

Racial Justice Study Group, August 2018: Policing

**Questions to Consider**

Think about a recent interaction you had with the police: did you call them or were they called on you? Did you feel safe or scared in their presence? Did their presence/action improve the situation or make it worse?

Can you imagine a society without police?

**Primary Materials**

[A Brief History of Slavery and the Origins of Policing](https://plsonline.eku.edu/insidelook/brief-history-slavery-and-origins-american-policing) A concise history of the connection between policing and slavery

[The Next Fight for Racial Justice: Police Union Reform](https://newrepublic.com/article/124811/next-fight-racial-justice-police-union-reform) A brief article about police union contracts and efforts to improve them

[What To Do Instead of Calling the Police](http://www.aaronxrose.com/blog/alternatives-to-police) This blog post offers an introduction into alternatives to the police, as well as numerous resources on the subject

[How Systemic Racism Entangles All Police Officers ‒ Even Black Cops](https://www.vox.com/2015/5/7/8562077/police-racism-implicit-bias) This article discusses how the group identity of “police officer” can enforce negative implicit biases against black people

**Optional Materials**

[VICE: Surveillance City](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVDvJCeCe54) (watch from 0:00-15:20) This short video explores the Camden County PD’s surveillance system in Camden, NJ.

[Mapping Police Violence](https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/) This site has interactive data on police violence

[Native Lives Matter](https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/lakota-peoples-law/uploads/Native-Lives-Matter-PDF.pdf) A longer piece about relations between Native Americans and police

[Alternatives to the Police](https://mcgilldaily.com/PoliceIssue/Restorative-Justice.html) This piece discusses policing alternatives and also links policing to capitalism

A [Flowchart](https://twitter.com/marcialangton/status/997011887190560768?s=19) you can use to determine whether or not to call the police (note: this piece does use explicit language)