

# The impact of the War-on-Police on the United States Tourism Industry tourism?

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Peter Tarlow

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**Peter Tarlow<sup>1</sup>**

## **Abstract**

There is little doubt that there is an ongoing war-on-police occurring and that this war has had negative consequences on the tourism industry. Tourism is already suffering from Covid-19 restrictions, difficulties in travel and media fear. Added to this is a new crime wave often due to lack of police officers, police reticence in becoming involved due to a lack of political support, fear of the media, and lack of security resources. It behooves tourism officials and tourism academics to consider that: all crises have a human element. Attacking an entire profession is also a manifestation of bigotry. How many people would advise a son, daughter, or loved one to consider policing as a profession? The demonization of police becomes a negative self-fulfilling prophecy. In such a case scenario, bright and creative people might become fearful of choosing law enforcement as a career. Tourism security needs men and women who want to participate in TOPPs units. The current man and woman power shortage means that there are less people willing to put their lives on the line to defend both visitors and the tourism industry. There is a high priority for risk management techniques to be looked at from every angle. All too often, tourism surety is seen as adding nothing to the bottom line and plays second fiddle to marketing. This is a major mistake. Without tourism surety there is no bottom line!

**Keywords:** tourism security, COVID19, marketing, tourism industry, Police.

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## **Introduction**

The tourism industry has always had a love-hate relationship with police departments. Tourism cannot survive without a secure, safe, and healthy environment. On the other hand, industry leaders have long feared that police officers might use a heavy hand in their pursuit of law enforcement and their presence might frighten visitors or lead visitors to draw wrong conclusions. The twenty-first century has created numerous security challenges for the tourism industry (Brunt & Hambly, 1999. Beginning with acts of terrorism on September 11, 2001 to the current bio-security crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the tourism industry has had to deal with numerous security challenges (Korstanje & Seraphin 2020). During the last few years in several nations, and most specifically in the United States, police departments have felt under attack by both liberal politicians and academics. Known as the “War-on-Police” police departments and their officers have felt not only to be micro-managed but under appreciated. Many have expressed the fact that they are hampered in doing their job. Others have argued that due to these criticisms the poor and members of minority communities have suffered a new and violent crime wave. On the other hand, the antipolice rhetoric comes mainly from the rich, people who live in gated communities and who can afford private security. The following article explores this new “war-on-police” and what its impact is, if any, on the tourism industry.

### ***Short history of police and the tourism industry***

Reading the tourism academic and industrial literature it seems that there has “always” been a love-hate relationship between tourism and law enforcement. For much of the twentieth century the tourism industry took the position that visitors might see a police presence as a threat to the tourism industry. Furthermore, corrupt police officers have taken advantage of foreign tourists. For example a Time Magazine story from 2015 reports the following about Thai police: “The Twitter feed of Joe Cummings, the former *Lonely Planet* author who practically put Thailand on the backpacker map, is riddled with stories detailing police harassment and extortion. “Random

police searches of foreigners in BKK are getting bad,” reads a typical entry dated Dec. 6. “Many reports of innocent tourists forced to pay bribes.”<sup>2</sup>

Tourism leaders and academic also tended to assume that visitors would misinterpret a police presence and that misperception could translate into a loss of profits and even community-wide economic downturns. Furthermore, tourism academics who wrote from a Marxist perspective, tended to blame the victims of tourism crime rather than the victimizers (Tarlow 2006; . Beginning as far back as the 1980s scholars such as we read such statements as Meda Chesney Lind and Ian Y Lind wrote“. Moreover tourists also engage in other activities which facilitate their victimization. Vacations typically involve higher than normal amounts of risk-taking behavior, such as frequenting night clubs and bars at late hours, traveling to remote or unfamiliar areas, or venturing unknowingly into parts of the community which residents consider dangerous. They may also engage in behaviors in these settings that they would not consider at home, such as buying drugs or picking up prostitutes or strangers”<sup>3</sup>

During the twentieth century numerous tourism centers falsely believed showing that their concerned for their customers’ security would frighten customers. After September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, this attitude changed and the industry realized that tourists are not only aware of the risks of travel, but tend to stay longer and spend more money in places where they believe local officials have taken the time and made the effort to protect their visit.

International terrorism, the explosion of crime in urban centers, and the Covid-19 pandemic have demonstrated that there is nothing that can destroy a tourism locale’s reputation more effectively than a lack of security or safety. Tourism and government officials today point to examples of a lack of tourism security from the South Pacific to Africa, from the Caribbean Islands to South America. Tourism officials have also learned that despite the fact that there is no such thing as total travel (tourism) security or safety, there is much that the tourism industry can do to promote a safe and secure visit for their guests and to encourage them to return. Tourism professionals

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<sup>2</sup> Time Magazine, January 20, 2015: <https://time.com/3674200/thailand-tourism-police-corruption-shakedown-extortion/> accessed on August 11, 2021

<sup>3</sup> Chaney-lind and Ian Lind, Visitors as Victims: Crimes Against Tourists in Hawaii, 1986 pp> 178-179 < [https://popcenter.asu.edu/sites/default/files/problems/crimes\\_against\\_tourists/PDFs/Chesney-Lind\\_Lind\\_1986.pdf](https://popcenter.asu.edu/sites/default/files/problems/crimes_against_tourists/PDFs/Chesney-Lind_Lind_1986.pdf)> accessed August 4, 2021

understand that that it is much more expensive to fix a problem after it has occurred than it is to prevent the problem from occurring. In fact, it is not unfair to state that crisis management is in most cases nothing more than a manifestation of a risk management failure. This principle even holds true for many natural disasters that occur due to poor planning.

