

# JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH

JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH STANDS AS A POWERFUL TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA. DELIVERED BY THE LATE CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS, A PROMINENT CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, THIS SPEECH ENCAPSULATES THE PHILOSOPHY OF ACTIVISM ROOTED IN COURAGE, PERSEVERANCE, AND MORAL CLARITY. THE PHRASE "GOOD TROUBLE" BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH STANDING UP AGAINST INJUSTICE AND MAKING NECESSARY DISRUPTIONS TO PROMOTE EQUALITY. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE ORIGINS, SIGNIFICANCE, AND IMPACT OF THE JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH, EXAMINING HOW IT INSPIRED GENERATIONS OF ACTIVISTS. ADDITIONALLY, IT DELVES INTO LEWIS'S BROADER LEGACY AND THE CONTINUED RELEVANCE OF HIS MESSAGE IN TODAY'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CLIMATE. THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS WILL GUIDE READERS THROUGH A DETAILED UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPEECH, ITS CONTEXT, AND ITS LASTING INFLUENCE.

- BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH
- KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES IN THE SPEECH
- THE LEGACY OF JOHN LEWIS AND THE CONCEPT OF GOOD TROUBLE
- IMPACT OF THE SPEECH ON CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM
- HOW GOOD TROUBLE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH

THE JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH ORIGINATES FROM THE LIFELONG COMMITMENT OF JOHN LEWIS TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND NONVIOLENT PROTEST. BORN IN 1940, LEWIS EMERGED AS A KEY FIGURE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 1960S, PARTICIPATING IN LANDMARK EVENTS SUCH AS THE FREEDOM RIDES AND THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON. THE PHRASE "GOOD TROUBLE" WAS POPULARIZED DURING HIS TENURE AS A U.S. CONGRESSMAN, WHERE HE ENCOURAGED INDIVIDUALS TO ENGAGE IN NECESSARY AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVISM TO CHALLENGE SYSTEMIC INEQUALITY.

## ORIGINS OF THE PHRASE "GOOD TROUBLE"

JOHN LEWIS COINED THE TERM "GOOD TROUBLE" TO DESCRIBE ACTIONS THAT CREATE DISRUPTION IN THE SERVICE OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY. HE BELIEVED THAT SOME LEVEL OF CONFLICT OR DISTURBANCE WAS ESSENTIAL TO BRING ATTENTION TO ISSUES THAT SOCIETY OFTEN IGNORED. THIS CONCEPT WAS NOT JUST A SLOGAN BUT A CALL TO ACTION FOR PEACEFUL BUT ASSERTIVE PROTEST.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SPEECH

THE SPEECH IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. LEWIS'S ADVOCACY FOR VOTING RIGHTS, DESEGREGATION, AND NONVIOLENT PROTEST SHAPED THE CONTEXT IN WHICH "GOOD TROUBLE" WAS FRAMED. HIS SPEECHES OFTEN REFLECTED THE URGENCY OF CONFRONTING RACIAL INJUSTICE AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

## KEY THEMES AND MESSAGES IN THE SPEECH

THE JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH IS RICH WITH THEMES THAT HIGHLIGHT THE VALUES OF COURAGE, JUSTICE, AND PERSEVERANCE. THESE THEMES RESONATE NOT ONLY WITH THE HISTORICAL CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT BUT ALSO WITH CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL JUSTICE CAUSES.

## ACTIVISM AND COURAGE

ONE OF THE CENTRAL MESSAGES OF THE SPEECH IS THE NECESSITY OF BRAVERY IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. LEWIS URGED PEOPLE TO BE WILLING TO STEP OUTSIDE THEIR COMFORT ZONES AND CHALLENGE UNJUST SYSTEMS, EMPHASIZING THAT COURAGE IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE.

## JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

THE SPEECH UNDERSCORES THE ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL EQUALITY. LEWIS ARTICULATED THE IDEA THAT ACHIEVING JUSTICE OFTEN REQUIRES PERSISTENT EFFORT AND SOMETIMES DISRUPTION OF THE STATUS QUO TO HIGHLIGHT INEQUALITIES.

## THE ROLE OF NONVIOLENCE

NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE WAS A CORNERSTONE OF LEWIS'S PHILOSOPHY. THE SPEECH ADVOCATES FOR DISRUPTION THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, ASSERTING THAT "GOOD TROUBLE" MUST BE CONDUCTED WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND A COMMITMENT TO NONVIOLENCE.

