

The world changes...
one heart at a time

STAND!

A HUMAN RIGHTS MUSICAL



- TEACHER'S MANUAL -

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TEACHERS MANUAL INTRODUCTION

This teacher's manual is the product of three years of in-class discussions with hundreds of students and scores of educators in Canada and the United States. The Stand! movie musical has proven itself to be an educational and edifying means by which students in middle and high school can learn about human rights - in the form of an engaging, historical musical film.

This manual provides the answers to the questions posed in the lesson plan, and includes suggestions for further reading. But this manual is not intended to be the exclusive resource to the film. Students and educators are encouraged to dive as deep into the issues as time and interest allows. The point is to promote critical thinking and to spark a lifelong interest in human rights.

Behind the scenes of Stand! - filming the silent march in Winnipeg, Canada in 2018.



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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #1 PLIGHT OF REFUGEES

Middle School Discussion

What does the headline on the newspaper say? The headline states "Russian Bolsheviks to Invade Ukraine." After the Russian Revolution of 1917, the Russians invaded Ukraine in 1919.

Why can't Mike afford the tickets? After World War One, the cost of goods and services skyrocketed due to a lack of supplies. In Winnipeg, this increase (known as "inflation") was as high as 80%. The cost of Mike's tickets increased from \$38.00 to \$50.00 in a matter of weeks.

Why does Mike ask Stefan to write the letter for him? Mike is illiterate. Because he can not read or write, he dictates the letter to his son. Illiteracy was common among older refugees of the era.

Why is Mike's English so poor? Mike and Stefan's first language is Ukrainian. With English as his second language, Mike speaks English with a heavy Ukrainian accent and his English grammar poorer than Stefan's.



Marshall Williams as Stefan and Gregg Henry as Mike.

Is Mike and Stefan's situation their fault?

No. Inflation has stolen their ability to afford things - from tickets to clothing and food. They have difficulty getting better paying jobs due to their lack of training, lesser language skills and prejudice towards immigrants.

What would you do to help Mike & Stefan? Being a friend to refugees (especially those with lesser English language skills) is especially important. Speaking English slowly and respectfully is a great way to teach language skills. You could also volunteer at a refugee assistance centre where refugees are taught language and life skills. Refugee centres also need help collecting household items for refugees. If your family is able, you could also donate money or goods to a refugee charity.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #1 PLIGHT OF REFUGEES

High School Discussion

Why is inflation so high in 1919? During World War One, the war effort depleted many resources, causing shortages for many common items. Consequently, prices skyrocketed. Inflation in Winnipeg in 1919 was as high as 80%. Some prices rose by as much as 1000%. That is why the cost of the tickets Mike seeks has risen from \$38.00 to \$50.00 in a matter of weeks.

What was the major sociopolitical upheaval in Russia in 1917, that is affecting Mike's ability to bring his family to Canada? The Russian Revolution of 1917 caused major upheaval in Europe, including Ukraine, from where Mike and Stefan have escaped. When the Russian (or "Soviet" or "Bolshevik") army took over Ukraine in 1919, the immediate danger for Mike's family was that they were in a warzone. Second, the borders were closed (and remained so until 1991) - effectively ending communication and immigration.

Why are Mike and Stefan subjected to low-wage, temporary employment? The treatment of refugees is an issue that is still with us today. Generally, most refugees have lesser language skills than the domestic population. That results in their relegation to lower skilled, lower paid temporary employment. Prejudice, discrimination and racism are also factors. Often, refugees/immigrants are seen as stealing jobs from long-time citizens. This "nativism" - the preference for longstanding citizens over newcomers - can lead to outright exclusion from the labour market.

Can you name other refugee groups that are in the same situation as Mike and Stefan? The list of refugee groups across the world is myriad. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, millions of Ukrainians have been displaced. Refugees from Central and South America flock to the United States' southern border. And in Europe, the most recent refugees are from Syria and Africa, with African refugees often attempting dangerous passage by sea. Climate change refugees will see millions more flee from rising sea levels in the most threatened parts of South-East Asia.

