

Merit

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Inquiry Focus Question 1:

How did the Birmingham Campaign 'Project C' provoke violence?

Source 1: PRIMARY SOURCE

Source Details	Director, FBI. (1963, September 16). <i>Sixteenth street baptist church bombing</i> . https://vault.fbi.gov/16th%20Street%20Church%20Bombing%20/
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Source information

date

The Attorney General

September 16, 1963

Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS
BOMBING OF 16TH STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 16, 1963
BOMBING MATTERS

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Lavin
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Evans

The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in which many pro-integration demonstrations have been held during the past year, was bombed at approximately 10:19 a.m., Central Standard Time, September 16, 1963.

all a/c

Four Negro children, Carol Robertson, Addie Collins and Cynthia Fealey, all aged 14, and Denise McNeil, aged 10, reportedly died as a result of the bombing. In addition, 18 persons were injured. These consisted of 9 Negro males, 5 Negro females and 3 white females.

The rear end of the church was badly damaged. A fire marshal in Birmingham advised that in his opinion, approximately 10 sticks of dynamite had been dropped on the road surface near the church and ignited with a fuse-type igniter. He estimated the damage to the church at \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Our Birmingham Office immediately instituted a full investigation into this bombing. Investigation is proceeding with all possible speed and the Department will be advised of pertinent developments.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General
1 - Mr. Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 9:10 AM
DATE 9-16-63

EX-102

REC-25

157-1071

9;

SEE MEMO ROSEN TO BELMONT 9/16/63, SAME
CAPTION, JCT:ers.

19 SEP 16 1963

the date this source was created

<p>Annotations How does this piece of evidence relate to the Focusing Question? Write up to 100 words</p>	<p>This source helps to answer the focus question of ‘How did the Birmingham campaign ‘Project C’ provoke violence’ because it is about the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham Alabama, on the 15th of September 1963. The bombing of the 16th street church was clearly a violent response to the Birmingham Campaign because at the start of this source, it states that this church was known to be where many pro-integration demonstrations have been held. However, this was at the cost of the death of four young girls no more than 14 years of age, and 16 others injured. The main idea of this source is that segregationist went to extreme measure, not afraid to use violence, to maintain the status quo.</p>
<p>Strengths and Limitations Describe the strengths and limitations of the source (e.g. reliability) Write up to 150 words maximum</p>	<p>One strength of this source is its reliability. This source is from the FBI vault. This source is reliable because it is a FBI created memo, created a day after the event of the bombing so is likely to have collected enough information on what happened without it being distorted by time. It doesn’t appear biased as it often uses specific evidence such as estimated costs and it recounts the story without emotion. This helps to demonstrate its reliability.</p> <p>A limitation of this source is that it isn’t very detailed. This source tells us all the basic information of the 16th street bombing, but doesn’t go into detail about the people, the damage, and the background information that could have influenced the facts. Another limitation of this source is in the last paragraph, “Investigation is proceeding with all possible speed and the Department will be advised of pertinent development’. This is a limitation because using this source alone, we don’t know what the results of this investigation was, or if they ever caught the people responsible for the bombing, and the death of 4 young girls.</p>

Source 2: PRIMARY SOURCE

<p>Source Details</p>	<p>The Civil Rights Movement Archive. (n.d.). <i>After Connor ordered fire hoses on the protestors, Birmingham Campaign phase 2</i> [photograph]. https://www.crmvet.org/imgbham.htm.</p>
<div data-bbox="419 353 1236 943" data-label="Image"> </div>	
<p>Annotations</p>	<p>This source helps to answer the focus question of how the Birmingham campaign 'Project C' provoke violence because this photo shows the force and brutality of the fire hoses pressure, and how it was used as a response to the peaceful protestors. Fire hoses was one of the ways the Birmingham police commissioner and arbiter of public safety, Eugene 'Bull' Connor instructed the police and fire brigade to disperse the protestors. The fire hoses were used during phase three of the Birmingham campaign, when the children and teenagers were protesting.</p>
<p>Strengths and Limitations</p>	<p>The strengths of this source is that the photo has a clear perception of the violence that was provoked from the Birmingham campaign. We can see that the water pressure is very strong by the way that the teenagers and children are covering their faces and cowering away from the force. You can also see on the back of the fireman's jacket there is the initials 'BFD' which stands for Birmingham Fire Brigade. With photos we get an in the moment event, and a visual representation of the whole scene which is something we can get from reading an article.</p> <p>The limitations of this source is that photos can be taken at a specific time and angle to portray only what the photographer wants the audience to see, which means that the photo could leave out certain details that could change the whole meaning of the image, therefore making this a limitation of this source. Images can also have the potential to be staged, and since it is only a singular moment, we can't know what actually happened before and after the photo was taken.</p>

