

The Role of Music in Social and Political Movements

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Abstract

Music has long played a critical role in shaping and energizing social and political movements across diverse historical and cultural contexts. Far beyond entertainment, it functions as a powerful medium of resistance, identity formation, emotional mobilization, and ideological expression. This article explores the multifaceted role of music in driving collective action, drawing on historical and contemporary examples such as the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle, the Arab Spring, and the Black Lives Matter movement. Using interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks, including social movement theory and cultural hegemony, the paper examines how music fosters solidarity, conveys protest messages, and challenges oppressive systems. It also analyzes the evolution of musical activism in the digital age, noting both the opportunities and limitations presented by new media platforms. Ultimately, the study highlights music's enduring function as both a cultural artifact and a political tool capable of inspiring change and sustaining resistance.

Keywords: Protest music, social movements, political activism, cultural resistance, identity, digital media, collective action, civil rights, music and politics.

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1. Introduction

Music is one of the oldest and most universal forms of human expression. It transcends linguistic barriers, communicates emotion, and reinforces cultural identity. Throughout history, music has served not only as a form of artistic expression but also as a powerful social tool capable of uniting communities, amplifying marginalized voices, and catalyzing change. In the context of social and political movements, music plays a unique and dynamic role. It can act as a rallying cry for justice, a repository of collective memory, and a vehicle for dissent and solidarity.

Across time and place, movements for justice, freedom, and equality have turned to music as a means of articulating resistance and inspiring action. From the spirituals sung by enslaved Africans in the Americas to the anti-colonial songs of liberation in Africa and Asia, and from the

folk anthems of the American civil rights era to the contemporary protest songs of hip-hop and punk, music has consistently accompanied struggles against oppression. These songs often emerge organically from grassroots movements and are characterized by their accessibility, emotional resonance, and ability to communicate complex political messages in ways that are immediate and memorable.

Moreover, music operates at both individual and collective levels. On a personal level, it helps individuals process trauma, assert identity, and feel connected to a larger cause. On a collective level, it helps to foster unity, organize collective behavior, and strengthen the sense of belonging necessary for sustained activism. For many movements, music is not merely a backdrop but a central force that shapes the tone, language, and imagery of protest.

In the 21st century, the role of music in activism has expanded dramatically due to the advent of digital technologies and social media platforms. Protest music now circulates more rapidly and widely than ever before, often reaching global audiences in real time. This digitization has not only democratized the creation and dissemination of music but also altered the strategies and impact of musical activism. However, it has also introduced new challenges, such as commercialization, performative activism, and digital censorship.

This article seeks to explore and analyze the role of music in social and political movements from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Key questions guiding the research include: How does music function as a tool for political communication and collective identity formation? In what ways has music contributed to the success or failure of various social movements? What characteristics make protest music effective, and how has its function evolved in the age of digital media?

By examining a range of case studies and engaging with interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks, this study aims to illuminate the enduring significance of music in mobilizing people, shaping ideologies, and driving social transformation.

2. Theoretical Framework

Understanding the role of music in social and political movements requires a multidisciplinary approach, integrating theories from cultural studies, sociology, political science, and communication studies. This section outlines key theoretical perspectives that illuminate how music functions as a catalyst for collective action, identity formation, and resistance.

2.1 Cultural Hegemony (Antonio Gramsci)

Antonio Gramsci's concept of **cultural hegemony** is foundational to analyzing how dominant groups maintain power through cultural means rather than overt force. Music, as part of cultural production, can either reinforce or challenge hegemonic ideologies. Protest music, in particular, disrupts the dominant narratives by providing an alternative discourse that questions existing power relations and inspires marginalized groups to envision new social realities.

- **Application:** For example, protest songs during the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. subverted dominant racial hierarchies by expressing collective pain and hope for equality, thereby undermining the hegemonic ideology of segregation.

2.2 Social Movement Theory

Social movement theory provides a framework to understand how collective actions are organized, mobilized, and sustained. Key components include resource mobilization, political opportunity structures, and collective identity.

- **Resource Mobilization:** Music acts as a symbolic resource that movements use to recruit, unify, and motivate participants.
- **Political Opportunity Structures:** Shifts in political contexts can influence the visibility and impact of protest music.
- **Collective Identity:** Music helps forge a shared sense of belonging among movement participants by articulating common experiences and aspirations.