(continued)

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High School Discussion (continued)

What do you think contributes to society's poor treatment of refugees and what do you suggest as a remedy? To be sure, some refugees are treated better than others. How refugees are treated is a function of the society of the time, and the circumstances of the refugee crisis. The worldwide condemnation of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine saw an unprecedented welcoming of Ukrainian refugees. But Jewish refugees from Germany were refused entry to North America in World War Two - which resulted in some of their deaths in concentration camps.

All of mankind's worst instincts ("xenophobia" - the hatred of foreigners, racism, nativism, greed) can form attitudes towards refugees. The remedy therefore requires patience, altruism, kindness and compassion. Larger-scale remedies involve government policy that recognizes the obligation to help during refugee crises and language and life skill programs for refugees/immigrants. As individuals, helping or donating to refugee causes is vital.

For Further Reading

The U.N. Refugee Agency

<https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

List of Refugee Crises

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_refugee_crises

Soviet Invasion of Ukraine, 1919

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1919_Soviet_invasion_of_Ukraine



Behind the scenes at the historic train station, where thousands of immigrants arrived in Winnipeg.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #2 GENDER WAGE GAP

Middle School Discussion

How much does Rebecca make in six months? Fifty dollars.

How much do Stefan and Mike make in six months? Eighty dollars.

At the end of the song, how much does Rebecca hope to make? Stefan? Rebecca and her female colleagues seek sixty dollars, and Stefan and fellow workers seek eighty dollars.

In the movie, why is there a difference between what men and women make? In 1919, a big part of the gender wage gap was because "that's the way it's always been". That is, men were seen as the household wage earners and women were largely unpaid domestic workers. Even when women were employed, their work was seen as "women's work" - less dangerous, less skilled and valued less. Further, low pay was seen as disincentive. The less women were paid, the less chance they would stay employed. Also, the prevailing view was that women would leave the work force when they had family's - further disincentive to fair pay.

If your mother got less money than a man, for the same work, would you think that fair? Most people would feel this unfair but the gender wage gap persists more than one hundred years later after the events of the movie

Do you think that women still make less than men, even in modern times? Women make, on average, between 60% - 90% of what men do, even today.

Is there something that girls and women can do today, to make wages more fair?

Yes. Call out the gender wage gap when you see it. Advocate for change within your workplace. Join a union. Advocate for changes in provincial, state and federal laws that help reduce the gender wage gap.



The garment factory scene.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #2 GENDER WAGE GAP

High School Discussion

Why does the gender wage gap persist, over 100 years later? The difficulty in eliminating the gender wage gap speaks to how entrenched and pervasive it is. Much of the difference can be accounted for in the perception a women's work is valued less than men's. Part-time work tends to put downward pressure on wages. Racism is also at play. But nearly two-thirds of gender pay gap falls into the category of "unexplained" - the gap persists for no good reason, but its existence is cause for it to persist.

What can you as an individual do to address the gender wage gap? Your individual response depends on your sex and your position in society. Male white employers, for example, are in a different position than racialized females. For males, advocacy on behalf of females ultimately makes the workforce stronger; if women are encouraged to remain in the workforce with fairer pay, everyone benefits by having better trained, long-term employees and managers. For females, non-racialized women need to help their racialized counterparts through workplace and union advocacy. Racialized women must advocate on their own behalf. And all members of society need to advocate at the policy level to ensure that government addresses the needs of all members of society.

Do you agree with the statement "Paying women equally for equal work is a fundamental human right"? Whether you agree with this statement will depend on where you live and your social background. Most citizens of Canada, the United States and Europe will tend to agree with the statement. However, the bulk of the world's population would not perceive the premise as a fundamental human right. This differing viewpoint is a measure of the ever-changing nature of human rights and the firmly held belief, in much of the world, that some things are immutable.

