

Chapter 1: Protests and Uprisings

How does protest function in our society today? Learn about the history and impact of protest in the U.S. context, and how such movements have led to greater rights for various marginalized groups.

Conversation Questions

1. What are some ways people protest injustice?
2. How does the way we learn about a protest influence our understanding of why it happened?
3. How has the legacy of queer activists influenced protests happening right now?

Key Definitions (adapted from Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary)

- **Protest** – to show or express strong disagreement with or disapproval of something; an event in which people gather to show disapproval of something
- **Riot** – a violent public disorder; public violence, tumult, or disorder
- **Uprising** - a usually localized act of popular violence in defiance usually of an established government
- **Demonstration** - a public display of group feelings toward a person or cause

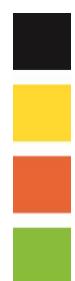
Read

"Was Stonewall a Riot, an Uprising, or a Rebellion? Here's How the Description Has Changed – And Why It Matters" by Katy Steinmetz for Time

<https://bit.ly/3gY08Nm>

How do we describe what happened at the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969 to members of the LGBTQ+ community?

Steinmetz writes that gradual changes to how we talk about an event influence and shape our history.



“Photos can show protests’ complexity – or they can perpetuate old lies” by John Edwin Mason for National Geographic

<https://bit.ly/2XCATIL>

Historian John Edwin Mason analyzes the way in which images taken of protests influence our understanding of them.

“What the Protests Look Like on Twitter Versus Cable News,” by Sam Adams and Justin Peters for Slate

<https://bit.ly/3cB4MgH>

How does your news source of choice affect what news coverage you see? Two reporters analyze protest coverage across multiple platforms to look at the differences in coverage and how that may affect what viewers and readers may learn about the events.

“The Double Standard of the American Riot” by Kellie Carter Jackson for The Atlantic

<https://bit.ly/2MyK2vw>

Whose struggles merit an act of violence? Jackson discusses the privileges that accompany who gets to be angry, and who must remain quiet and wait.

“Don’t Call It Rioting” by Rebecca Traister for The Cut

<https://bit.ly/2Y59dut>

Rebecca Traister interviews Congresswoman Maxine Waters about her use of the word “insurrection,” and connections between current protests and the social unrest of the 1960s.

The Stonewall Reader by New York Public Library

(Overdrive/Libby eBook) <https://bit.ly/2Aex0kg>

This digital anthology gathers first person accounts, diary entries, articles from LGBTQ+ magazines and more in the years leading up to and after the Stonewall uprising, with a spotlight on activists pivotal to the movement such as Sylvia Rivera and Ernestine Eckstein.





**"How Do We Change America" by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor
for *The New Yorker***
<https://bit.ly/3dLLJlb>

Scholar and author Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor analyzes current protests following the murder of George Floyd, and how they relate to systemic oppression faced by Black communities for generations.

***The Art of Protest: A Visual History of Dissent and Resistance* by
Jo Rippón**
<https://bit.ly/3f3OoXA>

This collection of protest posters is a testament to the rich visual legacy of dissent.

Watch

***The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* from Netflix**
<https://www.netflix.com/title/80189623>

This documentary traces the accomplishments of Marsha P. Johnson, one of the leaders of the Stonewall uprising, through the perspective of trans activist Victoria Cruz when she decides to investigate Johnson's suspicious 1992 death.

Explore

**"We Crunched the Numbers: Police – Not Protesters – Are Overwhelmingly Responsible for Attacking Journalists" by
Trevor Timm for *The Intercept***
<https://bit.ly/2YcGuoa>

Journalist Trevor Timm with team members from *The Intercept*_ investigated hundreds of press violations from 2019 and June 2020, showing police, not protestors, are responsible for attacking journalists.

