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| THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION & LIFE IN THE INDUSTRIAL AGE |
| The Draft Riots |

*Introduction: The Draft Riots is still considered today the largest urban civilization insurrection in United States History*

Directions: As you Read think about the severity of the people’s reaction to The Drafts, then answer the questions that follow.

The Draft Riots (11 July 1863 – 16 July 1863)

The Draft Riots lasted from July 13 to July 17, 1863 due to the infuriation of the people in response to the drafts. This riot is still today one of the most violent, ruthless, and bloody riot in American history. The American citizens rampaged through New York attacking and killing any man they found that belonged to the government, as well as the African American population.

The people of New York were suspiciously quiet the first 24 hours after the first draft pick, but on the morning of July 13, the attacks began. Thousands of white workers – mostly consisting of Irish Americans – assaulted military and government buildings. Starting off they only attacked the people that opposed them, but quickly moved on the black citizens in the area, as well as their homes and businesses.

One horrible instance showing their brutality is their assault on the Colored Orphan Asylum on Fifth Avenue, housed with about 200 black children. They took bedroll, food, supplies, and clothes and burned them, and then burned the entire orphanage. Fortunately, the children were spared and forced into a local almshouse.

The victims weren’t only limited to anyone who got in their way and black folk, but white abolitionists, men who supported the ending of slavery, as well as white women who were spouses of blacks.

Yet another group of rioters were white dockworkers who long opposed the fellow black employees, and to show their hatred for their coworker’s, they broke into and destroyed businesses on the docks that hired black employees.

By the 15th of July, rioting and protesting spread to Brooklyn and Staten Island, and the first of 4,000 soldiers arrived to fight back. On the night of the 16th of July, the soldiers finally restored order and the Draft Riots ceased.

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| Questions to Think About |  |

1. When did the draft riots start, and why?
2. Who were the main victims during the rioting?
3. What place did the rioters burned down?
4. When did the rioting finally stop?