## THE LEGACY OF JOHN LEWIS AND THE CONCEPT OF GOOD TROUBLE

JOHN LEWIS'S LEGACY IS INSEPARABLE FROM THE IDEA OF "GOOD TROUBLE." HIS LIFE AND WORK LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY, INSPIRING COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS TO PURSUE JUSTICE THROUGH ACTIVISM.

## JOHN LEWIS'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVIL RIGHTS

AS A LEADER, JOHN LEWIS WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SHAPING PIVOTAL MOMENTS IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, INCLUDING THE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCHES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965. HIS DEDICATION EXTENDED INTO HIS POLITICAL CAREER, WHERE HE CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATED FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES.

## INSTITUTIONALIZING GOOD TROUBLE

THE PHRASE "GOOD TROUBLE" HAS TRANSCENDED LEWIS'S SPEECHES TO BECOME A GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR ACTIVISTS WORLDWIDE. IT ENCOURAGES DISRUPTIVE BUT PRINCIPLED ACTION AS A NECESSARY ELEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

# IMPACT OF THE SPEECH ON CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM

THE JOHN LEWIS GOOD TROUBLE SPEECH HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON BOTH HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM. IT GALVANIZED PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN MOVEMENTS AIMED AT DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC INJUSTICES.

## INSPIRATION FOR GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS

LEWIS'S CALL FOR "GOOD TROUBLE" INSPIRED NUMEROUS GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGNS, ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS TO ENGAGE IN PROTESTS, VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES, AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. THE SPEECH HELPED LEGITIMIZE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AS A VITAL TOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.

## INFLUENCE ON POLITICAL DISCOURSE

THE SPEECH ALSO INFLUENCED POLITICAL RHETORIC BY FRAMING ACTIVISM AS A PATRIOTIC DUTY. POLITICIANS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS DRAW UPON LEWIS'S WORDS TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CHALLENGING INJUSTICE WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

## HOW GOOD TROUBLE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS

TODAY, THE CONCEPT OF "GOOD TROUBLE" REMAINS A RALLYING CRY FOR ACTIVISTS WORKING TO ADDRESS A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, FROM RACIAL JUSTICE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. THE ENDURING POWER OF JOHN LEWIS'S SPEECH IS EVIDENT IN ITS CONTINUED RELEVANCE.

## MODERN EXAMPLES OF GOOD TROUBLE

CONTEMPORARY MOVEMENTS SUCH AS BLACK LIVES MATTER AND CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF "GOOD TROUBLE." ACTIVISTS USE PEACEFUL PROTEST AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE TO DEMAND SYSTEMIC REFORMS, ECHOING LEWIS'S CALL FOR COURAGEOUS ACTION.

## EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE

THE PHRASE AND PHILOSOPHY OF "GOOD TROUBLE" ARE FREQUENTLY TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS, REFERENCED IN POPULAR CULTURE, AND COMMEMORATED IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE. THIS WIDESPREAD ADOPTION HELPS KEEP JOHN LEWIS'S LEGACY ALIVE AND ENCOURAGES NEW GENERATIONS TO ENGAGE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE.

## WAYS TO ENGAGE IN GOOD TROUBLE

- PARTICIPATING IN PEACEFUL PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS
- ENGAGING IN VOTER EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION EFFORTS
- ADVOCATING FOR POLICY CHANGES THROUGH COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

- USING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND MOBILIZE SUPPORT
- SUPPORTING MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEERING AND ALLYSHIP

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH BY JOHN LEWIS ABOUT?

THE 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH BY JOHN LEWIS EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF STANDING UP AGAINST INJUSTICE AND MAKING NECESSARY DISRUPTIONS TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE.

### WHEN DID JOHN LEWIS DELIVER THE 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH?

JOHN LEWIS FREQUENTLY REFERENCED THE CONCEPT OF 'GOOD TROUBLE' IN HIS SPEECHES AND WRITINGS THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, WITH NOTABLE MENTIONS DURING CIVIL RIGHTS EVENTS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES BEFORE HIS PASSING IN 2020.

