

# 2020: From Earth To The Universe

Since May 2020, many events have marked the world. Indeed, from the creation of movements to denounce societal facts like Black Lives Matter, to the demonstrations of Indian farmers or even, to the trips organized by billionaires to go into space: a lot of things have happened. Hence, for you to understand that has happened, and what is still happening, we have summarized everything for you! Ready?

Let's start with **Black Lives Matter**. A movement which began in 2013...

*BLM: The most famous movement of the last decade*

## What Is Black Lives Matter?

Black Lives Matter also called BLM is a movement founded in 2013 in the United States. This movement aims at fighting against racism peacefully and making life better for black people. There have been a lot of demonstrations all around United States in honor of the movement. BLM also had a big impact on Joe Biden's victory over Donald Trump. Indeed, the first thing Joe Biden did as a president was to kneel in front of George Floyd's daughter.



## Who Is George Floyd?

George Floyd was a Black American man whose death contributed to put lights on BLM's cause. On May 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, in Minneapolis, a white police officer named Derek Chauvin put his knee on George Floyd's neck. He did not stop even if George Floyd was telling him "I can't breathe". This quote became famous and is now known in the entire world. As a matter of fact, it was a sort of a slogan for the movement. His death changed a lot of things.



## What Has Change Since George Floyd's death?

A lot of things have changed since George Floyd died. For example, schools who had the name of a black slave owner were forced to change their names. The Police started hiring more people from minorities and for the first time, a black author won the Time's best seller award. Her name is Bernardine Evaristo. Joe Biden also made the 19<sup>th</sup> June a holiday to commemorate the end of slavery on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1863. The situation is getting better for black people who can only feel optimistic about their future.

Translation box: - demonstration = manifestations  
- daughter = fille  
- known = connu  
- to put lights on...  
= mettre en lumière...  
- hiring = embaucher

Nicolas Bulach, October 7<sup>th</sup> 2021

**To deepen the subject...**

## How to understand the Black Lives Matter movement?

Racial discrimination is still present in our life. To protest against it, a movement has been created its name: Black Lives Matter. This movement consists in demonstrations to stop racism. It started in 2013 and it was created by Patrice Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi. Moreover, it was popularized by an # named BLM.

### **The Facts:**

Police violence was indeed increased with the time, as people keep ignoring the truth. Until 25 May 2020, a police officer abused of his power when he killed a black man named George Floyd. Although it was not the first time this happened... Hence, it triggered a wave of discontent and people who protested took a symbol name: the handcuffed symbol.



### **Consequences:**

George Floyd's death triggered many consequences, like the multiplication of demonstrations organised by the defenders of that cause. However, there is a big

problem with the education as they don't know if they have to talk about that movement because it makes some polemics. Also, the movement attracted many countries. Indeed, everyone is touched by racism.



### **The Solutions:**

The government is trying to find some solutions because they can't do nothing. Hence, the first solution takes by the government is to create a holiday. This holiday is named the Juneteenth holiday. It's celebrated on the 19<sup>th</sup> June of the year; this day represents the end of the slavery. Moreover, the movement is taken to be a Nobel Prize of peace and the vice president is also a black woman. The last solution is to give the money of the police to other associations.

To conclude, we can say the world wants to change. Nevertheless, it's more complicated because on the one hand, we have the police which have to protect the civilians and on the other hand, they failed because of the over policing.

Translation box: - demonstrations = manifestations  
- It triggered = ça a engendré  
- slavery = esclavage

Matthieu Da Cruz, October 7<sup>th</sup>2021



*Meanwhile, we have the Indians farmers who are protesting for fairer laws...*

## Why the Indian farmers are angry?

### The Global Situation

Since September 2020, 50.000 farmers have been protesting in and around New-Delhi. The government created new laws about agriculture. They aim at boost in incomes and promoting corporations to modernize agriculture. Yet, it's a nightmare for the farmers because 25% of Indian farmers live below the poverty line. As a consequence, they are protesting to repeal the law.

### The Anger of the Farmers

To show their anger, they block the streets and camp on the highways. Also, they drive tractors and buses with slogans, signs, and flags. They have signs on which is written « Don't bite the hand that I feed you », « We are farmers, not terrorist ». As a matter of fact, people can't eat without farmers. They are even thinking of organizing a national strike on September 27.



They have done mass arrest and finally destroyed their camps.



### The Support

30.6% of the Indian population supports the farmers being opposed to the laws. Also, American citizens have risen their voice for Indian farmers unlike the American government which supports Indian government.

