









































## **POLITICS OF PROTEST:**

The tradition of protesting in the U.S. is older than the... U.S.





To understand where the 2020 BLM demonstrations fit, researchers accessed government archives and information from unions and mission-driven organizations to create the Top 50 Protests.

























# **POLITICS OF PROTEST:**



The demonstrations that have made their mark on history range from the Boston Tea **Party and Temperance prayer** protests to demonstrations for modern-day issues, like Civil Rights, climate change, nuclear disarmament, reproductive health concerns, LGBTQ+ equality, and gun control.























#### **POLITICS OF PROTEST:**

By no means is this chronological list "complete"; rather, it provides a sampling across 50 mass protests that have occurred in the U.S. (and Puerto Rico) from 1688-2020.



The list and summaries were compiled by the journalists at the company "Stacker" in 2022.













#### 1688: Quaker Petition Against Slavery



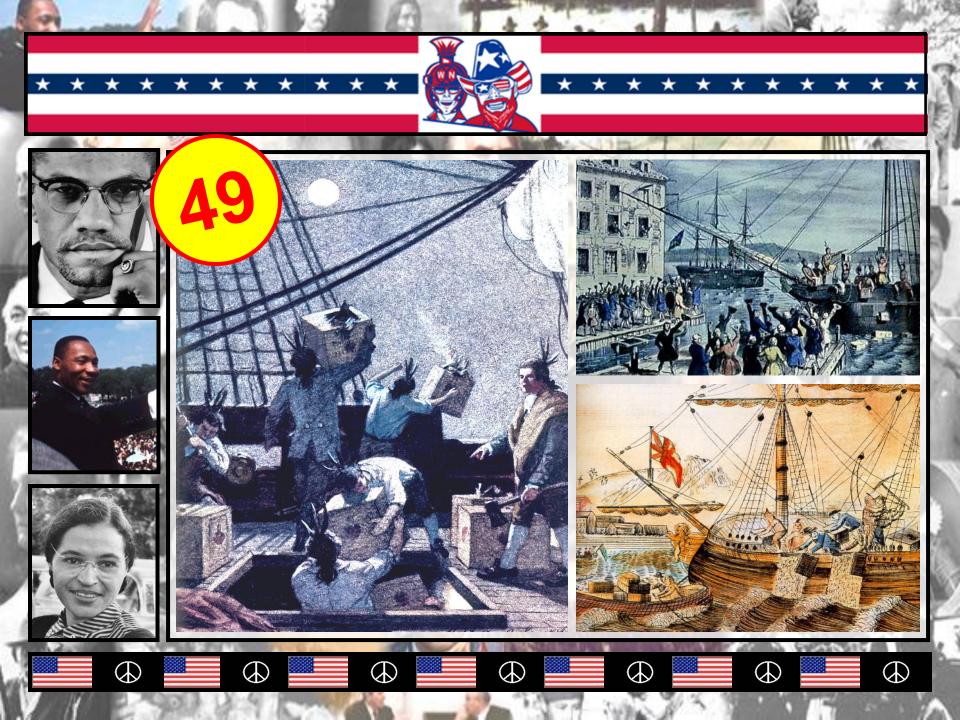


The group saw the enslavement of others as a contradiction to its religious values and its history of fleeing oppression from the British.



Sadly, the petition was not formally accepted by the higher governing bodies of the Quakers, but enslavement was eventually banned within the Quaker community in 1776.









## 1773: Boston Tea Party

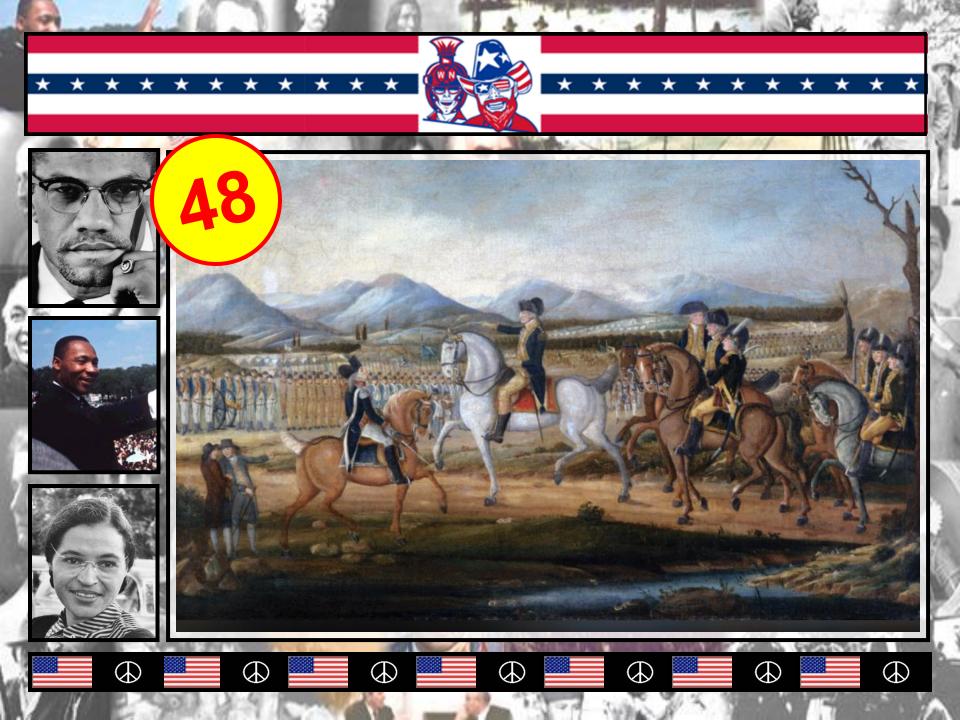


Protesters flooded Griffin's Wharf in Boston on a dreary
December evening in 1773 to demonstrate against the Tea Act,
which gave the British government an effective monopoly on
selling tea in the colonies.



People dumped hundreds of chests of tea from the British East India Company into the water – an act of defiance against British rule without representation of the colonists who just two years later would fight in the American Revolution.











#### 1791: Whiskey Rebellion



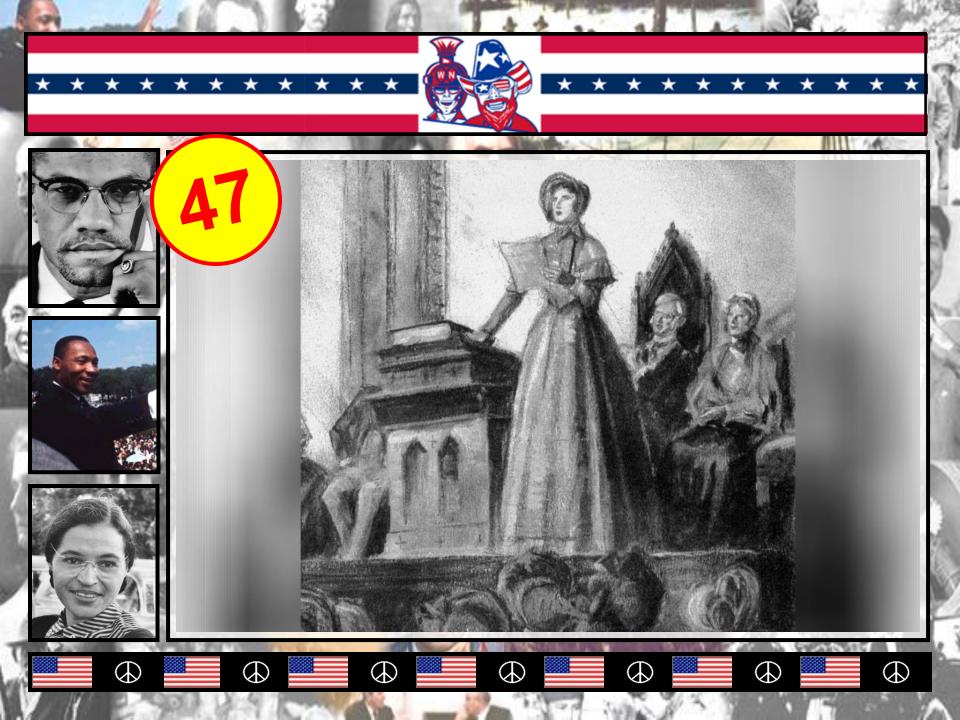
Enraged by a new duty on whiskey and distilled spirits implemented in 1791, farmers in Pennsylvania and Virginia used violence and acts of intimidation in attempts to stop the collection of the tax.

They justified their tactics with the belief that they were fighting against taxation without representation.



President George Washington and his troops headed to the area with the protests to demonstrate the government's authority to enforce laws.









#### 1848: Seneca Falls Convention



A group of feminists on July 19, 1848 hosted the first Women's Rights Convention in the U.S.: the Seneca Falls Convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

Around 300 people assembled to protest the government's unequal treatment of women and to call for women to be granted all the rights and freedoms outlined in the Declaration of Independence.



The convention gave the Women's Rights Movement the momentum it needed to pursue suffrage (the right to vote).











