

## **Voting Rights Poem**

By: Gianna Amaro, Prina Doshi (*Within the context of the controversy surrounding voting numbers for 2022 Midterm elections*)

Dear Boomer Republicans  
Suggestions to raise voting age  
Can we get on the same page?  
Proposing hindering our voting rights  
Did you not expect us to fight?  
Tell us our generation doesn't participate  
And when we vote, you think we hallucinate  
We defied your expectations  
Now we deal with your frustrations  
Because the vote didn't go your way  
We are expected to pay  
So, next midterm or presidential election  
Please don't try to sway with your deceptions  
Fom GenZ

## **Untitled**

By: Janae Bacchus  
Nineteen twenty was the first year women in America could vote  
Only after years of fighting the original constraints that our founding fathers wrote  
Politicians treat voters like puppets, pulling their strings to be re-elected  
Under attack, voters must continue to fight back against voter suppression  
People like me have opinions too, so why can't my voice be heard?  
Power to the people is fundamental for a democracy, so please spread the word  
Equality is what we crave, but something we have struggled to find for many centuries  
This is my country, our country, and we will no longer act as puppets  
So remember, a democracy without voter protections is no better than a penitentiary

## **Apathetic Epidemic**

By: Anthony Cacciato  
Verse 1:  
"What's the point?", most people say  
The results are always the same  
So they go and throw their vote away  
While they've still got skin in the game

Weeks pass on from Election Day  
Your world begins to change  
They've moved to take your rights away  
For your safety in exchange  
Bridge:  
Right from the founding, these issues persisted  
Denial of the right to make your voice heard  
Whoever they don't want are simply blacklisted  
And it happens today, it's absurd  
Chorus:  
An apathetic epidemic  
That's what we're going through  
The problem here ain't systemic  
It's because of me and you  
They've tried before, and they'll try again  
To take away your right  
That's why every American  
Should put up a fight

## **Untitled**

By: Martin Cheong

I want to vote  
Even if I'm fresh off the boat  
I want to be able to choose who to lead  
Even if my name is Jared and im 19 and i can't read  
Don't worry I will pay the tax  
So just go ahead and relax  
I am not a criminal  
I don't want be invisible  
Let's not make this too political  
I am also an individual  
Losing my mind inside this one-way mirror  
I don't think I can make myself any clearer:  
(Chorus)  
I wanna vote  
Even if I'm fresh off the boat  
Even if my name is Jared and im 19 and i can't read

I want to be able to choose who to lead

## Untitled

By: Chloe Deng, Jocelyn Morningstar, Hanah Ryu

This country was built to get rid of the monarchy  
But nothing is perfect, not even democracy  
The votes were given to property-owning white men  
Didn't even think to include minorities or women  
Freedom is something we seem to struggle with  
We fought a whole war for it, so it can't be a myth  
Representation is a right that everybody needs  
We shouldn't have to make the people ask and plead  
Once Black people were freed they still couldn't vote  
Too many rules in place, the whites could still gloat  
Property laws, grandfather clause, poll taxes you see  
This country was made for one person and it sure wasn't me  
Not til the year 1920 could women vote  
American history is nothing to sugarcoat  
Men were supposed to be their representation  
I think some of their opinions got lost in translation  
Freedom is something we seem to struggle with  
We fought a whole war for it, so it can't be a myth  
Representation is a right that everybody needs  
We shouldn't have to make the people ask and plead

## Untitled

By: Pape Khaly Diop

Roses are red  
I don't know what to do  
Republicans are Red  
Democrats are Blue  
Its 1826, elections are back  
I can't wait to vote, oh wait  
I'm black  
The south is very mean, It got me feeling blue,  
Tried to move to the north but they  
attacked me too

Tried to make an honest living but it might be too late  
But in the white mans eyes is a lot of hate  
I need a new life; a very clean slate  
I guess I'll try again in 2008

## Untitled

By: Elijah Dourado

Represent America

On the backs of our ancestor's trials and tribulations to reach the polls

We cry...representation matters

On the fact that our country is for the people, but does not protect all its people

We cry...representation matters

On the tears of each and every failed attempt for women to walk side by side with men to the polls

We cry...representation matters

On the assimilation attempts of our indigenous population born in the US, but not deemed US citizens until 1924

We cry...representation matters

On the unfair literacy tests and poll taxes which stopped our Black brothers and sisters from being heard at the polls

We cry...representation matters

On the barriers placed against everyday people making it harder for their voices to ring free

We cry...representation matters

Rep | Pre | Sent

Rep | Pre | Sent

We cry REP-PRESENT... we cry...representation matters!