For a good part of the latter half of the 20th century tourism policing was closely associated with what was then called community policing. It would not be unfair to call tourism policing the child of community policing. This “familiar” connection was especially true of the late 1980s and 1990s. During these decades there was a major emphasis on community policing (CP). A major premise of community policing was that "returning of policing to the community in which it served" would reduce crime. CP sought to take police officers out of their patrol cars and place them into local neighborhoods. The goal was to create social linkages between police and residents. The theory behind community policing was that if police departments could “humanize” their officer and develop local alliances then the community would have a major stake in the police departments success and crime statistics would go down.

Many of these original community policing concepts had a major influence on what would become another form of policing, tourism-oriented policing/protection services, which today is better known by its acronym TOPPs. Although original TOPPs units and programs drew their inspiration from Community Policing they modified CP concepts so as to meet the ever-growing security needs of the tourism community. In the 1990s these concerns tended to be centered around crime with minimal attention paid in most locales to issues of terrorism.

Although in the third decade of the twenty-first century few would see TOPPs units as either radical or controversial, that was not true of the 1990s. When security experts such as Peter Tarlow, Abe Pizam, and Yoel Mansfeld first began speaking about specialized tourism security units few thought the idea as viable or needed. Law enforcement officials questioned even the concept of a "tourism community". Security professionals and law enforcement agents questioned if it was possible to have a community where the physical structures remained the same but the people inhabiting or using those structures (hotels, airports, and tourism attractions) change on a daily or even hourly basis (Tarlow 2014a; 2014b; Pizam & Mansfeld, 2006). There is also a community of people who work at tourism locations, from storeowners at airports to

chambermaids at hotels, and therefore these new TOPPs units learned that they had three separate publics with which to deal: the visitor population, the staff populations, and the local populations that interacted with the other two. For this reason, TOPPs units realize that they work with a wide variety of populations as noted in the table below

**Table 1. Tourism Demographics**

Tourism demographic	Population type
Visitors	Unstable/Changeable population
Tourism Employees	Relatively stable population
Tourism Investors/owners	Stable population
Tourism sites. Buildings/locations	Inanimate
Tourism Reputations	Abstract and changeable
Tourism Economies	Abstract and changeable

It should be note that the last two categories are both changeable and open to wide fluctuations). Furthermore, TOPPs work under the assumption that often it is the individual police officer, or unit, that may be the most stable part of the tourism community.

Because of this wide variance in tourism population with which, tourism police must work TOPPs officers need to know not only classical policing but also such things non-normative policing structures as visitor cycles, niche marketing and the segmentation of the local visitor market.

TOPPs also differs from CP in that tourism-oriented police departments work closely with, and are often dependent on, other forms of tourism security professionals. For example, in cities with large hotel components, police departments and hotel security professionals might work together to develop an overall strategy for protection of people, property, and assets. The non-sworn security professional becomes more than an adjunct for the TOPPs officer, but s/he also provides the TOPPs unit with additional manpower and intelligence. In many cases private security professionals act as a proactive agent that prevents tourism crimes from ever occurring.

### ***TOPPs, Covid, and Biosecurity***

The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-2021 has changed the face of tourism policing and TOPPs units. For perhaps in the first time during a non-bellicose period large parts of the general population have suffered lockdowns and governments have applied “quarantines” to major parts of the tourism industry. During 2020 tourism came to a halt. For example in a report prepared for the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) states: “The crash in international tourism due to the coronavirus pandemic could cause a loss of more than \$4 trillion to the global GDP for the years 2020 and 2021, according to an UNCTAD report published on 30 June (2021).

The estimated loss has been caused by the pandemic’s direct impact on tourism and its ripple effect on other sectors closely linked to it.”

The report continues by stating that: “international tourism and its closely linked sectors suffered an estimated loss of \$2.4 trillion in 2020 due to direct and indirect impacts of a steep drop in international tourist arrivals.

A similar loss may occur this year, the report warns, noting that the tourism sector’s recovery will largely depend on the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines globally.”<sup>4</sup>

Without governmental help much of the tourism industry would not have or will not have survived. These shutdowns have had much more disastrous impacts on tourism than any of the previous pandemics such as SARS or the H1N1 pandemic (also called the swine flu). From a policing perspective the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated that TOPPs personnel are as vulnerable to the disease as anyone else. In multiple locations around the world, neither TOPPs officers nor police officers in general were given vaccine priority, resulting in personnel shortages exactly during a period of maximum stress and need (Muehsam & Tarlow 1995; Brunt, Mawby & Hambly 2000; Mawby 2014). Furthermore, few police officers are trained in policing during a pandemic.

