

= New York City draft riots =

The New York City draft riots (July 13 ? 16 , 1863) , known at the time as Draft Week , were violent disturbances in New York City that were the culmination of working @-@ class discontent with new laws passed by Congress that year to draft men to fight in the ongoing American Civil War . The riots remain the largest civil and racial insurrection in American history , aside from the Civil War itself .

U.S. President Abraham Lincoln diverted several regiments of militia and volunteer troops from following up after the Battle of Gettysburg to control the city . The rioters were overwhelmingly working @-@ class men , primarily ethnic Irish , resenting particularly that wealthier men , who could afford to pay a \$ 300 (equivalent to \$ 5 @,@ 766 in 2015) commutation fee to hire a substitute , were spared from the draft .

Initially intended to express anger at the draft , the protests turned into a race riot , with white rioters , mainly but not exclusively Irish immigrants , attacking blacks wherever they could find them . The official death toll was listed at 119 . The conditions in the city were such that Major General John E. Wool , commander of the Department of the East , said on July 16 that " Martial law ought to be proclaimed , but I have not a sufficient force to enforce it . "

The military did not reach the city until after the first day of rioting , when mobs had already ransacked or destroyed numerous public buildings , two Protestant churches , the homes of various abolitionists or sympathizers , many black homes , and the Colored Orphan Asylum at 44th Street and Fifth Avenue , which was burned to the ground .

The demographics of the city changed as a result of the riot . So many blacks left Manhattan permanently (many moving to Brooklyn) , that by 1865 their population fell below 10 @,@ 000 , the number in 1820 .

= = Background = =

New York 's economy was tied to the South ; by 1822 nearly half of its exports were cotton shipments . In addition , upstate textile mills processed cotton in manufacturing . New York had such strong business connections to the South that on January 7 , 1861 , Mayor Fernando Wood , a Democrat , called on the city 's Board of Aldermen to " declare the city 's independence from Albany and from Washington " ; he said it " would have the whole and united support of the Southern States . " When the Union entered the war , New York City had many sympathizers with the South .

The city was also a continuing destination of immigrants . Since the 1840s , most were from Ireland and Germany . In 1860 , nearly 25 percent of the New York City population was German @-@ born , and many did not yet speak English . During the 1840s and 1850s , journalists had published sensational accounts , directed at the working class , dramatizing the " evils " of interracial socializing , relationships , and marriages . Reformers joined the effort . Newspapers carried derogatory portrayals of blacks and ridiculed " black aspirations for equal rights in voting , education , and employment . " Pseudo @-@ scientific lectures on phrenology were popular , although countered by doctors . At the time , some areas of the city , such as Lower Manhattan , had mixed populations of residents .

The Democratic Party Tammany Hall political machine had been working to enroll immigrants as U.S. citizens so they could vote in local elections , and had strongly recruited Irish , most of whom already spoke English . In March 1863 , with the war continuing , Congress passed the Enrollment Act to establish a draft for the first time , as more troops were needed . In New York City and other locations , new citizens learned they were expected to register for the draft to fight for their new country . Black men were excluded from the draft as they were largely not considered citizens , and wealthier white men could pay for substitutes . Free blacks and immigrants competed for low @-@ wage jobs in the city .

New York political offices , including the mayor , were held by Democrats , but the election of Abraham Lincoln as president had demonstrated the rise in Republican political power nationally . The Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863 alarmed much of the working class in New York ,

who feared that freed slaves would migrate to the city and add further competition to the labor market . There had already been tensions between black and white workers since the 1850s , particularly at the docks . In March 1863 , white longshoremen had refused to work with blacks and rioted , attacking 200 black men . In this area of the city , there were a variety of interracial venues of brothels and bars , and neighborhoods were mixed in terms of residents . Men competed as hacks (carriage drivers) , craftsmen , and in other jobs .

= = Riots = =

= = = Monday = = =

There were reports of rioting in Buffalo , New York , and certain other cities , but the first drawing of draft numbers ? on July 11 , 1863 ? occurred peaceably in New York City . The second drawing was held on Monday , July 13 , 1863 , ten days after the Union victory at Gettysburg in southern Pennsylvania . At 10 a.m. , a furious crowd of around 500 , led by the volunteer firemen of Engine Company 33 (known as the " Black Joke ") , attacked the assistant Ninth District provost marshal 's office , at Third Avenue and 47th Street , where the draft was taking place . The crowd threw large paving stones through windows , burst through the doors , and set the building ablaze . When the fire department responded , rioters broke up their vehicles . Others killed horses that were pulling streetcars and smashed the cars . To prevent other parts of the city being notified of the riot , they cut telegraph lines . Many of the rioters were Irish laborers who feared having to compete with emancipated slaves for jobs .

Since the New York State Militia had been sent to assist Union troops in Pennsylvania , the New York City Police Department was the only force to try to suppress the riots . The police superintendent , John A. Kennedy , arrived at the site on Monday to check on the situation . Although not in uniform , people in the mob recognized him and attacked him . Kennedy was left nearly unconscious , his face bruised and cut , his eye injured , his lips swollen , and his hand cut with a knife . He had been beaten to a mass of bruises and blood all over his body .

