

# “AND THE PRESENT NOW *will soon be the past*”

-Bob Dylan, “The Times, They Are A-Changin’”

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Since people have had the ability to express themselves, there have been forms of protest. All types of people have exercised their ability by forming strikes, sit-ins, picket lines and, of course, protest music.

The use of music as a form of protest has also been used in many different aspects and ways throughout the years, but it was not until the late 1960s that it became part of the mainstream. This emergence is due to a little piece of history that we know as Vietnam.

Eventually Vietnam ended, the American culture regained some of its happy times and all the musicians who wrote songs of protest, and the college students and hippies that followed them, moved on and became businessmen and women that now drive mini vans.

In the past 10 years, the music and entertainment industry has tried to find ways to gain new potential listeners and customers; leading new Top 40 artists to have something controversial about themselves or their music.

The beginning of the war in Iraq has allowed for some of these musicians to stop worrying about praising the devil, gay bashing or having sexual contact with minors.

The ever-redundant role of protesting the war in Iraq and our president is the new hip thing to do in Hollywood and Los Angeles.

Therefore, we will review these current musicians who jump on the protest-music bandwagon along with our protestors of yore.

## Protestors of Yore

### Bob Dylan

If someone uses the words protest and music in the same sentence, they better know of Bob Dylan. He's the man who is responsible for an entire generation standing up to their elders and making their views known about Vietnam and the global condition.

Entire albums of Dylan were devoted to the protest movement, such as “The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan” and “The Times They Are A-Changin’.”

Dylan has such a broad catalog of protest songs that it's pretty tough to list them all, but if you want to check out some of them find either: “Masters of War,” “The Times They Are A-Changin’” or “Hurricane.”

**Recommended Listen:** “The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan”



### John Lennon

Who would have thought that in 1963 a young Englishman and one of the co-founders of the Beatles would later become one of America's biggest supporters in the protest movement? Lennon went from writing songs about wanting to hold a girl's hand to writing songs like “Give Peace a Chance,” “Working Class Hero” and “Happy Xmas (War is Over).” It's amazing that all these songs were written more than 20 years ago, but they are just as relevant to this new war as they were in the time that Lennon penned them.

**Recommended Listen:** “Lennon Legend: The Very Best of John Lennon”



### Creedence Clearwater Revival

Creedence Clearwater Revival, commonly known as CCR, came out with the song “Fortunate Son” in the midst of the Vietnam War. “Fortunate Son” would have to be one of the songs most associated with the Vietnam War, which might be why it is in just about every single movie that has to do with Vietnam. John Fogerty and company let their feelings bleed through on this one.

**Recommended Listen:** “Chronicle, Vol. 1: The 20 Greatest Hits”

## Selected Anti-War Songs

- Masters of War - Bob Dylan
- Working Class Hero - John Lennon
- I Ain't Marching Anymore - Phil Ochs
- When the Ship Comes In - Bob Dylan
- Political Science - Randy Newman
- Born In the USA - Bruce Springsteen
- Bullet in the Blue Sky - U2
- Youngstown - Bruce Springsteen
- Heaven is Falling - Bad Religion
- Roll With It - Ani DiFranco
- Waltzing Matilda - Eric Bogle
- A Hard Rain's A Gonna Fall - Bob Dylan
- With God on Our Side - Bob Dylan
- Times They Are A Changin' - Bob Dylan
- Us and Them - Roger Waters
- Bravery of Being Out of Range - Roger Waters
- Oliver's Army - Elvis Costello
- Army Dreamers - Kate Bush
- Short Memory - Midnight Oil
- U.S. Forces - Midnight Oil
- Mothers, Daughters, Wives - Judy Small
- Covert Battalions - Billy Bragg
- Southampton Dock - Roger Waters
- The Tide is Turning - Roger Waters
- Call It Democracy - Bruce Cockburn
- Lives in the Balance - Jackson Brown
- Strangest Dream - Ed McCurdy
- Vigilante Man - Woody Guthrie
- War - Edwin Starr

- Rockin in the Free World - Neil Young
- Get Up, Stand Up - Bob Marley
- Fortunate Son - Creedence Clearwater Revival
- Send in the Marines - Tom Lehrer
- Cops of the World - Phil Ochs
- Work for Peace - Gil Scott Heron
- Attack of the Peacekeepers - Jello Biafra
- How Long - Jackson Brown
- Flowers of Guatemala - REM
- Son Came Home Today - Eric Bogle
- Between the Wars - Billy Bragg
- Rumours of War - Billy Bragg
- Shipbuilding - Elvis Costello
- New World Hawdah - Linton Kwesi Johnson
- Imagine - John Lennon
- Bold Marauder - Richard Farina
- Don't Let the Bastards - Kris Kristoferson
- Fixin' To Die Rag - Country Joe McDonald
- Sam Stone - John Prine
- One Tin Soldier - Covert
- Lucky Man - Emerson, Lake, and Palmer
- Universal Soldier - Buffy Sainte-Marie
- Don't Wanna Be a Soldier - John Lennon
- The Call Up - The Clash
- Bullet In Your Head - Rage Against the Machine
- The Great Mandala - Peter Dinklage

List presented in no particular order.  
source: <http://www.zmag.org/weluser.htm>

## The New Generation of Protestors

*Notes: Not all of these artists have actually written music about protesting our latest war, but many have made statements or have shown their opinions in other ways.*

### Dave Matthews Band

Dave Matthews recently stated on his website that “Washington was targeting Saddam Hussein now simply because it had been unable to smash the al-Qaeda network.” He believes the war could create backfire and spawn more anti-US terrorism.

**Recommended Listen:** “Busted Stuff” or “Live at Folsom Field”



### Eddie Vedder

Many people walked out of Pearl Jam's first concert of their new tour after their lead singer, Eddie Vedder, took a mask of Bush and impaled it on a microphone stand. Vedder originally purchased the mask to wear for the performance of his group's song “Bushleager” in which he states, “He's (Bush) not a leader, he's a Texas leaguer.”

After the initial walkout at the concert, Vedder followed up with the statement “Just to clarify, we support the troops” to try to cool off the remaining spectators.

**Recommended Listen:** “Riot Act”

### Madonna

There was a stir of controversy when scenes of Madonna's new music video “American Life” were viewed. In the video, Madonna supposedly throws a grenade at a President Bush look-a-like. Madonna recently decided to pull the video from rotation after feeling that it wasn't related to her respect for the troops in Iraq.



### Rage Against the Machine

One of the initial groups in the 1990s to start off the current protest movement was the now defunct Rage Against the Machine. Frontman Zach de la Rocha and the band made their view clear in all of their major albums and came out with music videos to back them. In an interesting side note for anybody that remembers the music video for “Sleep Now in the Fire,” Michael Moore directed the video. Moore recently created his own bit of controversy at the Academy Awards when he gave his acceptance speech for Best Documentary for his film “Bowling for Columbine.” Moore had received a mixture of boos and applause after stating that the United States had a fictitious president that had created a fictitious war for a fictitious purpose.

**Recommended Listen:** “Evil Empire”



### Anti-Flag

There really is not much to say about this band, since all they do is preach anti-government and any sense of authority. With songs like “9-1-1 for Peace” and “Die for your Government,” who would of guessed?

**Recommended Listen:** “Mobilize”

### System of a Down

These wild metal rockers have always been about using their music to create a message for the public. This is why their latest album, which is actually music from their first independent albums and of early-unreleased material, contains music that is being used to protest the war in Iraq right now. Their latest music video for the song “Boom” contains footage of anti-war protests from all around the world and features their opinions on the president and the war.

**Recommended Listen:** “Steal This Album”