### What's on Now?

To sum up, the situation is critical. Farmers said they will not leave the protest site even if their graveyard is made there. Finally, it's one of the biggest protests in India.

Translation box: - incomes = revenus  
- to repeal = abroger une lois  
- tear gas = gaz lacrymogène  
- graveyard = tombe

Lou-ann Busch, October 7<sup>th</sup> 2021



### Authority Violence

The police have shown violence towards the demonstrators. They use tear gas and water cannons.

**And three billionaires who went into space!**

## Space race: Is there a winner?

2021 was a year of experimentation. In fact, more and more billionaires want to go into space to achieve their child dream. Three of them managed to, nevertheless, who did they really win?

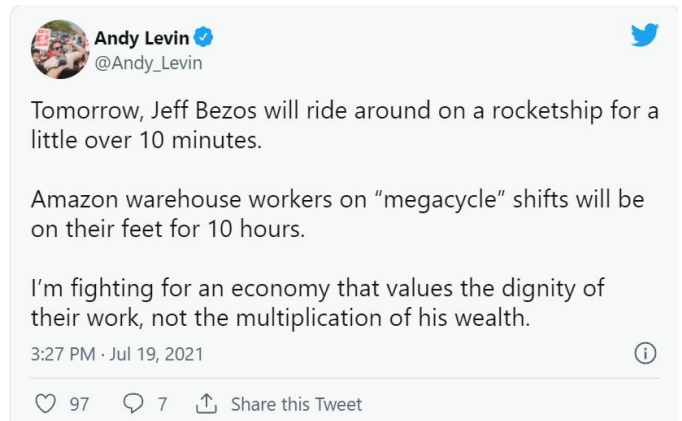


### **Richard Branson, The First to Enter the Race...**

Richard Branson, the Virgin Galactic's CEO, was the first billionaire who went into space. His launch was on July 12<sup>th</sup>. He went into space with a gigantic plane and inside it, there was a space plane. His crew composed of his workers was inside it. They stayed there between 5 to 10 minutes. Richard Branson had wanted to go into space since he was a child, he actually achieved his dream. It was also to develop a new business: space tourism. Still, he's not the only one who has been thinking about that ...

### **And Behind Him: Jeff Bezos**

Then, Jeff Bezos, Amazon's founder left the Earth for space one week after Richard Branson. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, he took off from Texas with his rocket named "New Shepard". In order to create it, he associated himself to Blue Origin. Bezos stayed between 5 to 10 minutes too. Unlike Richard Branson, he had a particular crew. It was composed of the youngest person in space (18 years old) and the oldest one (82 years old). Amazon's CEO had the same goal as Richard Branson: achieve his child dream and create a new business. However, he received some complaints about the working conditions in Amazon. For example, the workers work 14H/day, they had to urinate in bottles, they were not sleeping enough... Hence, he has been criticized for taking a joy ride instead of solving the issues in his society.



### **At Last: Elon Musk**

Finally, the last billionaire who went into space: Elon Musk. Tesla's CEO stayed in space for 3 days, from September 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> with his non-professional crew. He had a different goal than Branson and Bezos, he wanted to make money for a school.

### **Although Their Flights Had Drawbacks...**

Not only does it raise an ecologic issue but also a money issue. As a matter of fact, the rockets released carbon dioxide which contributes to the global warming. Moreover, people criticized them for not spending their money properly. People believe they should spend it to save the planet, to help people in need, without food, house, or health. Besides, they are also criticized because of income inequalities. Indeed, in the United States, billionaires don't pay a lot of tax and it makes American with modest incomes pay more.



### **There Were Also Positive Points:**

However, one cannot deny that there are advantages to this space race in terms of technology and in terms of tourism. Indeed, they are making the new research less expensive because they are financing it. But they are also creating a new business: space tourism. For example, a ticket for flight Bezos's was sold 28 million dollars.

## **So, Who Really Won?**

In conclusion, they give hope for the future and contribute to the advance of science. Hence, they are all winners of the space race. Finally, as Richard Branson said to the next generation: "If we can do this, just imagine what you can do".

Translation box : - space race = course de l'espace  
- CEO=Chief Executive Officer (PDG)  
- launch = lancement  
- complaints = plaintes  
- joy ride = manège à sensation  
- rocket = fusée  
- crew = équipage  
- income = revenu  
- global warming=réchauffement climatique

*Imane Ibrahim, October 7<sup>th</sup>2021*

***To sum up, many events happened between 2020 and 2021. People are fighting for a fairer society and laws, others go off to explore space. In other words, the world is progressing. Hence, we can ask ourselves: What will happen in 2022?***