Source 3: Primary Source

Source Details

Foster Hailey. (1963, May 4). *Nytimes.com*. The New York Times - Breaking News, US News, World News and Videos.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1963/05/04/archives/dogs-and-hoses-repuls-n-egroes-at-birmingham-3-students-bitten-in.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Source information

Paste your source here and highlight.

PUBLISH DATE May 4, 1963 - published 1 day
the events written ab

DOGS AND HOSES REPULSE NEGROES AT BIRMINGHAM

3 Students Bitten in Second Day of Demonstrations Against Segregation

250 MARCHERS SEIZED

Robert Kennedy Fears Rise
in Turmoil—Dr. King Says
Protests Will Be Pressed

By FOSTER HAILEY
Special to The New York Times
BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 3

Fire hoses and police dogs were used here today to disperse Negro students protesting racial segregation.

Three students were reported to have been bitten and to have required hospital treatment. Two firemen and a news photographer were injured by bricks and broken bottles thrown from the top of a Negro office building near the major encounter, at 17th Street and Fifth Avenue North.

[In Washington, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy warned that "increasing turmoil" would be made inevitable by a refusal to grant equal rights to Negroes, United Press International reported. But he questioned the timing of the demonstrations.]

Marchers Are Dispersed

This was the second day of major demonstrations by the students here. Yesterday, more than 900 students were sent out from the Negro section in groups of 10 to 50. Some succeeded in reaching City Hall and several downtown corners. More than 700 were arrested.

Today, with the dogs and fire hoses, the police were largely successful in dispersing the student marchers before they left the Negro section. Fewer than 500 were able to leave the 16th Street Baptist Church before the police sealed its doors. Only two groups won their way through the police lines.

One group of 20 reached City Hall, where they were arrested. Another group of 10 got as far as the bus depot on 19th Street, where they also were taken into custody. In all, more than 250 persons were reported arrested today.

The demonstrators today ap-

Continued on Page 3, Column 5

DOGS AND HOSES REPULSE NEGROES

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

The demonstrators were held between 1 and 2 P.M. They followed by less than two principal leaders of the month-old direct action campaign against segregation here. The leaders said that the demonstrations would continue with increasing intensity until there were both "promise and action" from the city authorities and white merchants to start to end segregation.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Atlanta, Ga., and the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, head of the local affiliate, the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, made the announcement. They told a news conference that they had no intention of relaxing the pressure without such action.

"We are ready to negotiate," Dr. King said. "But we intend to negotiate from strength. If the white power structure of this city will meet some of our minimum demands, then we will consider calling off the demonstrations, but we want promises, plus action."

Both said there was no lack of recruits from among the Negro community of 145,000 persons here. If there were any division within it over the timing of the campaign, it now has disappeared, they declared.

New Meetings Rumored

There were reports that new meetings were being held by a civil group that negotiated last fall with some local Negro leaders for a step-by-step desegregation of public facilities and made bars in downtown stores. But the reports could not be confirmed.

Dr. King had said that he understood some lines of communication between whites and Negroes had been opened. An aide said later, however, that so far as he knew, no agreements were made today.

Mayor Albert Boutwell, head of a new city administration whose right to office is being contested in court by the old city commission, called for an end to the demonstrations and his group assumes office. A federal court has already ruled in favor of the Boutwell administration. The State Supreme Court has set a hearing for May 18.

Mayor Boutwell promised that "immediate and determined action" would be given to the city's racial difficulties as soon as the new administration was confirmed.

There was an ugly overturn to the events today that was not present yesterday. Then the demonstrating was like a school picnic. The singing, chanting youngsters submitted to arrest without resistance and ran almost joyfully to the patrol wagons and school buses that were used to take them to the city jail or to juvenile court.

The students were less submissive today. Two of three groups walked around single policemen who ordered them to halt.

