

# Free Speech Movement

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# Outline

1 Background

2 Process

3 Mario Savio

4 Influence

# From the East To the West in 1960s ...



P.R.China

The Great Proletarian  
Cultural Revolution



Japan

Anti-Japan / United  
States Security Treaty



France

Mai 68



UK

Students Movemt  
in LSE

# **Wonderful chemical reaction ...**



**Anti-Vietnam War  
Movement**



**Civil Rights  
Movement**



**Left-Wing  
Movement**

# Origin of Freedom of speech

## Athenian democratic theory

Direct democracy

Ecclesia (Citizen has the right to speech)

The Death of Socrates: Tyranny of the majority?



## Age of Enlightenment

Human rights

Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen:

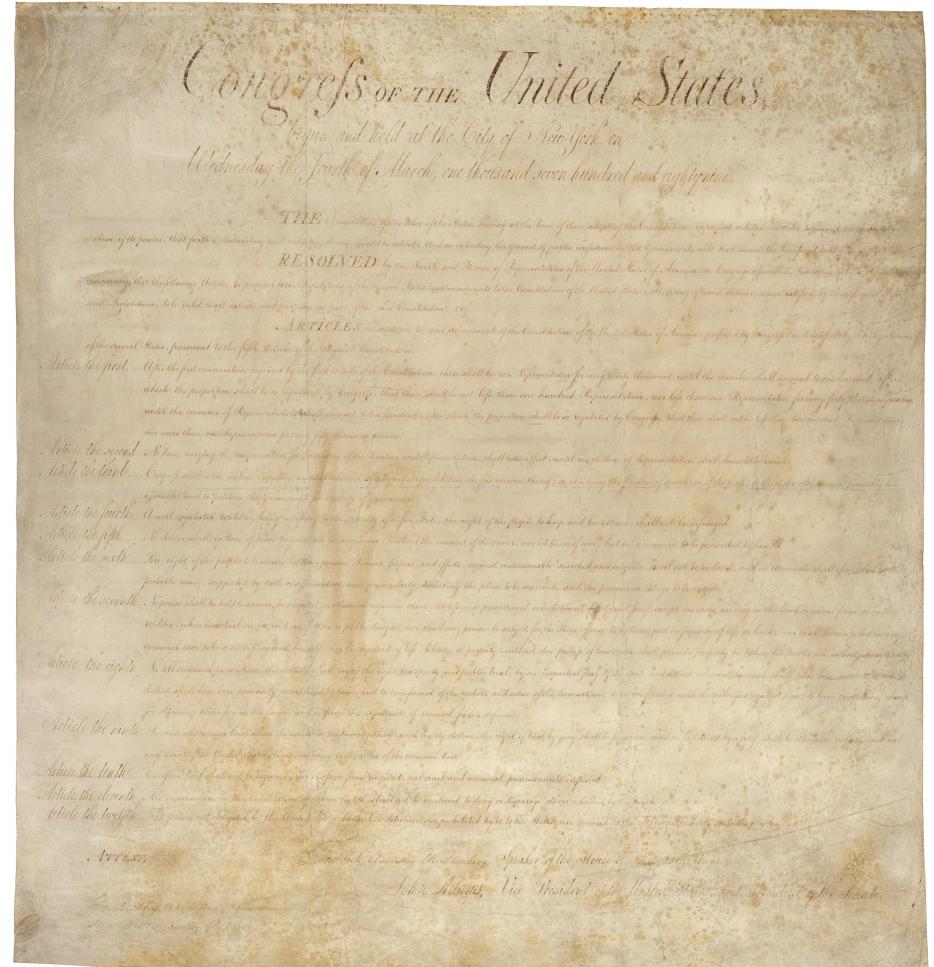
The free communication of thoughts and of opinions is one of the most precious rights of man: any citizen thus may speak, write, print freely, except to respond to the abuse of this liberty, in the cases determined by the law.

# Freedom of speech in America

## First Amendment to the United States Constitution (1791)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

国会不得制定有关下列事项的法律：确立一种宗教或禁止信教自由；剥夺言论自由或出版自由；或剥夺人民和平集会及向政府要求伸冤的权利。



# 1964-1965 Free Speech Movement (FSM)

- 1964
- October 1 Jack Weinberg arrested 32 hours 3,000 students
- December 2 1,500 - 4,000 students Sproul Hall Mario Savio
- December 4 800 students arrested
  
- 1965
- January 3 Martin Meyerson designated Sproul Hall steps an open discussion area during certain hours of the day and permitting tables
  
