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# Protest in 21st Century

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## ABSTRACT

*This article aims to identify what are the differences between the movement that takes place in society and the protests.*

*We can analyze these by 3 aspects of a protest:*

- *The dynamics of disconnection, fickleness and the alteration.*
- *The secular and the structural limitations as the challenges to the society's order.*
- *The challenged political specifications of the protesters. in this article, I would specify how the protests are different from the social movements. Riots should not be identified as being a united event they should be ventilated into several smaller events in which the various supporters, the repertoires and their reason for participation should not be different rather opposed. Protests always communicated and are surrounded by the socio-economic and geographical immobility of the participants in the dissimilarity of the social movements. They can shift their remilitarization to a greater geographical and political scale. Finally, claims are made and political identities in protest are challenged perceptions about politics that are supported by strict dualism, like political or non-political. However, taking under consideration these differences, the two concepts shouldn't be compared or acknowledged mutually exclusive, since protests may happen within a society's movement cycles of protest (e.g., the Watts riots of 1965 it occurred within the wide context of the civil rights)*

**Keywords:** *Society, Protesters, Riots, Political.*

## What Does One Mean By The Term Protest?

A protest is referred to as a public expression of objection or dissent towards an idea or course of action which is mainly a political agenda. Protesters often organise the protests in a way to publicly make their opinion heard in an attempt so that they can influence public opinions or they can undertake direct actions to directly enact the desired changes. Observers has observed that there is an increase in militarization of protest policing with police deploying vehicles and snipers against protesters<sup>2</sup>.

In our world there is rapid increase in the number of riots in the 21<sup>st</sup> century which whenever

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<sup>2</sup> www.merriam-webster.com

happened created an utter chaos in that particular area, so in this article we would discuss all the riots that happened around the globe within the 21<sup>st</sup> century<sup>3</sup>.

**The top ten protests that took place in this century till date are:**

The 10<sup>th</sup> most important protest was the umbrella movement that took place in Hong Kong in 2014. This was a political movement who used an umbrella as their symbol for fighting against the government. At that time the government of Hong Kong had decided to make major changes in their election system. So, in their response the crowd decided to protest in huge masses.

The 9<sup>th</sup> important protest was the occupancy wall street protest that happened in USA in 2011. This protest took place because they called themselves the 99 per cent and fought for the remaining percent of the equation.

The 8<sup>th</sup> protest was the gulabi gang protest that took place in India in 2007. This was also known as the pink sari movement. This protest took place against the violence against women in the country so they wore pink sari as a metaphor of strength.

The 7<sup>th</sup> protest was the LGBTQ movement in Russia that took place in 2006. This protest took place due to the Russian minister Putin passes a law banning gay propaganda which caused a great uproar among gays.

The 6<sup>th</sup> protest was the Gezi park protest that took place in Turkey in 2013. This movement took place against the plans to remove the trees from the Gezi park. But ended up by brutal police treatment and killed almost 22 people.

The 5<sup>th</sup> protest was the Ferguson unrest which took place in USA in 2014. This protest took place because a teenage boy was shot and killed by a policeman. From next day both violent and silent protests started to take place.

The 4<sup>th</sup> protest was the anti-austerity movement which took place in Europe in 2011. This protest took place due to the debt crisis in Europe and they gave the orders to reduce spending the money on the social safety nets. This was the reason the countries like Spain, Ireland and Portugal were affected.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> important protest was the orange revolution which took place in Ukraine in 2004. This protest was the outcome of a controversial presidential election which came out to be fraud and extremely corrupted

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<sup>3</sup> [www.macmillandictionary.com](http://www.macmillandictionary.com)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> most important protest was the anti-war protests of Afghanistan and Iraq which took place in 2001. The protests began a month after 9/11. They ran for almost a decade and a half. The most important protest of 21<sup>st</sup> century was the protest of Arab spring, Arab league and more which took place between 2010-2013. This caused a huge impact in nations like Egypt, Tunisia and Libya as their leaders were forced out of their power and their governments were shaken by the movement.<sup>4</sup>

**These were the most important protests till date. But now I would state the important protests in India in particular in a chronological manner.**

The first riot was the **Gujarat riot in 2002**. This riot is also known as the 2002 Gujarat violence and the Gujarat pogrom. This was a three-day period inter-communal violence in Gujarat. There were further outbreaks in Ahmedabad for three months. This riot took place due to burning of a train in Godhra on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2002. The incident that took place was that the passengers were the Hindu pilgrims which were returning from ayodhya after a religious ceremony at the site of demolished babri masjid. Due to which the passengers had a heated argument and the train was set on fire.

The government of Gujarat had set up the Gujarat high court with the judge named KG shah as a one-man commission to look into the case. Later the supreme court judge named GT nanavati was added in now two-person commission.

