

This only usually happens in revolutionsbut this o...

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As [Wikipedia noted](#):

Edward Colston (2 November 1636 – 11 October 1721) was a **Bristol-born English merchant, philanthropist, slave trader, and Member of Parliament**. He supported and endowed schools, almshouses, hospitals and churches in Bristol, London, and elsewhere, and his name is commemorated in several Bristol landmarks, streets, three schools, and the [Colston bun](#). Many of his charitable foundations still survive. A significant part of his wealth was acquired through the trade and exploitation of slaves

Until this afternoon a statue to his memory stood, quite extraordinarily, in Bristol.

It does not any more:

https://twitter.com/bristol247/status/1269662519280402433?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet

The statue ended up in the river:

<https://twitter.com/bbcrb/status/1269644536281776128>

Such symbolic actions are, of course, known during revolutions. They are not too common otherwise. But the time for a revolution on the issue of racial discrimination has arrived. The symbolism of what happened is appropriate.

I would also add something else. This morning [I mentioned that we are now in the next stage of a phoney war and that we may well be in a lull before a storm. I mentioned the reasons why this storm might break. Economically I am sorry that Black Lives Matter campaigns will probably not have a significant short term impact, although in the longer term I hope the changes will be](#)

substantial. But what actions like this one suggest is that the mood in the country is far from quiet. If it's a hot summer for the government to keep public order in the face of mass disquiet on a great many issues may be very hard.

PS at 17.40pm: I also note this tweet posted in reaction by eminent legal commentator David Allen Green:

<https://twitter.com/davidallengreen/status/1269659426593681416?s=20>