Police drew their clubs and revolvers , and charged the crowd , but were overpowered . The police forces were badly outnumbered and unable to quell the riots , but they kept the rioting out of Lower Manhattan below Union Square . Immigrants and others in the " Bloody Sixth " Ward , around the seaport and Five Points area , refrained from involvement in the rioting .

The Bull 's Head hotel on 44th Street , which refused to provide alcohol to the mob , was burned . The mayor 's residence on Fifth Avenue , the Eighth and Fifth District police stations , and other buildings were attacked and set on fire . Other targets included the office of the New York Times . The mob was turned back at the Times office by staff manning Gatling guns , including Times founder Henry Jarvis Raymond . Fire engine companies responded , but some firefighters were sympathetic to the rioters , as they had also been drafted on Saturday . Later in the afternoon , authorities shot and killed a man as a crowd attacked the Armory at Second Avenue and 21st Street . The mob broke all the windows with paving stones ripped from the street .

Rioters turned against black people as their scapegoats and the primary target of their anger . Many immigrants and other poor people viewed free black men as competition for scarce jobs , and worried about more slaves being emancipated and coming to New York for work . The mob beat , tortured or killed numerous black people , including one man who was attacked by a crowd of 400 with clubs and paving stones , then lynched , hanged from a tree and set alight .

The Colored Orphan Asylum at 44th Street and Fifth Avenue , a " symbol of white charity to blacks and of black upward mobility " that then provided shelter for 233 children , was attacked by a mob at around 4 p.m. A mob of several thousand , including many women and children , looted the building of its food and supplies . However , the police were able to secure the orphanage for enough time to allow the orphans to escape before the building burned down . Throughout the areas of rioting , mobs attacked and killed at least 120 black people , and destroyed their known homes and businesses , such as James McCune Smith 's pharmacy at 93 West Broadway , believed to be the

first owned by a black man in the United States .

Near the midtown docks , tensions brewing since the mid 1850s boiled over . As recently as March 1863 , white employers had hired blacks , with whom Irish men refused to work , as longshoremen . An Irish mob attacked two hundred blacks who were working on the docks , while other rioters went into the streets in search of " all the negro porters , cartmen and laborers ... " to attempt to remove all evidence of a black and interracial social life from the area near the docks . White dockworkers attacked and destroyed brothels , dance halls , boarding houses , and tenements that catered to blacks . Mobs stripped the clothing off the white owners of these businesses .

= = = Tuesday = = =

Heavy rain fell on Monday night , helping to abate the fires and sending rioters home , but the crowd returned the next day . Rioters burned down the home of Abby Gibbons , a prison reformer and the daughter of abolitionist Isaac Hopper . They also attacked white " amalgamationists " , such as Ann Derrickson and Ann Martin , two white women who were married to black men , and Mary Burke , a white prostitute who catered to black men . The women escaped personal physical harm .

Governor Horatio Seymour arrived on Tuesday and spoke at City Hall , where he attempted to assuage the crowd by proclaiming that the Conscription Act was unconstitutional . Gen. John E. Wool , commander of the Eastern District , brought approximately 800 soldiers and Marines in from forts in New York Harbor , West Point , and the Brooklyn Navy Yard . He also ordered the militias to return to New York .

= = = Wednesday and Thursday : order restored = = =

The situation improved on Wednesday , when assistant provost marshal general Robert Nugent received word from his superior officer , Colonel James Barnet Fry , to postpone the draft . As this news appeared in newspapers , some rioters stayed home . But some of the militias began to return and used harsh measures against the remaining mobs .

Order began to be restored on Thursday . The New York State Militia and some federal troops were returned to New York , including the 152nd New York Volunteers , the 26th Michigan Volunteers , the 27th Indiana Volunteers and the 7th Regiment New York State Militia from Frederick , Maryland , after a forced march . In addition , the governor sent in the 74th and 65th regiments of the New York State Militia , which had not been in federal service , and a section of the 20th Independent Battery , New York Volunteer Artillery from Fort Schuyler in Throgs Neck . The NYSM units were the first to arrive . By July 16 , there were several thousand Federal troops in the city .

A final confrontation occurred on Thursday evening near Gramercy Park . According to Adrian Cook 's analysis in *Armies of the Streets* (1974) , twelve people died on the last day of the riots in skirmishes between rioters , the police , and the Army , including one African American , two soldiers , a bystander , and two women .

The New York Times reported on Thursday that Plug Uglies and Blood Tubs gang members from Baltimore , as well as " Scuykill Rangers [sic] and other rowdies of Philadelphia , " had come to New York during the unrest to participate in the riots alongside the Dead Rabbits and " Mackerelvillers " . The Times editorialized that " the scoundrels cannot afford to miss this golden opportunity of indulging their brutal natures , and at the same time serving their colleagues the Copperheads and secesh [secessionist] sympathizers . "

= = Aftermath = =

The exact death toll during the New York Draft Riots is unknown , but according to historian James M. McPherson (2001) , at least 120 people were killed . In all , eleven black men were lynched over five days . The riots forced hundreds of blacks to flee the city . Violence by longshoremen against black men was especially fierce in the docks area .

