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The Morning

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By David Leonhardt

Good morning. Derek Chauvin, convicted of second-degree murder, is the exception of exceptions.



Reactions to the guilty verdict at George Floyd Square in Minneapolis. Victor J. Blue for The New York Times

One in 2,000

The murder conviction of a police officer is an exceedingly rare event.

There have been only seven murder convictions of officers for fatal police shootings since 2005, according to Philip Stinson of Bowling Green State University. That suggests the chances of a killing by the police leading to a murder conviction are about one in 2,000.

Yet a jury in Minneapolis yesterday convicted Derek Chauvin of second-degree murder (as well as two other charges) for killing George Floyd last May. A typical sentence for that felony in

Minneapolis is 12½ years in prison, although prosecutors have asked for more and the maximum is 40 years. A judge will sentence Chauvin in about eight weeks.

Floyd's relatives said they felt relieved by the verdict. "I finally have the opportunity to hopefully get some sleep," Philonise Floyd, George's brother, said.

Chauvin's conviction does not automatically signal a new era of police accountability. The Floyd case was the exception of all exceptions. A video, watched around the world, showed Chauvin pressing his knee onto Floyd for more than nine minutes. That footage led to weeks of protests that were among the largest in U.S. history. And at the trial, the so-called blue wall of silence — that is, many officers' willingness to protect colleagues, regardless of their misbehavior — crumbled. "For so many, it feels like it took all of that for the judicial system to deliver just basic accountability," President Biden said late yesterday.

Most of those factors will not apply to future police killings. Those cases will instead be more likely to resemble the deaths of Michael Brown, Philando Castile, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Daniel Prude, Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor and hundreds of other cases that have not lead to a murder or manslaughter conviction.



"All the News That's Fit to Print"

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CHAUVIN GUILTY OF MURDER IN FLOYD'S DEATH

Former Officer Derek Chauvin after his conviction on Tuesday in Minneapolis. Philonise Floyd, one of George Floyd's brothers, said, "We are able to breathe again."

A Rare Rebuke of Police Violence in the U.S.

This article is by John Eligon, Tim Arango, Shaila Dewan and Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs.

MINNEAPOLIS — A former police officer who pressed his knee into George Floyd's neck until well past Mr. Floyd's final breath was found guilty of murder on Tuesday in a case that shook the nation's conscience and drew millions into the streets for the largest racial justice protests in generations.

The verdict, which could send the former officer, Derek Chauvin, to prison for decades, was a rare rebuke of police violence, following case after case of officers going without charges or convictions after killing Black men, women and children.

At the center of it all was an excruciating video, taken by a teenage girl, that showed Mr. Chauvin, who is white, kneeling on the neck of Mr. Floyd, who was Black, for 9 minutes 29 seconds as Mr. Floyd pleaded for his life and bystanders tried to intervene. Mr. Floyd repeated "I can't breathe" more than 20 times during the encounter.

The video, played on a horrifying loop for the past year, triggered more than calls for changes in policing. It stirred Americans of all races, in small towns and large cities, to gather for mass protests, chanting "Black lives matter" and challenging the country to finally have a true reckoning over race. Their demands reverberated within the walls of institutions that had long resisted change, from corporate America to Congress.

This week, over the course of two days, a racially diverse jury of seven women and five men deliberated for about 10 hours before pronouncing Mr. Chauvin guilty on all three charges: second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

President Biden praised the verdict in an address at the White House but called it a "too rare" step to deliver "basic accountability" for Black Americans.

"It was a murder in full light of day, and it ripped the blinders off for the whole world to see," Mr. Biden said. "For so many, it feels like it took all of that for the judicial system to deliver just basic accountability."

Hours before the jury's decision, Mr. Biden had taken the unusual step of weighing in, telling reporters that he was "praying" for the "right verdict."

"This can be a giant step forward in the march toward justice in America," he said.

After the verdict, Philonise Floyd, one of Mr. Floyd's younger brothers, spoke at the Hilton hotel in downtown Minneapolis. "We are able to breathe again," he said, holding back tears.

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GRIM HISTORY An examination of police killings of Black Americans shows few convictions. PAGE A14

A Year of Protest and Reform. What Now for Racial Justice?

This article is by Audra D. S. Burch, Amy Harmon, Sabrina Tavernise and Emily Badger.

George Floyd had been dead only hours before the movement began. Driven by a terrifying video and word of mouth, people flooded the South Minneapolis intersection where he was killed shortly after Memorial Day, demanding an end to police violence against Black Americans.