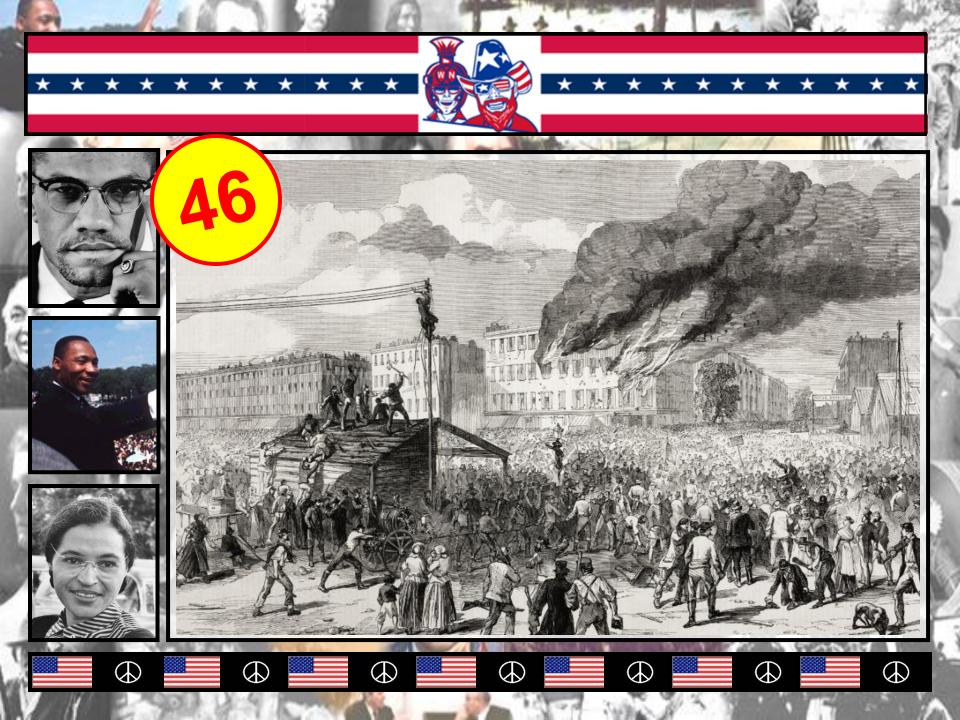
















# 1863: New York City Draft Riots



Violent demonstrations erupted in Lower Manhattan from July 13-16, 1863 in response to a decision by Congress to draft men into the Civil War.



The protests quickly devolved into a race riot as white protestors (comprised largely of Irish immigrants) began attacking black people – many of whom ended up permanently moving from Manhattan to Brooklyn.





























#### 1874: Women's Crusade

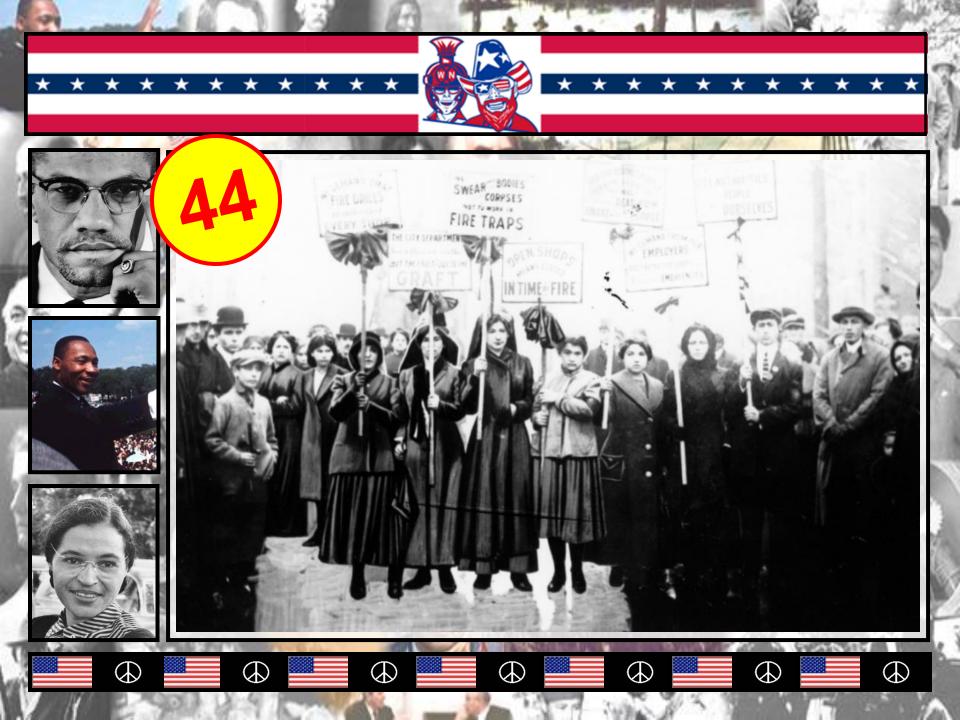


The Women's Crusade was a religious, anti-alcohol group.

Members of the group protested the sale of alcohol through picketing, marching, and public praying outside of saloons in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana, and Michigan in 1874.



The group was the predecessor to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which helped pave the way for Prohibition a few decades later.







## 1911: Triangle Shirtwaist Fire Protests

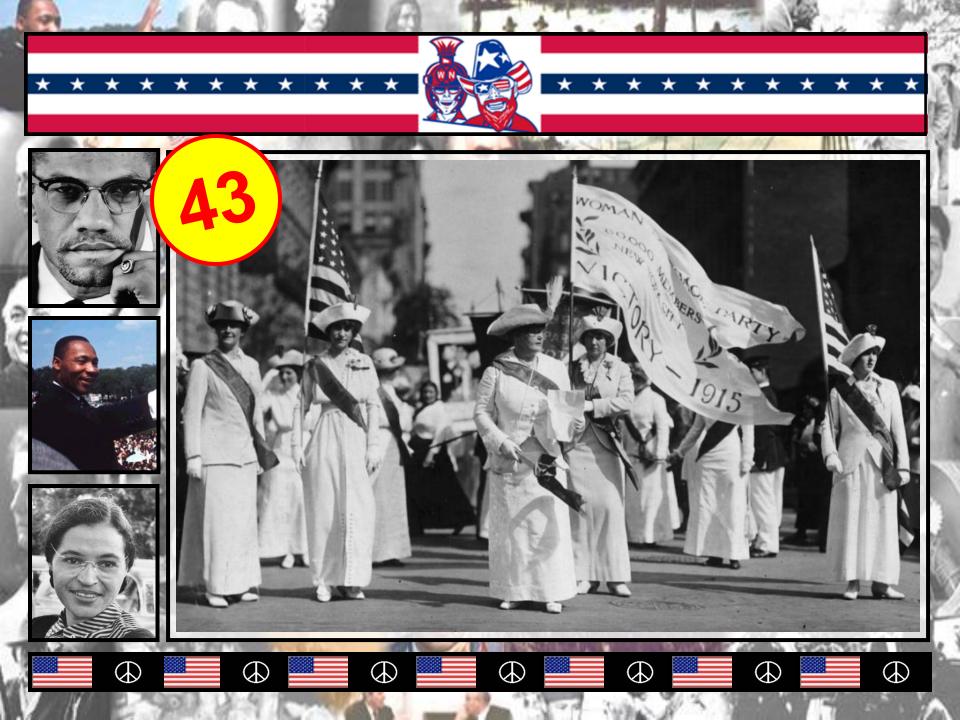


Labor rights activists mounted parades to draw attention to dangerous workplace conditions and mourn the victims of a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory that killed 146 garment workers in New York City on April 5, 1911.



Legislation was passed a few years later to increase workplace safety and allow people to work fewer hours.











#### 1913: Suffrage Movement

An estimated 5,000-8,000 protesters gathered to march down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C., ahead of President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration in 1913 to call for women's suffrage.



People in opposition to the protest assaulted many of the demonstrators, sparking public outrage that ultimately helped increase support for women's right to vote.



It was one of many protests for the women's suffrage movement that decade.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, was finally passed in 1920.









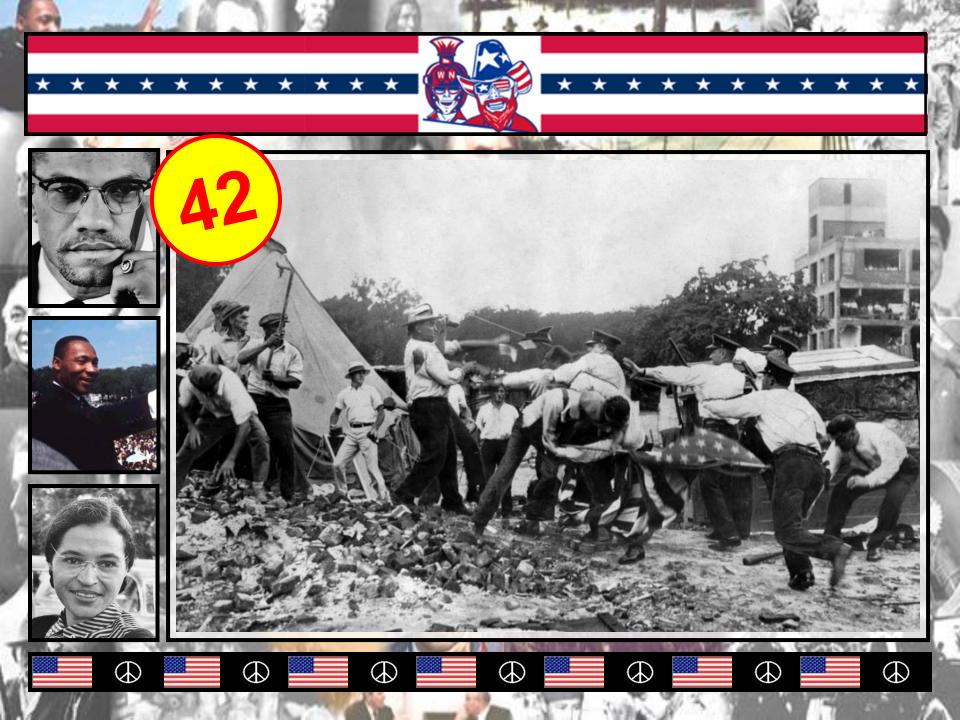






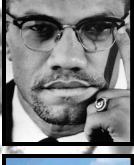
















Around 20,000 World War I Veterans and their families assembled in Washington D.C., in June 1932 in anticipation of the passage of a bill that would allow former military members to cash in certificates for \$1,000 bonuses early, in the midst of the Great Depression.