Can you estimate what the average difference in wages between genders is? On average, women make 89% of what men do. Racialized women report that they make 59.3% of white men.

Do you believe that you will see a fundamental shift in the gender wage gap in your lifetime? Fear not. The gender wage gap is closing albeit slowly.

For Further Reading

Facts About Gender Pay: <https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/the-gender-pay-gap/>

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #3 WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Middle School Discussion

Why is AJ Andrews so rude to Susan? AJ believes, like many men of his era, that women should not be allowed an equal voice - so much so that he becomes angry when Susan challenges him in front of another man. Further, in challenging AJ about his prejudice (he dislikes foreigners), Susan is standing up to him over an issue that involves another woman - the Andrew's Black maid, Emma.

Why do you think time stands still while Emma lectures AJ? In that era, it would have been unthinkable for Emma to voice her opinions the way she does. That is why the movie uses the convention of time standing still: so that Emma can freely speak her mind.

What is a suffragette? A suffragette is a woman who fights for the right for women to vote. From the 1860s, women were organizing for the right to vote. Although the movie does not show them doing so, Emma and Susan would definitely have been suffragettes.

What would you say to AJ if you were Susan? As much as you might want to say, "Stop being so rude and let Susan have her rights!" - in 1919, AJ would have dismissed you immediately. In many places in the world, women's rights are either not respected or outright ignored. Human rights in one era, or one place, will often differ. Such is the fluid nature of human rights.



Robin Ruel as Susan Andrews in a pivotal women's rights scene.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #3 WOMEN'S RIGHTS

High School Discussion

Where was the first place in North America to grant women the vote? Wyoming granted white women the vote in 1869 but it was not yet a state. The province of Manitoba (where the movie takes place) was the first official jurisdiction to grant women the vote in 1916.

What did the "Persons Case" of 1929 rectify? Prior to the Persons Case, women in Canada were not considered "persons" under the law, and were deprived of many rights.

What would Susan's rights have been, under the law, in 1919? Because the story takes place in Manitoba (where the vote was granted to women in 1916), Susan would have been allowed to vote. However, in 1919, women were only able to vote if their husband owned a particular amount of property. She would have had no right to own property, nor claim property or income, in the case of divorce or death. Nor could she necessarily expect to hold public office, achieve advanced education, or claim custody of her children.

Are there still jurisdictions in the world in which women's rights are restricted? This is a trick question because, to greater and lesser degrees, every jurisdiction sees some restriction of female human rights - if only as the gender wage gap. The United States rolled back the constitutional right to abortion in 2022 - reversing over fifty years of precedent. Many places in the world do not respect women's rights, whether that be the right to vote or to choose one's partner. Women's rights are an ever-changing battle waged against a background of complicated religious, moral and social issues.

What do you think is the most pressing women's rights issue is at the present time? Most would suggest that the repeal of abortion laws in the United States are the most pressing issue but this is only the most recent and high profile. Other issues include violence against women (especially Indigenous women) and global sex slavery.

For Further Reading

Global Fund for Women : <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/womens-human-rights/>
Harvard Business School, Women & the Law: https://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/wes/collections/women_law/

The Person's Case: <https://www.famous5.ca/the-persons-case>

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #4 DISCRIMINATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOUR

Middle School Discussion

Which state did Emma come from? Oklahoma.

Why did she leave the United States for Canada? When Oklahoma became a state in 1907, there was a marked increase in anti-Black violence, some deadly. Further, the so-called "Jim Crow" laws - which restricted the human rights of the Black community - made life miserable for the Black population. Many Blacks left the Deep South in what became known as the "Great Migration", settling in the northern United States. Some of the Oklahoman refugees went as far north as Winnipeg, Canada.

Why is Emma leaving her job? Emma left her job in protest over low wages. In Winnipeg in 1919, a "general strike" occurred where many people - the majority of which were not unionized - left their jobs as a form of protest. For Emma, a single mother and a member of the Black minority in Winnipeg, such a move was extremely brave.