The moment of collective grief and anger swiftly gave way to a yearlong, nationwide deliberation on what it means to be Black in America.

First came protests, in large cities and small towns across the nation, becoming the largest mass protest movement in U.S. history. Then, over the next several months, nearly 170 Confederate symbols were renamed or removed from public spaces. The "Black lives matter" slogan was claimed by a nation grappling with Mr. Floyd's death.

Over the next 11 months, calls for racial justice would touch seemingly every aspect of American life on a scale that historians say had not happened since the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

On Tuesday, Derek Chauvin, the white police officer who knelt on Mr. Floyd, was convicted of two counts of murder as well as manslaughter. The verdict brought some solace to activists for racial justice who had been riveted to the courtroom drama for the past several weeks.

But for many Black Americans, real change feels elusive, particularly given how relentlessly the killing of Black men by the police has continued, including the recent shooting death of Daunte Wright in a Minneapolis suburb.

There are also signs of back-

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George Floyd

With a Cry of 'We Matter,' Catharsis and Relief

By SHAILA DEWAN and JULIE BOSMAN

MINNEAPOLIS — Outside the Cup Foods convenience store where George Floyd was killed last May, a woman nearly collapsed in tears upon hearing the guilty verdicts against Derek Chauvin, the police officer who killed Mr. Floyd.

"We matter," she said, straightening up. "We matter."

In one Minneapolis neighborhood, jubilant residents honked horns and banged pots and pans out their windows. Hundreds of people who were facing the courthouse began pumping their fists in unison as the news whipped through the crowd. "Guilty!" they shouted, and then began to chant: "All three counts! All three counts!"

When Minneapolis heard the verdict in the trial of Mr. Chauvin, it was a moment of catharsis for many in the city, a scene of collective relief and satisfaction that he had been convicted on two murder charges and one manslaughter charge in Mr. Floyd's death.

Those scenes were echoed, sometimes in quieter ways, across the country, as Americans paused from working, running errands or picking up their children from school to listen as Judge Peter A. Cahill announced the verdict. For

In Minneapolis and the Country, a Sense That Justice Was Served

some Black Americans in particular, the moment was especially poignant, an affirmation that justice had been served for Mr. Floyd.

Don Jackson, a 33-year-old tech worker, was leaving work in Chicago's Loop as the news of Mr. Chauvin's conviction spread through downtown. "I didn't have a lot of hope that they would get it right," he said of the jurors. "But they did."

In the Old Fourth Ward of Atlanta, a block from Ebenezer Baptist Church, Reena Miller, 49, was sitting outside a cigar store having a celebratory puff.

"I honestly feel some type of relief because we've been carrying a lot," Ms. Miller, a retired counselor, said. "We felt like history was going to repeat itself. He was going to get convicted of the lesser charge. And so we've prepared ourselves for that."

In some cities, people said they could not even bear to watch.

Tiffanny Burks, 28, who organized protests last summer with the Black Lives Matter Alliance Broward in South Florida, said her mother texted the news to her

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Reacting to the verdict at George Floyd Square in Minneapolis.

Big Tech's Clout Is Challenged Across the Globe

Curbs Could Reshape How Internet Works

This article is by Paul Mozur, Cecilia Kang, Adam Satariano and David McCabe.

China fined the internet giant Alibaba a record $2.8 billion this month for anticompetitive practices, ordered an overhaul of its sister financial company and warned other technology firms to obey Beijing's rules.

Now the European Commission plans to unveil far-reaching regulations to limit technologies powered by artificial intelligence.

And in the United States, President Biden has stacked his administration with trustbusters who have taken aim at Amazon, Facebook and Google.

Around the world, governments are moving simultaneously to limit the power of tech companies with an urgency and breadth that no single industry had experienced before. Their motivation varies. In the United States and Europe, it is concern that tech companies are stifling competition, spreading misinformation and eroding privacy; in Russia and elsewhere, it is to silence protest movements and tighten political control; in China, it is some of both.

While nations and tech firms have jockeyed for primacy for years, the latest actions have pushed the industry to a tipping point that could reshape how the global internet works and change

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Iran Rattled as Israel Strikes Again and Again

Hitting Targets With Help From the Inside

This article is by Ben Hubbard, Farnaz Fassihi and Ronen Bergman.

BEIRUT, Lebanon — In less than nine months, an assassin on a motorbike fatally shot an Al Qaeda commander given refuge in Tehran, Iran's chief nuclear scientist was machine-gunned on a country road, and two separate, mysterious explosions rocked a key Iranian nuclear facility in the desert, striking at the heart of the country's efforts to enrich uranium.

