

= Rage Against the Machine =

Rage Against the Machine ( also known as RATM or just Rage ) is an American rap metal band from Los Angeles , California . Formed in 1991 , the group consists of rapper and vocalist Zack de la Rocha , bassist and backing vocalist Tim Commerford , guitarist Tom Morello , and drummer Brad Wilk . They draw inspiration from early heavy metal instrumentation , as well as hip hop acts such as Afrika Bambaataa , Public Enemy , the Beastie Boys , and Dutch crossover band Urban Dance Squad . Rage Against the Machine is well known for the members ' leftist and revolutionary political views , which are expressed in many of the band 's songs . As of 2010 , they had sold over 16 million records worldwide .

In 1992 , the band released its self @-@ titled debut album , which became a commercial and critical success , leading to a slot in the 1993 Lollapalooza festival . In 2003 , the album was ranked number 368 on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time . The band did not release a follow @-@ up record until 1996 , with Evil Empire . The band 's third album , The Battle of Los Angeles , followed in 1999 , and in 2003 , the album was ranked number 426 on the same list . During their initial nine @-@ year run , they became one of the most popular and influential bands in music history , according to music journalist Colin Devenish . They were also ranked No. 33 on VH1 's 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock . The band had a large influence on the nu metal genre which came to prominence during the second half of the 1990s .

In 2000 , the band released the cover album , Renegades . The same year , growing tensions over the direction of the band prompted de la Rocha to quit , leading to the band 's breakup . De la Rocha started a low @-@ key solo career , while the rest of the band formed the rock supergroup Audioslave with Chris Cornell , then @-@ former frontman of Soundgarden ; Audioslave recorded three albums before disbanding in 2007 . The same year , Rage Against the Machine announced a reunion and performed together for the first time in seven years at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in April 2007 . Up until 2011 , the band continued to perform at more live venues and festivals around the world . As of 2012 , the group has no plans to perform or release new music . In 2016 Morello , Commerford and Wilk formed a new band , Prophets of Rage , with Chuck D and B @-@ Real .

= = History = =

= = = 1991 ? 92 : Early years = = =

In 1991 , following the break @-@ up of guitarist Tom Morello 's former band Lock Up , former Lock Up drummer Jon Knox encouraged Commerford and Zack de la Rocha to jam with Tom Morello as he was looking to start a new group . Tom soon contacted Brad Wilk , who had unsuccessfully auditioned for Lock Up . This line @-@ up went on to form Rage Against the Machine . The newly christened Rage Against the Machine named themselves after a song de la Rocha had written for his former popular underground hardcore punk band , Inside Out ( also to be the title of the unrecorded Inside Out full @-@ length album ) . Kent McClard , with whom Inside Out were associated , had coined the phrase " rage against the machine " in a 1989 article in his zine No Answers .

Shortly after forming , they gave their first public performance on October 23 , 1991 at The Quad of California State University , Northridge . The blueprint for the group 's major @-@ label debut album , demo tape Rage Against the Machine , was laid on a twelve @-@ song self @-@ released cassette , the cover image of which was the stock market with a triple match taped to the inlay card . Not all 12 songs made it onto the final album ? two were eventually included as B @-@ sides , while three others never saw an official release . Several record labels expressed interest , and the band eventually signed with Epic Records . Morello said , " Epic agreed to everything we asked ? and they 've followed through .... We never saw a [ n ] [ ideological ] conflict as long as we maintained creative control . "

== 1992 ? 2000 : Mainstream success ==

The band's debut album, *Rage Against the Machine*, reached triple platinum status, driven by heavy radio play of the song "Killing in the Name", a heavy, driving track featuring only eight lines of lyrics. The "Fuck You" version, which contains 17 iterations of the word fuck, was once accidentally played on the BBC Radio 1 Top 40 singles show on February 21, 1993. The album's cover featured Malcolm Browne's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of Thich Quang Duc, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk, burning himself to death in Saigon in 1963 in protest of the murder of Buddhists by the US-backed Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem's regime. The album was produced by Garth Richardson. To promote the album, the band went on tour, playing at Lollapalooza 1993 and as support for Suicidal Tendencies in Europe. In 2003, the album was ranked number 368 on Rolling Stone Magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.