The bill failed in the Senate, and shortly after, the U.S. Army used gas, bayonets, and other weapons to destroy the camp and chase out the protesters.

The act of violence caused public outrage aimed largely at President Herbert Hoover.









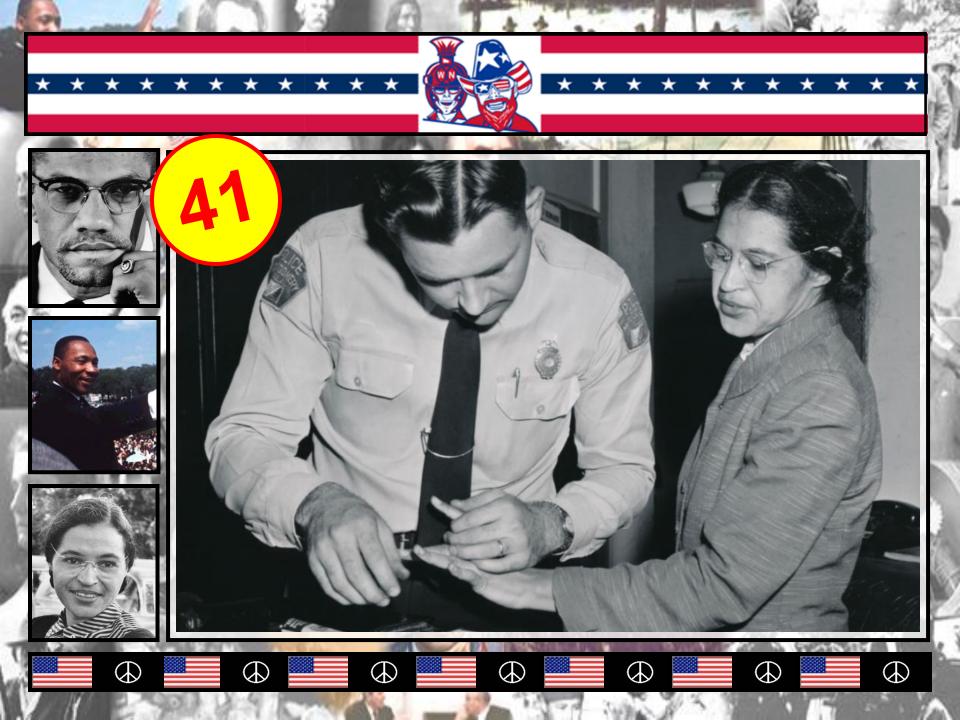


















#### 1955: Montgomery Bus Boycott



After Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, the black community in Montgomery, Alabama, banded together to boycott the city bus system in December 1955.

The boycott lasted more than a year, only ending once a court order forced the Montgomery buses to integrate.



The protests thrust Martin Luther King Jr. into a major leadership role of the Civil Rights Movement.











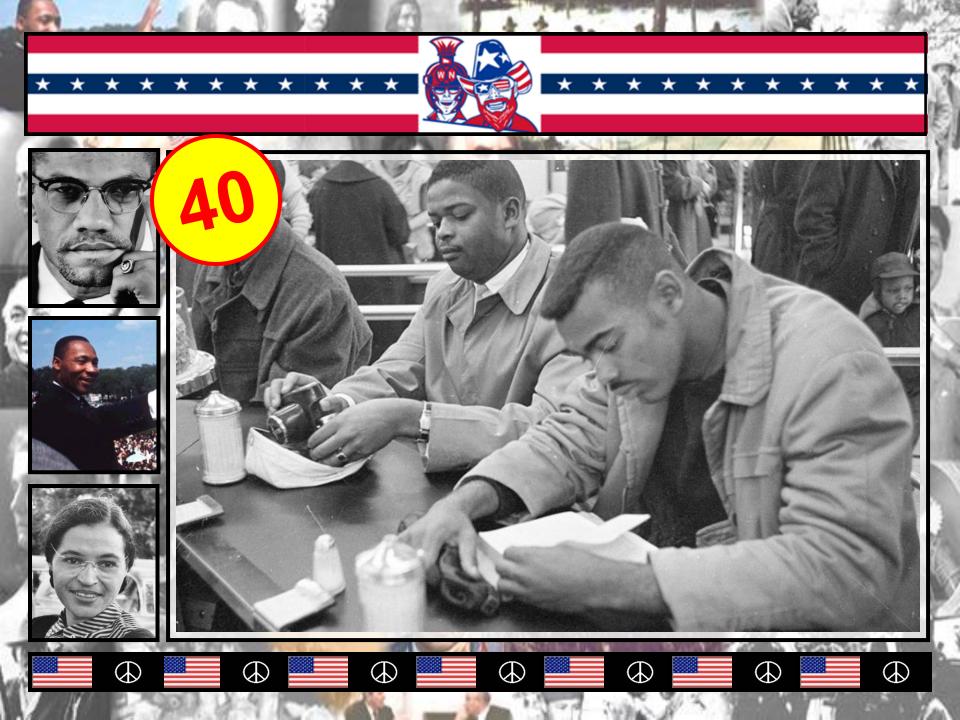






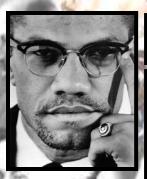












#### 1960: Greensboro Sit-In

On February 1, 1960, a group of young black students protested racial segregation by staging a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina.



They refused to give up their seats, despite being denied service because they were black, and even returned the following day with a larger group of protesters.



The sit-ins at restaurants popped up in 55 other cities by late March and lasted through July 25<sup>th</sup> of that year.

The protests led to Woolworth Department Stores ending segregation at its southern locations.

















































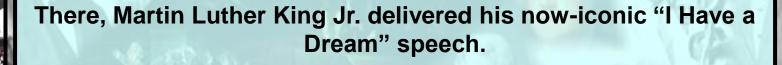






#### 1963: March on Washington

More than 200,000 protesters gathered for a peaceful demonstration outside the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. to call for racial equality in August 1963.



The protest put pressure on President John F. Kennedy to push forward Civil Rights policies.

It also helped get the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed.













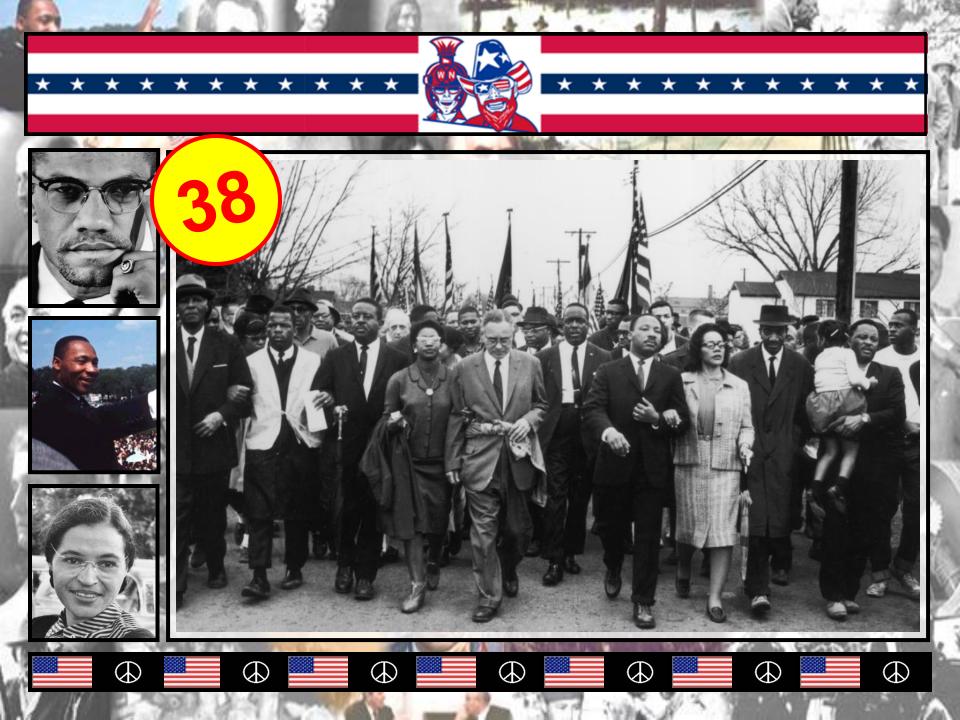


















#### Selma to Montgomery March



Thousands of peaceful activists led by Martin Luther King Jr. trekked from Selma, Alabama, to the state's capital of Montgomery in March 1965 to call for an end to the suppression of black voters.

Protesters were met with violence from white supremacist groups and local authorities throughout the five-day, 54-mile journey.