Would you have the strength to do what Emma did? When we someone as brave as Emma in a movie - especially someone singing a song as strong as "Stand" - our hearts are stirred to action and we are convinced that we could do the same. The reality of life, however, can be much harsher, especially when it comes to matters of race. The Black community has experienced so much pain from centuries of repression that actions can seem futile. But what Emma teaches us is that we can be brave on occasion, and that can make a huge difference.



Lisa Bell as Emma Jones.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #4 DISCRIMINATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOUR

High School Discussion

If slavery ended in 1865 in the United States, why did Emma flee to Canada in 1909? The end of slavery was followed by a period known as "Reconstruction" during which the human rights of the Black community expanded. But by 1907, when Oklahoma became a state, the "Jim Crow" laws clawed back many of the rights Blacks won during Reconstruction. Oklahoma was especially unkind to the Black community, committing some of the most egregious acts of violence in the form of lynchings. Little wonder that thousands of Black fled the Deep South for the northern states and Canada. Those Black refugees that fled to Canada between 1907 and 1919 were known as the "Oklahoman Refugees".

Were Blacks from the U.S. welcome in Canada, during the era depicted in the movie? At first, Canada welcomed Black Oklahoman farmers, even sending immigration agents to Oklahoma. But the uproar from white farmers in Canada's west was such that Canada effectively closed the door to Black immigration. In an especially egregious act, Canada's immigration agents in Oklahoma actively sought to keep Blacks in Oklahoma, rescinding their welcome to Canada.

Do you see Emma as a forerunner to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s? The character of Emma is based on some of the early Twentieth Century activists in the Black community. People like Emma were the inspiration to, and sometimes parents of, the next generation of Black Civil Rights leaders.

Do you believe that discrimination towards people of colour still exists? There are some, especially in Canada, that would believe that Black discrimination is a thing of the past. The sad truth, as evidenced by the Black Lives Matter movement, is that many whites fail to realize just how pervasive racism and discrimination towards Blacks is. While there have been many gains, there is much to be done.

For Further Reading

The Viola Davis Story : <https://humanrights.ca/story/one-womans-resistance>

National Museum of African American History & Culture: <https://nmaahc.si.edu>

The Colour Bar at the Canadian Border: Black American Farmers: <https://pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/black-american-farmers>

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #5 LABOUR RIGHTS

Middle School Discussion

Was Helen Armstrong a real person? Yes, she was. Helen Jury Armstong lived from 1875-1947 and was a fierce advocate for labour rights, especially for those of women.

What is Helen trying to organize in the meeting? In the spring of 1919, Helen was helping to organizing a proposed "general strike" - a particular form of protest where non-unionized and unionized workers joined together to fight for better pay and conditions. In the meeting, she comes to Winnipeg's multi-ethnic "North End", where she attempts to convince the Eastern European immigrants to join the general strike.

Do you know what a union is and what it does? A labour union is an organization that bargains on behalf of its members for fairer wages, benefits and working conditions.

In the song "Ultimatum", why is Helen so angry? In the song, AJ Andrews, the lawyer who leads the opposition to the general strike, issues an "ultimatum" - a final demand - to the strikers: go back to work or lose your jobs and pensions. In the era depicted in the movie, it was standard practice to threaten workers' jobs as a means of getting them to return to work - something that being part of a union helps prevent.



Actors carrying a period labour rights sign.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #5 LABOUR RIGHTS

High School Discussion

Was it legal to belong to a union in 1919? It depends where you were. Although unions had existed since the 1850s, and most were legal, that is not to say they were tolerated. Employers used a variety of methods like union-busting campaigns, mass firings, injunctions and threats to bend employees to the employer's will. Many union-busting campaigns ended in serious injuries and death. It was later in the Twentieth Century that the rise of unionism curbed some of the most serious union-busting practices.

Are there still places where it is illegal to be part of a union? Yes. In many parts of the world, being a member of a union is either illegal or highly frowned up. Although Canada and Europe have a higher proportion of union members (especially in the civil service), many states in the United States are deemed "right to work" states where unions are less tolerated.