### WHY IS THE PHRASE 'GOOD TROUBLE' SIGNIFICANT IN JOHN LEWIS'S LEGACY?

THE PHRASE 'GOOD TROUBLE' ENCAPSULATES JOHN LEWIS'S PHILOSOPHY OF NONVIOLENT PROTEST AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AS ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR ADVANCING CIVIL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE.

### HOW DID JOHN LEWIS ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO CREATE 'GOOD TROUBLE'?

JOHN LEWIS ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST INJUSTICE, PARTICIPATE IN PEACEFUL PROTESTS, AND CHALLENGE UNFAIR LAWS TO CREATE 'GOOD TROUBLE' THAT LEADS TO POSITIVE SOCIETAL CHANGE.

### WHAT IMPACT DID JOHN LEWIS'S 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH HAVE ON SOCIAL ACTIVISM?

THE 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH INSPIRED COUNTLESS ACTIVISTS TO ENGAGE IN COURAGEOUS ACTS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND ADVOCACY, REINFORCING THE IDEA THAT STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE SOMETIMES REQUIRES DISRUPTION.

### CAN YOU QUOTE A FAMOUS LINE FROM JOHN LEWIS'S 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH?

A FAMOUS LINE FROM JOHN LEWIS IS: 'NEVER, EVER BE AFRAID TO MAKE SOME NOISE AND GET IN GOOD TROUBLE, NECESSARY TROUBLE.'

### HOW IS JOHN LEWIS'S 'GOOD TROUBLE' MESSAGE RELEVANT TODAY?

JOHN LEWIS'S MESSAGE REMAINS RELEVANT AS MANY SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS CONTINUE TO FACE SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES, REMINDING ACTIVISTS THAT PERSISTENT AND PRINCIPLED RESISTANCE IS CRUCIAL.

### DID JOHN LEWIS WRITE A BOOK RELATED TO HIS 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH?

YES, JOHN LEWIS CO-AUTHORED A GRAPHIC NOVEL TITLED 'MARCH' AND A BOOK CALLED 'GOOD TROUBLE: LESSONS FROM A LIFE MADE FOR CHANGE,' WHICH ELABORATE ON HIS ACTIVISM PHILOSOPHY.

### HOW DO EDUCATORS USE JOHN LEWIS'S 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH IN TEACHING?

EDUCATORS USE THE SPEECH TO TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY, THE POWER OF ACTIVISM, AND THE

## WHERE CAN I WATCH OR READ JOHN LEWIS'S 'GOOD TROUBLE' SPEECH?

JOHN LEWIS'S SPEECHES AND TALKS REFERENCING 'GOOD TROUBLE' ARE AVAILABLE ON PLATFORMS LIKE YOUTUBE, OFFICIAL CIVIL RIGHTS ARCHIVES, AND IN HIS PUBLISHED BOOKS AND INTERVIEWS.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### 1. *GOOD TROUBLE: LESSONS FROM THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT*

THIS BOOK DELVES INTO THE LEGACY OF JOHN LEWIS AND THE CONCEPT OF "GOOD TROUBLE," EXPLORING HOW ACTS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND PEACEFUL PROTEST HAVE SHAPED THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE. IT PROVIDES HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND PERSONAL STORIES FROM ACTIVISTS WHO FOLLOWED IN LEWIS'S FOOTSTEPS. READERS GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE POWER OF COURAGE AND PERSISTENCE IN CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE.

### 2. *WALKING WITH THE WIND: A MEMOIR OF THE MOVEMENT* BY JOHN LEWIS AND MICHAEL D'ORSO

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT BY JOHN LEWIS HIMSELF, THIS MEMOIR CHRONICLES HIS JOURNEY FROM A CHILDHOOD IN RURAL ALABAMA TO BECOMING A KEY LEADER IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS HE FACED WHILE ADVOCATING FOR VOTING RIGHTS AND EQUALITY. THE BOOK OFFERS A FIRSTHAND PERSPECTIVE ON THE MEANING OF "GOOD TROUBLE."