**President Lyndon B. Johnson would sign the Voting Rights Act** of 1965 just a few months later.









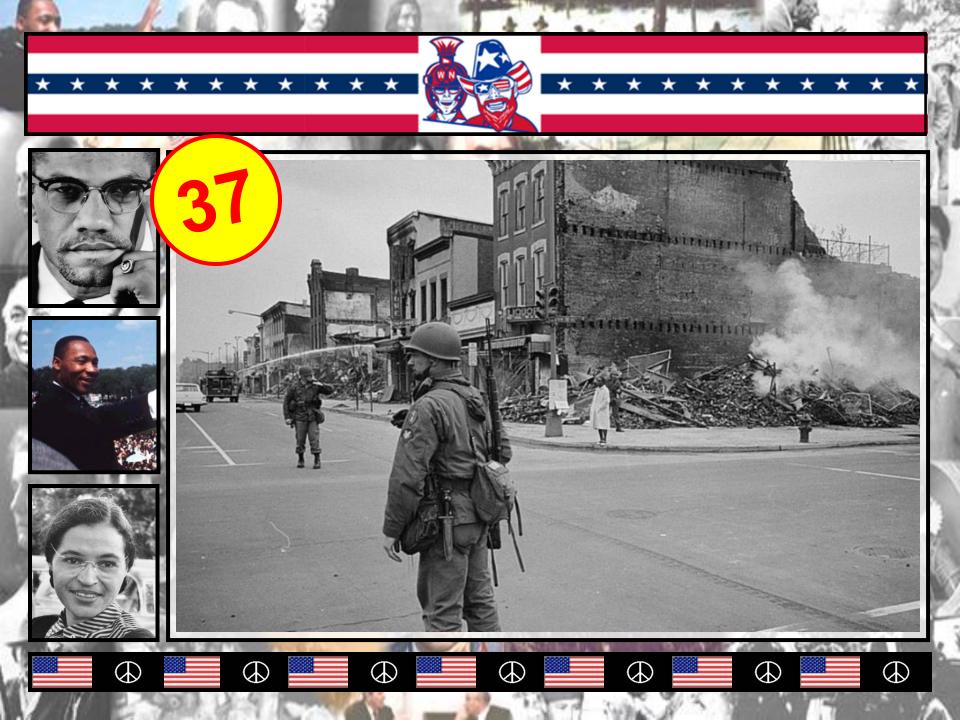
















#### 1968: Holy Week Uprising



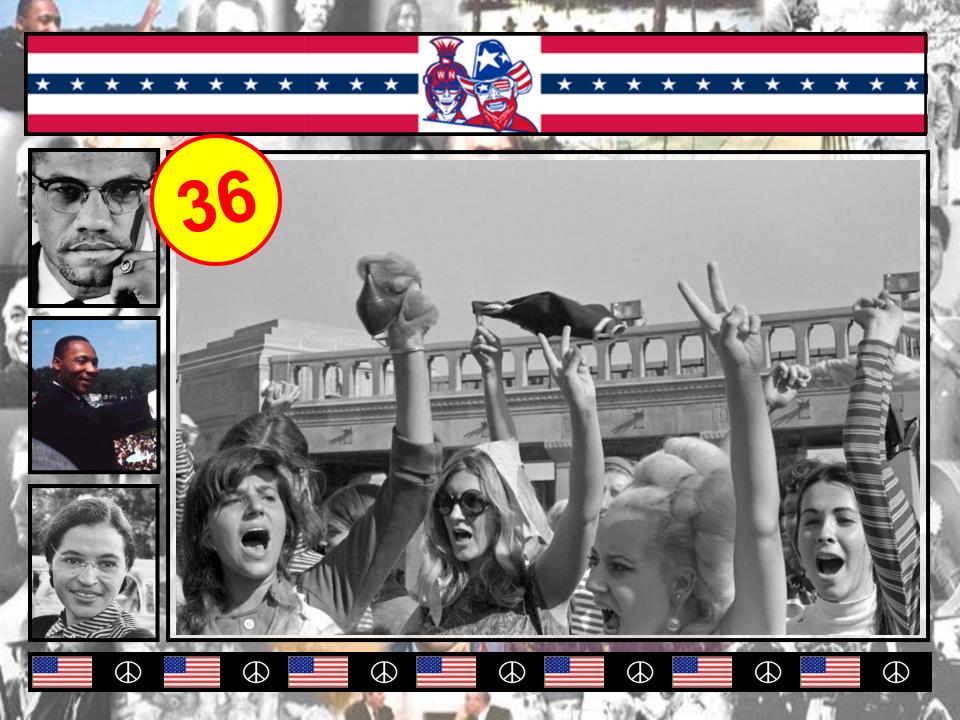
A wave of civil unrest swept through the nation after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, with the largest riots occurring in Washington D.C., Chicago, and Baltimore.

The National Guard and federal troops were called in to stop many of the riots, which left 43 dead and thousands arrested.



The riots helped revive a bill for federal fair housing and get the legislation passed in Congress.











#### 1968: Bra "Burning" at Miss America

Around 400 second-wave feminists organized a protest of the Miss America pageant near New Jersey's Atlantic City Convention Center on September 7, 1968.



They wanted to speak out against the "ludicrous beauty standards" women were supposed to adhere to, according to Megan Gibson of Time.



The protesters tossed bras and other symbols of oppression into a trash can, which was never set on fire, but still gave birth to the myth of the "bra-burning feminist".





























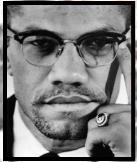












## 1969: Stonewall Inn Riots



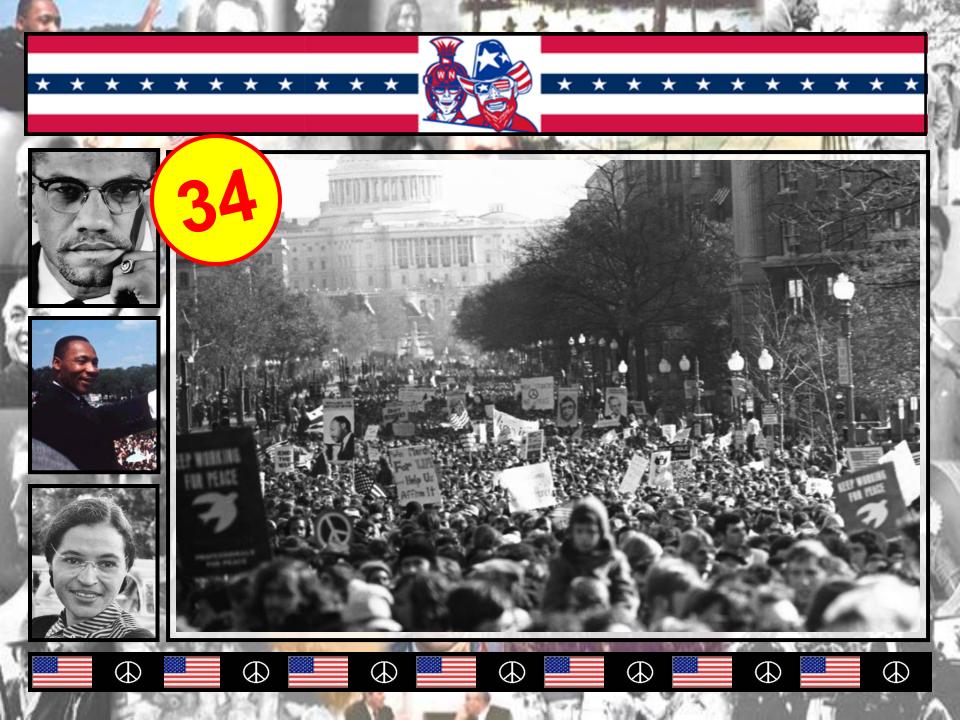
On June 28, 1969, New York City police conducted a raid on a gay bar called the Stonewall Inn.

Spontaneous and violent protests and riots occurred immediately after the raid and continued for the next six days.



The unrest ignited the Gay Rights Movement around the world.









## 1969: Vietnam War Protest



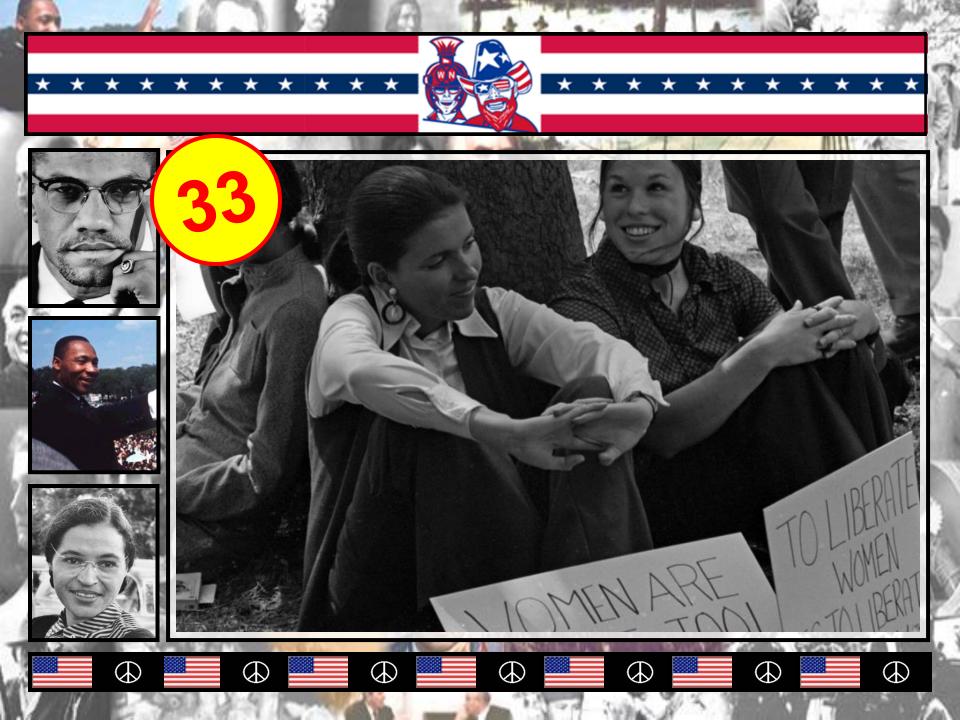
The streets of Washington D.C., were flooded with more than half a million demonstrators calling for the end of the Vietnam War in November 1969.

The protest was part of a string of rallies that erupted across the world that year.



The Vietnam War wouldn't end for another six years.











