

Name: _____

Songs Lyrics: Global Revolutions of 1968

Introduction: In 1968, massive protest movements all over the world took to the streets, rattling governments and challenging long-held assumptions about how societies should work. Young people led many of these protests, as they criticized their governments and demanded broad political and social changes. Popular music reflected their demands but also inspired others to join the calls for social change. Many songs focused on fighting injustice, poverty, racism, sexism, and colonialism. Some of these songs protested the effects of the Cold War, including the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Song #1

Country: Brazil

Artist: Zelia Barbosa

Song title: "Opinião" [Opinion] <<https://youtu.be/O039HryLHMk>>

Year: 1968

Historical context: Brazil became a military dictatorship in 1964 after the right-wing officers in the Brazilian military overthrew the democratically-elected President João Goulart. The U.S. government actively supported the right-wing military coup, as it did in a number of other Latin American countries during the Cold War. U.S. officials worried that President Goulart opposed U.S. Cold War policies and were concerned his domestic policies might lead Brazil toward socialism.

After it seized power, Brazil's military government used repression and censorship to limit political opposition. The media and press remained free in the early days of the military regime. However, as the years passed Brazil's military government grew more and more repressive—even regulating music and art. Tens of thousands of Brazilians were arrested and detained, often without charges. Brazil's government sought out those whom it considered to be threats, killing hundreds, torturing thousands, and exiling many. The military government created a climate of fear and oppression throughout Brazilian society.

Original Portuguese Lyrics

Podem me prender, podem me bater

Podem até deixar-me sem comer

Que eu não mudo de opinião

Daqui do morro eu não saio não

Daqui do morro eu não saio não

Podem me prender, podem me bater

Podem até deixar-me sem comer

Que eu não mudo de opinião

Daqui do morro eu não saio não

Daqui do morro eu não saio não

Se não tem água, eu furo um poço

Se não tem carne, eu compro um osso

E ponho na sopa e deixa andar

Deixa andar, deixa andar

Translated English Lyrics

They can arrest me, they can beat me

They can even leave me without eating

I don't change my opinion

From here on the hill, I don't leave

From here on the hill, I don't leave

They can arrest me, they can beat me

They can even leave me without eating

I don't change my opinion

From here on the hill, I don't leave

From here on the hill, I don't leave

If there is no water, I drill a well.

If there's no meat, I'll buy a bone

And I put it in the soup and let it go

Let it go, let it go

Name: _____

Original Portuguese Lyrics (cont.)

Fale de mim quern quiser falar

Aqui eu não pago aluguel

Se eu morrer amanhã, seu doutor

Estou pertinho do céu

Podem me prender, podem me bater

Podem até deixar-me sem comer

Que eu não mudo de opinião

Daqui do morro eu não saio não

Daqui do morro eu não saio não

Translated English Lyrics (cont.)

Talk about me if you want to talk

I don't pay rent here

If I die tomorrow, your doctor

I'm close to heaven

They can arrest me, they can beat me

They can even leave me without eating

I don't change my opinion

From here on the hill, I don't leave

From here on the hill, I don't leave

Song #2**Country: Czechoslovakia****Artist: Milan Knížák****Song title: "Rusové jdete domu!" [Russians, Go Home!]****<https://youtu.be/S4_J2wVT10Y>****Year: 1968**

Historical context: During the Cold War, Czechoslovakia was a member of the Warsaw Pact, a military alliance controlled by the Soviet Union. In 1968, "socialism with a human face" became the motto of an emerging reform movement within the Czechoslovak Communist leadership. Its goals represented a significant challenge to the Soviet Union's authority in Warsaw Pact countries in Eastern Europe. The Soviet government declared that it alone had the right to determine how other communist countries could rule themselves and made it clear that they would use force to maintain their control of the communist system in Czechoslovakia. In August 1968, 650,000 Soviet and other Warsaw Pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia and removed the reform government from power. [Note: Original Czech lyrics for the song were unavailable.]

