



Why We March: Full Transcript

[01:00:05:10] TITLE: *Do political protests make a difference?*

[01:00:08:20] TITLES: *Congress shall make no law prohibiting the right of the people peaceably to assemble.*

[01:00:11:09] ERIC LIU: The right to free speech, free assembly?

[01:00:014:09] TITLES: *and to petition the government for a redress of grievances - The First Amendment.*

[01:00:15:00] ERIC LIU: The right to petition our government?

[01:00:18:13] [Crowds cheering, chanting]

[01:00:21:23] ERIC LIU: These rights are not abstract, these rights are made most visibly and palpably real when people come together and they protest.

[01:00:29:21]: [Protesters chant]

[01:00:35:17] TITLES: *Why We March*

[01:00:39:06] [protester: "It's the love movement"]

[01:00:40:18] ERIC LIU: In a democracy, change begins with harnessing voice. We have to disrupt the normal, in order to change the status quo!

[01:00:48:15] PROTESTER: Boycott Hollywood! And all of the commies!

[01:00:52:05] [crowd chanting, woman says: "Does it sound right to you?" crowd: Hell no!"]

[01:00:56:05] ERIC LIU: Protest is inherently about passion. Expressing pain, fear, hope, aspiration, anger, and so of course it can be raw sometimes, of course it can get confrontational.

[01:01:07:09]: [Protesters arguing, chanting]

[01:01:13:20] [man: "Y'all wanna shoot?"]

[01:01:15:20] ERIC LIU: Things spin out of control sometimes in protest and that is a price you pay for free speech.

[01:01:22:05]: [Protesters chant "This is what democracy looks like!"]

[01:01:24:10] RAYMOND FIGUEROA: When an issue is so morally offensive, how do you respond to that? If we're coming out in the streets, it's because not enough is happening and we're very hot and bothered.

[01:01:32:15]: [Protesters chant]

[01:01:34:16] MARK MECKLER: The quintessential protest movement, the Boston Tea Party. Dumping a bunch of tea in Boston Harbor protesting a tea tax. Things actually really changed. They repealed the tea tax. That's the gift that was bequeathed to us by the founders, that freedom of conscience, of belief, of speech.

[01:01:51:23] CIVIL RIGHTS SPEAKER: Freedom, freedom, freedom! Now!

[01:01:54:14] ERIC LIU: In 1963 this scene behind me was filled with people, uh, on the March on Washington and Martin Luther King spoke about having a dream.

[01:02:02:16]: [protesters from the March on Washington chanting]

[01:02:03:22] ERIC LIU: He had no expectation that civil rights would be achieved that day, that week, that month. What he did have an expectation was that the show off force tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people in the national mall, was going to send a message to the entire country that a moment had arrived!

[01:02:22:02] ROSARIO DAWSON: Martin Luther King's March on Washington was a huge act of civil disobedience, and it achieved something really concrete, and if you forget that, and if you allow them to own that narrative of like "it's in the past," then you're...you're being robbed of your power.

[01:02:36:19]: [protesters clapping, chanting]

[01:02:38:06] KEVIN ZEESE: What movements do is they change the conversation. They change the political culture. What you're expecting is for passerbys to see you, you're expecting video to catch you. And you want to pull more people into your movement because the goal, we know, is mass movement.

[01:02:54:10] GERALD YEUNG: This protest started out slowly, we had one person and then we had a few more people come. I think protests do make a difference, because first of all it educates people. And we're giving people courage too, because sometimes we're doing things that they are afraid to do themselves.

[01:03:11:13] ERIC LIU: Protest is one of the most important ways for citizens to exercise power, but it's rarely sufficient. If you wanna make lasting, durable, political, and civic change, you've got to convert that energy from protest into policy making.

[01:03:26:10] KEVIN ZEESE: Women's rights movement, they developed their own political party, they challenged politicians who opposed them, that's how they won the vote.

[01:03:31:23]: [Protesters chanting "USA, USA"]

[01:03:34:00]: MARK MECKLER: The tea party movement has not died down, it's morphed. And you can't go to a city council meeting or a school board meeting or a state legislature meeting without meeting folks who came out of the Tea Party movement and are now directly participating in the governance of their municipalities or their states.

[01:03:48:10]: [protester: "God bless America," protesters: "United!"]

[01:03:53:00] LINDA SARSOUR: It is our duty as Americans to participate in democracy. To ensure that those who represent us in government are pushing forward our priorities and the issues that we care about.

[01:04:02:04] [Protesters singing and chanting]

[01:04:08:10] ROSARIO DAWSON: When you have the people marching, it's a great equalizer, just like voting. And our biggest power are our neighbors, our friends, coming together in marches, saying "I see your injustice, do you see it, do you see it? Okay let's go out and make them see it."

[01:04:22:05] ERIC LIU: I think protest is one of the most hopeful, beautiful things you can find because it's people saying, we actually believe in the words of the creed, and we're gonna show up to claim them.

[01:04:31:08] MARK MECKLER: Whatever your beliefs, get out into the streets, get involved in politics, engage, because it's your future.

[01:04:38:00]: RAYMOND FIGUEROA: If not us, then who?

[01:04:39:17]: SPEAKER: We march, we organize, we rally, we protest, for a better tomorrow.

[01:04:44:17] LINDA SARSOUR: [to crowd] Are you ready?

[01:04:48:20] TITLES: THINK. SHARE. VOTE. WetheVOTERS.com

END