### 1970: Sit-In at Ladies' Home Journal

A group of around 100 feminists staged an 11-hour sit-in at the offices of Ladies' Home Journal on March 18, 1970.

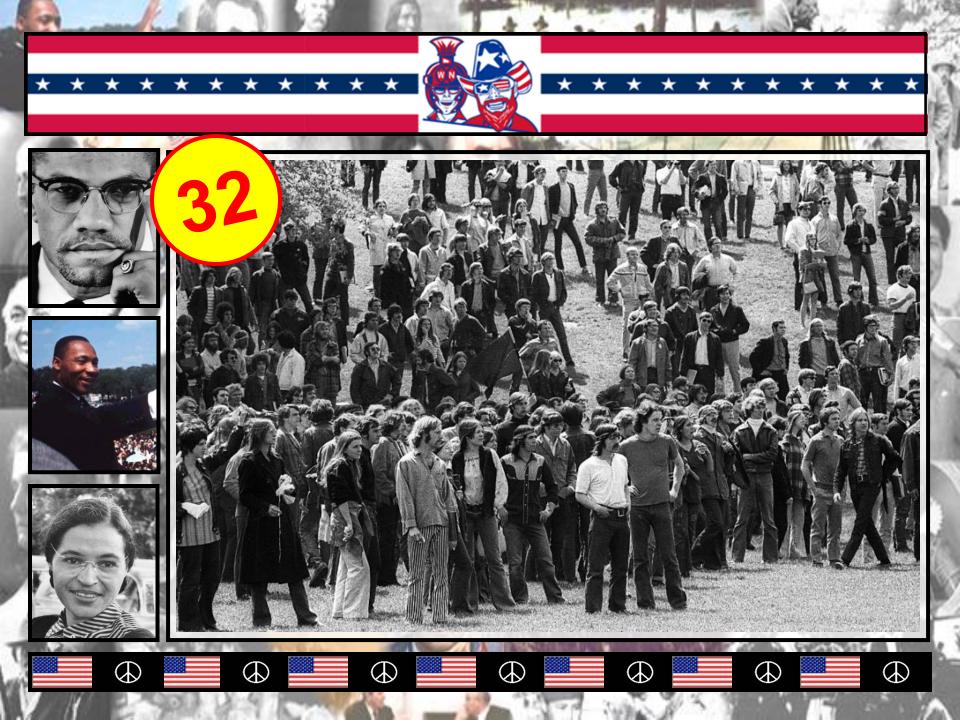


The protesters called for the magazine to hire women to fill editorial staff roles, including editor-in-chief, commission women writers for columns, increase employment of women of color, and raise women's salaries, among other demands.



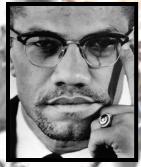
The protest resulted in the company agreeing to let the feminists create part of an issue of the magazine, and eventually hiring only women editors-in-chief starting in 1973.











## Kent State Anti-War Gathering

Around 3,000 people gathered for an anti-war rally on the Commons of Kent State University on May 4, 1970.



Ohio National Guardsman, who had been called to the campus after protesters and local police had a violent confrontation the week before, fired at the protesters, killing four and injuring another nine people.



The shootings triggered student strikes nationwide and "began the slide into Watergate, eventually destroying the Nixon administration," according to Jerry M. Lewis and Thomas R. **Hensley of Kent State University.** 











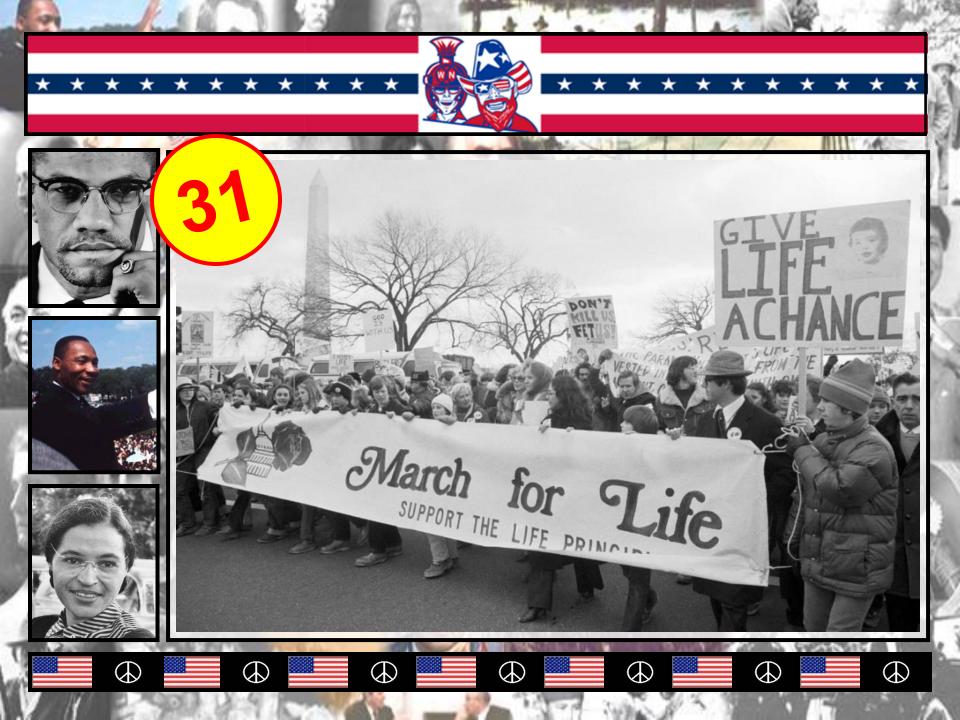
















## 1973: March for Life



Anti-abortion protesters gathered in Washington D.C., for the first March for Life rally on January 22, 1974.

While it was initially intended as a one-time event aimed at pressuring the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the March for Life became an annual event continuing today.



In 2020, President Donald Trump spoke at the March for Life, making him the first President to do so.











## 1973: First "Take Back the Night" March

"Take Back the Night" events began in Belgium and England in the 1960s to draw awareness to the issue of women feeling unsafe walking on streets alone at night.

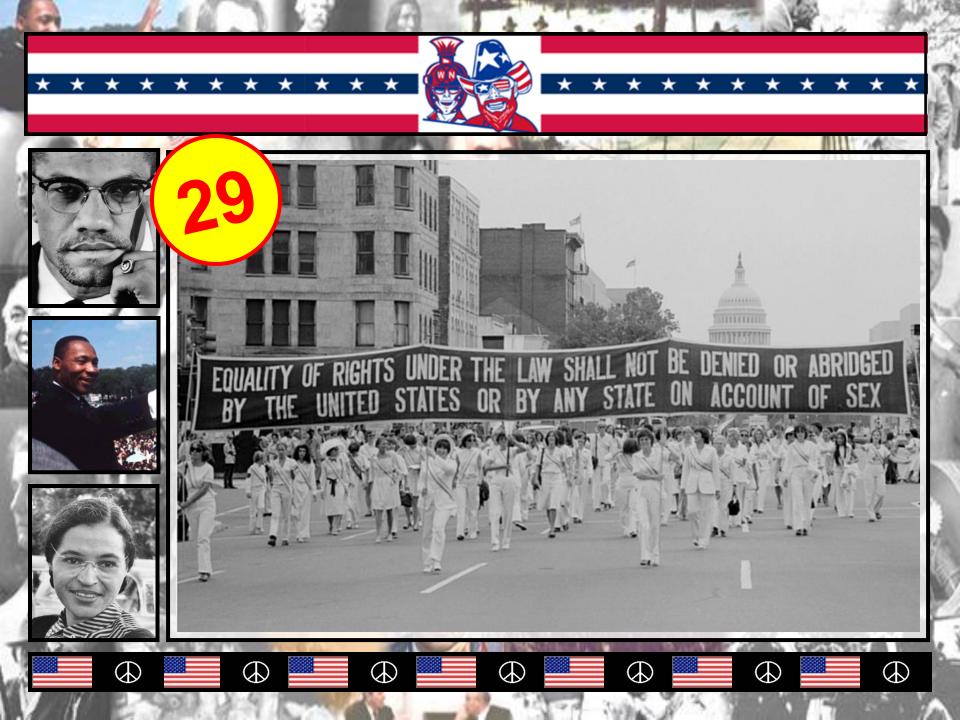


The movement hit the U.S. in 1973 at the University of Southern Florida, when women dressed in black sheets and paraded through the campus while holding broomsticks, demanding that the school open a women's center.



"Take Back the Night" protests now occur annually in communities around the world as part of an effort to end sexual violence.









# 1976: Equal Rights Amendment Marches



The National Organization for Women (NOW) staged a series of marches and protests in Illinois beginning in May 1976 protesting the state's resistance to ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The first demonstration drew about 16,000 people to Springfield, Illinois, while a record 90,000 people attended another march in Chicago on Mother's Day 1980.

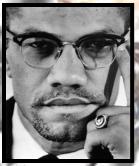


Illinois eventually ratified the ERA in 2018.









## 1979: Lesbian & Gay Rights March on D.C.



After attempting to organize a march for LGBT rights since 1973, activists finally made it happen with the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 14, 1979.

The event attracted up to 125,000 members and allies of the LGBT community and urged Congress to pass protective civil rights legislation.