2.3 Emotional Mobilization and Collective Identity Theory

Music's emotional resonance plays a critical role in mobilizing feelings of solidarity, anger, hope, and resilience. According to emotional mobilization theory, music helps to evoke and channel emotions that are essential for sustaining collective action.

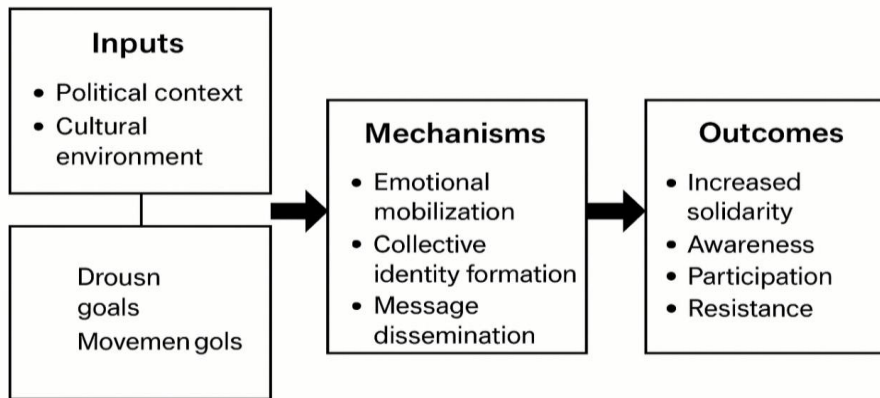
- Music facilitates collective identity by embedding shared histories and values in lyrics, melodies, and rhythms. This shared cultural expression strengthens social bonds, crucial for the cohesion and durability of movements.

2.4 The Frankfurt School's Critique of Mass Culture

The Frankfurt School theorists, such as Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, critiqued the culture industry for commodifying art and music, which they believed pacified and manipulated the masses. However, protest music represents a form of resistance to this commodification by reclaiming music as a space for critical reflection and oppositional expression.

- This perspective helps explain tensions within social movements regarding commercialization, authenticity, and the potential dilution of protest messages.

Conceptual Model of Music's Role in Social Movements



3. Historical Overview

Music has been an intrinsic part of human social life and has played a vital role in many social and political movements throughout history. Its ability to communicate complex emotions, articulate collective grievances, and foster solidarity makes it a powerful agent for change. This section traces the evolution of music as a form of resistance and activism, highlighting key periods and movements that exemplify its role in shaping social and political landscapes.

3.1 Early Uses of Music in Resistance

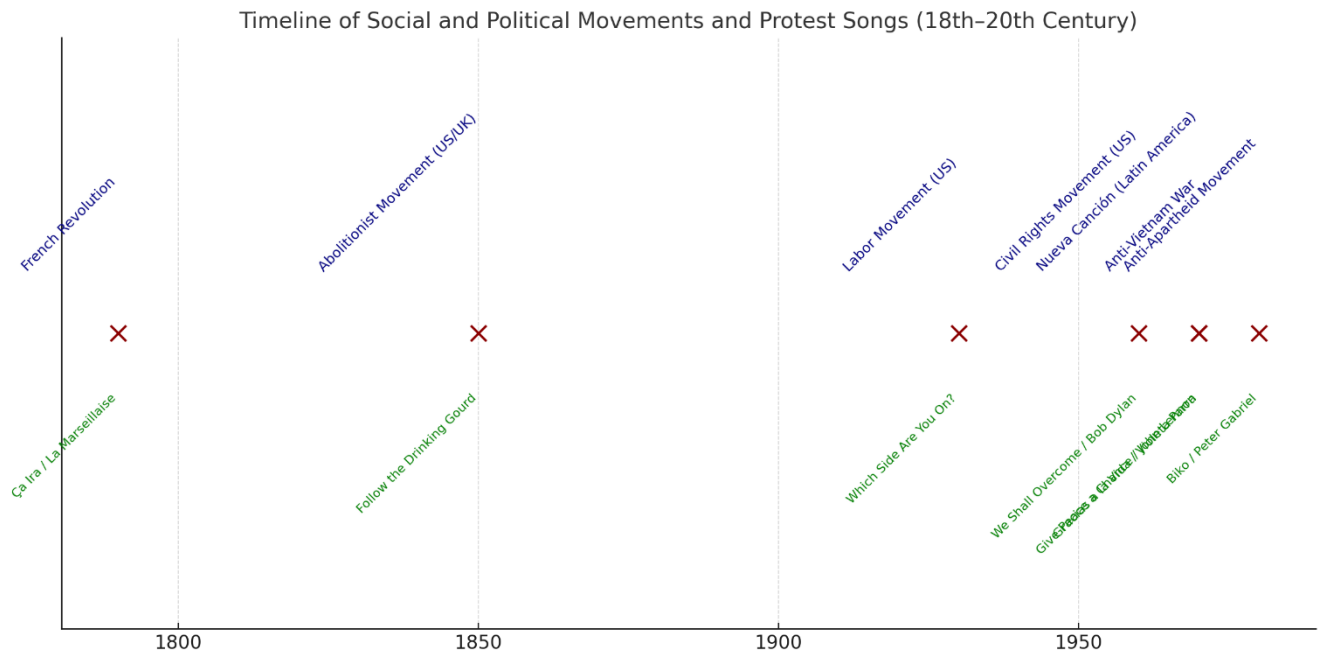
Historically, music served as one of the earliest forms of social commentary and protest, especially among oppressed and marginalized communities. In many pre-modern societies, music was intertwined with oral traditions, serving both to preserve history and to inspire communal action.