But they did not attack the policemen or join in the middle-dropping. The barrage of bricks and bottles came from adult onlookers. Yesterday the adults also appeared to be in a happy mood, but today their mood turned ugly and bitter when the hoses were used against the students and the squad of six dogs was brought up.

A white man attempted to drive his car through a marching line of students. The police stopped him and took him into custody. What then happened to him was not immediately known.

Water Is Turned On

The Negroes called off the demonstrations at 5 o'clock. Mayor entered the church and told them the situation was becoming dangerous. As soon as the promise to stop was given, the doors were opened and the demonstrators quietly and dispersed to their homes.

The disturbance centered in the block-square Kelly Ingram Park, bounded by Fifth and Sixth Avenues and 16th and 17th Streets.

The first wave of young demonstrators came out of the 16th Street Church at 1 P.M. heading in several directions.

What a group of about 50 reached the corner of 17th Street and Fifth Avenue, Police Captain G. V. Evans ordered them to halt and disperse. "Go back, go back to get wet! When they kept on coming, the water hoses were turned on them and several were knocked sprawling."

It was then that several bricks and bottles came hurtling from the roof of a building. The demonstrators hit, as well as Charles Moore, a photographer for Life Magazine. Mr. Moore's ankle was badly bruised. The extent of the firemen's injuries was not learned, but they appeared not to be badly hurt.

There were angry shouts from the crowd and more rocks were thrown as the police dogs were brought up. The dogs had been used only once before, on Easter Sunday, against demonstrators here.

The young demonstrators continued to pour out of the church. After the demonstrations began, all motor traffic through the area was halted a block or two blocks away. This created traffic snarls through the downtown section.

Mayor Boutwell praised the white population and law-enforcement officials for showing restraint so far. But the city is now faced "with a situation of possible danger," he said. He called on all Birmingham residents to take steps to ease the tension.

The Mayor was particularly critical of the use of students in the demonstrations yesterday.

"Whatever our sympathies and loyalties have been in the past, whatever they may be in the future, I cannot condone and you cannot condone the use of children to these ends," he said. "I do not need to emphasize the difference between demonstrations by adults and the terrible danger of involving immature men, women and younger children."

Judge Taylor's denial of a juvenile court was also critical of their use. He said he had booked 11 children under the age of 18 years yesterday, one of them a girl 8 years old.

Judge Ellis said that customarily he did not "fine kids for delinquency." But he said he would be severe with any of those brought before him who had previous records in his court.

Commenting on the 8-year-old girl, he said: "That's what makes my blood boil."

He said he would not bail all 500 for those coming before him for the first time and \$750 for any who had been before him in the last month as demonstrators.

Most of those arrested yesterday were reported still in the juvenile detention home or in the county jail.

Dr. King had said at his news conference that he had talked to the Justice Department in Washington about the arrests and that concern had been expressed.

"They promised to make inquiries, to see that they were 'well treated,'" he said.

R. C. Johnson, principal of the main Negro high school, Parker High, estimated that more than a quarter of his enrollment of 2,200 students failed to appear for classes today. He said all students had been warned that they faced automatic expulsion for unauthorized absence from classes.

In a telegram to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, demanded that the Justice Department "promptly extend Federal protection to Birmingham's Negro citizens who seek to exercise their constitutional rights."

Mr. Wilkins also sent an "urgent request" to President Kennedy to "speak directly both to Alabama authorities and to the nation as a whole" and to use the full offices of the Government of the United States to "restore freedoms in Alabama." In a telegram to the President, Mr. Farmer said Alabama now rivals the racist police state of South Africa.

Annotations

This source helps to answer the focus question of to how did the Birmingham campaign "project C" provoke violence because it provides us with details of the police dogs and the fire hoses used on the black protesters, tells us the amount of people involved in marches and how many protesters were arrested and other details relevant to the time period. This source talks about two days, the 3rd and the 4th of May 2, 1963, and the violence used against the black protesters on these days. The main idea of the source is the sustained violence and aggression shown to protestors but their determination to continue despite this.

