

# A History of US Social Movements

This 6-week workshop/class is designed to investigate the rich history that we have in the United States of social movements. The class will discuss & investigate the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Abolitionist movement, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Civil Rights movement, and the US labor movement.

Additional movements will be investigated and explored, but the group will determine these once the class begins to meet. Other movements that could be explored are:

- Anti-War/Anti-Imperialist movements
- Women's Suffrage & Feminist movements
- LGBT movements
- Environmental movements
- Animal Rights movements
- Farm Worker movement
- International Solidarity movements
- Anti-Globalization movement

When investigating these movements we will explore what tactics & strategies were used to achieve the goals of the movement, we will look at how they understood the issue and the social forces organized against them and how institutional power structures responded to the gains made by social movements.

All of this conversation & exploration will be placed with in a contemporary context in order to discuss what our history of social movements means for today.

We will use as a primary text, *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn. The GR library system has copies and the Bloom Collective has a copy available or you can buy your own copy. We will also be using supplemental materials – print, online and documentary video for this class.

Classes will meet on Mondays from 7 – 9pm starting January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The class will meet at the Steepletown Neighborhood Center located on the westside of Grand Rapids at 671 Davis NW. Cost of the class is \$20.

To sign up you can contact Mike Saunders at [outobol@gmail.com](mailto:outobol@gmail.com) or Jeff Smith at [jsmith@griid.org](mailto:jsmith@griid.org).