- **Spirituals and Slave Songs in the United States:** Enslaved African Americans used spirituals and work songs to express sorrow, hope, and resistance during the era of slavery. These songs often contained coded messages about escape plans and rebellion, serving as a form of covert communication under the harsh surveillance of slaveholders. For example, songs like “Wade in the Water” and “Follow the Drinking Gourd” provided metaphorical directions for escape routes via the Underground Railroad.
- **Revolutionary Songs during the French Revolution:** Music was also central to early modern European revolutions. The French Revolution (1789–1799) popularized anthems such as “La Marseillaise,” which became a symbol of republican ideals and popular resistance against tyranny. These songs galvanized the masses and communicated revolutionary zeal in an era before mass literacy and mass media.

3.2 20th Century Movements

The 20th century witnessed an explosion of politically charged music across continents, closely linked to major social and political upheavals such as decolonization, civil rights struggles, and anti-authoritarian protests.

- **The U.S. Civil Rights Movement:** Music played a crucial role in the African American struggle for civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s. Freedom songs, gospel, blues, and folk music served as unifying anthems for marches, sit-ins, and rallies. Songs like “We Shall Overcome,” “A Change Is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke, and Bob Dylan’s “Blowin’ in the Wind” provided hope and strengthened collective resolve.
- **Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa:** Music was a potent tool of resistance against apartheid, the institutionalized racial segregation and oppression enforced by the South African government until the early 1990s. Musicians such as Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela used their international platforms to raise awareness and mobilize opposition. Songs like “Soweto Blues” highlighted the brutal realities faced by Black South Africans.
- **Latin American Nueva Canción Movement:** In countries such as Chile, Argentina, and Cuba, the Nueva Canción (New Song) movement combined folk music with political activism. Artists like Víctor Jara and Mercedes Sosa infused traditional music with messages of social justice, anti-imperialism, and solidarity with the working class, often under repressive regimes.



The timeline graph shows major social and political movements alongside influential protest songs and musicians from the 18th to the late 20th century.

This detailed overview shows that music's role in social and political movements is not only persistent but adaptive, evolving with the communication technologies and political contexts of each era. In later sections, we will examine specific case studies and explore how music continues to inspire resistance and solidarity in the contemporary digital age.

4. Case Studies

The influence of music on social and political movements is best understood through the examination of specific historical and contemporary examples. This section presents four key case studies that illustrate the diverse ways music has been used as a tool for protest, resistance, and empowerment across different cultural and political contexts.

4.1. Civil Rights Movement (USA)

The American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s is perhaps one of the most studied examples where music served as a powerful catalyst for social change. Songs like “We Shall Overcome”, rooted in gospel and spiritual traditions, became anthems of hope, resilience, and unity among African Americans fighting against segregation and racial injustice.