Strengths and Limitations	<p>A strength of this source is reliability. This newspaper article was published by the New York Times, which is an American daily newspaper which was founded on the 18th of September 1851. The New York Times is the 2nd biggest newspaper in the USA and ranked 17th in the world. This makes this source reliable because it's a source that is globally recognized and has real time updates on global problems.</p> <p>Another strength of this source is the detail provided. This source was published on the 4th May, 1963 and has information on the 3rd and the 4th of May 1963. This source provides detailed accounts of how the peaceful black protesters were met with police dogs and powerful fire hoses.</p> <p>A limitation of this source is that it could be biased. This article was written by one person, Foster Hailey, and he could have slipped in his bias into the writing. There is also very dramatic vocabulary used in this article which is used to evoke emotions out of the readers, such as "The full force of the water was then turned on them, and several were knocked sprawling."</p>
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Source 4: PRIMARY SOURCE

Source Details	<p>Civil Rights Movement. (n.d.). <i>Civil rights movement -- Images of a peoples' movement</i>. Civil Rights Movement Archive. https://www.crmvet.org/images/imgbham.htm</p> <p>=</p>
	

Annotations	<p>This source helps to answer the focus question of 'How did the Birmingham campaign "Project C" provoke violence' because it gives us a visual representation of the police dogs attacking the black protesters and the police officer also grabbing the protesters right arm. In this photo we can also see that the protesters' clothes are being ripped and pulled by the police dog, and how much damage is already done to the protesters pants. The main idea of this image is how the police dogs were used as an act of violence against the peaceful protesters, which supports the focus question.</p>
Strengths and Limitations	<p>A limitation of this source is that photos can be biased. The photographer would have chosen an exact moment to snap this picture to portray exactly what the photographer wants the audience to see- in this case a close up shot of a dog attacking a peaceful protestor. Also, pictures don't give us the whole story, only a small snapshot of time, so we can't know what is actually happening behind the camera and outside the frame.</p>

Source 5: Primary Source

Source Details	Voices of Democracy, the U.S. Oratory Project. (2016, July 5). Lewis, "Speech at the march on Washington," Speech text. Voicesof Democracy. https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/lewis-speech-at-the-march-on-washington-speech-text/
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Source information

Paste your source here and highlight.

JOHN LEWIS, "SPEECH AT THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON" (28 AUGUST 1963)

<https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/lewis-speech-at-the-march-on-washington-speech-text/>

[1] We march today for jobs and freedom, but we have nothing to be proud of. For hundreds and thousands of our brothers are not here. For they are receiving starvation wages, or no wages at all. While we stand here, there are sharecroppers in the Delta of Mississippi who are out in the fields working for less than three dollars a day, twelve hours a day. While we stand here there are students in jail on trumped-up charges. Our brother James Farmer, along with many others, is also in jail. We come here today with a great sense of misgiving.

[2] It is true that we support the administration's civil rights bill. We support it with great reservations, however. Unless Title III is put in this bill, there is nothing to protect the young children and old women who must face police dogs and fire hoses in the South while they engage in peaceful demonstrations. In its present form, this bill will not protect the citizens of Danville, Virginia, who must live in constant fear of a police state. It will not protect the hundreds and thousands of people that have been arrested on trumped charges. What about the three young men, SNCC field secretaries in Americus, Georgia, who face the death penalty for engaging in peaceful protest?

[3] As it stands now, the voting section of this bill will not help the thousands of black people who want to vote. It will not help the citizens of Mississippi, of Alabama and Georgia, who are qualified to vote, but lack a sixth-grade education. "One man, one vote" is the African cry. It is ours too. It must be ours!

[4] We must have legislation that will protect the Mississippi sharecropper who is put off of his farm because he dares to register to vote. We need a bill that will provide for the homeless and starving people of this nation. We need a bill that will ensure the equality of a maid who earns five dollars a week in a home of a family whose total income is \$100,000 a year. We must have a good FEPC bill.

[5] My friends, let us not forget that we are involved in a serious social revolution. By and large, American politics is dominated by politicians who build their careers on immoral compromises and ally themselves with open forms of political, economic, and social exploitation. There are exceptions, of course. We salute those. But what political leader can stand up and say, "My party is the party of principles"? For the party of Kennedy is also the party of Eastland. The party of Javits is also the party of Goldwater. Where is our party? Where is the political party that will make it unnecessary to march on Washington?

[6] Where is the political party that will make it unnecessary to march in the streets of Birmingham? Where is the political party that will protect the citizens of Albany, Georgia? Do you know that in Albany, Georgia, nine of our leaders have been indicted, not by the Dixiecrats, but by the federal government for peaceful protest? But what did the federal government do when Albany's deputy sheriff beat Attorney C.B. King and left him half-dead? What did the federal government do when local police officials kicked and assaulted the pregnant wife of Slater King, and she lost her baby?