We cry for the representation of all people of The United States of America

On the day when all are represented at the polls, our victory cry will be as bold as those broad stripes and bright stars

## Untitled

By: Cameron Doyle

US Electoralism caused a deep, dividing schism. Banter and debate over who can participate.

At first, only landed men had the keys to democracy. But after throwing down the crown, that felt like hypocrisy.

Then some states decided that taxpayers should be voters, those with stake in government, not a bunch of freeloaders.

Paupers were perceived as prone to Impropriety, to give them voting rights would threaten their society.

At the Constitutional convention, a matter of contention, was if national suffrage would be ratified in ink.

But states differed in opinion, and so came the decision, that national franchise would fall in the states dominion.

As for who enjoyed the right to fill out ballots that were dropping, you can leave that to the husbands cuz you know women be shopping.

Ladies, people said, were far too delicate. For near two hundred years restrained as electoral celibates.

Faith based exemptions too, in some states, but those would widen. Which is how you get Catholics in charge like Joe Biden.

## Untitled

By: Aisha Drisdorn

People be working these long hours

Where's the time for us to get in line

You expect us to speak our mind

To use our voice

Like we even have a choice

As not all of us have the right

Despite living in this world that is considered a "delight"

Yet it is only full of spite

America is supposed to be a democracy

But all I see is hypocrisy:

A place that screams freedom

As we continue to bleed them

Yet we don't really mean it

Otherwise we'd give them a permit

They're screaming to free them

When are we going to believe them

## Untitled

By: E.j. Ezuma-Ngwu

You say our individual votes don't matter

Lost in the crowd like a mad hatter

But truth be told.

When the pivotal moments of your life unfold

You will continuously complain about injustice, rendering yourself insane

However you are the one at fault,

The one to blame.

## Untitled

By: Jayla Hemphill

The American rose, rooted far into the soil,  
Blossomed in blood, sweat, and turmoil  
From the soldier's chants to the slave's songs,  
The rose symbolizes growth, the righting of the wrong.  
Standing for Civil Rights and falling to the War,  
Where the poor man waited at Heaven's door,  
For each petal that withers away,  
That poor man waits, yet another day.  
Soon, the ground will sprout a plain, bare stem,  
And the man will be reminded, he's yet another of "them."  
And perhaps, someday, a new rose will bloom  
And perhaps, someday, it too will be doomed,  
Because the beauty of the rose is a symbol of guilt,  
And like that poor man's hope, that rose will wilt  
See, the rose's petals were once a symbol of pride,  
An ongoing hope for man to take in stride.  
The battle's never-ending, it's simply a cycle  
The rich will drink wine and deem that man spiteful.  
They will pierce him with thorns and complain of his cries,  
They will call him stupid, they will strip his rights  
They will close the ballot boxes the moment night falls,  
They will watch the man wither into nothing at all.  
And perhaps, someday, they will open that door,  
They will find no one there, at least not anymore.

## Untitled

By: Matthew Leboffe

Verse 1:

In the South, a battle raged on  
As African Americans fought for their right to vote and be gone  
From segregation and discrimination that they faced  
But with courage and resilience, they won their place

Chorus:

Voting rights, what a fight

For freedom and equality, day and night  
Marching, protesting, standing strong  
For the right to vote, all day long

Refrain:

We won't stop until every voice is heard  
Until every citizen can cast their word  
For the future of this land we hold dear  
Voting rights, they are finally here

Verse 2:

In the 60s, the Civil Rights Movement took flight  
With leaders like MLK, who fought for what's right  
They marched on Washington, "things need to be changed!"  
For equal rights and voting power, wanting to not be estranged

Chorus:

Voting rights, what a fight  
For freedom and equality, day and night  
Marching, protesting, standing strong  
For the right to vote, all day long

Refrain:

We won't stop until every voice is heard  
Until every citizen can cast their word  
For the future of this land we hold dear  
Voting rights, they are finally here

Outro:

So let's exercise our right to vote  
And make our voices heard, with every note  
For a better future, for all to see  
Equality and justice, finally free.

