White Backlash in the Civil Rights Movement: A Study of the White Responses to the Little Rock Crisis of 1957

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For my honors project in the Africana Studies Department I decided to research the response from white southern citizens during the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. I want to explain the significance of Little Rock and its memorable story of desegregation broadcasted across the nation. Little Rock was in many ways the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement and a representation of tension between state and federal governments. The population shifted to appear predominantly segregationist and actively invested in halting plans for integration. Many white citizens chose not to participate, but others chose to join violent, vicious mobs. The complex environment leading up to the crisis of Little Rock was unexpected given the city's reputation of liberality and particularly progressive southern G

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