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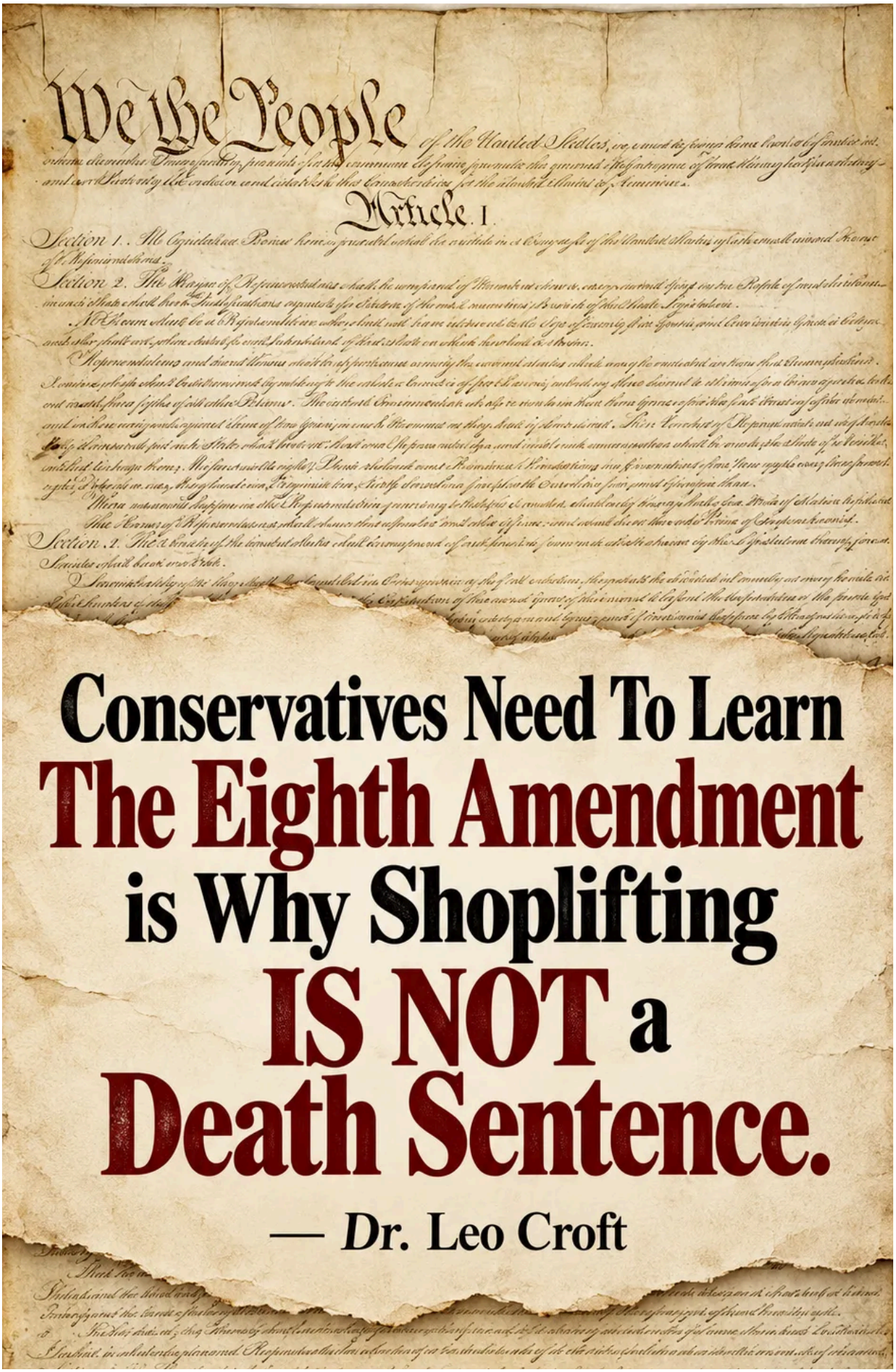
# "Any Law" Is a Death Sentence When You're Black

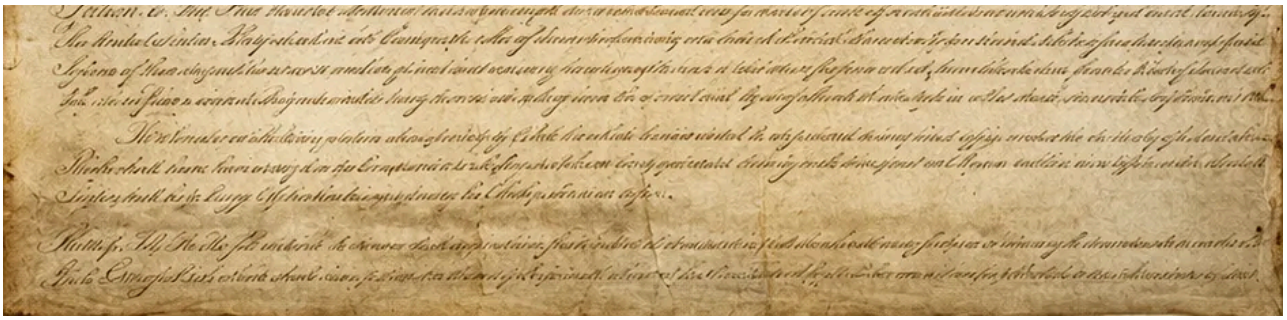
White America loves to wave the Constitution until a Black person is on the other end of the gun. Then "The Law" turns into "Any Law," and any law is cause to die.