The steady drumbeat of attacks, which intelligence officials said were carried out by Israel, highlighted the seeming ease with which Israeli intelligence was able to reach deep inside Iran's borders and repeatedly strike its most heavily guarded targets, often with the help of turncoat Iranians.

The attacks, the latest wave in more than two decades of sabotage and assassinations, have exposed embarrassing security lapses and left Iran's leaders looking over their shoulders as they pursue negotiations with the Biden administration aimed at restoring the 2015 nuclear agreement.

The recriminations have been caustic.

The head of Parliament's strategic center said Iran had turned into a "haven for spies." The former commander of the Islamic

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Super League Supernova
After protests by soccer fans, the two-day-old European Super League fell apart as most teams withdrew. PAGE B8

Bird, Jokic and . . . Randle?
Statistics testify to the vast improvement in Julius Randle's play, a key to the Knicks' stunning revival. PAGE B10

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E.U. to Resume 1-Dose Vaccine
The bloc's drug regulator said the benefits of Johnson & Johnson's shot outweighed the risks of rare blood clots, but suggested adding a warning. PAGE A5

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Chad's Leader Killed in Clash
Idriss Déby ruled for three decades and was considered a linchpin in the fight against Islamist extremism. PAGE A6

Putin's Emerging Hard Line
The Russian president is escalating his conflicts with his perceived enemies, foreign and domestic. PAGE A10

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Talent Worth Noticing
Film roles focus on the trauma, not the art, of Billie Holiday (played by Andra Day, above) and Ma Rainey. PAGE C1

Change at California Museum
The Huntington is trying to expand its art programming and present the works of more artists of color. PAGE C1

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Apple Tries to Expand Its Turf
The introduction of a device to find lost items drew criticism from a rival, Tile, and plans to release software with a privacy feature have digital-advertising companies worried. PAGE B1

Argentina's Sinking Fortunes
Shaky before the pandemic, the country's economy contracted by nearly 10 percent last year, and the government faces a complex renegotiation with the I.M.F. over $45 billion in debt. PAGE B1

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Amy Klobuchar PAGE A27

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While You Were In
Pete Wells recommends 17 New York restaurants that opened their doors even as many in the city were eating meals exclusively at home. PAGE D7

Still, the Chauvin trial is not guaranteed to be simply a one-off event, either. Some of the same factors that make it distinct could also cause it to have a wider impact. Before Floyd's death, it

was hard to think of a signature trial of an American police officer, one that received sustained national attention, as the trial of a celebrity might.

This trial, of course, did receive such attention. Television networks halted their normal coverage yesterday to broadcast the verdict, and the president of the United States organized his schedule around it.

That attention has made it clear that a police officer *can* be charged with murder and convicted of it. It's an idea that will linger in the minds of prosecutors and future jurors. Perhaps most important, it may affect the thinking of other officers, when they find themselves considering whether to use physical force when it is not necessary.

Commentary roundup

- Barack Obama: "True justice requires that we come to terms with the fact that Black Americans are treated differently, every day. ... And it requires us to do the sometimes thankless, often difficult, but always necessary work of making the America we know more like the America we believe in."
- Rosa Brooks, in Politico: "While the national media understandably puts a spotlight on Chauvin, we should not forget that three other Minneapolis police officers were also on the scene that day last May: Officers Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J. Alexander Kueng. Their sheer passivity was, in some ways, more stunning than Chauvin's casual cruelty."
- Quin Hillyer of The Washington Examiner: "The judicial system worked. It usually does. It won't bring George Floyd back, or eliminate all bad policing — but police are now on notice."
- Michele Norris: "Can we all sing a praise song for Darnella Frazier who had the presence of mind to film that video that made such a difference."
- Many police shootings are justified, German Lopez of Vox has written. But Stinson, the Bowling Green professor of criminal justice, told Lopez that the number of officers charged with wrongdoing "seems extremely low."
- Rodney Floyd, George Floyd's younger brother, called for the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which would make it easier to prosecute police officers for misconduct. The House has passed it, and Biden favors it.
- In Times Opinion, Esau McCaulley writes about the verdict.

More Times coverage

- Minneapolis residents greeted the verdict with joy and relief. “We matter,” one woman said outside the convenience store where Floyd was killed.
- Racial justice activists saw the trial as a step toward a larger goal. “We have not yet dealt with the disease,” a pastor in Chicago said.
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- These photos show reactions to the verdict around the country.

An officer fatally shot a 16-year-old girl in Columbus, Ohio, yesterday. The police said she had threatened two other girls with a knife.

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