- **Function of Music:** Music provided emotional strength and a sense of collective identity during marches, sit-ins, and rallies. It was both a unifying force and a strategic tool to communicate the movement's messages peacefully but powerfully.
- **Artists and Songs:** Mahalia Jackson, Pete Seeger, and Bob Dylan were among influential figures who contributed protest songs that galvanized public support and awareness.
- **Impact:** Music helped transcend racial and geographic boundaries, reaching wider audiences and inspiring solidarity globally.

4.2. Anti-Apartheid Movement (South Africa)

Music was equally pivotal in South Africa's struggle against apartheid, the institutionalized racial segregation and oppression that lasted until the early 1990s. South African musicians like Miriam Makeba (“Mama Africa”) and Hugh Masekela used their art to raise international awareness and maintain morale within oppressed communities.

- **Function of Music:** Songs served as coded messages of resistance, cultural pride, and defiance against apartheid policies. They were used to preserve indigenous languages and traditions suppressed by the regime.
- **Artists and Songs:** “Soweto Blues” by Makeba and “Bring Him Back Home” by Masekela became symbolic calls for freedom and political change.

- **International Impact:** Music crossed borders, aiding the global anti-apartheid movement by mobilizing international sanctions and support.

4.3. Arab Spring

The Arab Spring (2010-2012) marked a new era where music, combined with digital technology, played a crucial role in political uprisings across the Middle East and North Africa. Protest songs circulated rapidly on social media, amplifying voices of dissent under authoritarian regimes.

- **Function of Music:** Music was a form of digital activism that helped unify protesters, articulate grievances, and maintain momentum amid state censorship and repression.
- **Artists and Songs:** Tunisian rapper El Général gained notoriety with “Rais Lebled” (“Head of State”), a song that directly challenged the regime and inspired widespread protests.
- **Digital Amplification:** Platforms like YouTube and Facebook were instrumental in spreading protest music beyond national borders, creating a transnational movement.

4.4. Feminist and LGBTQ+ Movements

Music has been a vibrant vehicle for feminist and LGBTQ+ activism, providing marginalized communities with a means to express identity, challenge societal norms, and demand equality.

- **Function of Music:** Protest music in these movements often challenges gender norms, confronts discrimination, and celebrates diversity and empowerment.
- **Artists and Movements:**
 - The **Riot Grrrl** movement of the 1990s used punk rock to confront sexism and promote female empowerment.
 - **Pussy Riot**, a Russian feminist punk collective, used provocative performances and songs to protest government oppression and advocate for women's rights.
 - Contemporary LGBTQ+ artists incorporate themes of pride and resistance into mainstream genres.
- **Impact:** Music has helped normalize queer identities and feminist ideas, influencing both popular culture and political discourse.

4.5. Contemporary Black Lives Matter Movement

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, emerging prominently in the 2010s, leverages music, especially hip-hop and R & B, as a form of protest against systemic racism and police brutality.

- **Function of Music:** Music offers a platform for storytelling, raising awareness, and mobilizing support through emotionally charged narratives.

- **Artists and Songs:** Kendrick Lamar’s “Alright” became an unofficial anthem of the movement, while Beyoncé’s “Formation” and Childish Gambino’s “This Is America” critically address racial injustice.
- **Media and Mobilization:** The digital era allows these songs to reach global audiences instantly, galvanizing younger generations in the fight for racial equality.

Summary of Case Studies

Movement	Key Artists/Groups	Notable Songs	Functions of Music	Impact
Civil Rights Movement	Mahalia Jackson, Pete Seeger	"We Shall Overcome"	Unity, emotional strength, peaceful protest	Inspired global solidarity
Anti-Apartheid Movement	Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela	"Soweto Blues," "Bring Him Back Home"	Resistance, cultural pride, international awareness	Mobilized global anti-apartheid support
Arab Spring	El Général	"Rais Lebled"	Digital activism, unification, anti-censorship	Spread protests across Middle East via social media
Feminist & LGBTQ+ Movements	Riot Grrrl, Pussy Riot	Various protest anthems	Challenging gender norms, empowerment	Normalized queer and feminist voices
Black Lives Matter	Kendrick Lamar, Beyoncé	"Alright," "Formation"	Storytelling, raising awareness, mobilization	Amplified racial justice movements globally

5. Functions of Music in Movements

Music plays a multifaceted and indispensable role in social and political movements. Beyond being a source of entertainment, it serves various critical functions that enhance the effectiveness and longevity of activism. This section breaks down the primary functions of music in movements, supported by historical examples and scholarly insights.