Dr. Leo Croft Follow 9 min read · 2 days ago

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We the People
Article. I
Conservatives Need To Learn
The Eighth Amendment
is Why Shoplifting
IS NOT a
Death Sentence.
— Dr. Leo Croft



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People, I really feel like white America and specifically white *“christian”* MAGA right-wing white-wing America, you know the group that loves throwing around *“law and order”* and the Constitution needs a goddamn refresher course in what *“cruel and unusual”* punishment is, because when it comes to non-whites, they seemingly believe that any infraction carries a fucking death sentence.

All week we have been discussing **Kohen Wiley’s** murder at the hands of a piece of shit now **FORMER** sgt. Hunter Foster, and like clockwork you have the “law and order” crowd putting this on the two women who we know now **WERE NOT** shoplifters, for putting the baby in danger and causing his death.

*Whew…*

I had to take a really deep breath typing that… because since when has shoplifting carried a damn death sentence?

## Tell me!?

I was talking with my wife about this and we played pretend-world with all of this. We discussed that it doesn’t matter if there was a fucking OLED TV

stolen from Walmart, pursuing these women with guns drawn is in and of itself cruel and unusual.

But this is what we always see, isn't it, people, and that's white America making every excuse on the planet to justify ending a Black life.

Riddle me this, people, how is it that there are MASS SHOOTERS taken alive in some cases, hell, MANY cases, yet we have loiterers, loose cigarette sellers, and Walmart SHOPPERS, not "shoplifters," SHOPPERS, lose their lives at the hands of some white cop who claims they feared for their lives.

Do you people not understand what cruel and unusual is? None of the aforementioned should be cause for officers to approach a citizen with their guns drawn.

To me this sounds like a bunch of cops who are shitty at their jobs, which I have written about before.

The Eighth Amendment says excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted. That's the one the **"law and order"** crowd forgot they own.

And look at the word *punishments*. Punishment is what comes after a judge, after a jury, after a conviction. A cop with a gun drawn over a TV skipped every last step and went straight to the sentence. That's not law and order, that's a street execution with a badge on it, and entertainment with racist toppings for disgusting white nationalist trash that gets off on this kind of bullshit.

It's *cruel, cruel, cruel,* and it's unusual too, because nobody is out here doing it to white shoplifters.

Back in July of 2014, Eric Garner was standing on a sidewalk in Staten Island, stopped on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. Loosies. That was the crime, people, that was the whole crime, and I need you to sit with how small that is.

Daniel Pantaleo got his arm around Garner's neck in a chokehold the NYPD itself had banned, and Garner said *I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I can't breathe,* and the arm stayed right where it was. He was 43 years old. The medical examiner ruled it a homicide, and the "well, he resisted" crowd showed up on schedule anyway.

That December a grand jury looked at the video and found nothing worth charging. The Justice Department passed in 2019. It took until that August, five years after the chokehold, for the NYPD to fire Pantaleo.

**Cigarettes got Garner killed on the spot. Killing Garner got Pantaleo five years of desk duty and then a firing.**

*Now flip to June of 2015.*

A 21-year-old named **Dylann Roof** sat down with the members of Emanuel AME in Charleston at their Bible study, and then he shot nine of them dead. Bible study, people. A church.

The next morning he got pulled over in Shelby, North Carolina. Officers had their weapons out, he rolled down his window, handed over his license, and

said *I'm Dylann Roof*. They took him in alive. Then he said he was hungry, and Shelby police went and got him food from Burger King. The chief described him as very quiet, very calm.

Nine people dead in a church, and the man got a meal.

And yeah, guns drawn on a man who had just killed nine people makes sense, I'm not confused about that. Even with the guns out, they got him in alive, so tell me why a loosie seller or a Walmart shopper gets the guns and none of the patience.

Then May of 2022. An 18-year-old drove to a Tops grocery store in a predominantly Black neighborhood of Buffalo wearing body armor, carrying a rifle, with a camera strapped on to livestream it, because to guys like him Black death is content. Ten people were dead. Eleven of the thirteen people he shot were Black.

Two patrol officers talked him into dropping the gun. He took off some of his gear, surrendered, got led out to a car.

*They talked him down…*

Go ahead and find me the Black loosie seller who got a conversation. Find me the Black Walmart shopper who got a negotiation. I'll wait.