## **Voting in the eyes of a traveler**

By: Jay Lei

(Verse 1)

Voting,  
This growth ring of America,  
Attests to its checkered history  
Of some protracted struggles  
Of joy and celebration

Of tears and lamentation  
I have only heard stories of pious youths.  
Waiting on a bus ride  
Or stuck in traffic in a car  
Of an austere guy who kept flashcards  
Of every member of the legislature.

(Chorus)

Then I was walking on the street,  
Some volunteers approached me,  
Extending their warmest solicitation  
I told them I couldn't sign up for registration.  
Then in dismay, they directed away their attention.  
As they realized that I am not from this nation.  
That I am not a participant in this grand experimentation.

(Verse 2)

Voting has many faces and  
Many faces have I seen:  
They are the names on yard signs,  
Witty lines on T-shirts,  
stickers on laptops,  
Or sheets on the bulletin board  
Or the star-spangled pins and more  
Like some sort of proclamation  
Or that flurry of ad spam every election cycle  
YouTube users around the world bought some services to avoid that trouble.

(Chorus)

Then I was walking on the street,  
Some volunteers approached me,  
Extending their warmest solicitation  
I told them I couldn't sign up for registration.  
Then in dismay, they directed away their attention.  
As they realized that I am not from this nation.  
That I am not a participant in this grand experimentation.

(Coda)

What is it all about?  
Many things I have heard



All great and serious  
“The stakes have never been higher.”  
“justice, rights, and people’s story”  
“bearing the weight of history.”  
They surely are important,  
and they surely are ongoing  
adding yet another growth ring

## Untitled

By: Adrienne Li, Eileen Xiao  
My voice isn’t heard; this is absurd!  
They say I’m young and free, so how can this be?  
I’m working day and night, so I can’t get to the polling site.  
The ballot is crying while my rights are dying.  
Congress of strangers is full of dangers  
You’re drunk on your powers when they should be ours.

## Untitled

By: Raymond Luo  
People be working these long hours  
Where’s the time for us to get in line  
You expect us to speak our mind  
To use our voice  
Like we even have a choice  
As not all of us have the right  
Despite living in this world that is considered a “delight”  
Yet it is only full of spite  
America is supposed to be a democracy  
But all I see is hypocrisy:  
A place that screams freedom  
As we continue to bleed them  
Yet we don’t really mean it  
Otherwise we’d give them a permit  
They’re screaming to free them  
When are we going to believe them

## Untitled

By: Miles Maltbia

Even though the population of the US was on the rise,  
Minorities and women still couldn't vote, which we now despise.  
There were many different requirements to cast a vote;  
you had to own property and prove you could read an essay that the government wrote.  
The importance of voting is absolutely vital,  
It is a right that most citizens should be entitled.  
Even though whether or not felons should vote will forever be a debate;  
however, by doing the crime, the right to vote they do eliminate.  
While Mississippi tried removing Blacks from political life,  
for years they fought for the right, going through numerous turmoils and strife.  
If you put yourself in the shoes of Jackson,  
you may not give the right to Blacks and their daughters and sons.  
But if you put yourself in the shoes of Fredrick Douglass,  
all you would want is equal opportunity at last.

## Untitled

By: Arika Manuel

When the democracy is lost  
Home of promise and faith  
We must be the lifeline  
You are a democracy in motion  
A riot for a nation  
Will your arms sit tight?  
Tomorrow has not been ruled  
Will you build it?  
The future is what we make it  
If we dare to vote  
For liberty, for democracy  
A war on drugs that nobody's using  
Passing the civil rights act and carpet bombing Vietnam  
Buying the empire of liberty and supporting slavery  
Deporting families in the name of security  
Will these movements ever find some truth in them?  
Our hands will turn back on your hypocrisy

Democracy :)

WOOOOOOOOO! YAHHHH!

MUsic

## Untitled

By: Nick Mlakar

The White to Vote

The fourteenth amendment was supposed to change this.

A war fought and won to save the union.

Enfranchise all and cease the strangeness.

Once and for all, racial cohesion.

But alas, it persists.

On racial segregation our country subsists.