### 3. *MARCH TRILOGY* BY JOHN LEWIS, ANDREW AYDIN, AND NATE POWELL

THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL TRILOGY VIVIDLY PORTRAYS JOHN LEWIS'S LIFE AND ACTIVISM, FROM HIS YOUTH TO THE PIVOTAL MARCHES AND PROTESTS OF THE 1960s. THE SERIES CAPTURES THE SPIRIT OF "GOOD TROUBLE" THROUGH POWERFUL VISUALS AND STORYTELLING. IT SERVES AS AN ACCESSIBLE AND INSPIRING INTRODUCTION TO CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY FOR READERS OF ALL AGES.

### 4. *THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW: LYNDON JOHNSON, CONGRESS, AND THE BATTLE FOR THE GREAT SOCIETY* BY JULIAN E. ZELIZER

THIS BOOK EXAMINES THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA, FOCUSING ON HOW LEGISLATION WAS PASSED AMIDST INTENSE OPPOSITION. IT PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH JOHN LEWIS AND OTHER ACTIVISTS OPERATED. THE NARRATIVE UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSISTENCE AND STRATEGIC ACTION IN ACHIEVING SYSTEMIC CHANGE.

### 5. *SELMA 1965: THE MARCH THAT CHANGED AMERICA* BY FREDERICK DOUGLASS OPIE

A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORIC SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCHES, THIS BOOK HIGHLIGHTS THE BRAVERY AND STRATEGY BEHIND ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. IT EXPLORES JOHN LEWIS'S ROLE AND THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THE MARCH FOR VOTING RIGHTS. THE BOOK EMPHASIZES THE IMPACT OF COLLECTIVE ACTION AND "GOOD TROUBLE."

### 6. *FREEDOM RIDERS: 1961 AND THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE* BY RAYMOND ARSENAULT

THIS BOOK TELLS THE STORY OF THE FREEDOM RIDERS, ACTIVISTS WHO CHALLENGED SEGREGATION IN THE SOUTH BY RIDING INTERSTATE BUSES. IT CONTEXTUALIZES THE VIOLENT RESISTANCE THEY FACED AND THE FEDERAL RESPONSE. THE NARRATIVE CONNECTS TO JOHN LEWIS'S PHILOSOPHY OF NONVIOLENT PROTEST AND THE NECESSITY OF "GOOD TROUBLE."

### 7. *AT THE DARK END OF THE STREET: BLACK WOMEN, RAPE, AND RESISTANCE—A NEW HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FROM ROSA PARKS TO THE RISE OF BLACK POWER* BY DANIELLE L. MCGUIRE

THIS GROUNDBREAKING WORK UNCOVERS THE STORIES OF BLACK WOMEN WHOSE RESISTANCE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE FUELED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. IT BROADENS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE MOVEMENT'S ROOTS AND THE DIVERSE FORMS OF "GOOD TROUBLE" THAT PROPELLED CHANGE. THE BOOK COMPLEMENTS JOHN LEWIS'S NARRATIVE BY HIGHLIGHTING OFTEN OVERLOOKED ACTIVISTS.

### 8. *EYES ON THE PRIZE: AMERICA'S CIVIL RIGHTS YEARS, 1954-1965* BY JUAN WILLIAMS

BASED ON THE ACCLAIMED DOCUMENTARY SERIES, THIS BOOK OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT'S MOST CRITICAL YEARS. IT FEATURES KEY EVENTS AND FIGURES, INCLUDING JOHN LEWIS, AND EXPLORES THE STRATEGIES BEHIND THEIR ACTIVISM. THE WORK UNDERSCORES THE ENDURING RELEVANCE OF "GOOD TROUBLE" IN THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY.

9. *FROM #BLACKLIVESMATTER TO BLACK LIBERATION* BY KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR

THIS CONTEMPORARY ANALYSIS LINKS THE HISTORICAL CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLES, INCLUDING THOSE LED BY JOHN LEWIS, TO MODERN MOVEMENTS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE. IT EXAMINES THE ONGOING FIGHT AGAINST SYSTEMIC RACISM AND THE ROLE OF ACTIVISM IN CHALLENGING INJUSTICE. THE BOOK ENCOURAGES READERS TO CONTINUE MAKING "GOOD TROUBLE" IN PURSUIT OF TRUE LIBERATION.

## **John Lewis Good Trouble Speech**

John Lewis Good Trouble Speech

### **Related Articles**

- [jessica guide to dating on the dark side](#)
- [jokes to tell your friends](#)
- [is the stanley hotel haunted history](#)

[Back to Home](#)