After their debut album, the band appeared on the soundtrack for the film *Higher Learning* with the song "Year of the Boomerang". An early version of "Tire Me" also appeared during the movie. Subsequently, they re-recorded the song "Darkness" from their original demo for the soundtrack of *The Crow*, while "No Shelter" appeared on the *Godzilla* soundtrack.

Despite rumors of a breakup for several years, *Rage Against the Machine*'s second album, *Evil Empire*, entered Billboard's Top 200 chart at number one in 1996, and subsequently rose to triple platinum status. The song "Bulls on Parade" was performed on *Saturday Night Live* in April 1996. Their planned two-song performance was cut to one song when the band attempted to hang inverted US flags from their amplifiers ("a sign of distress or great danger"), a protest against having Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes as guest host on the program that night.

In 1997, the band opened for U2 on their *PopMart Tour*, for which all of Rage's profits went to support social organizations, including U.N.I.T.E., Women Alive and the Zapatista Front for National Liberation. Rage subsequently began an abortive headlining US tour with special guests Wu Tang Clan. Police in several jurisdictions unsuccessfully attempted to have the concerts cancelled, citing amongst other reasons, the bands' "violent and anti-law enforcement philosophies". Wu Tang Clan were eventually removed from the line-up and replaced with The Roots. On the Japan leg of their tour promoting *Evil Empire*, a compilation album composed of the band's B-side recordings titled *Live & Rare* was released by Sony Records. A live video, also titled *Rage Against the Machine*, was released later the same year.

In 1999 *Rage Against the Machine* played at the infamous Woodstock '99 concert. The following release, *The Battle of Los Angeles* also debuted at number one in 1999, selling 450,000 copies in the first week and then going double platinum. That same year the song "Wake Up" was featured on the soundtrack of the film *The Matrix*. The track "Calm Like a Bomb" was later featured in the film's sequel, 2003's *The Matrix Reloaded*. In 2000, the band planned to support the Beastie Boys on the "Rhyme and Reason" tour; however, the tour was cancelled when Beastie Boys drummer Mike D suffered a serious injury. In 2003, *The Battle of Los Angeles* was ranked number 426 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.

== 2000 ? 06 : Break-up and subsequent projects ==

On January 26, 2000, an altercation during filming of the video for "Sleep Now in the Fire", directed by Michael Moore, caused the doors of the New York Stock Exchange to be closed and the band to be escorted from the site by security after band members attempted to gain entry into the exchange. The video shoot had attracted several hundred people, according to a representative for the city's Deputy Commissioner for Public Information. New York City's film office does not allow weekday film shoots on Wall Street. Moore had permission to use the steps of Federal Hall but did not have a permit to shoot on the sidewalk or the street, nor did he have a loud noise permit or the proper parking permits. "Michael basically gave us one directorial instruction, 'No matter what happens, don't stop playing,'" Tom Morello recalls. When the band left the steps, NYPD apprehended Moore and led him away. Moore yelled to the band, "Take the

New York Stock Exchange ! " In an interview with the Socialist Worker , Morello said he and scores of others ran into the Stock Exchange . " About two hundred of us got through the first set of doors , but our charge was stopped when the Stock Exchange 's titanium riot doors came crashing down . " " For a few minutes , Rage Against the Machine was able to shut down American capitalism , " Moore said . " An act that I am sure tens of thousands of downsized citizens would cheer . "

On September 7 , 2000 , the band attended the 2000 MTV Video Music Awards , and performed " Testify . " However , after the Best Rock Video award was given to Limp Bizkit . Commerford climbed onto the scaffolding of the set . Commerford and his bodyguard were sentenced to a night in jail and de la Rocha reportedly left the awards after the stunt . Morello recalled that Commerford related his plan to the rest of the band before the show , and that both de la Rocha and Morello advised him against it immediately after Bizkit was presented the award .

