

Protests in History

Protests have been occurring for hundreds of years throughout history, in support of a variety of causes. Unjust killings, unjust arrests, unjust government legislations are a few of the motivating causes for people from different backgrounds to band together, and fight for change. It's astonishing how throughout the course of history, protests have occurred anywhere and everywhere. Whether that may be walking in the middle of the street for hours in a row, or gathering together at a park with colorful picket signs. Parks all over the world can be used for recreational purposes one second, and then used to gather large quantities of people in the name of protesting for a righteous cause, the next. I choose these two pictures because of the drastic contrasts, at the exact same place. As seen in the first picture, there's a group of girls gathered in a circle having a picnic, in front of the Parkman Bandstand. It isn't very populated in that photo but before the pandemic on a hot summer day, it was not peculiar to see a band performing festive music for a large crowd of people. In the second picture, there is a severe contrast in circumstances. It is no longer people lounging and having fun, it is a group of fed up individuals protesting in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. George Floyd's murder in 2020 sparked outrage within the African-American community, and many others from different ethnic background protested in support. The raised fist in the picture symbolizes unity or solidarity within an oppressed group of people. But this definitely isn't the first protest that has occurred at the Parkman Bandstand. Those who visit the park may not be aware of the historical significance of this landmark. In 1969, protests were held against the Vietnam War in the pursuit of ending the war, and acquiring world peace. In 1970, protestors gathered in support of Angela Davis, who was wrongfully imprisoned for murder and kidnapping. Protests are an important part of history, and even the most random parks may have a rich history behind them.

