. The actions taken by the cops in the case of Dre's death are considered as one of the actions that led to rebellion or movements that could harm other people and could increase the problem of racism that currently exists.

“Ay, Tony! Wait up.”

€rackheads fast as hell. Tony haul ass down the sidewalk. He start to dart around a corner, but I grab hisshirt.

“Let me go!” He try to shake me off. “I didn’t donothing!” I put my hands up. “Ay, ay, chill. I didn’t say youdid.”

“Them cops told you they questioned me, didn’t they? I told them I ain’t do nothing! They wouldn’t listen to me!”

He almost in tears. €ops get real dirty when they want some info. Who knows what they did to a crackhead? “I believe you,” I say. “You wouldn’t kill nobody.”(Thomas,2021: 200)

Maveick tried to rebel against himself. He thinks that if the police can't solve it, then he will solve this case by taking revenge for Dre's death. He plans to kill whoever killed Dre so that Dre can get justice.

I hope that wherever Dre is, he hear the gunshot when I pull the trigger and know that his li’l cousin always got his back.

The sun gone down by the time I make it to Rose, and darkness taking over the park. Most of the light poles been shot out by the set. You can’t do the kinda work they do

under a light or the cops might see.(Thomas, 2021: 208)

In her struggle against discriminatory treatment, Maverick wants to get a better standard of living. Because he did not graduate from school and did not get a graduated certificated from his school. Therefore, maverick tries to improve his standard of living in order to get a better job. He signed up for the GED to get a certificated.

“First, I’ll get my GED and my certificate while I work for Mr. Wyatt.Then once I get them, I’ll get a second job at night. I’ll use money from that to get my own place and save up for business courses. My endgame is to be an entrepreneur. I don’t have it completely figured out but—”

“It’s a start,” Lisa says, with a small smile. “However, I don’t see whatit has to do with me.”

“Well, hopefully, I’ll show you that you can depend on me.” I grin. Lisa fight one herself. “We’ll see . . . Ctinka Butt.”(Thomas, 2021:227)

Maverick fights for his family in the midst of problems that occur in society. Discrimination will remain an issue that cannot be discussed because the problem will still exist.

Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the researcher has conclusions and suggestion related to the previous chapters. In this

chapter, the researcher gives the brief conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for further research related to this study

Based on the formulation of the problem, the researcher can take several conclusion that represents an attitude or acts of racism. The construction of this act or attitude of racism seems to appear in several parts of the novel itself. Attitude The racism that appears in the novel includes prejudice and discrimination, Angie Thomas tries represent his racism or dislike of black people in America. Racism that appears will only cause tension between individuals or groups.

The author concludes that there are 2 types of racism in the novel Concrete Rose. The first is Prejudice. Prejudice is a prejudice or negative assessment of an object without knowing the truth first. Angie Thomas shows indirectly how prejudice occurs. Maverick's bad prejudice occurs because he is a black person. In America they have a bad reputation.

The second is discrimination. Discrimination is an act that treats a person or group differently and unfairly on the basis of the characteristics of that person or group. Discrimination by police and paramedics against the main character is very, very detrimental and has a negative impact on the main character.

Actually this novel with the behavior and attitude of racism that exists in it can be used as a reference to change views, attitudes to a better direction, and how to make sense of life and of course in current

social life. That which needs to be realized at this time is tolerance, because of the properties that cause divisions and fanaticism can lead to igniting racial conflicts violence and unrest.

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