On October 18 , 2000 , de la Rocha released a statement announcing his departure from the band . He said , " I feel that it is now necessary to leave Rage because our decision @-@ making process has completely failed . It is no longer meeting the aspirations of all four of us collectively as a band , and from my perspective , has undermined our artistic and political ideal . " " There was so much squabbling over everything , " explained Morello , " and I mean everything . We would even have fist fights over whether our T @-@ shirts should be mauve or camouflaged ! It was ridiculous . We were patently political , internally combustible . It was ugly for a long time . "

The band 's next album , Renegades , was a collection of covers of artists as diverse as Devo , EPMD , Minor Threat , Cypress Hill , The MC5 , Afrika Bambaataa , The Rolling Stones , Eric B. & Rakim , Bruce Springsteen , The Stooges , and Bob Dylan . It achieved platinum status a month later . The following year saw the release of another live video , The Battle of Mexico City , while 2003 brought the live album Live at the Grand Olympic Auditorium , an edited recording of the band 's final concerts on September 12 and 13 , 2000 at the Grand Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles . It was accompanied by an expanded DVD release of the last show , which included a previously unreleased video for " Bombtrack " .

In the wake of 9 / 11 , the controversial 2001 Clear Channel memorandum contained a long list of what the memo termed " lyrically questionable " songs for the radio , uniquely listing all of Rage Against the Machine 's songs .

After the group 's breakup , Morello , Wilk , and Commerford decided to stay together and find a new vocalist . " There was talk for a while of us becoming Ozzy Osbourne 's backing band , and even Macy Gray 's , " said Morello . " We informed them that losing our singer was actually a blessing in disguise , and that we had bigger ambitions than being somebody 's hired musicians . " They eventually teamed up with then @-@ former Soundgarden singer Chris Cornell to form Audioslave . The first Audioslave single , " Cochise " , was released in early November 2002 , and a self @-@ titled debut album followed to mainly positive reviews . Compared to Rage Against the Machine , most of Audioslave 's music was apolitical , although some songs touched on political issues . Their second album Out of Exile debuted at the number one position on the Billboard charts in 2005 . Audioslave released its third album Revelations on September 5 , 2006 , but an accompanying tour never occurred as Cornell and Morello were working on solo albums . After months of inactivity and rumors of a breakup , Audioslave disbanded on February 15 , 2007 after Cornell announced he was leaving the band .

Morello began his own solo career in 2003 , playing political acoustic folk music at open @-@ mic nights and various clubs under the alias The Nightwatchman , which he formed as an outlet for his political views while playing apolitical music with Audioslave . He first participated in Billy Bragg 's Tell Us the Truth tour with no plans to record , but later recorded a song for Songs and Artists that Inspired Fahrenheit 9 / 11 , " No One Left " . In February 2007 , he announced a solo album , entitled One Man Revolution , which was released in April 2007 . Morello followed up his first studio album with " The Fabled City " which was released on September 30 , 2008 . During the latter of his career as The Nightwatchman , Morello joined up with Boots Riley and formed the rap rock group Street Sweeper Social Club , which released its debut self @-@ titled album in June 2009 .

Meanwhile , de la Rocha had been working on a solo album collaboration with DJ Shadow , Company Flow , Roni Size and The Roots ' Questlove , but dropped the project in favor of working

with Nine Inch Nails ' Trent Reznor . Recording was completed but the album has never been released . A collaboration between de la Rocha and DJ Shadow , the song " March of Death " was released for free over the World Wide Web in 2003 in protest against the imminent invasion of Iraq , and the 2004 soundtrack Songs and Artists that Inspired Fahrenheit 9 / 11 included one of the collaborations with Reznor , " We Want It All " . In late 2005 , de la Rocha was seen singing and playing the jarana huasteca with Son Jarocho band Son de Madera on multiple occasions . Rage Against the Machine was ranked 33rd on VH1 's 100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock list in 2005 .