5.1 Emotional Expression and Catharsis

Music provides a vital outlet for emotional expression, allowing individuals and communities to articulate feelings that might otherwise be suppressed or marginalized. In the context of social and political movements, music channels collective emotions such as hope, anger, sorrow, and resilience. For oppressed or disenfranchised groups, this cathartic function can be therapeutic and empowering.

Example: During the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, songs like “*We Shall Overcome*” articulated a shared sense of struggle and hope, helping activists cope with trauma and maintain morale.

Psychological studies support that music can reduce anxiety and foster emotional resilience, which is crucial in high-stress environments like protests or sustained activism.

5.2 Unifying Group Identity and Solidarity

Music acts as a social glue, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity among participants. Protest songs often incorporate symbols, language, and references specific to a movement, reinforcing collective identity. Singing together in rallies or marches generates feelings of unity, empowering individuals by making them part of a larger community with common goals.

Example: In the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, music by artists like Miriam Makeba served to unify people across ethnic and cultural lines.

Theories on collective identity in social movements emphasize the importance of shared cultural symbols, and music frequently fulfills this role effectively.

5.3 Disseminating Messages and Ideology

One of the core functions of protest music is to communicate the movement’s messages and ideological positions. Lyrics often critique existing power structures, highlight injustices, and propose visions of social change. Music’s emotional appeal helps make these messages memorable and accessible to a wide audience, transcending literacy or language barriers.

Example: The Latin American *Nueva Canción* movement used folk-inspired music to spread messages of social justice and anti-imperialism across the region.

Music can serve as a form of “cultural resistance,” as described by scholars, by providing an alternative narrative to dominant or oppressive discourses.

5.4 Challenging Dominant Narratives and Power Structures

Protest music often functions as a direct challenge to hegemonic power, questioning official histories, cultural norms, or political regimes. It provides marginalized voices a platform to contest authority and call for justice. By making resistance audible and visible, music helps destabilize dominant ideologies and mobilizes public opinion.

Example: During the Arab Spring, artists like El Général in Tunisia used viral protest songs to openly confront authoritarian regimes.

The role of music as a subversive tool is well-documented in critical cultural theory, highlighting its capacity to inspire dissent and foster critical consciousness.

5.5 Encouraging Participation and Resilience

Music energizes activism by motivating individuals to participate actively in protests, marches, and other forms of collective action. Rhythms and repetitive choruses help sustain physical energy during long events, while uplifting lyrics reinforce a commitment to the cause. Music also aids in maintaining long-term resilience by renewing hope and reinforcing the movement's vision.

Example: The Black Lives Matter movement has utilized music from rap to R&B to mobilize youth and sustain momentum in the face of ongoing challenges.

Social movement research underscores the importance of cultural tools like music in recruitment and retention of activists.

In summary, music functions as an emotional, social, ideological, and practical resource in social and political movements. It expresses collective feelings, builds solidarity, spreads messages, challenges power, and sustains activism. This multifaceted role makes music an irreplaceable tool in the toolkit of resistance and social change worldwide.

6. Music and Media: Evolution of Platforms

Music has always been intertwined with the media technologies of its time, and this relationship profoundly shapes the reach, impact, and modes of musical activism within social and political movements. Over the decades, the evolution of media platforms from early radio broadcasts to the rise of digital streaming and social media has transformed how protest music is created, distributed, and consumed, thereby amplifying its power as a tool for change.

6.1. Early Media: Radio, Records, and Television

In the early to mid-20th century, radio and vinyl records were the primary mediums for disseminating music. Radio, with its wide accessibility, played a pivotal role in spreading protest songs beyond local communities, allowing movements to gain national and even international attention. For example, during the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, folk and gospel songs were broadcasted on radio stations, helping unify disparate groups under common anthems like “We Shall Overcome.”

Similarly, vinyl records made protest music portable and collectible, allowing activists and sympathizers to carry songs of resistance with them. Television, which emerged as a dominant medium in the 1950s and 60s, further amplified the visibility of musical activism by broadcasting live performances from influential artists who supported political causes. The broadcast of Bob Dylan's songs or performances by Joan Baez brought protest music into mainstream consciousness.