Legal perspective-In February 2011 the trial court took place where 31 people were convicted and 63 were acquitted based on murder and conspiracy provisions mentioned in Indian penal code. In the end 11 were sentenced to death and 20 to life imprisonment.

**After this several attacks took place on Hindu and Muslims.**

The next protest was the **Vadodara riots in 2006**. This riot is also known as the Dargah riots which occurred on 1<sup>st</sup> may 2006 in Vadodara the state of Gujarat. These riots were caused due to the municipal council's decision of removing the dargah of a medieval Sufi saint which was 2-3 hundred years old.<sup>5</sup>

The city mayor claimed that the council was removing all the illegal building for widening the roads.

**Legal perspective**-On 2<sup>nd</sup> April the Gujarat high court claimed the incident Suo moto nut on 4<sup>th</sup> April they overturned their judgement and ordered a temporary stay in demolition of

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.watchmojo.com/video/id/14696>

<sup>5</sup> Pelly, Grace (2008). *State Terrorism: Torture, Extra-judicial Killings, and Forced Disappearances in India*

building due to the violent situations.

**Protest-** on 2<sup>nd</sup> may there were many violent incidents between the Hindu and Muslims in several areas and on 3<sup>rd</sup> may the state government requested for an additional security personnel.

In 2013 the next protest took place known as the **canning riots**. These took place between Bengali Hindus and Muslims in the state of west Bengal on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013. The riots took place due to a Muslim cleric who was first looted and then was killed by unidentified assailants.<sup>6</sup>

**Protest-** the Muslim mobs had burned down 200 houses of Hindu in the village near the canning police station area.

**Legal perspective-** the state government announced a compensation for RS 300000 to the family of the murdered cleric and 10000 each of 93 families that were displaced in the violence.

In 2014 the next protest took place that was the **Saharanpur riots**. They occurred on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in the city of Saharanpur. The riot took place due to a piece of land and some religious faiths. In this the Muslims and Sikhs fought over a long which was adjacent to gurudwara.<sup>7</sup>

**Protest- in the protest the members responded by throwing stones which led to death of 3 people and 33 injured.**

**Legal perspective- the main accused was arrested on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and was booked under the national security act.**

The next protest was in 2016 known as the **dhulagarh riots**. This riot occurred on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The riot took place because a Muslim mob attacked and then looted many shops and houses of the Hindu people and set them on fire in the Howrah district.<sup>8,9</sup>

**Protest-** during the protest the mob threw bombs at the Hindu local houses due to which many people were injured and 65 were arrested.

**Legal perspective-** the first hearing took place in Calcutta high court which conducted on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The west Bengal government pleaded for 14 separate cases that had been lodged in relation to the incident.

In 2017 the next riot took place known as the northern India riots. These riots broke out due to

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<sup>6</sup> West Bengal: 200 homes torched; shops ransacked in riots

<sup>7</sup> "Saharanpur: land dispute gets complicated"

<sup>8</sup> "The Truth Behind the Riots in Bengal That the Media Doesn't Report". *Huffington Post India*. Retrieved 14 April 2017

<sup>9</sup> "What actually happened during the Dhulagarh riots?". *Daily*. Retrieved 14 April 2017

the religious leader names Gurmeet ram Rahim Singh was convicted of rape. These riots broke out in Panchkula district and then spread to various northern Indian states.

Protest- the protest was so violent that the internet services had to be suspended for 24hrs and section 144 had to be imposed.

Legal perspective- ram Rahim Singh was held guilty of rape and was sentenced to 7rs of imprisonment<sup>10</sup>. More than 500 people were arrested due to the riots and more than 1000 were detained in Panchkula.

In 2020 the most recent and the most popular riot took place known as the Delhi riot which caused a wave of bloodshed. it took place due to the passing of citizenship amendment act. This was a bill which was passed and people were against it.<sup>11</sup> These riots began on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 and started when Hindu mob attacked the Muslim mob. In this around 53 people were killed. The protest took place in shaheen Bagh in which they blocked the roads and caused traffic jams they even burned vehicles and pelted stones. This had many legal consequences as they transferred justice murlidhar and the hearing had to take place with a new bench.<sup>1213</sup>

**These all were the most popular and the most important protests that took place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

### **Conclusion:**

Through this article I would like to conclude that all the movements and all the protests highlighted in this article, it is clear that the social protests were taking place as they were seeing an opportunity in bringing people together for a common goal. They took support of various social media platforms, different organising techniques and grassroot efforts. Through the movement they entities represent a large number of mobs who feel empowered through a common voice among them.

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<sup>10</sup> "From Gurmeet Ram Rahim to Radha Maa: Top 5 controversial 'Gurus' of India"

<sup>11</sup> "Shaheen Bagh residents brave the cold as anti-CAA stir enters Day 15" [the Hindu](#)

<sup>12</sup> "Delhi's Muslims despair of justice after police implicated in riots"

<sup>13</sup> "Violence in India Threatens Its Global Ambitions", The New York Times