Members of the band had been offered large sums of money to reunite for concerts and tours , and had turned the offers down . Rumors of tension between de la Rocha and the other former band members subsequently circulated , but Commerford said that he and de la Rocha saw each other often and went surfing together , while Morello said he and de la Rocha communicated by phone , and had met up at a September 15 , 2005 protest in support of the South Central Farm .

= = = 2007 ? 08 : Reunion and tours = = =

Rumors that Rage Against the Machine could reunite at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival were circulating in mid @-@ January 2007 , and were confirmed on January 22 . The band was confirmed to be headlining the final day of Coachella 2007 . The reunion was described by Morello as primarily being a vehicle to voice the band 's opposition to the " right @-@ wing purgatory " the United States has " slid into " under the George W. Bush administration since RATM 's dissolution . Though the performance was initially thought to be a one @-@ off , this turned out not to be the case .

On April 14 , 2007 , Morello and de la Rocha reunited onstage early to perform a brief acoustic set at a Coalition of Immokalee Workers rally in downtown Chicago . Morello described the event as " very exciting for everybody in the room , myself included . " This was followed by the scheduled Coachella performance on Sunday , April 29 where the band staged a much anticipated performance in front of an EZLN backdrop to the largest crowds of the festival .

Rage Against the Machine continued to tour in the United States , New Zealand , Australia , and Japan , and also played a series of shows in Europe in Summer 2008 including Rock am Ring and Rock im Park , Pinkpop Festival , T in the Park in Scotland , the Hultsfred Festival in Sweden , the Reading and Leeds Festivals in England and the Oxegen Festival in Ireland . The band also performed on August 2 , 2008 , in Chicago as one of the headliners ( Radiohead , Kanye West and Nine Inch Nails being the other three ) for the 2008 Lollapalooza Music Festival . When asked in May 2007 if the band were planning on writing a new album , Morello replied :

There are no plans to do that ... That 's a whole other ball of wax right there . Writing and recording albums is a whole different thing than getting back on the bike ( laughs ) , you know , and playing these songs . But I think that the one thing about the Rage catalog is that to me none of it feels dated . You know , it doesn 't feel at all like a nostalgia show . It feels like these are songs that were born and bred to be played now .

Morello declined to comment about the possibility of a new album when interviewed by MTV News in April 2008 . In July 2008 , it was revealed that de la Rocha had begun a new project called One Day as a Lion with drummer Jon Theodore formerly of The Mars Volta , with an eponymous EP released on July 22 , 2008 .

In August 2008 , de la Rocha revealed his take on the possibility of new material :

We ? re going to keep playing shows ? we have a couple of big ones happening in front of both conventions . As far as us recording music in the future , I don ? t know where we all fit with that . We ? ve all embraced each other ? s projects and support them , and that ? s great .

In August 2008 , Rage headlined the free Tent State Music Festival to End the War in Denver during the Democratic National Convention . The band was supported by Flobots , State Radio , Jello Biafra , and Wayne Kramer . Following the concert , the band , following uniformed veterans from Iraq Veterans Against the War , led the 8 @,@ 000 attendees to the Denver Coliseum on a 6 @-@ mile march to Invesco Field , host of the DNC . After a 4 @-@ hour stand @-@ off with police , Obama 's campaign agreed to meet with members of Iraq Veterans Against the War and hear their

demands .

In September 2008 , Rage performed at the Target Center in Minneapolis during the Republican National Convention . The previous day , they attempted to play a surprise set at a free anti @-@ RNC concert at the Minnesota Capitol in St. Paul , but were prevented from doing so by the police . Instead , de la Rocha and Morello rapped and sang through a megaphone . Later that evening , Morello and Boots Reilly joined up with Billy Bragg and Jim Walsh for a three @-@ hour jam session at Pepitos Parkway theater in south Minneapolis .

