

POWER AND PROTEST

Nations (and their rulers) come and go, and when power meets with protest, there is often evidence in the realms of both art and entertainment. When learning about history and society, it can be helpful to view artifacts created in reaction to problems that arose due to government and cultural issues. The list below provides just a few examples of responses that artists and writers provided to understand and explain their world.

BOOKS

Arthur Miller wrote the play *The Crucible* in 1952 to compare the Salem witch trials with twentieth-century McCarthyism.

Charles Dickens wrote *Hard Times* as a critique of the social and economic troubles of his time.

FILM AND TELEVISION

Frank Capra's 1939 *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* follows a protagonist as he fights against political machines.

"The Obsolete Man" from *The Twilight Zone* is a dystopian episode written by Rod Serling that explores a world where humans with outdated ideas (such as faith) are deemed obsolete.

MUSIC

Revolutionary War-era Americans appropriated the folk song "Yankee Doodle Dandy," which insulted them, and turned it into a song of defiance against England.

Dmitri Shostakovich dedicated his String Quartet No. 8 to "the victims of fascism and war."

ART

Francisco de Goya's *Disasters of War* is a print series that responds to Spain's struggles following the French occupation of Napoleon Bonaparte.

In 1521, Lucas Cranach created a woodcut called *Antichristus* that depicts the pope taking large sums of money from a ruler.

POETRY

Holocaust survivor Alexander Kimel wrote "The Action in the Ghetto of Rohatyn, March 1942" as a testament to the event.

Maya Angelou wrote the poem "Caged Bird" in 1983, dealing with issues of freedom and civil rights.