What are some famous recent instances of opposition to a union drive? Surprisingly, some of the largest employers' workers are not unionized, which have motivated recent union drives and employer opposition thereto. Amazon opposes its workers' union drive strenuously and Amazon workers have won limited union drive victories. McDonalds is another corporation whose relatively low-paid workers continue to fight for union recognition.

In your opinion, is belonging to a union a good thing and, if so, what are the advantages of unionism? Your opinion of unionism will be driven by your personal social and political background. If your father was a self-made entrepreneur with little patience for unions, you will most likely be the same. If you are a descendent of immigrant factory workers, whose good fortune was directly related to union assistance, you will be pro-union. Workers who are unionized make more money than their non-unionized counterparts and enjoy the benefit of union bargaining power with the employer. Union members also cite the benefits of solidarity - the feeling of a common goal or common good being advanced by something bigger than the individual.

For Further Reading

The History of Unions : <https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/labor>

Wikipedia Trade Union page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_union

Canadian Legal FAQs : <https://www.law-faqs.org/national-faqs/history-and-development-of-unions-in-canada/history-of-unions-pre-wwii/>

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #6 INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS Middle School Discussion

Are Stefan and Rebecca in love? Yes, and how!

What religion is Stefan? Rebecca? Stefan is Christian and Rebecca is Jewish. Coming from Western Ukraine, Stefan would most likely have been Ukrainian Catholic.

Why do some people (like Stefan's father, Mike) not want Stefan and Rebecca to be a couple? Until as late as the 1970s, interfaith marriage was very frowned upon. It was simply a given that one would marry within your own religion. For many orthodox or conservative religions, marrying outside of the religion is forbidden. In the era depicted in the movie, someone like Mike upheld the general disapproval of interfaith marriage. Further, being an uneducated, illiterate person, Mike also harbours many prejudices towards those not like him.

How do you feel about whether Stefan and Rebecca should be allowed to be together? The way you feel about Stefan and Rebecca will be determined by your family's religious and personal history. If your family is very religious and believes that marriage should only occur between two people of the same religion, you may disapprove of the relationship. In those to which religion is a lesser factor in choosing a partner, you may approve of the relationship. The important point is to keep an open mind; to respect human rights is to respect each person's desire to choose their own partner.



Marshall Williams as Stefan Sokolowski and Laura Slade Wiggins as Rebecca Almazoff.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #6 INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

High School Discussion

Do you consider the right to choose your romantic partner a fundamental human right? This is admittedly a loaded question, the answer to which will depend on one's religious and personal history. If you are a devout member of an orthodox Jewish sect, you will answer that your right is limited to choosing someone from within your faith. Others may feel that your human rights are deprived by not having complete freedom to choose your partner. Neither is incorrect; this is an example of the difficulty of imposing one's morality on someone else, especially in regards to religion.

How have societal norms around interfaith relationships changed between 1919 and now? Today, we tend to shrug and say, "No big deal. We should be able to love whomever we please." This premise is relatively recent and, in many places of the world, it does not exist. In the era of the movie, interfaith marriage was very much frowned upon, and could result in the death of one or the other partners. This is not to say that interfaith marriages did not occur; they tended to occur between those to whom religion had less influence in their lives. By the 1960s, laws banning the prohibition of interracial marriage in the United States influenced the next generation of youth that viewed the right to marry whomever one wanted as the norm and not the exception. But to this day, freedom to marry outside of one's religion is not a universally-accepted concept.

Are you aware of whether persecution of interfaith relationships still exists? Persecution exists, especially within those religions and jurisdictions where marrying outside the faith is forbidden.

How do you believe interfaith relationships should be viewed today? More and more people across the world believe that one's faith should not limit your choice of partner. However, we must respect the rights of all, including those whose choices differ from ours.