It helped make the Gay Rights Movement a national issue.







































# 1981: Solidarity Day March

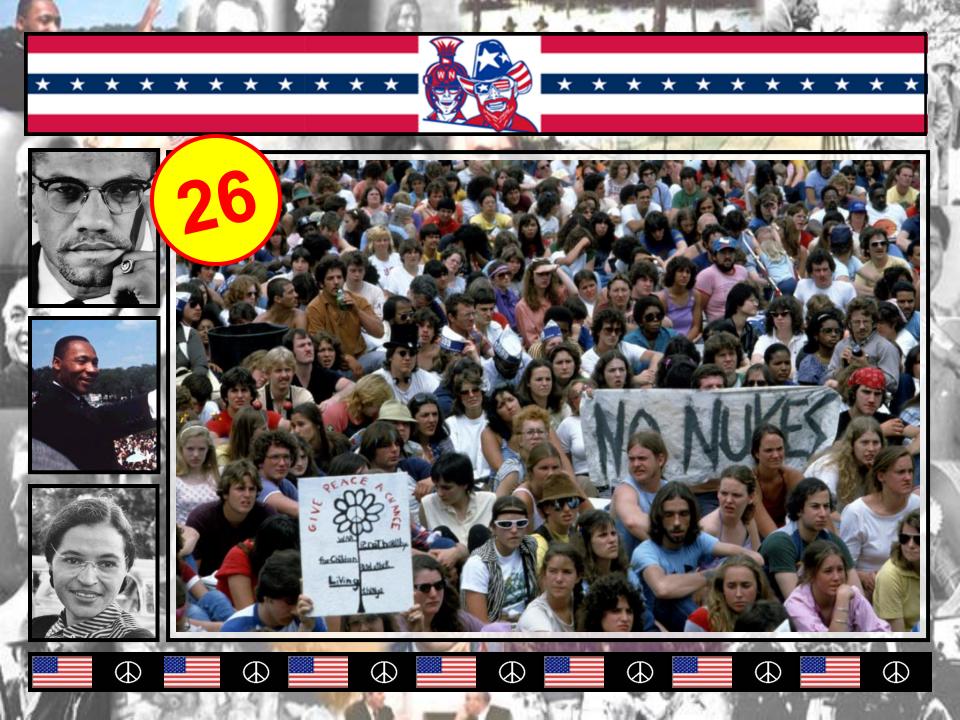


Around 260,000 people took to the streets of Washington D.C., on September 19, 1981, for the Solidarity Day march against union-busting.



The protest was sparked after President Ronald Reagan fired more than 12,000 air traffic controllers who had been striking for increased workplace safety and higher wages.









# 1982: Anti-Nuclear Weapons Protest



An estimated 1 million protesters gathered in New York City's Central Park on June 12, 1982, to protest nuclear weapons.

The event was intended to show widespread support for nuclear disarmament ahead of the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament.











### 1986: Nuclear Disarmament Peace March



The Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament was a cross-country walk organized to raise awareness for the growing threat of nuclear proliferation.

Around 400 people completed the 3,600-mile, eight-month journey from Los Angeles to Washington D.C.



It ended with the marchers and thousands of supporters singing "This Land Is Your Land" in unison across from the White House.











## 1987: Second Lesbian & Gay Rights March



The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, a grassroots organization aimed at ending the AIDS epidemic, got its first national coverage on October 11, 1987, when hundreds of thousands of protesters rallied in Washington D.C. for the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.



The march was just one of many activities held over a series of six days, which also included the first public viewing of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

It is sometimes referred to as "The Great March" for its historical significance in the Gay Rights Movement.









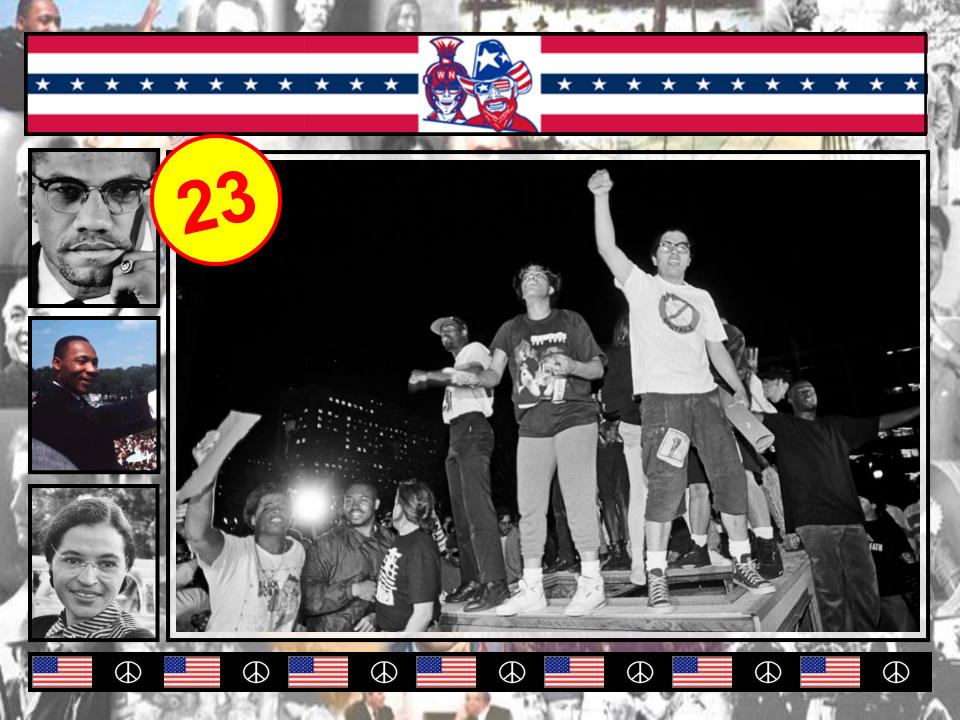


















The six days of violent demonstrations of the Los Angeles uprising, also called the Los Angeles Riots, occurred from April 29-May 4, 1992, after four Los Angeles police officers (who were white) were acquitted of the charges related to their brutal beating of Rodney King, a black man.



The National Guard and the U.S. military were called in to help end the unrest throughout Los Angeles.











## 1993: Lesbian, Gay & Bi Rights March



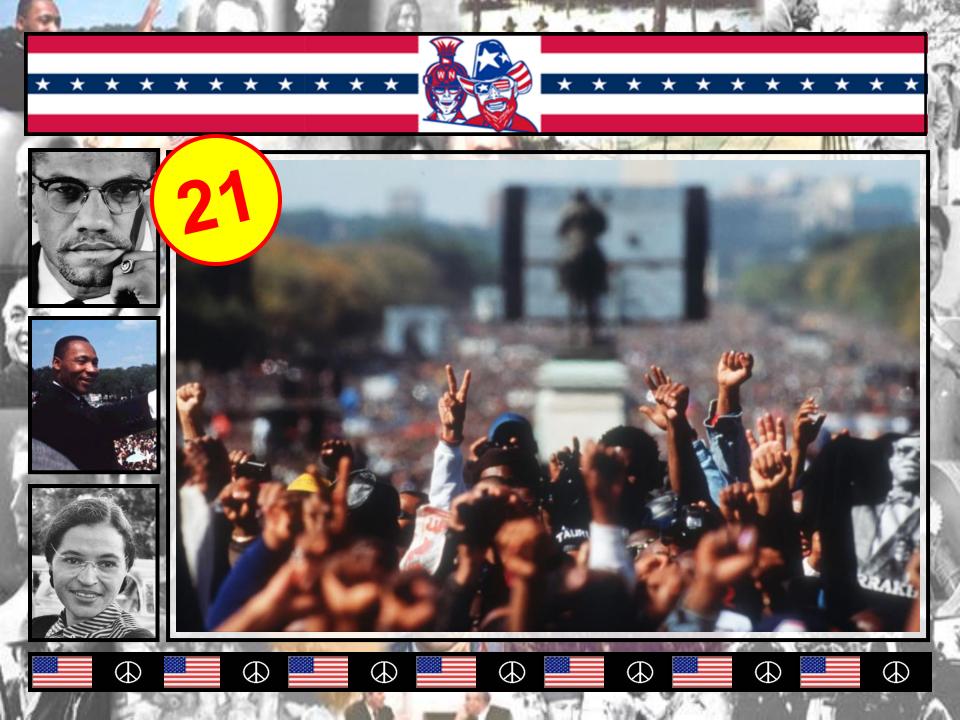
An estimated 1 million people participated in the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation at the D.C. Mall on April 25, 1993.

The protesters had seven primary demands, including a civil rights bill to end discrimination against members of the LGBT community and increased funding for AIDS research and treatments, among others.

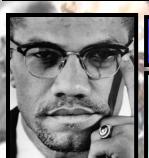


The event helped give people of all sexual orientation greater attention from the media and politicians.









#### 1995: Million Man March

In an effort to encourage black unity and promote family values, between 400,000 and 1.1. million people (most of whom were black men) gathered in Washington D.C. for the Million Man March on October 16, 1995.



The event featured speeches from Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Cornel West, Jesse Jackson, and other prominent attendees.

A theme throughout the march and events was for black people to register to vote as a means to gain more political say-so.



Following the events, around 1.7 million black men became registered voters.























## 1997: Million Woman March



Modeled after the Million Man March two years earlier, the Million Woman March involved half a million protesters, largely comprised of black women, parading on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia on October 25, 1997.



The daylong event was intended to unite black women and focus attention on issues that affected their families and communities.









### 1999: Seattle WTO Protests



At least 40,000 protestors rallied against globalization and widening wealth inequality on November 30, 1999 outside the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, which was hosting a World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting.

During the protest, demonstrators smashed Starbucks and Nike store windows around Seattle and police arrested around 600 people.



The demonstrations proved disruptive to the WTO delegates' meeting.

























































### 2000: Million Mom March



Organized exclusively by word-of-mouth, the Million Mom March drew around 750,000 people to Washington's National Mall on Mother's Day 2000 to call for increased gun control regulations.



The protest included a display of a "wall of death" that contained the names of more than 4,000 victims of gun violence.