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<sup>4</sup> UNCTAD, June 30, 2021 <https://unctad.org/news/global-economy-could-lose-over-4-trillion-due-covid-19-impact-tourism> (accessed on August 11, 2021)

## ***The Covid-19 case and the Battle for Police Defunding***

Although there is no exact date as to when Covid-19 became a worldwide threat to tourism, by April of 2020 the tourism industry knew that it was facing its greatest crisis since perhaps the start of World War II. Airlines that had been operating almost too full capacity of January 2020 now were almost totally empty. Hotels and restaurants at first lay off staff and then as business shutdowns became the norm simply closed. Conventions and tourism attractions ceased to operate and in doing so created an economic tsunami never before felt on a global scale within the tourism industry (Gossling, Scott & Hall 2020; Korstanje 2020). In the United States these problems were not the only ones. In May of 2020 a now former Minneapolis police officer by the name of Derek Chauvin arrested an African American man by the name of George Floyd. Floyd died during the arrest and a jury found the arresting officer guilty of murder.<sup>5</sup> Although some still debate the circumstances of George Floyd's death, his case quickly became a cause célèbre and a symbol of what many believed to be police brutality. For example, the left-of-center publication Vox in speaking of police brutality stated in an article entitled "What the Police really believe" the following: "The ideology holds that the world is a profoundly dangerous place: Officers are conditioned to see themselves as constantly in danger and that the only way to guarantee survival is to dominate the citizens they're supposed to protect. The police believe they're alone in this fight; police ideology holds that officers are under siege by criminals and are not understood or respected by the broader citizenry. These beliefs, combined with widely held racial stereotypes, push officers toward violent and racist behavior during intense and stressful street interactions."<sup>6</sup> Devin Hogan, the chairman of the Minneapolis Democratic Farm Labor Party defended rioter's burning of a police station stating: that rioters' burning of the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct headquarters last year was an "act of pure righteousness" in their minds and a "genuine revolutionary moment."<sup>7</sup> It should be stated however that the state chairman strongly disavowed Devin Hogan's remarks.

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<sup>5</sup> In April of 2021 a jury found Derek Chauvin guilty of second-degree murder, third-degree murder, and second-degree manslaughter: New York Times, April 21, 2021: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/04/20/us/derek-chauvin-verdict-george-floyd> <accessed on August 8, 2021

<sup>6</sup> Zack Beauchamp in Vox, July 7, 2020 <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2020/7/7/21293259/police-racism-violence-ideology-george-floyd>, (August 11, 2021)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/minneapolis-dfl-chair-police-revolutionary-moment-righteousness> <accessed on August 12, 2021

The sense that there was something very wrong with policing extended far beyond the political and academic realm. For example, the *New York Times* reported that: “The reverberations throughout the sports world came swiftly after a jury in Minnesota convicted Derek Chauvin on Tuesday of murdering George Floyd, as athletes, teams and leagues weighed in on the verdict in a case that had reignited fierce debate about racism and policing in the United States.” The article goes on to state: “ACCOUNTABILITY,” the N.B.A.’s top star, LeBron James, said in a one-word post on Twitter after Mr. Chauvin was convicted of second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.”<sup>8</sup>

This article is not about Derek Chauvin or George Floyd. The George Floyd case, however, became a major spark in the US regarding policing and eventually, although to a lesser extent, impacted not only US attitudes toward policing but also that of other nations. The George Floyd case also fueled the fire for those who sought police defunding (and in some cases police abolishment). Due to the anti-policing movements’ defunding efforts, the tourism industry needs to ask how weaken police forces might impact the (tourism) industry. In other words, just as tourism suffered from the unintended consequence of the Covid-19 lockdowns it is very possible that the anti-police movements and the desire to defund the police might also negatively impact the tourism industry.

Tourism requires a safe and secure environment in order to not merely survive but to thrive. For example, Shahvaj Bano writing about the Caribbean stated: “Safety and security are vital to providing quality in tourism. More than any other economic activity, the success or failure of a tourism destination depends on being able to provide a safe and secure environment for visitors. This was highly evident in the aftermath of the tragic events of 11th September 2001. In the weeks following the September 11th attacks in New York and Washington, passengers abandoned airports in their numbers as the effects of these attacks extended beyond U.S. borders with grave ramifications for many airlines. Soon after September 11th, 2001, a number of airlines collapsed. Most shocking of all was the fact that a number of these airlines had been in existence for decades, and were not all American carriers. These attacks, along with the Gulf

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<sup>8</sup> New York Times, April 20, 2021: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/04/20/us/derek-chauvin-verdict-george-floyd> <accessed on August 8, 2021.

Wars, the war in Afghanistan and the terrorist attacks in Bali, have increasingly served to place tremendous and crucial importance on issues of traveller (sic) safety.”<sup>9</sup>

In a similar vein, Tarlow has written about the importance of a safe and secure tourism environment: “Tourism security professionals then play a vital role in making tourists feel safe (Tarlow 2014a). Convention and visitors bureaus or national (or provincial) tourism offices are keenly aware that a pleasure visitor need not come to his or her community. For example, some American cities face a complex security situation. High crime rates, especially at night, keep visitors and locals alike from frequenting downtown establishments.”