Translated English Lyrics

I had a strange dream last night

A stranger-yet morning woke me up

Under my windows cannons and tanks

A friendly red visit—so I heard

Russians go home

We don't want you near

Russians go home

Just get...out of here

Back to Siberia

Your tanks you take

There you have your own stinky garden to rake

Stick your communism right up your [behind]

Watch out—your brother Hitler may still be awake

Russians go home

We don't want you near

Russians go home

Just get...out of here.

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Song #3**Country: Mexico****Artist: Judith Reyes****Song title: “La tragedia de la Plaza de las Tres Culturas” [The tragedy of the Plaza de las Tres Culturas] <<https://youtu.be/RWfqWoN6Yog>>****Year: 1968**

***Historical context:** A single political party known as the Party of the Institutionalized Revolution (PRI) controlled Mexico’s presidency and politics from 1935 through the end of the twentieth century. The PRI’s repression of its opponents reached new heights in July 1968, when Mexican riot police brutally attacked a group of students. Government violence and the jailing of many student leaders sparked major protests, not only of students but of middle-class and poor workers across the city. The PRI-led government arrested hundreds and led raids against suspected dissidents. On October 2, 1968, protesters organized a demonstration in La Plaza de las Tres Culturas in the Tlatelolco section of Mexico City. Many spectators, including children, joined the protest rally. The Mexican army and police surrounded the plaza and opened fire on the crowd, killing as many as four hundred people and arresting two thousand more. This became known as the Tlatelolco Massacre.*

Original Spanish Lyrics

El dos de octubre llegamos
 todos pacíficamente
 a un mítin en Tlatelolco
 quince mil en la corriente.

Año del sesenta y ocho
 que pena me da acordarme
 la plaza estaba repleta
 como a las seis de la tarde.

Grupos de obreros llegaron
 y el magisterio consciente
 los estudiantes lograron
 un hermoso contingente.

De pronto rayan el cielo
 cuatro luces de bengala
 y aparecen muchos hombres
 guante blanco y mala cara.

Zumban las balas mortales
 rápido el pánico crece—
 busco refugio y la tropa
 en todas partes aparece.

Translated English Lyrics

On the second of October we went
 peacefully
 to a rally in Tlatelolco,
 About 15,000 of us, in the year of ‘68.

It makes me sad to remember it,
 the jam-packed plaza
 at about six o’clock in the evening.

Groups of workers arrived,
 politically aware teachers, and students,
 together they made a beautiful contingent.

Suddenly, the sky is pierced by four
 flares.
 Many men appear, white gloves and
 bestial faces.

Bullets zing, panic creeps in.
 I look for shelter, and the troops are
 everywhere.

Name: _____

Original Spanish Lyrics (cont.)

Alzo los ojos al cielo
y un helicóptero miro
luego sobre Tlatelolco
llueve el fuego muy tupido.

¡Que fue fuerzas tan desiguales!
¡Hartos tanques y fusiles!
¡Armadas los militares,
desarmados los civiles!

¡Doce años tenía un chiquillo
que muerto cayó a mi lado
y el vientre de una preñada
como lo han bayoneteado!

Hieren a Oriana Falacci
voz de la prensa extranjera
¡Ya conoció la cultura
del gobierno de esta tierra!

Ya vió que vamos unidos
estudiantes con el pueblo
contra un sistema corrupto
y la falacia de un gobierno.

Recordará a los muchachos
contra la pared sus caras
las manos sobre la nuca
y su derecho entre las balas.

Jóvenes manos en alto
con la V de la Victoria
V de Vallejo me dicen
los de la Preparatoria.

Translated English Lyrics (cont.)

I raise my eyes to heaven, and see a
helicopter over Tlatelolco,
It is raining heavy fire.

How unequal the forces!
So many tanks and guns!
The military armed, the civilians with
empty hands!

Next to me, a twelve year old boy fell
dead,
and the belly of a pregnant woman
was pierced with bayonets!

Oriana Falaci, voice of the foreign
press, is wounded.
At last she met the culture of the
government of this land!