#### 2003: Iraq War Protests



Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators gathered near the United Nations in New York City on February 15, 2003 to rally against the war with Iraq. Similar protests (as well as counterprotests) took place in major U.S. cities and around the world.



The protests failed to prevent the war, but did demonstrate widespread disapproval of the Bush Administration's plan, helped avoid a war in Iran "and inspired a generation of activists," according to Phyllis Bennis, author of "Challenging Empire: How People, Governments and the U.N. Defy U.S. Power".









































#### 2004: March for Women's Lives



Around 1.15 million demonstrators took to the streets of Washington D.C. on April 25, 2004, for the March for Women's Lives, a rally to call for protection of abortion rights and access to birth control and reproductive health care, according to the National Organization for Women.



The event made major news headlines and inspired the creation of a new voter registration campaign known as "10 for Change".































#### 2006: Day Without an Immigrant

The Day Without an Immigrant, also known as the Great American Boycott, involved immigrants across the United States boycotting schools and businesses on May 1, 2006, in an effort to demonstrate the necessity of undocumented immigrant labor to the economy.

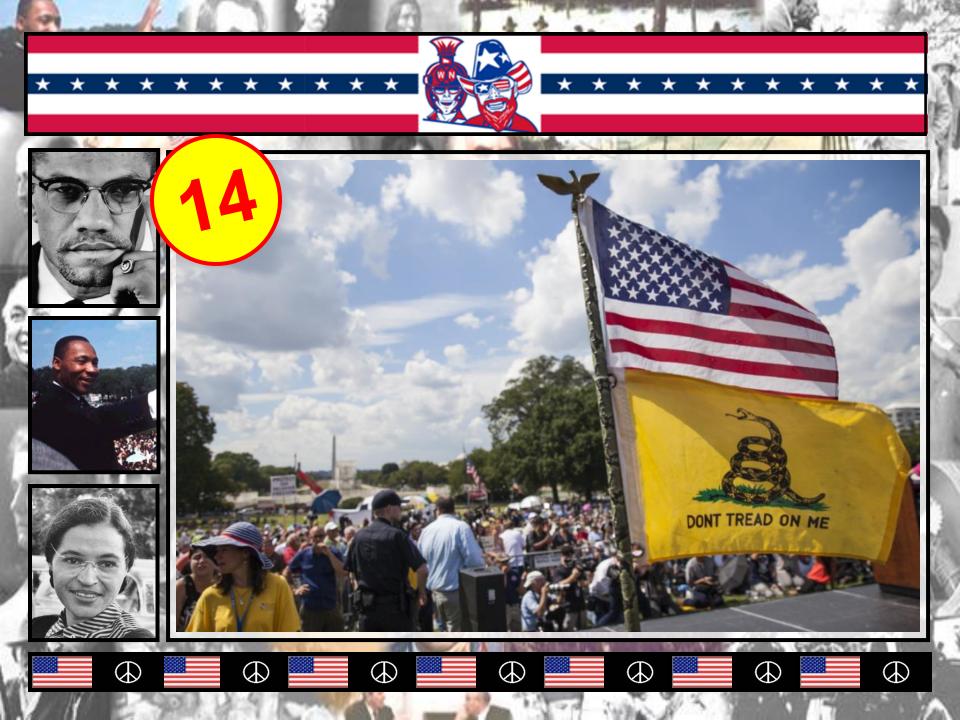


The event also included rallies and marches across the country, spearheaded by two marches in Los Angeles that drew up to 2 million people.



On the day of the event, Cargill Meat Solutions shut down seven of its plants, giving 15,000 workers the day off, and Goya Foods suspended delivery in most of the U.S.













#### 2009: Tea Party Protests

A series of protests related to the Tea Party movement, a conservative political movement aimed at fighting excessive taxes and government regulation on the private sector and increasing immigration controls, occurred throughout the U.S. in 2009.

While a lack of leadership gave the grassroots movement limited power, Tea Partiers did make an impact on elections in 2009 and 2010, putting momentum behind conservative and libertarian candidates.































#### 2010: Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear





The rally, which mocked the Reclaim the Dream and Restoring Honor rallies, was intended to draw attention away from partisan politics and instead focus the political conversation against corruption.



Donations from the rally's charity drive brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions to "Donors Choose" and the Trust for the National Mall.















































After being denied entrance to Wall Street, thousands of activists set up a demonstration with hundreds camping out overnight, at nearby Zuccotti Park in New York City to protest against economic inequality in September 2011.

The protest lasted for months and inspired other Occupy demonstrations in cities around the world.

The demonstration drew lots of attention from politicians, got around 600,000 people to transfer their savings from major banks to community credit unions, and pushed the issues of the 99% into the national spotlight.

















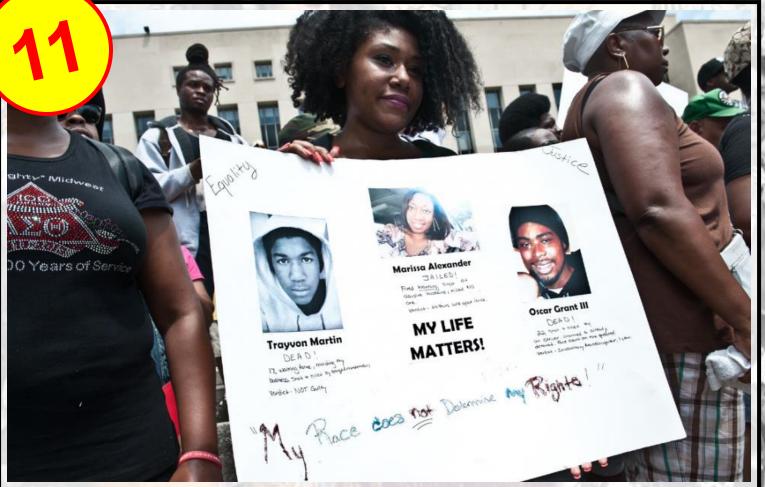










































#### 2013: First "BLM" Protests



Protests broke out across the U.S. after George Zimmerman was found not guilty of second degree murder for the shooting of Trayvon Martin, a black teenager, in Sanford, Florida.



The protests were part of the birth of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement.











































#### 2014: People's Climate Change



Dubbed the largest climate change march in history, the People's Climate March included some 310,000 demonstrators marching down the streets of Manhattan on September 21, 2014.

Companion events also took place around the world under the People's Climate March banner.



It drew international attention to concerns about climate change days ahead of the United Nations' 2014 Climate Summit at its New York headquarters.











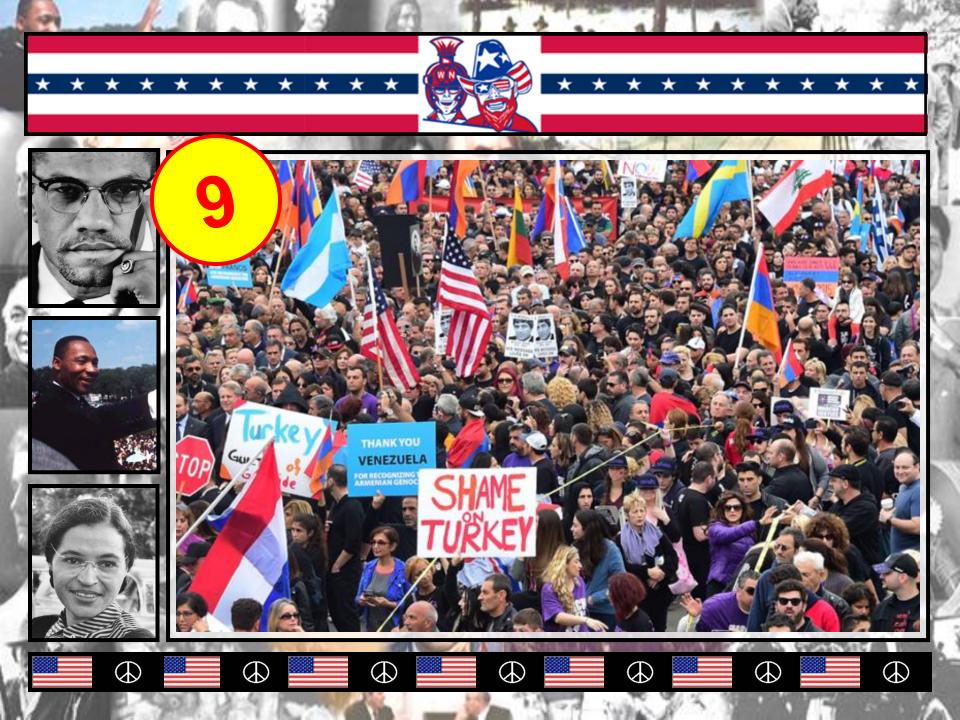
















#### 2015: Armenian March for Justice



A march of more than 130,000 protesters, which stretched for 6 miles from the Little Armenia neighborhood of Hollywood to Los Angeles' Turkish consulate, took place on April 24, 2015, in demand that Turkey officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.



While 32 countries officially recognize the Armenian Genocide, Turkey and its ally Azerbaijan continue to deny the systemic mass murder of 1.5 million Armenians.











#### 2016: Dakota Access Pipeline Protests



Thousands of Native Americans and their allies gathered in rural Cannon Ball, North Dakota, to protest against the Dakota Access pipeline in early 2016.

Activists feared that the oil pipeline would contaminate the Missouri River water supply and threaten sacred native land.



The demonstrations motivated President Barack Obama's administration to deny an easement for pipeline construction, which was reversed by President Donald Trump weeks later.









#### 2017: Women's March on Washington



Nearly half a million people (mostly women) marched down the streets of Washington D.C. on January 21, 2017, to show support for Women's Rights and demonstrate against newly elected President Donald Trump.



