

19th century

Simple, repetitive lyrics, easy to remember and easier to spread through the **oral tradition**.
Civil war, slavery negro spirituals.

1920s

Rise of **electrical sound recording**, allowed artists to use complex tunes and lyrics, a song could proliferate outside the **oral tradition**.
Jazz, Blues.
Labor movement, the Great Depression, racial discrimination.



After WWII

Protest music changed when **Folk music** became popular through the **radio**.
McCarthyism, anti-nuclear songs.

1950s 1960s

The Civil Rights Movement produced several notable pieces of protest music.
Soul music, "freedom songs".

Late 1960s and 1970s

Anti-war music against the **Vietnam War** for example, but also **environmental concerns**.

1980s 1990s

Protest songs in America refocused on **issues of class, poverty, women's rights**. The rise of the **VH1 and MTV** gave artists a **visual medium** to express themselves.
Rock music, Hip-hop, birth of Rap, the Punk movement.



2000s

Huge pool of emotion and frustration **after 9/11**. Good music but lack of a unifying political movement. **International wars, terrorism.**



2010s

Police brutality, Trump's election.



2008

Social media become the biggest tool for sharing music. **Election of Barack Obama. Black Lives Matter, feminism, "Empowerment songs".**

