

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

What Happened?

Immediate Causes:

- 2 white officers accidentally killed
- White mob stormed into black neighborhoods



Above: Police searching for bodies after the ESTL Riot
St. Louis Post Dispatch

Aftermath

- Investigation into police actions
- Many black people fled
- Bogus court trials
- \$400,000 in damages
- Poverty stricken today

Racial Tensions:

- Labor issues
- Political corruption
- “Cleansing” of the city
- Actions of officials
- Newspaper coverage

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

What Happened?

Immediate Causes:

- Dick Rowland
- *Tulsa Tribune* Report
- Angry white mob

Racial Tensions:

- Segregated city
- Actions of officials
- Newspaper coverage



Above: Greenwood burning on June 1, 1921
Tulsa World

Aftermath

- Left Greenwood residents homeless
- Failed to reconstruct the city
- Failure of reparations
- \$1.5 million in damages
- Possible gentrification

RACE RIOTS: THE EAST ST. LOUIS RACE RIOT OF 1917 AND THE TULSA RACE RIOT OF 1921

KIMBERLY MCWHERTER

OVERVIEW

THE 1917 EAST ST. LOUIS RACE RIOT AND THE 1921 TULSA RACE RIOT DEVELOPED BECAUSE OF THE GROWTH OF BLACK PEOPLE, UNSETTLING RACIAL TENSIONS BROUGHT ON AND ENCOURAGED BY CITY OFFICIALS, AND THE LACK OF EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE CITIES.

Interesting Finds:

-A case into mass unmarked graves from the Tulsa Massacre: The Tulsa Race Riot Commission investigated unmarked graves where the bodies of the Tulsa Riot black victims had been left.

-Until the 1990s, Tulsa's Riot received hardly any attention. Seemingly, white Tulsa citizens remained hesitant to discuss the events of 1921. Confronting their past served as an embarrassing reminder of actions of white Tulsans; ESTL Riot is hardly talked about at all.

Final Remarks on Research:

It is important for America to continue to acknowledge the events and keep the history alive. The horrific events that took place in East St. Louis, Illinois and Tulsa, Oklahoma, continue to be a constant reminder that as a nation, America has come far, but can never diminish the evil atrocities of its past.