[7] To those who have said, "Be patient and wait," we have long said that we cannot be patient. We do not want our freedom gradually, but we want to be free now! We are tired. **We are tired of being beaten by policemen. We are tired of seeing our people locked up in jail over and over again.** And then you holler, "Be patient." How long can we be patient? We want our freedom and we want it now. **We do not want to go to jail. But we will go to jail if this is the price we must pay for love, brotherhood, and true peace.**

[8] I appeal to all of you to get into this great revolution that is sweeping this nation. Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and hamlet of this nation until true freedom comes, until the revolution of 1776 is complete. We must get in this revolution and complete the revolution. For in the Delta in Mississippi, in southwest Georgia, in the Black Belt of Alabama, in Harlem, in Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, and all over this nation, **the black masses are on the march for jobs and freedom.**

[9] They're talking about slow down and stop. We will not stop. All of the forces of Eastland, Barnett, Wallace, and Thurmond will not stop this revolution. If we do not get meaningful legislation out of this Congress, the time will come when we will not confine our marching to Washington. We will march through the South; through the streets of Jackson, through the streets of Danville, through the streets of Cambridge, through the streets of Birmingham. But we will march with the spirit of love and with the spirit of dignity that we have shown here today. By the force of our demands, our determination, and our numbers, we shall splinter the segregated South into a thousand pieces and put them together in the image of God and democracy. **We must say: "Wake up America! Wake up!" For we cannot stop, and we will not and cannot be patient.**

Annotations

This source helps us answer the focus question because this source gives us another example of the police dogs and fire hoses used on the young children and old women. (paragraph 2). This speech was said by John Lewis at the Washington march, 28th August 1963, and he speaks about the inequalities that black Americans were experiencing and the violence they were receiving, "We are tired of being beaten by policemen. We are tired of seeing our people locked up in jail over and over again." This quote from paragraph 7 gives us an example of the violence provoked through the Birmingham Campaign. This source also talks to the determination of coloured Americans to achieve their freedom, despite the violence they have endured.

Strengths and Limitations	<p>The strengths of this speech is that it was said by John Lewis, a co-founder and chairman of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He helped lead and organise many civil rights movements, such as the Freedom Rides, the 1963 March on Washington, and the Selma to Montgomery Marches. This means that this source is reliable because he has lived and first-hand experienced what he is speaking about, and has been a great leader to many black Americans.</p> <p>A limitation of this speech is that it might be biased. This is because John Lewis would have a personal opinion on the situation, and he could use emotive language and personal beliefs to convince others to understand his point of view.</p> <p>Another limitation of this source is that we can't fully experience this speech when it is in this form. When it is written we lose a lot of the detail, such as, his facial expressions, hand gestures and tone of voice. This is a limitation because since we are losing all this information, we might miss a main point of his speech, and/or miss interpret his words.</p>
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Evaluation

All of these 5 sources in some way helped to answer the focus question, 'How did the Birmingham campaign (Project C) provoke violence', but when the sources are used together, they are much stronger.

For example, source 3, 4 and 5 all corroborate each other with information and stories of the police dogs and fire hoses used on the black protesters, which makes these sources more reliable. Some differences between the sources are if they are factual or emotional. For example, sources 3 and 5 are very emotional. They both use personal stories and emotive language to get their main idea across, and describe the violence provoked from the Birmingham campaign. Whereas source 1 is purely factual, only telling us the details of the damage and casualties of the bombing, without including any emotions/feelings.

Across all of these sources, the main idea/theme portrayed is violence. Source 1 describes a devastating bombing, source 2 shows us a visual representation of the fire hoses being turned against the black protesters, source 3 gives a detailed recount of the violence from the white police and fireman, as well as members of the public, source 4 shows us the police dogs attacking the protesters, and source 5 gives us another account to verify the fire hoses and dogs being used on the protesters. This theme helps to answer my focus question because the question is how did the Birmingham campaign provoke violence, and all five sources have the main idea of violence, caused by the Birmingham campaign.

In conclusion, all five sources helped to answer the focus question when used all together, they gave us a clear account of the violence and cruelty produced from the Birmingham Campaign and provided a wide range of information that was used to help develop further understanding of the violence and racism during the Birmingham campaign.