In December 2008 , Tom Morello revealed that Rage Against the Machine shows in 2009 were a possibility , although plans for the band to record a new studio album were very unlikely . When asked by Billboard.com whether they planned to head to the studio in 2009 , Morello stated that : " we 've had a wonderful year and a half of playing shows , and I don 't see any reason to not play more shows . The thing is there 's only so many hours in the musical day , and mine are very occupied right now . "

Morello elaborated that The Nightwatchman is now " my principal musical focus , as I see it , for the remainder of my life . From the earliest days of playing open mic nights at coffee houses , it was apparent to me that this music was as important to me as any music I 've ever been involved in . It really encapsulates everything I want to do as an artist . " He repeated this point in an interview with the Los Angeles Times .

However , After the " Rage Factor " celebratory show in Finsbury Park on June 6 , 2010 , after the campaign to get Killing in the Name to Christmas Number 1 , Zack de la Rocha stated that it was a " genuine possibility " . Stating that they may use the momentum from the campaign to get back into the studio and write a follow @-@ up record to 2000s Renegades after 10 years . When talking to NME , Zack de la Rocha said : " I think it 's a genuine possibility , We have to get our heads around what we ? re going to do towards the end of the year and finish up on some other projects and we ? ll take it from there . "

= = = 2009 @-@ 2015 : Killing in the Name campaign , European tour , and L.A. Rising = = =

In December 2009 , a campaign was launched on Facebook by Jon Morte and his wife Tracy , in order to stop , most notably , The X Factor hits from becoming almost automatic Christmas number ones on the UK Singles Chart . It generated nationwide publicity and took the track " Killing in the Name " to the coveted Christmas number one slot in the UK Singles Chart , which had been dominated for four consecutive years from 2005 by winners from the popular TV show The X Factor . Before the chart was announced on December 20 , 2009 , the Facebook group membership stood at over 950 @, @ 000 , and was acknowledged ( and supported ) by Tom Morello , Dave Grohl , Paul McCartney , Muse , Fightstar , NME , John Lydon , Bill Bailey , Lenny Henry , BBC Radio 1 , Hadouken ! , The Prodigy , Stereophonics , BBC Radio 5 Live , and even the 2004 X Factor winner Steve Brookstein , amongst numerous others . On the morning of December 17 , Rage Against the Machine played a slightly censored version of " Killing in the Name " live on Radio 5 Live , but four repeats of ' Fuck you I won 't do what you tell me ' were aired before the song was pulled . During the interview before the song they reiterated their support for the campaign and their intentions to support charity with the proceeds . The campaign was ultimately successful , and " Killing in the Name " became the number @-@ one single in the UK for Christmas 2009 . A similar campaign was run on Facebook in Ireland the same year but Killing in the Name placed 2nd that Christmas to X Factors 2010 single . Rage 's Zack de la Rocha spoke to BBC1 upon hearing the news , stating that :

The band also set a new record , achieving the biggest download sales total in a first week ever in the UK charts. de la Rocha also promised the band would perform a free concert in the UK sometime in 2010 to celebrate the achievement . True to their word , the band announced that they would be performing a free concert at Finsbury Park , London on June 6 , 2010 . The concert , dubbed " The Rage Factor " , gave away all the tickets by free photo registration to prevent touting over the weekend of the February 13 ? 14 , followed by an online lottery on February 17 . This proved to be overwhelmingly popular , with many users facing connection issues . The tickets were

all allocated by 13 : 30 that same day . After allowing ticket holders to vote for who they wanted to be the support acts for " The Rage Factor " , it was announced that Gogol Bordello , Gallows and Roots Manuva would support Rage Against the Machine at this concert .

In addition to the free gig at Finsbury Park , the band headlined European festivals in June 2010 including the Download Festival at Donington Park , England , Rock am Ring and Rock im Park in Germany and Rock in Rio Madrid in Spain . They also performed in Ireland on June 8 and The Netherlands on June 9 . Zack de la Rocha had stated that it was a definite possibility that the band would record a new album , the first time since 2000 's Renegades Morte confirmed this , stating the discussions he and the band had backstage before the Finsbury Park gig saying the band did write new material , but they had no motivation to release them until now . De la Rocha mentioned the very strong reaction from the Download Festival 2010 audience as an incentive for releasing new material . In addition , the band returned to Los Angeles on July 23 , 2010 for their first US show in two years and their first hometown show in 10 years . The concert benefited Arizona organizations that are fighting the SB1070 immigration law . On the night of the show , a spokesperson announced to the crowd that ticket sales ? all of which are non @-@ profit to the bands ? had raised \$ 300 @,@ 000 . The band has been confirmed to do a short South American tour in October , performing at venues such as the SWU Festival in Brazil , the Maquinaria Festival in Chile , and Pepsi Music Festival in Argentina . It was the first time the band played on those countries .

