Wave of violent fury erupts across USA
Is the United State’s crisis, our crisis?

- The media presents American racism as a uniquely US problem.
- But evidence shows anti-black racism is rapidly worsening in the UK and Europe too.
• For 9 minutes, a white police officer knelt on the neck of George Floyd, a black man, choking him to death.

• A video of the incident, which took place in Minneapolis, has been watched by millions.

• Furious protests have taken place in at least 30 cities across the USA.

• Some turned violent, with heavily equipped police and national guardsmen being drafted in to stop arson and looting.
• Even before the police officer who killed George Floyd was charged, a black CNN journalist covering the protests was arrested while on air.

• In New York, police cars drove into crowds of demonstrators.

• Secret service agents rushed Donald Trump to his underground bunker in the White House, where he continued to stoke the flames, tweeting threats to attack his own citizens with “shooting”, “vicious dogs”, and “ominous weapons”.

....These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won’t let that happen. Just spoke to Governor Tim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!
Yesterday, protesters in London, Cardiff, and Manchester gathered in solidarity....

- In London, demonstrators first gathered in Trafalgar Square, chanting, “No justice, no peace.”
- Thousands then made their way through Whitehall past Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament, then over the Thames to the enormous and moated US embassy at Nine Elms in Battersea.
Experts are warning that it is too easy to see racism as a uniquely American problem.

- “The UK is slowly waking up to the fact that racism exists here and the truth is, we have just as much of a race problem as the one so prominently associated with the USA,” writes the black journalist Jazmin Kopotsha.

- Noel Clarke, the black English actor, says racism is just as embedded in the UK as it is in the USA, and that he has been silenced by individuals in the film industry for speaking up.
So, is America’s crisis, our crisis?

• **Yes.** Many argue that anti-black racism has deep roots in white-dominated UK and European society.

• **No.** That’s going too far, others say.

• Though many European countries are responsible for countless racist atrocities, the US is a special case. After years of slavery and segregation, the pain of black Americans is of a particular and incomparable kind.