6.2. The Rise of Music Videos and MTV

The 1980s marked a new era with the advent of music television channels like MTV, which transformed music into a visual and narrative experience. Music videos became a crucial platform for political messages, allowing artists to visually dramatize social issues. For instance, Michael Jackson's "Black or White" and U2's "Sunday Bloody Sunday" combined compelling visuals with powerful themes, helping to raise awareness and empathy on topics like racial equality and conflict.

MTV's global reach also allowed protest music to transcend borders, influencing international audiences and fostering transnational solidarity among movements. This visual storytelling reinforced music's role as a medium of cultural and political expression, engaging younger generations more effectively than traditional media.

6.3. The Digital Revolution: Internet, Social Media, and Streaming

The most significant transformation in recent decades has come from the rise of the internet and digital platforms. The democratization of music production and distribution through platforms like YouTube, SoundCloud, Spotify, and Apple Music has enabled activists and independent artists to bypass traditional gatekeepers such as record labels and radio stations.

Social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have become essential tools for spreading protest music rapidly and virally. For example, during the Arab Spring uprisings, songs like El General's "Rais Lebled" became viral anthems that energized protesters and communicated dissent beyond national borders. TikTok, with its short-form video format, has recently become a powerful platform where politically charged songs can reach millions within hours, mobilizing youth participation and raising awareness on issues like racial justice and climate change.

This digital shift also fosters interactivity; fans and activists can remix, share, comment on, and create derivative works that further the cause, making musical activism more participatory and decentralized. Digital platforms enable real-time responses to political events, giving rise to an ongoing dialogue between artists, activists, and audiences.

6.4. Opportunities and Challenges in the Digital Age

While digital media have expanded the possibilities for musical activism, they also present new challenges. Algorithms can create echo chambers, limiting the exposure of protest music to already sympathetic audiences rather than broadening its reach. Furthermore, governments and corporations can use digital surveillance and censorship to suppress dissenting voices, including those expressed through music.

Commercialization and the fast-paced nature of digital trends can sometimes dilute the message of protest music, turning it into fleeting viral content rather than sustained movements for change. The oversaturation of content also means that political songs must compete for attention in an increasingly crowded media landscape.

Despite these challenges, the adaptability of protest music to digital platforms affirms its resilience and continued relevance. Artists and activists continue to innovate ways to harness new media, combining music with visual arts, hashtags, and online campaigns to amplify their voices.

The evolution of media platforms has been central to the changing dynamics of music in social and political movements. From radio and television to the expansive digital ecosystems of today, each technological shift has broadened the reach and impact of protest music. Digital media, in particular, offers unprecedented opportunities for grassroots activism, global solidarity, and participatory culture, while also introducing complex challenges related to censorship, commercialization, and algorithmic gatekeeping. Understanding this media evolution is key to appreciating how music continues to inspire and mobilize movements worldwide.

7. Criticisms and Limitations

While music has undeniably played a vital role in social and political movements, it is important to critically examine the challenges, limitations, and criticisms associated with its use as a tool for activism. Understanding these nuances allows for a more balanced view of the complex relationship between music and political change.

7.1. Commercialization and Co-optation

One major criticism is that protest music can be co-opted and commercialized, diluting its original political message. As social movements gain visibility, the music associated with them often enters mainstream culture and markets. This commercialization can transform songs into mere commodities, stripping away their radical edge and reducing their impact as agents of change. For example, some critics argue that songs originally written as fierce critiques of social injustice become depoliticized when used in advertisements or commercial media, weakening their capacity to inspire activism.

Moreover, the music industry itself may prioritize marketability over political content, encouraging artists to tone down controversial messages to reach broader audiences. This dynamic can lead to the sanitization of protest music, where the rebellious spirit is softened to suit consumer tastes, thus limiting its transformative potential.

7.2. Censorship and Political Repression

Another significant limitation is the frequent censorship and suppression of politically charged music by governments and authoritarian regimes. Protest songs often face bans, censorship, or

persecution of the artists involved. This repression can restrict the distribution and accessibility of such music, especially in regions with limited freedom of expression.