### ***The War against Police***

The Floyd George case was not the first time that there was turbulence between the police departments and the public it serves both in the United States and abroad. The Covid-19 shutdowns created rancorous situations in tourism-oriented nations such as: France, Italy, and Spain. In the United States protests turned cities such as Chicago, Portland (Oregon) and Seattle in what appeared to be “war zones”. In all these nations police have been called upon to restore order often by force and there are many who claim that order was restored by excessive force. These demonstrations harmed the locale’s image as a safe and secure locale but caused a psychological schism between the local police department and the public. For example, the newspaper *USA Today* reported on July 31, (2021) that in France: “Thousands of people protested in Paris and other French cities on Saturday against a mandatory coronavirus health pass for entry to a wide array of public venues, introduced by the government as it battles a fourth wave of infections. Protesters injured three police officers in Paris, a police spokesperson said. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said on Twitter that 19 demonstrators were arrested, including 10 in Paris.” The article then continued by stating that: “It was the third weekend in a row that people opposed to President Emmanuel Macron's new COVID-19 measures have taken

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<sup>9</sup> Shahvaj Babo: “Safety and Security in the Tourism Industry-A Regional Perspective on Tourism Security, <https://www.slideshare.net/SanaKhan200/safety-and-security-in-the-tourism-industry> <accessed on August 8, 2021>

to the streets, an unusual show of determination at a time of year when many people are focused on taking their summer break.”<sup>10</sup>

During the summer of 2020 Portland, along with Seattle (Washington) were the epicenters of anti-police rioting. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it is hard to discern if trips to Portland were cancelled due to civil unrest or the pandemic. Hannah Chinn writing in Willamette Week asked that question. Chinn asked: “Does that bad publicity take a toll on Portland tourism? The city's visitors bureau says people are threatening to cancel their trips.

"We've had multiple calls and emails from people throughout the country saying they no longer want to come to Portland as a vacation destination," said Marcus Hibdon, spokesman for Travel Portland, on Wednesday. Some of them, he said, either threatened to cancel or claimed to already have canceled previously planned trips to the city.”<sup>11</sup>. A bit more than a year later, (October 15, 2020) Portland TV station KPTV noted that tourism was considerably down. It quoted the Hoxton Hotel manager Tessa Peterson as stating: ““I think one of the biggest things that this civil unrest brings as a challenge to our business is on top of not having international travel or travel from across other states, drive-in markets which we were hoping to really lean on in these times like Seattle, Hood River, the coast, southern Oregon are less likely to want to come up and visit Portland for fear of their own safety," Peterson said. Travel Portland says last week in the downtown corridor, hotel occupancy was down 68 percent compared to the same time last year.”<sup>12</sup>

In the United States the situation went from protests against a particular policy to one against a particular institution, the local police. A question that might need to be asked is if these anti-police campaigns often led by radical politicians and left of center groups such as the *Black Lives Matter* organization and funded by large corporations, part of a systematic war against the poor or are the poor mere collateral damage?

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<sup>10</sup> Reuters as reported by US.News and World Report: <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-07-31/thousands-protest-against-covid-19-health-pass-in-france> <accessed on August 8, 2021>

<sup>11</sup> Hannah Chinn, Willamette Week, July 4, 2019: <https://www.wweek.com/news/city/2019/07/04/are-tourists-cancelling-portland-trips-because-of-extremist-brawls-its-hard-to-tell/> (accessed on August 11, 2021)

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.kptv.com/news/tourism-industry-hurting-in-portland-during-pandemic-protests/article\\_314b45e2-0f41-11eb-901b-3f3db18355b5.html](https://www.kptv.com/news/tourism-industry-hurting-in-portland-during-pandemic-protests/article_314b45e2-0f41-11eb-901b-3f3db18355b5.html) (accessed August 11, 2021)

There is no doubt that there have been too many African American males who tragically have died in altercations with police. To be fair there are also white males who have been shot by both white and black police officers and blacks who have been shot by Black police officers. There are also numerous cases of police officers who have died in the line of service. In August (5) of 2021 the *Washington Post* published its study of police shootings in the United States during 2020.<sup>13</sup> The Post noted that during 2020 the police killed some 951 people. This number does not distinguish justifiable and unjustifiable killings while on the line of duty. Some of the conclusions that the report stated included:

- 1) Over the last 5 years (2015-2020) the number of people killed by police has remained steady, around 1,000 a year.
- 2) Whites are the largest group killed by police
- 3) The police have shot Black Americans at a disproportionate rate.
- 4) Hispanic men are also killed at a disproportionate rate as compared to, Whites
- 5) Over 95% of people killed by police are males ranging in age from 20-40 years.
- 6) During 2020 there were 396 police officers who died while on duty. In comparison to the U.S. population police have died at a disproportionate rate.<sup>14</sup> If medical reasons are eliminated the number for 2020 was 264 officers compared to 135 officers in 2019. The largest “killer” of police, however, was Covid related deaths.<sup>15</sup>

The introduction of race into US policing has produced a number of difficulties and calls for police defunding. Perhaps the most prominent of these pro-defund the police groups is *Black*

