

Abstract

Policing is a highly controversial topic in the United States, with critics claiming that police officers regularly abuse their power and mistreat citizens, especially African Americans, with impunity. People of the opposite opinion believe that reports of police brutality are exaggerated and that accusations of widespread racism in the American police force are simply unfounded. The death of an unarmed African American man George Floyd in 2020 has partially revealed to the world how real police brutality in America really is – as well as how much this issue resonates in American society. During the riots, President Donald Trump was often compared to his predecessor Barack Obama, who faced a similar situation in 2014. and issued several comprehensive police reforms as a result. Trump was also forced to proceed with police reform in the tense situation. At the same time, Democratic lawmakers were drafting a more comprehensive and legislatively stronger police bill. This paper examines these federal attempts to reform American policing. Its goal is to analyse all of the federal police reforms that have occurred during the terms of these two presidents. The secondary aim of this thesis is to illustrate the differences in the approaches of the two presidents through this analysis.