

THE PLAYLISTS

Tom Morello: Protest Songs

A great protest song can shake the foundations of your beliefs," the Rage Against the Machine guitarist says. "I chose a bunch of songs that imagine a better world - and some that have designs on destroying the tyrants of this one."

1. "Imagine"

John Lennon, 1971

Lennon described this song as basically the *Communist Manifesto* set to music. It's couched in such a beautiful melody and gorgeous singing performance that it's easy to miss the fact that it's a lullaby of socialist-style overthrow.

2. "Fight the Power"

Public Enemy, 1989

The greatest hip-hop song ever made. It's revolutionary both sonically and lyrically. A heroic anthem of ghetto liberation.

3. "Get Up, Stand Up"

Bob Marley and the Wailers, 1973

I've seen it firsthand in Japan, in Korea, in Kenya and throughout Western Europe: When shit goes down, people go out and sing this in the streets.

4. "Biko"

Peter Gabriel, 1980
It was written about Stephen Biko's death at the hands of apartheid security forces, but it's much more universal, a global rallying cry against tyranny.

5. "This Land Is Your Land"

Woody Guthrie, 1951

The more people catch on to what this song is really about,

the more barricades there'll be in the streets.

6. "Anarchy in the U.K."

The Sex Pistols, 1976

There are songs that are about fighting for a better future, and there are songs about destroying the present. That's what this song is about. This is what England produced: a generation

without hope or future, and this is their soundtrack.

7. "White Riot"

The Clash, 1977

"Are you taking over/Or are you taking orders?/Are you going backwards/Or are you going forwards?" I put that on my refrigerator as a teen.

8. "With God on Our Side"

Bob Dylan, 1964

The lyrics lay bare the hypocrisy of the history of warfare.

9. "Another Brick in the Wall (Part 2)"

Pink Floyd, 1979

It depicts the underpinnings of most educational systems: They're designed to bleed out creativity and autonomy. And it's got a bitching guitar solo!

10. "Killing in the Name"

Rage Against the Machine, 1992

"Fuck you, I won't do what you tell me": It embodies resistance to illegitimate authority, wherever it rears its head.

For more of **TOM MORELLO'S** favorite protest songs, go to rollingstone.com/playlists.