None of this is a coincidence, it's a mechanism, and behavioral science has been mapping it for decades, which is my lane, so I'm not guessing here. Joshua Correll's shooter-bias research put people in a simulation and watched them decide, in a split second, whether to fire. They

were quicker to shoot an armed Black target and quicker to hold fire on an unarmed white one.

Phillip Goff's research found that Black boys as young as ten get read as older and less innocent than white boys the same age. Ten years old. Now think about what that does to a grown Black man holding a bag in a Walmart parking lot.

The threat gets assigned before the infraction even registers. The cop doesn't see a person who might have stolen something, he sees a danger who happens to be holding something, and once that label is on, every move gets read through it. Running, reaching, turning around, all of it becomes proof, which is how a stolen TV turns into "I feared for my life."

And once a group gets stripped of its innocence and its humanity, its deaths stop being tragedies and start being content, which is how a man dying on camera turns into a comment section.

White offenders get context. They get a process, a negotiation, a meal, a **"very quiet, very calm."** Black people get a trigger. **"The Law"** for white folks is a procedure with steps, and for Black folks it breaks down to *Any Law*, and any law is permission.

Ran from the cops, on foot or in a car? Then a Black person deserves to die, right? That's the horror you actually believe, you just don't have the guts to type it out.

This week it's **Kohen Wiley** and two women who weren't shoplifters, and you could set your watch to the comments. Blame the women, blame the

situation, blame anybody but the man with the gun.

I'm talking to the white *"christian"* MAGA crowd, sure, but I'm also talking to the fake ally liberals standing right behind them, the ones who post the Constitution on the timeline when it's convenient and then go quiet, or go *well, he did run*, when a Black person is on the receiving end. You know exactly who you are. Running isn't a capital offense in the Constitution you keep quoting.

**If your Constitution only protects people who look like you, you don't love the Constitution, you love the club.**

> Two identities, same laundering job, and identity laundering is the work I do, so I know it when I see it.

Start with *"christian."* The man they call Lord was executed by the state, dragged through a rigged proceeding, beaten, and put to death in the most public, cruel, and unusual way the empire could come up with. He told them whatever they did to the least of these, they did to him. And these same folks hear *Black man selling cigarettes* and decide the chokehold was fair. Nine people died at Bible study, and the police bought the shooter a meal.

Then "patriot." The cruel and unusual clause is in there because the founders feared a government that could punish however it felt like. Due process, a jury, innocent until proven guilty, that's the whole American brand, the thing the flag is supposed to stand for. And the flag-hugging crowd looks at a gun pointed at a shopper and says *she shouldn't have run, she shouldn't have run, she shouldn't have run*.

That's identity laundering in its cleanest form. They keep the label, *"christian," "patriot,"* and they wash out everything the label is supposed to stand for until it's a costume, a brand name on an empty bag.

Shoplifting isn't a death sentence. Selling loosies isn't a death sentence. Running isn't a death sentence.

And if the only time *"cruel and unusual"* crosses your lips is to defend the cop, say it plain, you never believed in the Constitution, you believed in who it protected.

> *Folks, I'm adding this to the article because I think it's important for not only you all to know it exists, but to help you be able to understand its findings.*

The research is called **"The Police Officer's Dilemma,"** published in 2002 by Correll, Park, Judd, and Wittenbrink in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and you can **read the full paper here.**

*Here's how it worked.*

Participants sat down at a videogame where men, Black and white, popped up against ordinary backgrounds like a park, a train station, a sidewalk. Every target was holding something, a gun in some trials and a wallet, a cell phone, a camera, or a can in the rest, and the player had less than a second to hit *shoot* or *don't shoot*.

**The results held up.** People shot armed Black targets faster than armed white ones, and they were quicker to hold fire on unarmed white targets than unarmed Black ones. When the researchers tightened the clock, the mistakes showed it, with unarmed Black targets getting shot by mistake more often and armed white targets more likely to get a pass.

In the lab the reaction-time gap was around a hundredth of a second. In a videogame that's a rounding error. On a street, with a real gun in a real hand, you don't get a reset button.

**The stereotype pulls the trigger before the person does.**

And I need you to hear the next part, because it's where folks get it twisted. The bias wasn't predicted by how prejudiced people said they were. What predicted it was how well they knew the stereotype, meaning what they believed most Americans think about Black people. And when the researchers took the game to ordinary adults recruited at Denver bus stations and malls, Black participants showed the same bias as white ones.

It was never about who hates who. It was *the script, the script, the script,* the one this country wrote and handed to every last one of us, and it works so well it speeds up a trigger finger on a wallet, a cell phone, a can. That's not evidence about Black people. It's evidence about the lie.

Now, no cops were in this one. It was civilians playing a game, and I'm not going to pretend otherwise. But the cop grew up in the same country, got handed the same script, and then somebody gave him a badge and a gun on top of it.

**Written by Dr. Leo Croft**

*Behavioral Scientist | Cultural Strategist | Member of the American Psychological Association*

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**Written by Dr. Leo Croft**

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