

# Timelines of historical events



Name:

Date:

## The 1992 LA Riots: A Historic Uprising

The 1992 Los Angeles riots, also known as the Rodney King riots, were a series of violent disturbances that erupted in Los Angeles County, California. The unrest began on April 29, 1992, after a jury acquitted four LAPD officers charged with using excessive force against Rodney King, an African American man. The incident had been captured on camera and widely broadcast, sparking outrage and leading to six days of rioting, looting, and arson.



*Aftermath of the 1992 LA Riots. Source: Mick Taylor, CC BY-SA 2.0*

The riots resulted in significant devastation, with 63 people killed, over 2,000 injured, and more than 12,000 arrests. Property damage exceeded \$1 billion, making it one of the most destructive civil disturbances in U.S. history. The violence primarily affected South Central Los Angeles, where racial tensions between African American and Korean American communities were particularly high. The killing of Latasha Harlins, a black teenager shot by a Korean store owner, further inflamed these tensions.

Key figures during the riots included LAPD Chief Daryl Gates, who faced criticism for his failure to de-escalate the situation, and Rodney King, whose beating was the catalyst for the unrest. The response to the riots involved the deployment of the California National Guard, U.S. military, and federal law enforcement agencies, totaling over 10,000 armed responders. The riots highlighted systemic issues within Los Angeles, including police brutality, racial discrimination, and socioeconomic disparities.

The legacy of the 1992 LA riots continues to influence discussions about race relations and policing in America. The event is a stark reminder of the consequences of injustice and the importance of addressing underlying social issues. For students learning about this historic event, it serves as a critical lesson in the impact of civil rights violations and the ongoing struggle for equality and justice in society.

## Complete the timeline

Add the main events and key figures to the timeline