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<sup>13</sup> The Washington Post, “Fatal Force” August 5, 2021:

<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>> (accessed on August 9, 2021)

<sup>14</sup> Data from “Officer Down Memorial Page” < <https://www.odmp.org/search/year/2020>> (Accessed on August 9, 2021)

<sup>15</sup> <https://wset.com/news/coronavirus/honoring-the-fallen-police-officers-killed-in-the-line-of-duty> ,Accessed on August 9, 2021)

*Lives Matter (BLM)*. In its push to defund police departments the BLM states: “We can’t stand by while our city, state, and federal governments continue to fund an excessive, brutal, and discriminatory system of policing. We will no longer be told that what we deserve is not politically viable or logistically possible. We will no longer be deprived of what others have long enjoyed in this country: basic rights, safety, and freedom.”<sup>16</sup> To assure clarity as to goals of *Black Lives Matters* the organization published the following: “We know that police don’t keep us safe — and as long as we continue to pump money into our corrupt criminal justice system at the expense of housing, health, and education investments — we will never be truly safe. That’s why we are calling to #DefundPolice and #InvestInCommunities — and in our new video, Black Lives Matter Managing Director Kailee Scales helps break down just how it works.”<sup>17</sup>

The BLM movement has received political support from many left-wing politicians and donations from large US corporations. These include<sup>18</sup> Google (\$12 million dollars) Amazon and Facebook (\$10 million dollars each), Walmart (\$100 million dollars over five years), Target (\$10 million dollars)<sup>19</sup> Due to the discord that came after the George Floyd case politicians such as New York City’s mayor Bill de Blasio cut approximately one billion dollars from the 2021 police budget. Despite this cut, some of New York’s more radical politicians such as US Representative Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez found the defunding to be insufficient. The political journal, *The Hill*, quoted Ocasio-Cortez as stating: “Defunding police means defunding police,” the congresswoman said in a statement. “It does not mean budget tricks or funny math. It does not mean moving school police officers from the NYPD budget to the Department of Education’s budget so the exact same police remain in schools.”<sup>20</sup> Ocasio-Cortez is part of a group of progressive (left wing) members of the US House of Representatives who seek police defunding on a federal level. According to the *New York Post* in 2020 these anti-police members

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<sup>16</sup> From “The Time Has Come to Defund the Police” <https://m4bl.org/defund-the-police/> (accessed on August 9, 2021)

<sup>17</sup> BLM: What Defunding the Police Really Means” <https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-defunding-the-police-really-means/> (accessed on August 9, 2021)

<sup>18</sup> It should be noted that many of these organizations did not contribute directly to BLM but rather to social justice causes.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/companies-donating-black-lives-matter/> (accessed on August 11, 2021)

<sup>20</sup> J. Edward Moreno, *The Hill*, June 30, 2020: <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/505307-ocasio-cortez-dismisses-proposed-1b-cut-defunding-police-means-defunding> (accessed on August 9, 2021)

of the House of Representatives introduced the “Breathe Act” . The Post stated: “Progressive members of the House of Representatives on Tuesday announced federal legislation to defund police and set up reparations for people who either are black or were harmed by law enforcement.”<sup>21</sup> These House of Representative members have shown contempt for police in other ways. For example, Fox News reports that in August of 2021 House members Ocasio-Cortez sent a text stating: “The broad coalition of liberal groups, including Black Lives Matter, sent a text message to supporters last week saying, "Black August is when we commemorate the lives of our fallen freedom fighters and political prisoners, prisoners of war, and exiles." The text message added, "We honor their sacrifice.”<sup>22</sup>

The Defund the Police proposals have been attacked almost from the start. For example, even in left-of-center Seattle, Washington numerous citizens and opinion makers have attacked the proposal. For example, Jacqueline B. Helfgot writing in the *Seattle Times* in June of 2020 “We need the police” stated: “The police are the first responders to a broad range of public-safety issues and serious crime. Crime will not end if we abolish or defund the police. If the police are defunded, there will be delayed response when people who are in need call 911, fewer police on the street in neighborhoods and communities, and lack of police capacity to respond to serious crimes that present significant threats to public safety. If we defund the police, those most affected will be the poor and the marginalized.” Helfgot then reminds her readers that: “Wealthy neighborhoods will hire private security as they are already doing, and poorer neighborhoods will have to fend for themselves even more than they already have to. Delays in police response and lack of police capacity will increase fear of crime, render victims of crime helpless and wreak havoc on communities, especially communities of color, even more so than is already the case.”<sup>23</sup> Helfgot’s words are echoed by the conservative writer Jason Rantz. Writing in the liberal publication *Newsweek*, Rantz notes that: “The cities that the "defund" movement has hit the hardest have seen remarkable increases in crime. And BLM-inspired policies to "reimagine" the criminal justice

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<sup>21</sup> New York Post, July 7, 2020: <https://nypost.com/2020/07/07/house-squad-members-unveil-bill-to-defund-police/> (accessed on August 9, 2021)

<sup>22</sup> Cameron Cawthorne, Fox News, August 11, 2021 <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/aoc-movement-black-lives-shakur-cop-killer> (accessed August 12, 2021)

<sup>23</sup> Seattle Times, June 9, 2020: <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/the-movement-to-defund-the-police-is-wrong-and-heres-why/> (accessed on August 9, 2021)

system routinely result in more hardened criminals being quickly released from jail. The victims of these crimes? The very minority communities the movement claims to ostensibly support.” Rantz then goes on to cite statistics to support his claim stating that: “Last year, the Portland City Council voted to disband the city's Gun Violence Reduction Team. The result was that the homicide rate in Portland rose 800 percent. The majority of the victims were black men.”<sup>24</sup>

## **Results of the War-on-Police**

The results of the war on police have been more than catastrophic, in many cases they have also laid bare the hypocrisy of many in the liberal elites and anti-police politicians.