She saw that we are united, students
and the people,
against a corrupt system and a false
government.

She will remember the students, faces
to the wall,
hands clasped behind their heads,
with their rights between the bullets.

University students with raised arms
making a V for Victory.
High school students making a V for
Vallejo*.

[* an imprisoned labor organizer]

Name: _____

Original Spanish Lyrics (cont.)

Piras de muertos y heridos
solo por una protesta
el pueblo llora su angustia
y el gobierno tiene fiesta.

¡Qué cruenta fué la matanza
hasta de bellas creaturas!
¡Como te escurre la sangre
Plaza de Las Tres Culturas!

Y porque en esto murieron
mujeres y hombres del pueblo
el presidente le aumenta
al ejercito su sueldo.

Translated English Lyrics (cont.)

Pyre of dead and wounded, all because
of a rally,
while the people cry in anguish,
and the government gives a party.

How bloody was the slaughter. Even our
beautiful young women!
Oh Plaza of Three Cultures, you are
dripping blood!

And because of this, men and women
of the people died,
the president raises the salary of his
army.

Song #4**Country: Poland****Artist: Czesław Niemen****Song title: "Dziwny jest ten świat" [This World is Strange]****<<https://youtu.be/wTjLZwpmufw>>****Year: 1968**

Historical context: In 1968, Poland was a member of the Warsaw Pact, a military alliance controlled by the Soviet Union. Student groups, factory workers, artists, and intellectuals began to lobby for political reforms and increased freedom of speech that led to a series of protests around Poland in the winter of 1968. As the protests grew, so did crackdowns by police that resulted in mass arrests and violence against demonstrators. In addition to state violence, the Polish government cracked down by firing people from their jobs, dissolving university departments, and mounting a propaganda campaign blaming Jews for problems in Poland. Polish government leaders hoped to draw on longstanding anti-Semitism to discredit and weaken the movement for political reform.

Original Polish Lyrics

Dziwny jest ten świat,
gdzie jeszcze wciąż
mieści się wiele zła.
I dziwne jest to,
że od tylu lat
człowiekiem gardzi człowiek.

Translated English Lyrics

This world is strange
As it's still
Filled with much evil
And it's strange
That for so many years
A human despises another human being.

Name: _____

Original Polish Lyrics (cont.)

Dziwny ten świat,
 świat ludzkich spraw,
 czasem aż wstyd przyznać się.
 A jednak często jest,
 że ktoś słowem złym
 zabija tak, jak nożem.

Lecz ludzi dobrej woli jest więcej
 i mocno wierzę w to,
 że ten świat
 nie zginie nigdy dzięki nim.
 Nie! Nie! Nie!
 Przyszedł już czas,
 najwyższy czas,
 nienawiść zniszczyć w sobie.

Lecz ludzi dobrej woli jest więcej
 i mocno wierzę w to,
 że ten świat
 nie zginie nigdy dzięki nim.
 Nie! Nie! Nie!
 Nadszedł już czas,
 najwyższy czas,
 nienawiść zniszczyć w sobie.

Translated English Lyrics (cont.)

This world is strange
 The world of human affairs
 And sometimes it's a shame to admit
 But it happens often
 That someone kills
 With a bad word as if with a knife.

But the people of good will are the majority
 And I believe deeply
 That this world
 Will never die, thanks to them
 No, no, no!
 The time has come
 It's high time
 To destroy the hatred within us.

But the people of good will are the majority
 And I believe deeply
 That this world
 Will never die, thanks to them
 No, no, no!
 The time has come
 It's high time
 To destroy the hatred within us.