- Achievement
- First time, disobedience tactics in college campus in the 1960s



Jack Weinberg

# 1966-1970 Backlash Against FSM

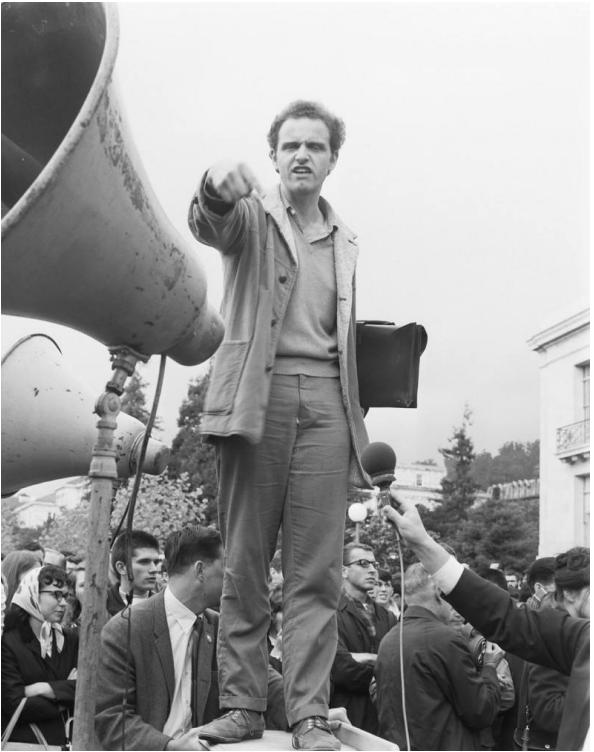
- 1966 Fall, Governor Ronald Reagan dismiss UC President Clark Kerr "too soft on protestors"
- May 15 "Bloody Thursday" 2,200 troops
- 1000 arrested, 200 alonies, 500 in jail
- television news and documentary filmmaking still available today in Bancroft Library of Berkeley

Free Speech Digital Archive, Bancroft Library of UCB

<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/FSM/>



Sign of “Free speech movement” at Sather Gate



## Mario Savio

(December 8, 1942 – November 6, 1996)

Savio was born in [New York City](#) to a Sicilian-born Italian-American father who designed and manufactured restaurant equipment.

He graduated from [Martin Van Buren High School](#) in [Queens](#) at the top of his class in 1960 and then went to [Manhattan College](#) on a full scholarship as well as [Queens College](#).

His parents had moved to [Los Angeles](#) and that autumn he enrolled at [University of California, Berkeley](#).

## Introduction

**“There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious—makes you so sick at heart—that you can't take part. You can't even passively take part. And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all.”**

Mississippi

During the summer of 1964, he joined the [Freedom Summer projects](#) in Mississippi and was involved in helping [African Americans](#) register to vote.<sup>[4]</sup> He also taught at a [freedom school](#) for black children in [McComb, Mississippi](#).

Return to Berkeley



When Savio returned to Berkeley after his time in Mississippi, he intended to raise money for [SNCC](#), but found that the university had banned all political activity and fundraising. He told Karlyn Barker in 1964 that it was a question as to whose side one was on. "Are we on the side of the civil rights movement? Or have we gotten back to the comfort and security of Berkeley, California, and can we forget the sharecroppers whom we worked with just a few weeks back? Well, we couldn't forget."

Savio's part in the protest on the Berkeley campus started on [October 1, 1964](#), when former graduate student [Jack Weinberg](#) was manning a table for the [Congress of Racial Equality](#) (CORE).

# Video





## Arrested

The University police had just put him into a police car when someone from the surrounding crowd yelled, "Sit down!" Savio, along with others during the 32-hour sit-in, took off his shoes and climbed on top of the car and spoke with words that roused the crowd into a frenzy.

## 'bodies upon the gears' speech

Delivered by Mario Savio on December 2, 1964 at the University of California at Berkeley, Sproul Hall.

"**Gears upon bodies**" was a staple of the free speech movement. His use of metaphor comparing the University to a giant machine and the students as small parts in the machine was groundbreaking.

Savio's speech was in response to the University placing **limits on the student's political activity** and campaigning outside of Sproul Hall. This space had been used by students to share their political opinions and discuss with each other previously. The University's restriction on the space caused the protests, sit-ins, and speeches from 1964-1965.

A letter in Jail

December 4, 1964

Dear Mom and Dad, Noni and Tom,

I won't be in here long, but I thought you might like to receive a letter from the "Birmingham Jail." They arrested about 800 of us students after we seized and held the administration building, Sproul Hall, for about 14 hours. We entered the building between noon and 1 a.m. on Wednesday. Here it's Friday morning already and they have not yet even now completed "booking" us. In a speech on Tuesday noon I gave the administration an ultimatum — 24 hours to accede to our demands. When they failed to do so we seized the administration building. Our action has electrified the entire state — as well as many thousands in other states. It was Governor Brown himself — the fink — who ordered our arrest. But the action we took has also lighted a fire under the faculty, who have raised thousands of dollars in bail money, who have demanded we be pardoned, who have demanded that our demands for free speech be met, and who may insist that the Chancellor resign. Furthermore, there is a strike going on right now on campus. The whole campus is shut down — when I urged students to sit in on Wednesday I'd promised that either we would get our rights or we would completely halt the operation of the University! Its operation has been completely halted. So serious is our effort being taken that the Teamsters Union has refused to cross our picket lines. Accordingly, no materials which are brought into the University by truck are coming in. That means that no food is coming to the cafeterias — none at all. Whereas before the administration held the students in seige (sic) in one building; now we hold the administration in seige (sic) on the entire campus!