## Untitled

By: Jocelyn Morningstar, Chloe Deng, Hanah Ryu

This country was built to get rid of the monarchy

But nothing is perfect, not even democracy

The votes were given to property-owning white men

Didn't even think to include minorities or women

Freedom is something we seem to struggle with

We fought a whole war for it, so it can't be a myth

Representation is a right that everybody needs

We shouldn't have to make the people ask and plead

Once Black people were freed they still couldn't vote

Too many rules in place, the whites could still gloat

Property laws, grandfather clause, poll taxes you see

This country was made for one person and it sure wasn't me

Not til the year 1920 could women vote

American history is nothing to sugarcoat

Men were supposed to be their representation

I think some of their opinions got lost in translation

Freedom is something we seem to struggle with

We fought a whole war for it, so it can't be a myth

Representation is a right that everybody needs

We shouldn't have to make the people ask and plead

Bonus Song: (this is to the rhythm of Payphone by Maroon 5)

[Chorus]

I'm at the voting poll trying to cast my vote  
All of my faith I put on you  
Where have the rights gone  
Bernie, it's all wrong  
When is our representation due?

[Refrain]

Yeah, I, I know it's hard to change laws  
The country we want to be  
It's even harder to change minds  
When they don't believe in me  
You say I can't vote in this election  
But is it too late to try?  
I want my representation  
Or all of our rights will be taken  
You've wasted my rights  
I've fought all the fights  
Now I'm suffering  
Still stuck in the dark, when you called it fair  
But even the government will show its mark

## Untitled

By: Haomin Ng (David Ng)

In 1831, two French-men came to shore,  
To study democracy, discover and explore,  
They were shown a country where equality reigns,  
With citizens empowered, destroying chains,  
From a world where aristocrats still rule,  
De Tocqueville was shocked at our attitude,  
Where people were equal, regardless of class,  
And people could decide their own path.

## Untitled

By: Trish Nhan

The Constitution says nothing about voting,  
but unless you have money or pale skin,  
only the rich white men will be gloating.

Women were too soft,  
colored people were too colored,  
the Founding Fathers would have scoffed.  
We hold these truths to be self evident,  
though all men are created "equal,"  
disenfranchisement was quite prevalent.  
Suffrage is hard to attain,  
through constitutional revisions,  
and mental strain.  
Today, we have more who can vote.  
Hopefully for the future,  
voting rights won't be so cutthroat.  
Voting rights are not zero-sum.  
We can all have a voice;  
better advocates we can all become.

## **Untitled**

By: Joey Park

I want to vote  
Even if I'm fresh off the boat  
I want to be able to choose who to lead  
Even if my name is Jared and im 19 and i can't read  
Don't worry I will pay the tax  
So just go ahead and relax  
I am not a criminal  
I don't want be invisible  
Let's not make this too political  
I am also an individual  
Losing my mind inside this one-way mirror  
I don't think I can make myself any clearer:  
I wanna vote  
Even if I'm fresh off the boat  
Even if my name is Jared and im 19 and i can't read  
I want to be able to choose who to lead

## Untitled

By: Daniel Picard (Blank Space - Taylor Swift)

Nice to meet you, have you voted?

I could show you incredible change

ballots, action, mail them in

Saw you there and I thought

“Oh, my God, great candidate

You look like my next president

Democracys a game, wanna play?” Ay

New money, super PACs

We’ll Repeal Citizens United

Ain’t it funny? Rumors fly

And I know you heard about me

So hey, tell your friends

Vote for me, see how this one ends

Grab your ballot and a pen

I can make your turn out for election weekend

So it’s gonna be four years

Or it’s gonna go down in flames

You can tell me when it’s over, mm

If not voting was worth the pain

Got a long list of contenders

They’ll tell you they’re the best

’Cause you got a blank space baby

And you should write my name

’Cause we’re young, and we’re reckless

We’ll visit the ballot box

It’ll give you a mandate, mm

Or an election shock

Got a long list of contenders

They’ll tell you they’re the best

But I’ve got a blank space, baby

And I’ll write your name

Ballots, action, mail them in

I could show you incredible change

Stolen election, that’s a lie

You're the candidate and I'm your base  
Find out what you want  
Be that official for a term

## Untitled

By: Claire Pilcher

From gerrymandering to literacy tests, this country's history is strewn  
With voting rights made to be a big to do!  
So long as someone has power, they will try to keep it  
At times striking down voters' power to reap it.  
Some days will be better, while some will be worse,  
With some seeing universal suffrage to be more of a curse.  
But let's hope the worst of history is behind us  
With more out to vote being a future to guide us!