Song #5**Country: South Africa****Artist: Harmonious Serenade Choir & Vusi Mahlesela****Song title: "Senzeni Na?" [What Have We Done?] <<https://youtu.be/FMgQ2DrdA98>>****Year: 1950s [but performed throughout apartheid era, including 1968]**

Historical context: Apartheid, an Afrikaans word that means "separate" or "apartness" in English, was the law of the land in South Africa from 1948 to 1990. This system of racial discrimination was designed to keep white, Black, and Asian South Africans separate from each other in every way. The white government segregated all schools, housing, jobs, and transportation. People were often forbidden to speak against the government. Black South Africans were not allowed to vote and lived with the threat of government violence. The government could detain people for months and even years without charging them. By the mid-1960s, most political opponents of apartheid were in exile or jail. While overt political opposition was difficult, if not impossible, a new generation of resisters emerged. Many of them believed that a critical piece of the struggle against apartheid was to make more people around the world aware of what was happening in their country. One way this happened was through song.

Name: _____

Original Xhosa Lyrics

Senzeni na?
 Senzeni na?
 Sono sethu, ubumnyama?
 Sono sethu yinyaniso?
 Sibulawayo
 Mayibuye iAfrika!

Translated English Lyrics

What have we done?
 What have we done?
 Our sin is that we are black?
 Our sin is the truth?
 They are killing us
 Let Africa return!

Song #6**Country: United Kingdom****Artist: The Beatles****Song title: "Revolution" <<https://youtu.be/6MbqzDm1uCo>>****Year: 1968**

Historical context: There were large protests against the Vietnam War and against U.S. foreign policy in the United Kingdom in 1968. Students also led protests to improve conditions at their schools and universities. In Northern Ireland, a civil rights movement led a series of marches to protest government discrimination against Catholics. The marches were put down violently by the police. The global protests of 1968 provoked musical and political responses from some of the world's influential musical groups, including The Beatles.

Original English Lyrics

You say you want a revolution
 Well, you know
 We all want to change the world
 You tell me that it's evolution
 Well, you know

 We all want to change the world
 But when you talk about destruction
 Don't you know that you can count me out
 Don't you know it's gonna be all right?

 Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)
 Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)

 You say you got a real solution
 Well, you know
 We'd all love to see the plan

You ask me for a contribution
 Well, you know
 We're all doing what we can

 But if you want money for people with minds that
 hate
 All I can tell you is brother you have to wait

 Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)
 Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)
 Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)

 You say you'll change the constitution
 Well, you know
 We'd all love to change your head

 You tell me it's the institution
 Well, you know
 You better free your mind instead

Name: _____

Original English Lyrics (cont.)

But if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao

You ain't going to make it with anyone anyhow

Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)

Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)

Don't you know it's gonna be (all right)

All, all, all, all, all, all, all, all, all, all, all right

All right, all right, all right, all right, all right

Song #7**Country: United States****Artist: Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions****Song title: "This Is My Country" <https://youtu.be/z_esbRoOeR0>****Year: 1968**

Historical context: The U.S. war in Vietnam changed dramatically in 1968, as did how it was viewed within the United States. By 1968, the mostly white and middle-class anti-war movement from the first years of the U.S. war in Vietnam had given way to a much more diverse movement. Civil rights activists applied the ideas and tactics from the ongoing fight for racial and social justice to protest the war. On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. On June 6, 1968, Robert F. Kennedy—an antiwar candidate for president and former President John F. Kennedy's brother—was assassinated. Kennedy and King's assassinations contributed to many Americans' fears that the nation was spinning out of control. Protests expanded and intensified across the country. In August 1968, police in Chicago attacked anti-war protesters gathered in the city to protest outside the Democratic Party National Convention.

Original English Lyrics

Do do do

Do do do

Some people think we don't have the right

To say it's my country

Before they give in, they'd rather fuss and fight

Than say it's my country

I've paid three hundred years or more

Of slave driving, sweat, and welts on my back

This is my country

Do do do

Do do do

Too many have died in protecting my pride

For me to go second class

We've survived a hard blow and I want you to know

That you'll face us at last

And I know you will give consideration

Shall we perish unjust or live equal as a nation

This is my country

Do do do

Do do do

And I know you will give consideration

Shall we perish unjust or live equal as a nation

This is my country

Do do do

Do do do

Do do do