RODNEY KING

RODNEY GLEN KING WAS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION WORKER WHO WAS VIDEOTAPED BEING BEATEN BY WHITE OFFICERS IN MARCH 1991. KING'S CAR WAS PULLED OVER FOR SPEEDING BY FOUR LAPD OFFICERS, HE WAS REPEATEDLY KICKED AND HE SUSTAINED SERIOUS INJURIES, INCLUDING SKULL FRACTURES AND FACIAL PARALYSIS.

THIS ACT SPARKED VIOLENT RACE RIOTS AND FUELED A CHARGED DEBATE ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE U.S. JUSTICE SYSTEM. THE VIDEO WAS BROADCASTED ON TELEVISION AND HEIGHTENED RACIAL TENSIONS NATIONWIDE. IT WASN'T UNTIL THREE DAYS LATER THAT THE ARSON AND LOOTING FINALLY ENDED.

UNDER PUBLIC PRESSURE THE OFFICERS WERE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN 1992, BUT ONLY ONE WAS CHARGED. THE VERDICT SPURRED SOME OF THE WORST RIOTS IN U.S. HISTORY, RESULTING IN MORE THAN 50 DEAD, THOUSANDS INJURED, AND AN ESTIMATED $1 BILLION IN DAMAGES. KING PLEADED FOR PEACE DURING THE RIOTS, FAMOUSLY ASKING, ***"CAN WE ALL GET ALONG?"*** THE BEATING AND THE SUBSEQUENT RIOTS PROMPTED WIDESPREAD INVESTIGATION OF POLICE CONDUCT AND THE RESIGNATION OF THE LAPD CHIEF

An attempt at helping was made by the then US president George W Bush with him dispatching around 3000 - 4000 troops to bring back peace to the area. He also sent 1000 special trained riot police to assist in the efforts.He declared the LA area as a federal disaster a couple of days later.

MARCH 1991 - APRIL 1992