It must be emphasized that due to different reporting criteria, it is almost impossible to compare overall crime rates between nations or at times between US states. Despite this lack of statistical conformity, we can observe several overall trends. For example, the 2019 United Nations’ Office on Drugs and Crime report notes that “Criminal activity causes many more deaths than conflicts and terrorism combined. The 464,000 victims of homicide surpass by far the 89,000 killed in armed conflicts and the 26,000 fatal victims of terrorist violence in 2017.” The report then states: “Organized crime alone can be a significant source of lethal violence; since the start of the twenty-first century, organized crime has resulted in roughly the same number of killings as all armed conflicts across the world combined. It is estimated that an average of roughly 65,000 killings every year were related to organized crime and gangs over the period 2000–2017, and that up to 19 per cent of all homicides recorded globally in 2017 were related to organized crime and gangs.”<sup>25</sup>

*The World Population Review* has attempted to develop system for comparing crime rates across national borders and reports that the countries with the ten highest crime rates are:

- 1) Venezuela (84.36)

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<sup>24</sup> Jason Rantz: “Have BLM Activists Realized yet that Defunding the Police is Racist?” Newsweek, June 3, 2021: <https://www.newsweek.com/have-blm-activists-realized-yet-that-defunding-police-racist-opinion-1597007> (accessed on August 9, 2021)

<sup>25</sup> UNODC Report 2019 p.12: <https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/gsh/Booklet1.pdf> (accessed on August 10, 2021)

- 2) Papua New Guinea (80.04)
- 3) South Africa (77.29)
- 4) Afghanistan (76.97)
- 5) Honduras (76.65)
- 6) Trinidad and Tobago (72.43)
- 7) Brazil (68.31)
- 8) Guyana (68.15)
- 9) El Salvador (67.84)
- 10) Syria (67.42)

It goes on to state that: “Some of the world's lowest crime rates are seen in Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Japan , and New Zealand. Each of these countries has very effective law enforcement....”<sup>26</sup>

It would be wrong not to mention that there are numerous other sociological reasons why a nation might have a lower or higher crime rate. Among these, but not limited to the following, are such as government corruption, homogeneous or heterogeneous populations, war situations, and a nation’s economy’s strength or weakness.

Perhaps in no country has violence risen as alarmingly and as quickly as in the United States during the period of 2020-2021. The summer of 2020 set new records for crime. As early as July of that year *The Wall Street Journal* reported that: “Law-enforcement officials in several large U.S. cities are wrestling with a sharp rise in violent crime amid a national debate over the role of police, calls to reduce police-department budgets and growing fiscal troubles. Some

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<sup>26</sup> World Population Review, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/crime-rate-by-country> (accessed August 10, 2021)

cities are on track to have their most violent summers in years. In Milwaukee, homicides are up 37% so far this year, on pace to break the record of 167 in 1991, which included 16 murders by convicted serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. Homicides so far this year in Chicago are ahead of the pace of 2016, which marked the city's highest tally since 1996. In New York and Los Angeles, which have seen falling numbers of homicides for years, killings this year are up 23% and 11.6%, respectively. Kansas City, Mo., has recorded 99 killings since January, far outpacing any record for the first six months of the year.<sup>27</sup> A CNN report summarizes the situation in the US as: It's nearly impossible to attribute any year-to-year change in violent crime statistics to any single factor, and homicides and shootings are an intensely local phenomenon that can spike for dozens of reasons. But the increase in homicide rates across the country is both historic and far-reaching, as were the pandemic and social movements that touched every part of society last year." The report then continues stating: "Experts point to a perfect storm of factors -- economic collapse, social anxiety because of a pandemic, de-policing in major cities after protests that called for abolition of police departments, shifts in police resources from neighborhoods to downtown areas because of those protests, and the release of criminal defendants pretrial or before sentences were completed to reduce risk of Covid-19 spread in jails -- all may have contributed to the spike in homicides."<sup>28</sup>

Although the reasons for the rise in crime in the United States may be varied two results have become clear. The first is that the public has become ever more aware of the hypocrisy of politicians who have called for police defunding while at the same time investing in their own private security. Politicians' calls for police defunding while at the same time spending tens of thousands of dollars on their own security reminds the public of the famous line in George Orwell's classic *Animal Farm*. At the end of the novella the elite animals erase the Seven (Animal Farm) Commandments<sup>29</sup> by which the animals are to live and replace it by one: "All Animals are equal, but some are more equal than others"