## Untitled

By: Anastasia Raicevic, Bruce Zhang

Today we teach our children that everyone is equal under the Law  
But before the 19th amendment  
That is not what women  
Experienced or saw.  
Back then women had little power over their lives and could not vote  
The reasons for this  
Seem unimaginable  
But this is what men in power said and wrote  
That women were childlike, inferior, incapable of independent thought  
And only white men had the right that the women's movement so desperately sought.  
So women rallied and faced so much lashback and stress  
knowing that voting would ensure women's social and economic progress.  
African Americans had it worse facing voter suppression, poll taxes, literacy tests and even morality clause  
They tried so hard to to keep their voices unheard  
by making up these ignorant, unfair laws.  
So our foremothers fought and marched for our right  
I call on my sisters  
Never forget  
We must mobilize and carry on with the fight  
For equality

The struggle continues  
To this very day  
For women's voices  
To have their rightful say

## Untitled

By: Arkadzi Rakach

*(poem, can be interpreted as written from someone who's right to vote was not given immediately, and was a long and grueling process.. for instance a woman at the beginning of the 20th century, before the 19th Amendment)*

How can I be patriotic in a country where my voice is left unheard?  
This concept to me is quite absurd.  
The conditions limiting my right to vote can so easily be observed!  
However, I lie here watching the political tide shifting in our favor slowly.  
When will I finally be a citizen wholly?

## Voting Rights Song 1

By: Hanah Ryu

*This is to the rhythm of Payphone by Maroon 5*

[Chorus]

I'm at the voting poll trying to cast my vote  
All of my faith I put on you  
Where have the rights gone  
Bernie, it's all wrong  
When is our representation due?

[Refrain]

Yeah, I, I know it's hard to change laws  
The country we want to be  
It's even harder to change minds  
When they don't believe in me  
You say I can't vote in this election  
But is it too late to try?  
I want my representation  
Or all of our rights will be taken  
You've wasted my rights  
I've fought all the fights  
Now I'm suffering  
Still stuck in the dark, when you called it fair



But even the government will show its mark  
Voting Rights Song 2  
This country was built to get rid of the monarchy  
But nothing is perfect, not even democracy  
The votes were given to property-owning white men  
Didn't even think to include minorities or women  
Freedom is something we seem to struggle with  
We fought a whole war for it, so it can't be a myth  
Representation is a right that everybody needs  
We shouldn't have to make the people ask and plead  
Once Black people were freed they still couldn't vote  
Too many rules in place, the whites could still gloat  
Property laws, grandfather clause, poll taxes you see  
This country was made for one person and it sure wasn't me  
Not til the year 1920 could women vote  
American history is nothing to sugarcoat  
Men were supposed to be their representation  
I think some of their opinions got lost in translation  
Freedom is something we seem to struggle with  
We fought a whole war for it, so it can't be a myth  
Representation is a right that everybody needs  
We shouldn't have to make the people ask and plead

## **Voting Flex**

By: Vita Shats (Special thanks to Drake)  
Voting rights expanded in 1920? (voting rights)  
Expanded in 1920  
Do your thing women's rights  
do your thing (voting rights)  
Took away poll tax .....voting can't be bought ('64)  
Never try to test, voting can be taught  
Voting for the rest, that's what we Fought  
...then we lost the Plot  
Tried to get to the polls,  
Couldn't avoid the tolls. (traffic)  
Bad infrastructure (bad)  
Caused quite the rupture

Voting rights expanded in 1920? (voting rights)

Expanded in 1920

Voting rights, yeah we're still fighting (voting rights)

2023 Still fighting

Voting rights,

Do your thing redistricting

Do your thing

## Untitled

By: Adrian Shin

They say that everyone's got a vote,

but it's not as simple as it sounds,

across the states the legislators wrote,

women will have to wait till the next round.

For centuries the color of your skin blocked your vote,

40 acres and a mule,

but that didn't come with a vote,

you might say that that's just plain cruel.

Now they might say that you have a vote,

but seems you can't pass a literacy test,

or if your grandfather couldn't vote,

then you'll just have to hope for the best.

