

## Chapter 2

### Topic 6 Ethnicity, crime and justice

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#### Activity: Media

#### Urban riots and 'race'

#### Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Use examples of rioting to illustrate how the action of the police may promote criminality among minority ethnic groups.
- Apply theoretical perspectives to examples of minority ethnic offending.

Large-scale rioting took place in Brixton in 1981 and Bradford in 2001. Watch the clips about the riots and in pairs answer the questions that follow each of them.

A. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCjZEZt3QKc&list=PL98DB4FDBA66FB189>

1. Describe the images of the riots shown at the beginning of the clip.
2. What was Operation Swamp?
3. What powers did the police use?
4. What was the impact on the streets?
5. According to Christopher Icha, what did the police presence do to people on the street?
6. Give some examples of specific actions by the police.

B. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW6kY6HfAqk&list=PL98DB4FDBA66FB189&index=2>

1. What was happening on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 1981?
2. What caused the rioting to start?
3. Why did the youths want to confront the police?
4. What reasons do the people interviewed give for the start of the trouble?
5. Why did the riot develop?
6. What did the police decide to do in reaction to the trouble?

C. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CH5RLEZhXs&list=PL98DB4FDBA66FB189&index=3>

1. What caused the problems on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 1981?
2. Describe the scenes shown on the news.

D. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhjy9TV4wuo>

1. How did the trouble between the Asian youths and the police begin in July 2001?
2. Who took part in the original demonstration against the National Front?
3. What role did community leaders take?
4. Why did the trouble begin in the city centre?
5. What did the police do once the trouble began?
6. What did the Asian youths feel about their treatment by their police?
7. Describe the scenes shown in the film during and after the riots.
8. Who were seen as the winners of the riots? Explain why.
9. How were the rioters treated by the criminal justice system? What sentences did they receive?
10. What was one of the most dramatic effects of the rioting in Bradford?

E. Read page 117-119 on 'Explaining the differences in offending'. How far do aspects of the riots fit any of the sociological explanations you have read?