During an interview with the Chilean newspaper La Tercera in October 2010 , Rage frontman Zack de la Rocha allegedly confirmed that a new album was in the works , with a possibility of a 2011 release . De la Rocha is reported as saying , ? We are all bigger and more mature and we do not fall into the problems we faced 10 or 15 years ago . This is different and we project a lot : we are working on a new album due out next year , perhaps summer for the northern hemisphere . " However , in early May 2011 , guitarist Tom Morello said that the band were not working on a new album , but would not rule out the possibility of future studio work . " The band is not writing songs , the band is not in the studio , " Morello told The Pulse of Radio . " We get along famously and we all , you know , intend to do more Rage Against the Machine stuff in the future , but beyond sort of working out a concert this year , there 's nothing else on the schedule ( for 2011 ) . " The band created its own festival , the L.A. Rising . As Morello stated , the only Rage appearance for 2011 was a performance on July 30 at the L.A. Rising festival with El Gran Silencio , Immortal Technique , Lauryn Hill , Rise Against and Muse . As of mid @-@ 2012 , there are no plans for any more shows . During an interview on July 30 , 2011 , Commerford seemingly contradicted Morello 's comments , stating that new material was being written , and specific plans for the next two years were in place .

In an October 2012 interview with TMZ , bassist Tim Commerford was asked if Rage Against the Machine was working on a new album . He simply responded , " maybe " . Asked by TMZ again in November 2012 whether a new album was being worked on , Commerford replied " definitely maybe ... anything 's possible . " Later that month , however , Morello denied that they were working on new material , and stated that Rage Against the Machine has " no plans beyond " the reissue of their self @-@ titled debut album . Morello said he would be open to recording new Rage Against the Machine material , but added that it is " not on the table right now . "

The band announced on October 9 via their Facebook page that they would be releasing a special 20th anniversary box set to commemorate the group 's debut album . The full box set contains never @-@ before @-@ released concert material , including the band 's 2010 Finsbury Park show and footage from early in their career , as well as a digitally @-@ remastered version of the album , b @-@ sides and the original demo tape ( on disc for the first time ) . The band released 3 @-@ disc and single @-@ disc versions . The collection was released on November 27 .

On April 30 , 2014 , drummer Brad Wilk stated that Rage Against the Machine 's 2011 performance at L.A. Rising may have been their final show . In February 2015 , Tim Commerford precised that uncertainty was typical of the band 's functioning , speculating : " It could be tomorrow ; it could be 10 years from now " .

On October 16 , 2015 , the 2010 gig in Finsbury Park was officially released as a DVD and Blu

@-@ ray called Live at Finsbury Park .

= = = 2016 ? present : Prophets of Rage = = =

In May 2016 , the band launched a mysterious countdown website , prophetsofrage.com , with a clock counting down to June 1 . Accompanying the clock was an image of a broken slash through a circle with silhouettes of five people all extending their arms and clenched fists with the hashtag " # takethepowerback " underneath the timer . This led to speculation of the return of the band later in the year . However , a source close to Rage Against the Machine told Rolling Stone that the Prophets of Rage website had nothing do with the announcement of a " Rage @-@ specific reunion " , but added that " some of the members " of the band have been working on a project that will include live shows .

Finally , it was confirmed that Prophets of Rage is a new supergroup formed by Morello , Wilk and Commerford , plus Chuck D of Public Enemy and B @-@ Real of Cypress Hill . The band will be on tour and play some songs of the three bands in which the members of this group participated before .