For Further Reading

The Loving Case on Wikipedia : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loving_v._Virginia
Huffpost Interfaith Marriage Article: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/interfaith-marriage-in-america-past-and-future_b_2875060
Stats Can Interreligious Article: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-008-x/2006003/9478-eng.htm>

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #7 POWER OF ONE

Middle School Discussion

At the beginning of the song, why is Rebecca so mad? She discovers that Mike falsely accused her brother, Moishe, who is arrested.

Why does Rebecca not act out on her impulse for revenge? Rebecca realizes that, if she acts out in revenge towards Mike, she is just as bad as him. She makes the very difficult decision - especially given how fresh her rage is - that she must close the cycle of revenge and not act out.

What is the lesson to be learned from Rebecca's not acting on her desire for revenge? The lesson is that we do have the power to change outcomes, but sometimes that power will present itself in a very difficult decision.

Do you think one person can change the world? Most people will agree with this statement, especially after watching a movie that shows someone making a world-changing decision. To be sure, some world-changing actions will demand much of us. Nelson Mandela, who almost single-handedly brought about the end of Apartheid in South Africa, spent decades in prison. One person can change the world but true change is never easy.



Laura Slade Wiggins as Rebecca Almazoff.

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A HUMAN RIGHTS MUSICAL

HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #7 POWER OF ONE

High School Discussion

Do you think the notion that “change begins with one person” is a romantic but unrealistic goal? This is an often-asked question that has no simple answer. Movies and novels are populated by romantic quests and they tend to re-affirm our innate optimism. Life is never that easy. That said, the essential premise that one person can start a movement which turns into a worldwide phenomenon; there are many examples, the most recent of which is Greta Thurnberg and her youth environmental movement.

Cite three famous examples of where important change came from one individual. In the Black rights arena, Rosa Parks in the United States and Viola Desmond in Canada are two women whose courageous stands against segregation helped bring about its end. Nelson Mandela’s steadfast stance against Apartheid, and his decades-long imprisonment, may be the most famous example of an individual agent of change. Recently, Colin Kaepernick’s take-a-knee protest is another example.

Do you believe there is too much emphasis on the individual and not enough emphasis on the greater good? This is one of the most enduring philosophical arguments, debated since the time of the ancient Greeks - the question of whether human rights must favour the individual or the collective. The United States is often cited as an example of a country where individual rights trump collective rights - as evidenced by the inability for legislators to enact common sense gun laws. Some cultures in Eastern Asia strike Americans as too restrictive of individual rights. Striking the balance between individual and group rights is one of the most difficult debates in the human rights sphere - and the debates are certain to continue.

For Further Reading

Ted Talks - The Power of the Individual: https://www.ted.com/playlists/322/the_power_of_the_individual_vo

The Pollination Project: <https://thepollinationproject.org/theory-of-change-1-the-power-of-the-individual/>

Forbes Article: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sap/2014/05/22/the-power-of-the-individual/?sh=16bf34fba673>

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #8 DEMOCRACY

Middle School Discussion

What is the opposite of democracy? The opposite of democracy, or rule by the citizens of a nation, is a dictatorship, where an individual or a small group of people control all political power.

Why is democracy important? Democracy allows for the citizens of a nation to have a say in its life. Citizens of democracies usually enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of association and live a less oppressed life. That is not to say that democracies are perfect; far from it. But living in a democratic nation, and a democratic world, makes for happier and more fulfilled individuals.

What happens when democracies fail? Democracies, like gardens, need tending in order to succeed. When democracies turn into dictatorships, the everyday rights of individuals disappear. The right to vote disappears, as does freedom of speech, freedom of association, along with many other freedoms. When democracies fail, the country involved usually turns inward towards itself and does not take part in world affairs, further compounded the misery of its citizens.

When you grow up, will you vote in elections? The most important duty of an individual in a democracy is to vote. By helping choose who will represent you in government, you have a direct say in the success of your country. Never take for granted the power of your individual voice, especially when it comes to voting.



