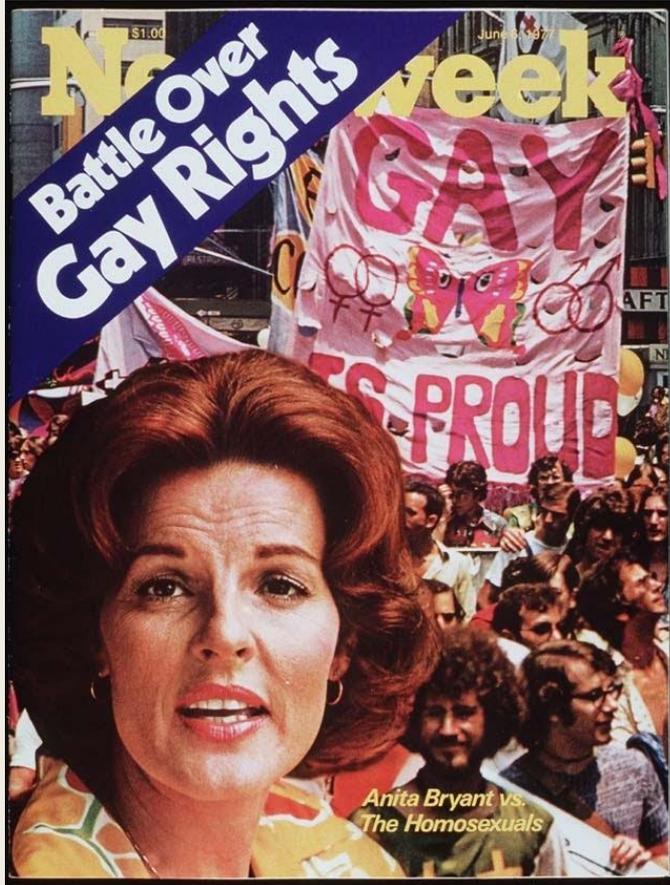




ANTI-LGBTQ+
ACTIVISM AND THE
RISE OF THE NEW
RIGHT



Write down any questions that arise as you study this source.

What curiosities do you have? What do you notice?

What is a countermovement?



A countermovement is a social movement that primarily exists in opposition to another, already-established social movement.



Countermovements typically do not gain mainstream prominence until the movement it seeks to undermine has seen some level of success.



What are some examples of countermovements that you can think of?

The 1960s

- The 1960s were a period of significant social change and unrest in the United States.
 - *Legal victory in the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968*
 - *Burgeoning second-wave feminist movement*
- The Stonewall Uprising (June 1969), which began as a protest against police harassment of LGBTQ patrons of the Stonewall Inn, served as a catalyst for the LGBTQ+ Rights movement.





The LGBTQ+ Rights Movement

- The LGBTQ+ rights movement, also sometimes referred to at this time as the gay liberation movement, sought in the 1960s and 1970s to transform society through the lens of anti-racism and anti-capitalism.
- By the mid-1970s, the LGBTQ+ rights movement was more visible than ever before:
 - Elaine Noble became the first openly queer person to be voted into public office (1974)
 - Harvey Milk, gay activist, became the first openly gay elected official in the state of California (1977)

THE BACKLASH



The formation of the New Right

Many Americans saw cultural change as a direct threat to their preferred way of life.

These social conservatives formed what came to be known as **the New Right**, a Republican coalition that focused **solely on social issues**, rather than the traditional economic conservatism that the party had previously campaigned on.

Social-issue stances of the New Right

- *Opposition* to abortion
- *Opposition* to same-sex marriage
- *Opposition* to equal rights for women
- *Opposition* to racial integration of schools through the act of busing
- *Support* for Christian prayer in public schools
- *Support* for traditional gender roles
- *Support* for the respectability of the **white middle-class heterosexual nuclear family**, which they publicly regarded as the **cornerstone of American society**





The Save Our Children Campaign

- The most successful anti-LGBTQ+ campaign, led by conservative celebrity Anita Bryant who was outraged at a recent anti-discrimination ordinance that provided protections for gay men and lesbians, passed in 1977.
- The campaign was centered around the American parents' "right" to shield their children from the existence of queer people.
- The Save Our Children campaign successfully overturned a local anti-discrimination ordinance in 1978.

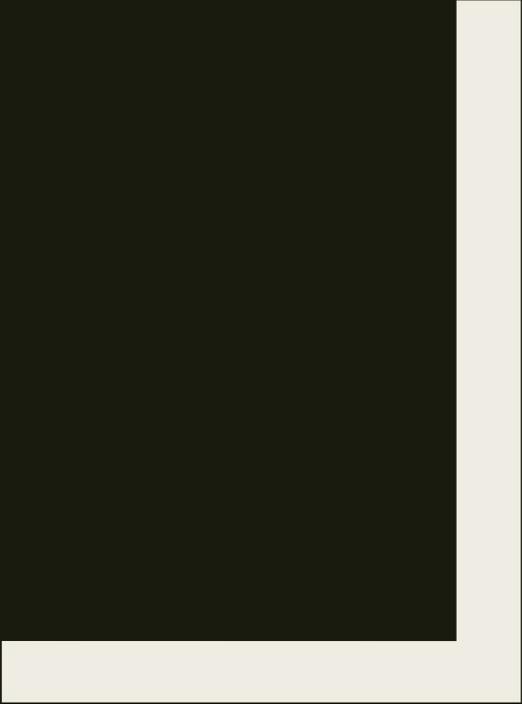
The Briggs Initiative

- Inspired by Anita Bryant's success in Florida, California State Senator John Briggs introduced an initiative that would make queer people and allies ineligible for employment in the California public school system.
- LGBTQ+ activists and allies heavily organized the “No on 6” campaign in opposition and the Briggs Initiative was defeated at the polls.





*PRIMARY
SOURCE
ACTIVITY*



Questions to consider

What do you see in these images?

How is the LGBTQ+ community represented in each image?

What perspective are these images arguing, and what tactics are being used?

Do these tactics seem familiar, unexpected, shocking?

Which groups have a stake in each of these struggles? What coalitions, relationships, alliances do you notice in these sources?

Discussion

What was discussed in the small groups? Did anything familiar, unexpected, or shocking arise while studying these sources?

What were the outcomes of anti-LGBTQ+ activism?

What are consequences of anti-LGBTQ+ activism that we can see today?