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<sup>27</sup> Wall Street Journal, July 11, 2020, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/police-wrestle-with-surge-in-crime-in-u-s-cities-amid-defunding-efforts-11594472400> <accessed on August 8, 2021>

<sup>28</sup> Emma Tucker and Peter Nickeas writing for CNN: April 3, 2021: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/03/us/us-crime-rate-rise-2020/index.html> (accessed on August 10, 2021)

<sup>29</sup> The original seven commandments in *Animal Farm* are: 1) Whoever goes upon two legs is an enemy, 2) whoever goes on four legs or has wings is a friend, 3) no animal shall wear cloths, 4) no animal shall sleep in a bed, 5) no animal shall drink alcohol, 6) no animal shall kill any other animal, 7) all animals are equal.

The actions of members of Congress such as U.S. House or Representatives member Cori Bush seem reminiscent of *Animal Farm*. As crime and murder rates soar in America's cities Bush stated: "I have private security because my body is worth being on this planet right now. I have private security because they, the white supremacist racist narrative that they drive into this country. The fact that they don't care that this Black woman that has put her life on the line, they can't match my energy first of all.

This Black woman who puts her life on the line. They don't care that I could be taken out of here. They actually probably are OK with that, but this is the thing: I won't let them get that off. You can't get that off. I'm going to make sure I have security because I know I have had attempts on my life and I have too much work to do. There are too many people that need help right now for me to allow that."<sup>30</sup> In other words, all lives are equal, but some are more equal than others

Additionally, police morale is now extremely low. For example, the politically left-of-center journal *Axios* stated: "Police departments across the country are struggling to attract applicants after a year of racial justice protests against police use of excessive force and calls for police reform dampened morale within the profession. The *Axios* article also notes that: "Recruiting deficits add strain to existing forces and could increase costs through overtime or employee burnout, per *the International Association of Chiefs of Police*. The magazine then goes on to state:

"It's not just an issue of getting new talent in the door, but of keeping existing forces intact. In Minneapolis, the epicenter of calls to defund and dismantle the police in the wake of George Floyd's murder, police morale is at an all-time low.

- Last year, 105 officers left the department, twice as many as normal, per MPR News,
- Meanwhile, in Denver, a pandemic-battered budget forced the city to hire 97 fewer officers than expected in 2020. And some of the 81 officers who were injured in last summer's unrest still have not returned to full duty.

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<sup>30</sup> Interview with CBS News on August 6, 2021: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cori-bush-defund-the-police-private-security-response/> (Accessed on August 10, 2021)

What they're saying: "Too many people have thrown the police under the bus. The police in Minnesota, many are very demoralized because of the lack of appreciation for the work that they do," said (Minnesota) state Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka."<sup>31</sup>

The August shooting of two Chicago Police officers (one of whom is gravely wounded and one of whom died) has renewed police officer's feelings regarding what they consider to be lack of support. Former Chicago Police Superintendent stated: "'The officers here in CPD and probably across the country ... feel under attack by politicians and the public," McCarthy said Wednesday during an appearance on Fox News' "The Story." "Most of them feel like they're not being supported by their leadership."<sup>32</sup>

### ***The War-on Police's Impact on Tourism***

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic it is not easy to distinguish between a loss of tourism revenues due to the War-on- Police, an increase in crime, and the Covid-19 pandemic. It might be impossible to determine if falling tourism numbers and revenue are the result of fear of increased crime or fear due to Covid-19 pandemic or both. What is clear is that the US is experiencing a crime wave, that tourism centers have been attacked, that police officers are retiring in ever increasing numbers and that police departments now lack resources for special units such as TOPPs. Additionally, the Biden administration's border policies and refusal to respect US law have helped to demoralize police departments across the nation. The crime wave has now reached such proportions that even left-of-center media can no longer ignore it. In fairness the crime wave of 2020-2021 is not new. For example, the Chicago Tribune as far back as 2012 noted: "Chicago's extensive efforts to reinvigorate its convention and tourism industries could be damaged unless the

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<sup>31</sup> AXios, May 19, 2021: <https://www.axios.com/police-morale-suffers-recruiting-down-fb25f81e-b423-41fe-9d5f-242d43ebf337.html> (accessed on August 10, 2021)

<sup>32</sup> Angelica Stabile Fox News, August 11, 2021:

city quickly defuses the violent crime wave that has exploded in its neighborhoods and nicked the downtown, the city's top convention and tourism official said Wednesday.”<sup>33</sup>

San Francisco (California) now recognizes that the city’s reputation and tourism industry have been hurt by crime and dirty streets. For example, a major convention pulled out of San Francisco. A 2018 NBC report stated: “Hosting conventions is a lucrative business for San Francisco, bringing in about \$2 billion each year. However, the amount of trash, feces, and used drug needles scattered throughout the city’s streets and sidewalks is making it harder to convince companies to return to San Francisco.