Millions of other people took part in similar protests around the world that day.

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#### 2017: March for Science



Around 100,000 protesters took to the streets of Washington D.C. on Earth Day 2017 to call on politicians to use science when making policy decisions on public health and climate change.



Similar demonstrations took place in more than 600 other cities across the globe, bringing the total attendance at The March for Science to more than 1 million people.









#### 2018: Women's March



Re-energized from the #MeToo movement, women's groups around the country organized mass rallies on January 20, 2018, around the anniversary of the Women's March of 2017.



The events drew millions of attendees, including more than 200,000 marchers in New York City and an estimated 600,000 people in Los Angeles, calling for an end to the oppression of women.











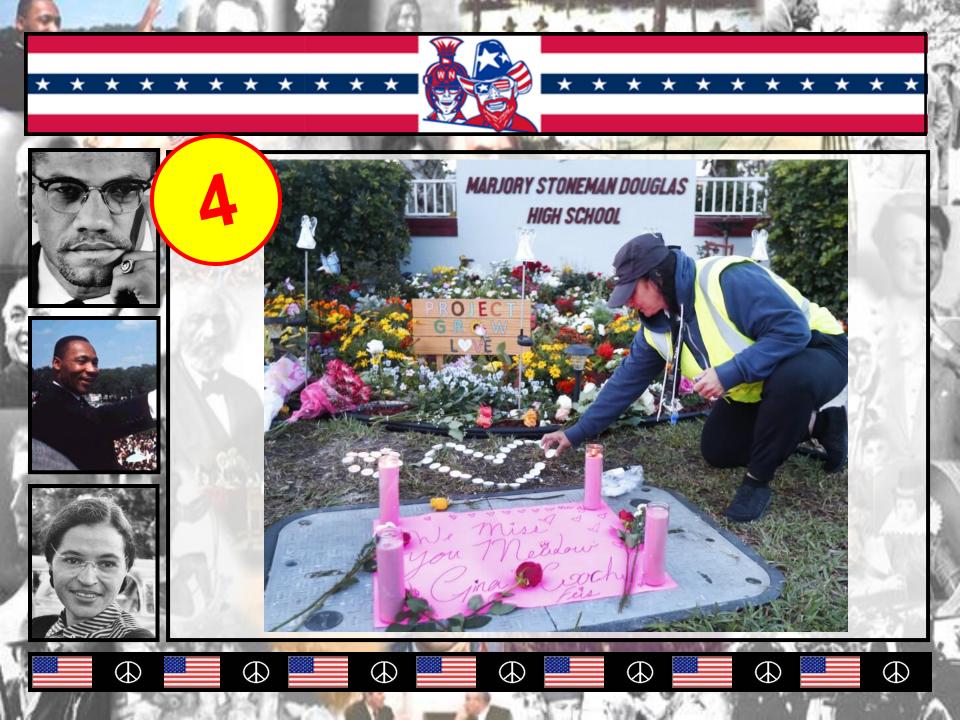
















#### 2018: March for Our Lives

On February 14, 2018, a gunman opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing 17 people and injuring 17 others.



The students responded to their personal tragedy by building a movement to stop gun violence.

It began with a March for Our Lives demonstration in Washington, D.C., a month after the murders, and close to a thousand associated events across the country, with a turnout estimated between 1.2 million and 2 million protesters.



The Parkland students formed Never Again MSD to urge young people to register to vote.







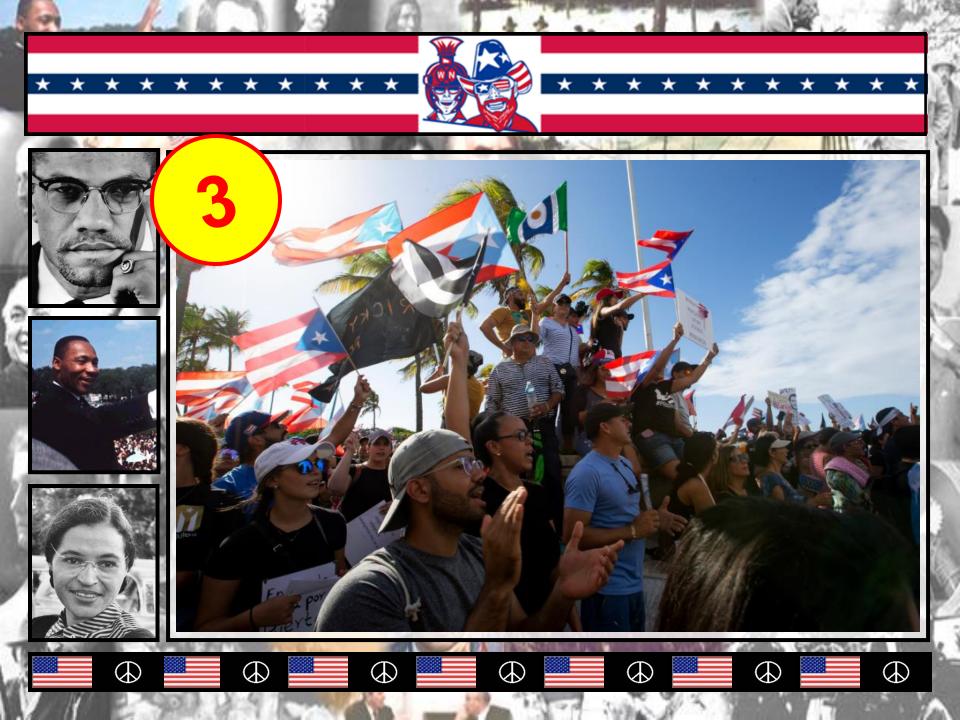


















#### 2019: Puerto Rican Telegramgate Protests



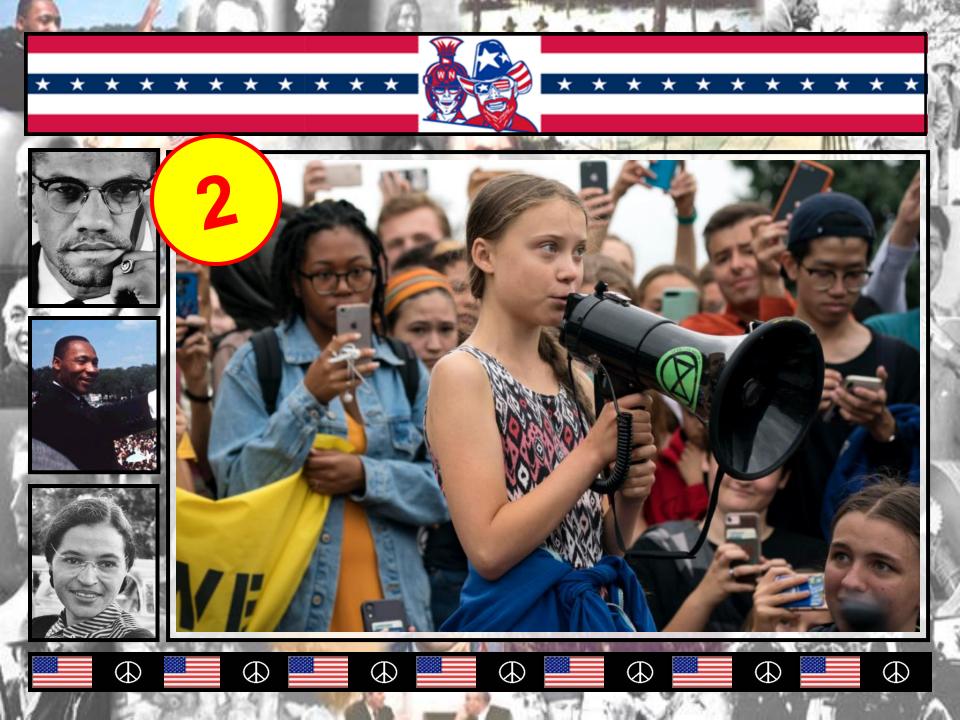
Mass protests arose in Puerto Rico in July 2019 in response to Telegramgate, a political scandal in which hundreds of racist and homophobic messages sent by former Governor Ricardo Rosselló via the app Telegram were leaked to the public.

Around a million people protested on July 17<sup>th</sup> and again on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, shutting down a major highway.



While Rosselló initially refused to step down, he eventually resigned several weeks later.











#### 2019: September Climate Strike

Inspired by 17-year-old climate change activist Greta Thunberg, more than 1,000 strike events occurred in the U.S. in late September 2019 calling for a Green New Deal, respect for native land, environmental justice, sustainable agriculture, and protection of biodiversity.



Public school students in New York City, Boston, Chicago, and other cities were given permission to skip school to participate in the event, and some 250,000 people attended New York City rallies.



The strike would show politicians and the media that youth were united in support of measures to fight climate change.











#### 2020: George Floyd "BLM" Protests



More than 450 protests against police brutality and institutional racism happened throughout the United States in late May and June 2020 after the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed when a white Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, kneeled on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.



Solidarity protests erupted around the world, as well. The demonstrations sparked widespread dialogue about de-funding or reforming the police.

























# QUESTION



1. Look at Protests #50-41. Of those 10, which 2 do you believe had the biggest impact on social and/or political change? Why?







# QUESTION



2. Look at Protests #40-31. Of those 10, which 2 do you believe had the biggest impact on social and/or political change? Why?







# QUESTION 3



3. Look at Protests #30-21. Of those 10, which 2 do you believe had the biggest impact on social and/or political change? Why?







# QUESTION



4. Look at Protests #20-11. Of those 10, which 2 do you believe had the biggest impact on social and/or political change? Why?







# QUESTION 5



5. Look at Protests #10-1. Of those 10, which 2 do you believe had the biggest impact on social and/or political change? Why?