The most reliable estimates indicate at least 2 @, @ 000 people were injured . Herbert Asbury , the author of the 1928 book Gangs of New York , upon which the 2002 film was based , puts the figure much higher , at 2 @, @ 000 killed and 8 @, @ 000 wounded , but this figure is not widely accepted . Total property damage was about \$ 1 ? 5 million (\$ 19 @. @ 2 million ? \$ 96 @. @ 1 million , adjusted for inflation) . The city treasury later indemnified one @- @ quarter of the amount .

The historian Samuel Eliot Morison wrote that the riots were " equivalent to a Confederate victory " . Fifty buildings , including two Protestant churches and the Colored Orphan Asylum , were burned to the ground . During the riots , landlords , fearing that the mob would destroy their buildings , had driven blacks from their residences . As a result of the violence against blacks , hundreds left New York , including James McCune Smith , moving to Williamsburg , Brooklyn (still a separate city until 1898) and New Jersey .

The white elite in New York organized to provide relief to black riot victims , helping them find new work and homes . The Union League Club and the Committee of Merchants for the Relief of Colored People provided nearly \$ 40 @, @ 000 to 2 @, @ 500 victims of the riots . By 1865 the black population had dropped to under 10 @, @ 000 , the lowest since 1820 . The white working @- @ class riots had changed the demographics of the city , and whites exerted their control in the workplace ; they became " unequivocally divided " from blacks .

On August 19 , the government resumed the draft in New York . It was completed within 10 days without further incident . Fewer men were drafted than had been feared by the working class : of the 750 @, @ 000 selected nationwide for conscription , only about 45 @, @ 000 went into service .

While the rioting mainly involved the working class , middle and upper @- @ class New Yorkers had split sentiments on the draft and use of federal power or martial law to enforce it . Many wealthy Democratic businessmen sought to have the draft declared unconstitutional . Tammany Democrats did not seek to have the draft declared unconstitutional , but helped pay the commutation fees for those who were drafted . In December 1863 , the Union League Club recruited over 2000 black soldiers , outfitted and trained them , honoring and sending men off with a parade through the city to the Hudson River docks in March 1864 . A crowd of 100 @, @ 000 watched the procession , which was led by police and members of the Union League Club .

New York City 's support for the Union cause continued , however grudgingly , and gradually Southern sympathies declined in the city . New York banks eventually financed the Civil War , and the state 's industries were more productive than those of the entire Confederacy . By the end of the war , more than 450 @, @ 000 soldiers , sailors , and militia had enlisted from New York State , which was the most populous state at the time . A total of 46 @, @ 000 military men from New York State died during the war , more from disease than wounds .

= = Order of battle = =

= = = New York City Police Department = = =

New York Metropolitan Police Department under the command of Superintendent John A. Kennedy. Commissioners Thomas Coxon Acton and John G. Bergen took command when Kennedy was seriously injured by a mob during the early stages of the riots .

= = = New York State Militia = = =

1st Division : Major General Charles W. Sandford

= = = Union Army = = =

Department of the East : Major General John E. Wool headquartered in New York

Defenses of New York City : Brevet Brigadier General Harvey Brown , Brown was in overall command of the military fortresses in New York city at the time and volunteered his services to

General Wool . Wool instructed Brown to serve under the command of militia General Sanford to which Brown initially refused but eventually offered to serve in whatever capacity needed . Brig. General Edward R. S. Canby
Artillery : Captain Henry F. Putnam , 12th United States Infantry Regiment .
Provost marshals tasked with overseeing the initial enforcement of the draft :
Provost Marshal General U.S.A. : Colonel James Fry
Provost Marshal General New York City : Colonel Robert Nugent (During the first day of rioting on July 13 , 1863 , in command of the Invalid Corps : 1st Battalion)
Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton authorized five regiments from Gettysburg , mostly federalized state militia and volunteer units from the Army of the Potomac , to reinforce the New York City Police Department . By the end of the riots , there were more than 4 @, @ 000 soldiers garrisoned in New York City .

= = Fiction = =

The Banished Children of Eve , A Novel of Civil War New York (1995) by Peter Quinn
On Secret Service (2000) by John Jakes
Paradise Alley (2003) by Kevin Baker
New York : the Novel (2009) by Edward Rutherfurd
Newt Gingrich 's alternate history novel Grant Comes East (2004)
Theatre and film :
The short @-@ lived 1968 Broadway musical Maggie Flynn , starring Shirley Jones , was set in the Tobin Orphanage for black children (modeled on the Colored Orphan Asylum) .
Gangs of New York (2002) , a film directed by Martin Scorsese , includes a fictionalized portrayal of the New York Draft Riots .