

# Protest Songs

Lazy Trout 10 Feb 2014-02-09  
Based on Wikipedia

1. What do we define as a protest song?

2. The era of civil and religious wars of the 17th century in Britain gave rise to the radical communist millenarian Levellers and Diggers' movements and their associated ballads and hymns, as, for example, "The Diggers' Song" with the incendiary verse....

*But the Gentry must come down,  
and the poor shall wear the crown.  
Stand up now, Diggers all!*

3. "Songs which support the status quo do not qualify as protest songs."

4. It is a coincidence that the death of Pete Seeger occurred only a couple weeks. Seeger wrote *Where have all the Flowers Gone, If I had a Hammer and Turn!, Turn! Turn!* all standards of the 1960s protest era. What are our favourite protest songs?

5. What purpose do protest songs serve?

6. How effective are protest songs in bringing about the social change they espouse?

7. A song composed for the Aldermarston CND march in 1958 : "The H-Bomb's Thunder", set the words of a poem by novelist John Brunner to the tune of "Miner's Lifeguard":

*"Men and women, stand together  
Do not heed the men of war  
Make your minds up now or never  
Ban the bomb for evermore."*

8. I never thought of the Sex Pistols work as protest songs ....Obvious really.

God save the queen  
The fascist regime  
They made you a moron  
Potential H-bomb

I am an anti-Christ  
I am an anarchist,  
Don't know what I want  
But I know how to get it  
I wanna destroy the passerby  
'Cos I wanna be anarchy'  
No dogs body

9. Can you think of a protest work in the classical music style?

10. Did Occupy have a protest song? Has the protest song had its day?

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