But that's just history, now everyone has a vote,

although they'll gerrymander so your party can't win,

or maybe you don't have the right ID for the vote,

or maybe you can't leave work to the booth, even for a min.

They say that everyone's got a vote,

but it's not as simple as it sounds,

maybe you can pass your legislator a note,

but can words replace, even a ballot on the ground?

## Untitled

By: Shanza Toor, Daniel Picard

*(Blank Space - Taylor Swift, Reinvited by Daniel Picard and Shanza Toor)*

Nice to meet you, have you voted?

I could show you incredible change

ballots, action, mail them in

Saw you there and I thought  
“Oh, my God, great candidate  
You look like my next president  
Democracy is a game, wanna play?” Ay  
New money, super PACs  
We’ll Repeal Citizens United  
Ain’t it funny? Rumors fly  
And I know you heard about me  
So hey, tell your friends  
Vote for me, see how this one ends  
Grab your ballot and a pen  
I can make your turnout for election weekend  
So it’s gonna be four years  
Or it’s gonna go down in flames  
You can tell me when it’s over, mm  
If not voting was worth the pain  
Got a long list of contenders  
They’ll tell you they’re the best  
’Cause you got a blank space baby  
And you should write my name  
’Cause we’re young, and we’re reckless  
We’ll visit the ballot box  
It’ll give you a mandate, mm  
Or an election shock  
Got a long list of contenders  
They’ll tell you they’re the best  
But I’ve got a blank space, baby  
And I’ll write your name  
Ballots, action, mail them in  
I could show you incredible change  
Stolen election, that’s a lie  
You’re the candidate and I’m your base  
Find out what you want  
Be that official for a term  
Blank Space - Taylor Swift  
Reinvited by Daniel Picard and Shanza Toor

Nice to meet you, have you voted?  
I could show you incredible change  
ballots, action, mail them in  
Saw you there and I thought  
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Democracys a game, wanna play?” Ay  
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Stolen election, that’s a lie  
You’re the candidate and I’m your base  
Find out what you want

Be that official for a term

## **Treasure your vote**

By: Matthew Visco, Kevin Wang

Treasure your vote

In New Jersey they take it (from 1790 to 1807)

In North Korea they fake it

Can I get a fair shake

A choice

A voice

For change

No stamp

No vote

I can swear I remember we fought a war over that

What happened?

The lines are too long

The rent is too high

All these candidates are wrong

Go and vote! Why would I?

One person: One vote?

I don't think that's true

Someone in Wyoming

Has more representation than you

Nonetheless

People suffered for suffrage

Poor White Men till 1828

Women in 1920

Blacks till 1965

Even today!

Wars, trials, tribulations

So get off the couch

And get to the polling station

It's the least you can do

For this great nation

## Untitled

By: Eileen Xiao, Adrienne Li

My voice isn't heard; this is absurd!  
They say I'm young and free, so how can this be?  
I'm working day and night, so I can't get to the polling site.  
The ballot is crying while my rights are dying.  
Congress of strangers is full of dangers.  
You're drunk on your powers when they should be ours.

## Untitled

By: Samuel Yarger, Colin Yip

Dead man walking  
You once tried to fix 'em but you still say they're broken  
He did his time, then you took his pride  
Never to be a man again  
He may still walk  
But by the declaration  
He'll never be a man again  
Who once was caught for stealing  
Barred from his dreams and paid pennies  
Forced into stealing again.  
A cycle only to start anew  
What is left for him  
Never to be a man again  
Thought this was the land of democracy  
But Toqueville was wrong  
Despite increased enfranchisement  
Some are still barred for long

## Untitled

By: Kaylin Yeoh

Politicians treat voters like puppets, pulling their strings to be re-elected  
Under attack, voters must fight back against voter suppression  
People like me have opinions too, so why can't my voice be heard?  
Power to the people is fundamental for a democracy, so all people need the right to vote  
Equality is what we crave, but something we have struggled to find for many centuries  
This is my country, our country, and we will no longer act as puppets

## Untitled

By: Ryan Zhang

The ever-changing of voting rights,  
that occurs every single night,  
From 1790 to 1807, New Jersey gave that right  
Until it was stolen, without a fight,  
But to earn it back,  
We had to strike  
Until it was returned, in 1920