“It’s already hitting San Francisco in the pocketbook,” said Joe D’Alessandro, president and CEO of the San Francisco Travel Association, which aims to attract tourism and business to the city. “We don’t want San Francisco to be seen as a dirty, unsafe, unfriendly city, and we need to do what we can to counter that.”<sup>34</sup>

The War-on-Police might not be the sole cause for San Francisco’s crime and dirt but it has made a bad situation worse, especially for the city’s tourism industry. An NBC report (July 19, 2021) states: “After a year where both COVID-19 and bad press about crime put big dents in tourism, San Francisco is striking back. As tourism reemerges, San Francisco Mayor London Breed and the San Francisco Police Department announced a new plan in hopes to keep residents and tourists safe. The San Francisco Police Department's Tourism Deployment Plan "will provide high-visibility and welcome support to an economic sector that is vitally important to San Francisco as travelers worldwide emerge from COVID-19 lockdowns," a statement explained.”<sup>35</sup>

New York is another city that is suffering from an increase in crime, even in its world-famous Time Square sector. The New York publication *City Journal* connects the crime wave and the war on police as a threat to its tourism industry. The *City Journal* notes: “The city’s resilience

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<sup>33</sup> Chicago Tribune, July 11, 2012: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/travel/ct-xpm-2012-07-11-chi-tourism-official-city-must-curtail-crime-wave-20120711-story.html> (accessed August 10, 2021) : <https://www.foxnews.com/media/fallen-chicago-officer-sendoff-rushed-by-department-ex-police-superintendent-says-cops-feel-under-attack> (accessed on August 12, 2021)

<sup>34</sup> NBC, December 2018: <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/dirty-streets-threaten-san-francisco-convention-industry/62420/> (accessed on August 10, 2021)

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/san-francisco/san-francisco-unveils-new-safety-plan-as-tourism-makes-a-comeback/2598742/> (accessed on August 10, 2021)

and prosperity are threatened by the deep uncertainty created by the pandemic, compounded by New York’s flagging efforts against crime. Violence rose as the NYPD was strained by protests and riots this past summer in the wake of the death of George Floyd in the hands of Minneapolis police.” The article then states: “The rise in crime also took place in a year in which the state passed criminal-justice reforms putting more defendants back on the streets while they await trial, even as studies show that a significant number of these freed individuals commit new crimes while free. A series of local prosecutors elected on an agenda of decriminalizing many minor crimes have sent a message that certain kinds of disorder seem acceptable again. Cops, eyeing these changes to law enforcement, are backing off on enforcement or, worse, simply giving up, making it harder to maintain the kind of street presence that deters bad guys.”<sup>36</sup>. Rafael Mangual notes in a January 2021 article that it is the minority populations that have suffered the most from the War-on-Police. Mangual states: “Many of these reform efforts have been pursued, to varying degrees, in the name of racial justice. Critics of police and the broader criminal-justice system often rest their cases on racial disparities in criminal-enforcement statistics with respect to measures like arrests, stops, and incarceration rates. Less attention is paid to the even starker disparities in the NYPD’s crime reports, which show that blacks and Latinos have accounted for at least 95 percent of shooting victims since at least 2008.”<sup>37</sup> New York’s television channel 11 reports that: As the NYPD deploys more police officers to Times Square and the subway system’s busiest stations in hopes of reassuring the public of their safety, New York City’s reopening means more than just locals need reassuring.”<sup>38</sup>

## Conclusions

There is little doubt that there is an ongoing war-on-police occurring and that this war has had negative consequences on the tourism industry. Tourism is already suffering from Covid-19 restrictions, difficulties in travel and media fear. Added to this is a new crime wave often due to

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<sup>36</sup> Steven Malanga and George M.Yeager, City Journal , January 19, 2021, <https://www.city-journal.org/rise-in-violent-crime-threatens-new-yorks-recovery>, (accessed on August 10, 2021)

<sup>37</sup> Rafael A. Mangual: “A real Red Flag” City Journal: January 14, 2021: <https://www.city-journal.org/nyc-shootings-rise-despite-red-flag-gun-law> (accessed August 12, 2021)

<sup>38</sup> <https://pix11.com/news/local-news/crime-and-safety-take-center-stage-as-nyc-tourism-industry-rebounds/> posted May 11, 2021 and (accessed on August 10, 2021)

lack of police officers, police reticence in becoming involved due to a lack of political support, fear of the media, and lack of security resources. It behooves tourism officials and tourism academics to consider that: All crises have a human element. Attacking an entire profession is also a manifestation of bigotry. How many people would advise a son, daughter, or loved one to consider policing as a profession? The demonization of police becomes a negative self-fulfilling prophecy. In such a case scenario, bright and creative people might become fearful of choosing law enforcement as a career. Tourism security needs men and women who want to participate in TOPPs units. The current man and woman power shortage means that there are less people willing to put their lives on the line to defend both visitors and the tourism industry. There is a high priority for risk management techniques to be looked at from every angle. All too often, tourism surety is seen as adding nothing to the bottom line and plays second fiddle to marketing. This is a major mistake. Without tourism surety there is no bottom line! The US tourism is located in both urban areas and rural areas and due to the current administration's policies are suffering from low police morale, resulting in man and woman power shortages and high crime rates. It would be tragic if George Floyd's tragic death resulted in another nail in the coffin of what was, and hopefully will be again, the world's largest peace time industry.

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