

Toward Riotous Strategy

Benjamin S. Case¹

This essay is in conversation with Brian Martin, who wrote a response to an article I published about the importance of riots in movement uprisings. Martin questions some of my findings, reintroduces Gene Sharp's theories of strategic nonviolence, and raises some further topics for consideration. I approach this as an opportunity to advance the discussion around strategic nonviolence and unarmed violence. Riots are significant moments of resistance, and our stories and strategy of struggle should reflect that reality. In both the title of his article and his conclusion, Martin asks—skeptically, I believe—if rioting can be the basis of movement strategy. In reply, I propose that our strategy must aspire to be riotous. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2022 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

KEYWORDS: Riots, Nonviolence, Violence, Social Movements, Movement Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

This essay is in conversation with Brian Martin's response to my article, "Molotov Cocktails to Mass Marches" (Case 2021b). In that article, I presented: 1. analysis of data on riots and nonviolent demonstrations in

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