



**SUJET D'EXAMEN DE 2ème SESSION
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Sujet

Cf Pages 2 et 3

LEA3 – US CIVILIZATION– M. LEROY- SESSION N°2

Using your knowledge, write a small essay to comment on the document. Don't forget to present the document, and to develop your arguments in a structured essay with issued introduction and conclusion.

Pay attention to your spelling, the building of the body of your text and its structuring, and to the tense agreement.

**Black Lives Matter has showed us:
the oppression of black people is borderless**

Michael Brown's killing prompted new ways to hold up and cherish black lives affirmatively worldwide

Steven W Thrasher – The Guardian - Sun 9 Aug 2015

01 One year after it started, the Black Lives Matter movement continues to
05 dissolve what some have called the "boundaries of blackness" – both within the
United States and across borders. This is the enduring legacy of Michael Brown,
the 18-year-old unarmed black man who was killed on 9 August 2014 by
Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. The rage about police violence kicked off
a new, borderless kind of politics about the value of black life worldwide.

10 The movement has erased the imaginary line between "respectability
politics", the concept that if black people are just upstanding enough they won't
experience racism, and the lived experiences of actual black people, destroying
the mythology that the only black lives worth protecting are those of idealized,
sanitized saints.

15 Barriers between academia, blackademia, hip-hop, comedy, activism and
electoral politics are also coming down as a result of the movement – lines
which have long been used to keep powerful black people segregated from one
another for pursuing social change in slightly different ways.

20 Especially through Black Twitter and #BlkTwitterstorians, a Twitter
hashtag used by young activists to tenured professors, the movement has
helped diffuse the porous wall between traditional and social media. The
demand for racial justice after Brown's death initially bypassed professional
journalism and saw activists use their own media production to mobilize people.
Baltimoreans protesting the killing of Freddie Gray, who was fatally injured
during his arrest, or activist Bree Newsome taking down the Confederate flag,
are examples of how social scooped traditional media in advancing public
knowledge about injustice.

25 The last year has seen the crumbling of borders between African-
Americans, Africans and Black Britons, as the movement has linked up with the
struggle of black people worldwide. And it's helped expose on a popular scale
that if blackness has no national borders – as Paul Gilroy showed in The Black
Atlantic – white supremacy doesn't, either.

30 Ever since the concept of race was created just a few hundred years ago
through European colonialism and American chattel slavery, black people have
been encouraged to believe we are lucky. If black people were left in Africa and
not enslaved we were told we were lucky, even if we lived in colonized countries
stripped of resources. If we were taken to Europe or the US, we were told we
were lucky to have been taken to civilization.

35 But the problems faced by black people worldwide have all been created
by racialized capitalism as it formed modern nation states – states which have

40 45 50 55 60 65 70	<p>a vested interest in keeping black people globally from banding together to think about how our struggles are interconnected, and how we can support one another.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter has philosophically disrupted this segregation, sparking marches around the globe with a solidarity that is not just about American police brutality. Last autumn, Palestinian young people visited Ferguson, before black American activists took an historic trip to Palestine last winter, to learn how their lives living under American and Israeli occupations were similar. Then, in May, Ethiopian Israelis invoked "Baltimore Is Here" while fighting back against police abuse and racism in Israel.</p> <p>If Black Lives Matter can connect black Missourians, Baltimoreans, Palestinians and Israelis, it can cross any border.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter is the reason why Slate's interactive map, which showed that "the vast majority of enslaved Africans" went not to the US, but to the Caribbean and Brazil, has been shared over 200,000 times on Facebook. Black South American Lives matter, too. There's a hunger to understand slavery not as an isolated experience of black North Americans relegated to the past – but as the economic engine beneath modern wealth and poverty worldwide.</p> <p>Similarly, when a recent BBC documentary showed how British slave owners were paid the equivalent of millions of pounds to free their slaves, it didn't only register with Black Britons. It exposed that while the UK ended slavery three decades before than the US and without a civil war, the reasons were not altruistic. This resonated in the US. Reparations have never been paid to the descendants of slaves on US shores – even by corporations like Aetna Insurance, which directly made money off of slaves.</p> <p>Black Lives Matter helps move this kind of history from ivory tower conversation into everyday discourse. It also wants us to see black oppression, and also black joy and humor, as borderless. When the death of Cecil the Lion went viral, it prompted fantastic, satirical critiques of how much more sympathy his death garnered than that of black Americans or Zimbabweans does.</p> <p>A year after his death, we owe Michael Brown and his family a great deal. His ultimate sacrifice gave the Black Lives Matter movement the voice, language and politics to understand his death as part of a pattern against the value of black lives in Ferguson, in the United States and globally – and it prompted new ways to hold up and cherish black lives affirmatively worldwide.</p>
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