The pumphouse voting scene c. 1919.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #8 DEMOCRACY

High School Discussion

Do you believe that democracy is the best form of government? Winston Churchill, a Prime Minister of Britain once remarked that “democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have been tried.” Churchill’s sharp wit simultaneously slagged the difficulty of finding compromise, and the horror of dictatorships. To paraphrase Churchill, “Democracy ain’t perfect but it sure beats the alternative.”

Name three recent examples of a decline or trampelling of democracy?

The January 6th, 2021 Capitol Insurrection in the United States is just one example of a trampelling of democracy, where insurrectionists attempted to overturn the results of an election. In Europe, parties on the right wing of the political spectrum have enacted laws that trample on the rights of immigrants and refugees. In Hong Kong, the democratic process is constantly under threat from China.

What are the essential components of well-functioning democracies? Historically, democracies succeed when there is a separation of religion and the state, an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, the rule of law, individual rights, freedom of speech and assembly, and an independent media. But perhaps more importantly, individuals and legislators must demonstrate a respect for others and a willingness to compromise. Without respect and a willingness to compromise, democracies can fail.

For Further Reading

The Zambian Guardian, Characteristics of a Democracy: <https://www.zambianguardian.com/characteristics-of-a-democracy/>

Britannica, Features of an Ideal Democracy: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy/Features-of-ideal-democracy>

Democracy Wikipedia post: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy>

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER#9 NON-VIOLENT PROTEST

Middle School Discussion

What was special about the protest the marchers were taking part in?

It was a silent march, designed to get around the prohibition on protests - which usually included shouting.

What were they protesting? Days before the silent march, the government in Winnipeg outlawed protests and arrested the strike leaders. The strikers saw this as an assault on their democratic rights.

If the protest was non-violent, why did it turn violent? The day in question - Bloody Saturday, June 21st, 1919 - turned violent because mounted police fired on the crowd. The shots were followed by beatings by the "Specials" - armband-wearing special police who were hired after the regular police were fired.

Can you name someone in history that lead a non-violent protest? One of the most famous non-violent protests in history was Mahatma Gandhi's "Salt March". In 1930, he walked 241 miles to the sea, picking up followers as he went, in a non-violent protest of British Colonial rule. Dr. Martin Luther King used freedom marches during the 1960s American Civil Rights movement to draw attention to the lack of economic and human rights in the Black community.



The silent march protest scene - a re-creation of June 21st, 1919.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CHAPTER #9 NON-VIOLENT PROTEST

High School Discussion

Name three historical non-violent protests and explain why they succeeded.

Non-violent protests succeed when the moral weight of their argument, and the strength of the protest's leaders, combine to undermine the moral authority of the previously held position. Martin Luther King's eloquence and intelligence coupled with the fact that segregation was patently unfair, finally turned the tide towards change. The renunciation of violence is the key element of the non-violent protest; the protesters are saying, in effect, "I come unarmed to prove my point. If you resort to violence to stop me, you lose your moral authority and show yourselves to be oppressors."

In the case of the Winnipeg General Strike, how did the short-term failure of the non-violent protest affect the long-term legacy of the event?

When a non-violent protest is met with violence, the long-term perception of the initial goals of the protest comes under sharper focus. In the case of the Winnipeg General Strike, "Bloody Saturday" - the violent suppression of a non-violent protest - grew in infamy with the passing decades and denigrating the government's moral position and legacy. The strike became a metaphor for what happens when compromise is elusive. Today, the Winnipeg General Strike is commemorated with dozens of books, plays, monuments and a feature film musical, whereas the opponents of the strike are seen as having been out of touch with the desires of the populace.

For Further Reading

History Channel on Gandhi's Salt March: <https://www.history.com/news/gandhi-salt-march-india-british-colonial-rule>

United States Institute of Peace: <https://www.usip.org/issue-areas/nonviolent-action>

CBC Article on Winnipeg General Strike Legacy: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-general-strike-legacy-1.5137684>