

The world has witnessed significant disruptions in modern times, ranging from technological advancements to pandemics in the past two years. These disruptions have had a profound impact on society and have been met with various reactions from people. This essay will explore two modern disruptions of society and analyze them in terms of the disruption itself, the screen images that responded, and whether there was unity or division, and the frame values the nation saw as a reaction. These two disruptions were the COVID-19 pandemic and The Black Lives Matter Movement.

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most significant disruptions to modern society. It originated in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 and quickly spread worldwide, resulting in millions of deaths, and altering the way people live. The pandemic caused widespread panic, leading to mass lockdowns, business closures, and job losses. It also highlighted the inequalities in healthcare and highlighted the importance of science and research in combating pandemics. Furthermore, there were protests and open rebellions about wearing masks. Mask wearing became weaponized into a political statement in the United States, which would lead to more deaths and a continued strain on the healthcare system. As a person in need of dialysis at the time, I was forced to go two weeks without treatment due to fear and widespread panic on the part of healthcare providers who would not take me as a new patient returning home from South Korea. The trauma of going to the emergency room for treatment and seeing bodies in black bags from floor to ceiling in rooms haunts me to this day¹.

¹ World Health Organization. (2021). WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard. <https://covid19.who.int/>

In response to the pandemic, people turned to screens for information and entertainment. The media played a crucial role in disseminating information about the virus and the measures put in place to curb its spread. Social media platforms were also used to spread awareness about the virus, share personal experiences, and connect with loved ones. However, the response to the pandemic was not always united. There were divisions in how people perceived the severity of the virus and the measures put in place to combat it. Some people refused to wear masks or follow social distancing guidelines, while others were more cautious. These divisions were often fueled by political ideology and misinformation spread through social media causing so much loss of life. In terms of frame values, the pandemic highlighted the importance of community, empathy, and scientific research. The virus affected people from all walks of life, and it became apparent that everyone needed to work together to combat it. The pandemic also highlighted the value of scientific research and the importance of listening to experts in times of crisis.²

The Black Lives Matter movement is another significant disruption to modern society. It began in 2013 after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin and gained widespread attention following the killing of George Floyd in 2020. The movement seeks to address systemic racism and police brutality against Black people in the United States. The response to the Black Lives Matter movement was primarily through screens, with social media being used to share videos of police brutality and organize protests. The media also played a crucial role in amplifying the movement's message and bringing attention to issues of racial inequality.³

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021). COVID-19: How to Protect Yourself & Others. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

³ The New York Times. (2020). George Floyd Protests: A Timeline. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/george-floyd-protests-timeline.html>

However, the response to the movement was not united. The movement faced opposition from those who believed that it was promoting anti-police sentiment or that it was promoting a divisive agenda. There were also divisions within the movement itself, with debates about tactics and goals. There were counter-protests of Blue Lives Matter and All Lives matter, in response to the movement. In terms of frame values, the movement highlighted the importance of justice, equality, and human rights. The movement brought attention to the issue of police brutality and systemic racism, highlighting the need for systemic change. The movement also emphasized the value of community and solidarity, with people coming together to demand change.⁴

In conclusion, modern disruptions have had a profound impact on society and have been met with a variety of responses. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of community, empathy, and scientific research, while the Black Lives Matter movement emphasized the value of justice, equality, and human rights. Both disruptions also highlighted the power of screens in shaping public opinion and disseminating information. However, both disruptions also faced divisions in how people perceived them, fueled by political ideology and misinformation. Ultimately, the frame values that emerged from these disruptions reflect the values that are important to society and serve as a call to action for change.

⁴ Black Lives Matter. (2021). About Black Lives Matter. <https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>