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LOCKDOWNS, RIOTS CRUSH BUSINESSES

- Double whammy cripples entrepreneurs of all races



This *New York Times* photograph shows Brandy Moore hugging Nzinga Baer-Taki outside the rubble of her clothing store, May 31, 2020. Her Minneapolis business was looted and burned during violent protests. What now?

By Donald Jeffries

The economic fallout from the senseless shutdown of most businesses in America is beginning to manifest itself. By early May, it was estimated that some 100,000 businesses had permanently collapsed, after being forced to close because of fears of the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In early April, mainstream reports speculated that an astounding 7.5 million small businesses could disappear forever.

When nationwide protests, many involving violence and looting, erupted in this country two months ago, the situation provided a lethal follow-up to the shutdowns. The protests began at the very instant that many areas were starting to partially reopen from the forced shutdown that threw untold millions out of work. Ironically, much of the damage to buildings and property occurred in predominantly black communities, with black business owners most impacted.

Journalist Michael Tracey, writing in *The Federalist*, interviewed dozens of random African-Americans across the country, getting their reactions to the Black Lives Matter protests. The responses were overwhelmingly negative. They were almost unanimously in favor of deploying the National Guard to stop the looting and destruction. "You think you're getting jus-

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