For example, during the apartheid era in South Africa, many protest musicians faced harassment and exile. Similarly, in various authoritarian states, protest music is either banned outright or heavily monitored, limiting its reach and effectiveness. Even in democratic societies, controversial political music may be marginalized in mainstream media, reducing its potential audience.

7.3. Questioning the Effectiveness of Music as a Catalyst for Change

Skeptics argue that music alone cannot drive significant political or social change and caution against overestimating its impact. While music can raise awareness, create solidarity, and inspire participation, tangible political outcomes generally require coordinated action, policy change, and sustained activism beyond the musical realm.

Some critics claim that protest music risks creating a sense of “slacktivism” or passive engagement, where listeners feel they have contributed to a cause simply by consuming or sharing songs without engaging in meaningful action. This can potentially dilute the urgency or complexity of political struggles.

7.4. Limitations in Inclusivity and Representation

Another limitation concerns the inclusivity of protest music within social movements. Although music often aims to unify diverse groups, certain genres or styles may resonate only with specific demographics, thereby limiting cross-cultural or cross-class appeal.

For instance, the prominence of hip-hop in movements like Black Lives Matter strongly engages younger and urban audiences but might have less resonance with older generations or people outside specific cultural contexts. Similarly, feminist or LGBTQ+ anthems may not always be embraced by all factions within those communities, reflecting tensions and divisions.

Moreover, language barriers can restrict the international reach of protest music, confining its influence to particular linguistic or cultural groups unless translations or adaptations occur.

7.5. The Risk of Oversimplification

Music, by nature, condenses complex social and political issues into lyrical and melodic forms. While this accessibility is a strength, it also poses the risk of oversimplifying nuanced problems. Protest songs often rely on slogans, repeated refrains, and emotionally charged imagery that may gloss over the complexities of systemic issues, policy debates, or historical contexts.

This oversimplification can lead to misunderstandings or the reduction of movements to catchy phrases without addressing deeper structural causes or solutions.

While music remains a powerful and emotive tool in social and political movements, its role is not without significant criticisms and limitations. Commercialization and co-optation can blunt its radical edge, censorship can restrict its reach, and its impact may be limited if not accompanied by broader activism. Additionally, issues of representation and the risk of oversimplifying complex issues highlight the challenges music faces as a vehicle for political

change. Recognizing these factors encourages a more critical and nuanced appreciation of music's place in activism, underscoring the need for multi-dimensional approaches to social transformation.

8. Conclusion

Throughout history, music has proven itself to be far more than an artistic or recreational outlet; it is a powerful socio-political force. This article has explored the multifaceted role of music in social and political movements, demonstrating how it operates as a vehicle for resistance, a tool for emotional mobilization, a unifier of collective identity, and a transmitter of ideology and hope.

From the haunting spirituals sung by enslaved Africans in the Americas to the anthems of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, from South African anti-apartheid songs to contemporary hip-hop and digital protest music, it is clear that music transcends boundaries of language, geography, and time. It resonates emotionally with individuals and communities, offering a shared space for expressing suffering, defiance, and dreams of justice.

One of the most profound functions of music in political and social movements is its ability to humanize struggles, giving voice to the voiceless and rendering complex grievances accessible and relatable. Music can compress a movement's goals, frustrations, and emotions into a single, memorable piece that spreads rapidly and stirs action. It often works hand-in-hand with slogans, imagery, and physical demonstrations, strengthening a movement's visual and sonic identity.

However, this conclusion also recognizes the limitations and challenges surrounding music's role in activism. The commercialization of protest music, its susceptibility to state censorship, and its potential to lose meaning when detached from grassroots organizing are important considerations. Moreover, in the digital age, while social media platforms have expanded the reach of activist music, they also risk reducing complex struggles to fleeting online trends.

Despite these limitations, music remains a vital component of modern activism. It is not a standalone solution, but when combined with strategic organization, political action, and community engagement, it becomes a powerful catalyst for change. Music has the ability not only to reflect the spirit of resistance but also to shape it by inspiring courage, forging unity, and imagining alternative futures.

The role of music in social and political movements is enduring and transformative. It offers a unique blend of emotional, cultural, and political influence that continues to inspire movements across the globe. As long as there are voices demanding justice and freedom, there will be songs that echo their calls reminding us that where words fail, music speaks.

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