

## **National Review 17 (September 7, 1965)**

“The country is still reeling from the shock of what happened in Los Angeles. Six days of "racial" rioting, of violence uncontrolled and uncontrollable. Thousands of Negroes running wild, burning, destroying, looting, spreading from the Negro section outward, on a scale that made a senior officer of the National Guard, which finally quelled the rioting, describe it as veritable insurrection. . . .

Of course, the politicians and the professional bleeding hearts immediately began to mumble the tired old phrases about "poverty" and "frustration," as though nobody was, or ever had been, poor or frustrated except the Los Angeles Negroes. The living standards and conditions of life of the Negroes in Los Angeles, bad as they are, would have seemed something near to heaven to most of the immigrants who came to this country in earlier years. . . .

Internal order is the first necessity of every society. Even justice is secondary to order, because without order there can be no society and no justice . . . . It is preserved by force, by the naked force of police . . . . but more immediately by the force of custom and respect for constituted authority. . . . This internal order is now in jeopardy; and it is in jeopardy because of the doings of such high-minded, self-righteous "children of light" as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his associates in the leadership of the "civil rights" movement. They are the guilty ones, these apostles of non-violence. . . . with their doctrine of "civil disobedience," they have been teaching hundreds of thousands of Negroes, particularly the adolescents and the children, that it is perfectly all right to break the law and defy constituted authority if you are a Negro-with-a-grievance; in protest against injustice. everywhere, with intentions not of the best. Sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. But it is not they alone who reap it, but we as well; the entire nation. It is worth noting that the worst victims of these high-minded rabble-rousers are not so much the hated whites, but the great mass of the Negro people themselves."

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Based on the passage above, complete the following tasks:

1. Briefly explain the author's thesis.
2. Place this document in historical context. What events provoked the writing of this document?
3. What is the "point of view" the writer?