Despite Morello , Wilk and Commerford 's involvement in Prophets of Rage , Commerford confirmed in an interview with Rolling Stone that Rage Against the Machine has not split up , explaining , " We just do things our own way . Throughout our career , we never did what anyone wanted us to do . We never made the records people wanted us to make . We never played by the rules people wanted us to play by . And here we are , 25 years later , still a band . Clearly that means something . And if we did ever play or make new music or anything , it would be a very big deal . And there 's a lot of bands that I ? ve seen come along during that 25 @-@ year period that did everything the record companies and the powers @-@ that @-@ be wanted them to do , and they sold millions of records . But where are they now ? They 're gone . " Morello added , " Right now ... the cold embers of Rage Against the Machine are now the burning fire of Prophets of Rage . Where Rage Against the Machine lives , is this summer in these songs that we are playing . And we have nothing but the greatest love and honor and respect for Zack de la Rocha , the brilliant lyricist of Rage Against The Machine , who is working on his own music , which I 'm sure will be fantastic ? he 's a great artist in his own right . But where you 're going to hear Rage Against the Machine is in Prophets of Rage . "

= = Musical style and influences = =

Rage Against the Machine has been noted for its " fiercely polemical music , which brewed sloganeering leftist rants against corporate America , cultural imperialism , and government oppression into a Molotov cocktail of punk rock , hip @-@ hop , and thrash . " Zack de la Rocha 's lyrics and choruses are defined by a heavy use of sloganeering and repetition on songs like Bulls on Parade , Guerrilla Radio , Testify , and Down Rodeo . Guitarist Tom Morello , on the other hand , was considered the guitar player but also the DJ in Rage .

The band is associated with the 1990s alternative movement . They are also considered rap metal , rap rock and funk metal .

= = Political views and activism = =

The members of Rage Against the Machine are well known for their leftist and revolutionary political views , and almost all of the band 's songs focus on these views . Key to the band 's identity , Rage Against the Machine has voiced viewpoints highly critical of the domestic and foreign policies of current and previous US governments . Throughout its existence , RATM and its individual members participated in political protests and other activism to advocate these beliefs . The band sees its music as a vehicle for social activism ; De la Rocha explained that " I 'm interested in spreading those ideas through art , because music has the power to cross borders , to break military sieges and to establish real dialogue . " Morello said of wage slavery in America :

America touts itself as the land of the free , but the number one freedom that you and I have is the freedom to enter into a subservient role in the workplace . Once you exercise this freedom you 've lost all control over what you do , what is produced , and how it is produced . And in the end , the product doesn 't belong to you . The only way you can avoid bosses and jobs is if you don 't care about making a living . Which leads to the second freedom : the freedom to starve .

Some critics have accused the group of hypocrisy for voicing commitment to leftist causes while being millionaires signed to Epic Records , a subsidiary of media conglomerate Sony Records . Infectious Grooves released a song called " Do What I Tell Ya ! " which mocks lyrics from " Killing in the Name " , accusing the band of being hypocrites . In response to such critiques , Morello offered the rebuttal :

= = Members = =

Zack de la Rocha ? lead vocals ( 1991 ? 2000 , 2007 ? 2011 )

Tom Morello ? guitars ( 1991 ? 2000 , 2007 ? 2011 )

Tim Commerford ? bass guitar , backing vocals ( 1991 ? 2000 , 2007 ? 2011 )

Brad Wilk ? drums , percussion ( 1991 ? 2000 , 2007 ? 2011 )

= = Discography = =

Rage Against the Machine ( 1992 )

Evil Empire ( 1996 )

The Battle of Los Angeles ( 1999 )

Renegades ( 2000 )

= = Awards and nominations = =

Rage Against the Machine has received two Grammy Awards ; Best Metal Performance for the song " Tire Me " and Best Hard Rock Performance for " Guerrilla Radio " . The band has also received three nominations from the MTV Video Music Awards , but has yet to win an award . In 2008 the band were given a special " Hall of Fame " award from Kerrang ! .

Grammy Awards

MTV Video Music Awards

NME Awards

Kerrang ! Awards

Classic Rock Roll of Honour Awards