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History 213

**Précis**

Author of *Democracy in the Streets: From Port Huron to the Siege of Chicago*, James Miller, is an American writer and academic. James Miller was born in 1947, and is the author of many books especially in the field of philosophy. He is currently in the Chair for *Liberal Studies and Professors of Politics* at the new school of Social Research. James Miller has also received many awards for instance he is the winner of an ASCAP-Deems Taylor award and a Ralph Gleason BMI award for best music book of 1999.

The book *Democracy in the Streets: From Port Huron to the Siege of Chicago* begins mentioning Tom Hayden, and his belief that that poverty and race would soon burst, and dramatic mayhem would occur as a result. He saw the cold war as an event that was very relatable to the situation happening in America. Eventually realized that the source that would help him capture the people attention, was to develop a group that would help students debate on various issues, which became known as the group Students for a Dramatic Society (SDS).

The SDS had many strong roots, but perhaps the strongest were brought out by ERAP. ERAP stood for Economic Research and Action Project., which was a program of direct action. The groups SDS participated in various movements, some of those were going into communities of high poverty and in America and attempted to organize the broken community. Teaching the importance of registering and voting, as well as advocating their opinions.

In 1965 internal problems began to occur within SDS and affected a lot of their leadership. Later Berkley began to spark up in the free speech movement, which provoked many militant and rebellious acts. This brought a new perspective of movement, however, the freedom speech was a double edge sword. It made it easy for candidates to burst any comment that had in mind. Making the group very disorganized.

Later on in the novel we begin to see tension begin to occur between genders. Women in the group began to feel used and felt misrepresented. Women were heavily involved in the groups, but began to feel that they were not being represented. It was starting to seem that every event they were protesting for was more for the male’s right oppose to a unify, men and women protest, where women would be looked as equal.

This book really emphasized the notion of structure to me. The group SDS had phenomenal ideas but some of their core values made it possible to become very loose in their structure of their organization. The group, later on became composed of many ideas, with no set goal, because everyone had their own gain, and chimed in what they felt more important to them personally. Therefore this book really made me evaluate the organization and structure these other groups during the 1960’s had. The 1960’s was truly an overwhelming time for idea, where people are filled with opinions, and the tension was really.