Even if the Regents do not now meet all our demands, at least we have brought the faculty over to our side. We have already won substantial victories. I am well and boyantly (sic) happy — if a little grubby. Don't worry, please.

Joan Baez — the world famous folk singer — has taken a key role in the protest. She was with us in Sproul Hall!

With all my love,  
Mario

### Later life

Between 1965 and his death, Savio held a variety of jobs, including as a sales clerk in Berkeley and instructor at [Sonoma State University](#).

Savio had a history of heart problems and was admitted to Columbia-Palm Drive Hospital in [Sebastopol, California](#), on November 2, 1996.

A Memorial Lecture Fund was set up to honor Mario Savio upon his death. The MSMLF hosts an annual fall lecture on the [University of California](#), Berkeley campus.

### Critic

Critics say his intention is to make himself famous by his exaggerated words and feared cloths.

# Reunion of the FSM: Lasting effect

- The **20th anniversary** reunion of the FSM was held during the first week of October, 1984, to considerable media attention. A rally in Sproul Plaza featured FSM veterans Mario Savio, who ended a long self-imposed silence. The week continued with a series of panels open to the public on the movement and its impact.
- The **30th anniversary** reunion, held during the first weekend of December 1994, was also a public event, with another Sproul Plaza rally featuring Savio, Weinberg, Goldberg, panels on the FSM, and current free speech issues.
- The **40th anniversary** reunion, the first after Savio's death in 1996, was held in October 2004. It featured columnist Molly Ivins giving the annual Mario Savio Memorial Lecture, followed later in the week by the customary rally in Sproul Plaza and panels on civil liberties issues. A Sunday meeting was a more private event, primarily a gathering for the veterans of the movement, in remembrance of Savio and of a close FSM ally, professor Reginald Zelnik, who had died in an accident in May.

# Regarded as the cradle of free speech

- Today, Sproul Hall and the surrounding Sproul Plaza are active locations for protests and marches, as well as the ordinary daily tables with free literature from anyone of any political orientation who wishes to appear. A wide variety of groups of all political, religious and social persuasions set up tables at Sproul Plaza. The Sproul steps, now officially known as the "Mario Savio Steps", may be reserved by anyone for a speech or rally. An on-campus restaurant commemorating the event, the Mario Savio Free Speech Movement Cafe, resides in a portion of the Moffitt Undergraduate Library.

Reference: <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/cwlherstory/jofreeman/sixtiesprotest/berkeley.htm>

# Controversy



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Feb 2

Attending Chief Ryan Owens' Dignified Transfer yesterday with my daughter Ivanka was my great honor. To a great and brave man - thank you!

12K 17K 123K



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Feb 2

Congratulations to Rex Tillerson on being sworn in as our new Secretary of State. He will be a star!

8.9K 16K 115K



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · Feb 2

If U.C. Berkeley does not allow free speech and practices violence on innocent people with a different point of view - NO FEDERAL FUNDS?

Penn Student Editorial Board: We're Disappointed Freedom of Speech isn't Being Defended at Berkeley

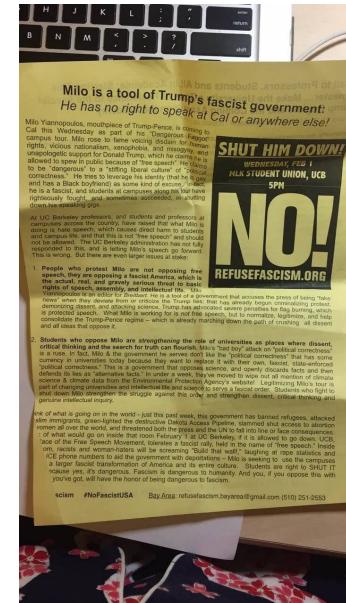
April 24, 2017, Spencer Irvine, Leave a comment

Impact of media:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/protests-violence-prompts-uc-berkeley-cancel-milo-yiannopoulos-event-n715711>

# Who is Milo Yiannopoulos?

- British political commentator, publisher, media personality , blogger , journalist and author associated politically with the alt-right. “Tool of Trump's government”
- Opposition to gay rights
- Alleged support for child sexual abuse
- In July 2016 he was permanently banned from Twitter for what the company cited as "inciting or engaging in the targeted abuse or harassment of others".



# Cancellation of free speech week

The student group Berkeley Patriot on Saturday informed UC Berkeley that Free Speech Week has been canceled, but event headliner Milo Yiannopoulos doubled down on his plans to come to the campus.



# Discussion

- 1. What do you think is the bottom line of the public speech?
- 2. What are appropriate attitude and reaction of the university towards free speech?
- 3 What are cost and benefit of speech freedom?
- 4 Compare with situation of speech freedom in China.