

Tiananmen Square Protests of 1989

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Individual Website

Process Paper: 500 words

For the topic of Breaking Barriers for National History Day, I chose the event of Tiananmen Square Protests in 1989. This came to mind because I was aware about censorship in China and wanted to understand more about the topic. Although I knew a little bit already, I never truly realized the severity of censorship and how important it is to the learning of other people. I talked about this with my older sister and she suggested that I should talk about the Tiananmen Square Incident of 1989. When I first started reading about it, the articles I read made me think about how fortunate we are to be able to have access to learn about history and its importance today.

I conducted my research by using the databases from the Lake Washington School District research page. I looked over most of the sites and searched my topic to get a general overview of Tiananmen Square. Initially, the sources I found were short, so I had difficulty learning the smaller details leading to the protests and eventually, the aftermath of the protests. I watched the documentary of “Tank Man” and it was very helpful in the way that they included footage of witnesses who were present in the protests and massacre. They had lots of footage that was helpful to visualize what happened. After reading the sources for a while, it became a bit tiring to read so the documentary was helpful in its information and the way it was presented.

I chose to do a website because I really enjoy graphic design and working with computers, so a website was the best option for me. Doing a website is a way for me to present information visually and in an interactive way. While working with more two-dimensional designs, I saw people making website designs and it made me interested in the process of it. I like how you can convey a lot of information through pictures while also including your own creative twist. I’m excited to see how my project will turn out and how I choose to show my topic thoroughly.

My project related to the National History Day theme because it shows the attempt of Chinese democratic students against the powerful Chinese government. Students marched in Tiananmen Square for freedom of speech and press and the protests grew after first being started after the death of a political leader, Hu Yaobang, who worked for democratic reform in China. Their powerful voice sought to fight against the Chinese government, but China instead felt threatened and in retaliation, they sent out soldiers and police to stop the protests. However, the protests continued, and China increasingly started to feel the pressure from their citizens. They then started to send out tanks and troops to fire at the people parading the square and as a result, thousands of people died. The protest and death of many young students shows the attempt to break barriers between freedom of speech and the Chinese government.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

"Dangerous Memories of Tiananmen Square." *The Washington Post* [Washington, D.C.], 17 May 2014. *ProQuest Ebook Central*,
[explore.proquest.com/elibrary/document/1525799201?searchid=1576559834&accountid=2402](https://www.proquest.com/elibrary/document/1525799201?searchid=1576559834&accountid=2402). Accessed 16 Dec. 2019. From a first-person perspective, this newspaper article gives an insight on the life of censorship in China. While talking about Tiananmen Square, the author talks about difficulties discussing the event in public, and even now in private. They also talk about others' experiences and it gives an informative view of Chinese life. The article gives many different perspectives that make it easier to understand. This also gives information about life in China after Tiananmen. This article is helpful as it gives a short poem about Tiananmen which I may want to include in my website.

Lim, Louisa. *The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited*. Oxford UP, 2014. My book gives firsthand evidence of various people throughout the protests in Tiananmen Square. The people talk about their experiences and also gives a perspective from the soldiers who were involved. Each chapter of the book is named after someone who was in Tiananmen Square during the time. This book gives me backstory of students and people everywhere at the time and how it impacted their lives. It also provides pictures that will be helpful when making my website. I can refer back to this website when I need primary sources.

"1989: Tiananmen Square Protests." *YouTube*, CNN, 6 Oct. 2010, youtu.be/wNEW1Uh0lz0. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Rapp, John A. "Tiananmen Square." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 49, no. 4, Nov. 1990, pp. 915-16. *History Study Center*,
www.historystudycenter.com/search/proxyProquestPDF.do;jsessionid=A7E5955E0BC47E57D20098CAEBC0FA10?PQID=1531347&collectionsTag=&format=PAGE. Accessed 26 Nov. 2019. This article gives a new perspective of the Tiananmen Square Protests. The author gives information on the students, stating how the protests were unorganized. It also gives information on the political climate in China during the time. This source will be helpful for me as a primary source. The journal is from someone in Tiananmen Square. When I need direct sources, I can refer to this source.

Thomas, Antony, producer. "The Tank Man." *Frontline*, produced by Antony Thomas, season 2006, episode 10, PBS, 11 Apr. 2006. This documentary talks about the Tank Man, who stood in front of tanks who was tired of the treatment from the government to the Chinese citizens. It also talks about Chinese censorship and has footage of people who were at the protests talking about the massacre. They report the bloodshed and the government's ideas at the time. This article gives quotes from primary sources. It also gives more information on censorship and how no one younger than 20 knows about the Tiananmen Massacre. The article will be useful when I need footage or quotes.

Secondary Sources

Akatsuka. *A protester stands covered in blood as the Chinese military clears Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989*. 4 June 1989. *Public Radio International*, 4 June 2019,
www.pri.org/stories/2019-06-04/1989-tiananmen-square-protests-photos. Accessed 7 Feb. 2020.

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www.dailydot.com/layer8/tiananmen-square-image-reddit-takedown/. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Chinese students hold aloft a banner calling for freedom, democracy and enlightenment on the Martyrs Monument in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, festooned with a giant portrait of Hu Yaobang. 19 Apr. 1989. *CNN*, 3 June 2019,

www.cnn.com/2019/06/02/asia/tiananmen-square-june-1989-intl/index.html. Accessed 7 Feb. 2020.

Demick, Barbara. "Tiananmen Anniversary Unimportant to China's Youth." *Los Angeles Times*, 22 May 2009. *SIRS Discoverer*,

explore.proquest.com/sirsdiscoverer/document/2265905017?searchid=1572197101&accountid=2402. Accessed 27 Oct. 2019. The article writes about the ignorance young people have in China with censorship going on blocking out all information on Tiananmen Square. While they might be aware that the event happened, they don't necessarily care that it happened. A source also stated that the younger people are, the more they support the Chinese government, explaining why they don't seek for more information. This source will be helpful for me to get primary sources from people after the event. There are quotes from different people and I can implement them in my project by showing how it connects to the topic. After reading this, it relates to the topic of Breaking Barriers because it shows the efforts of the democratic teenagers of 1989 to fight against the government and how their actions were entirely erased by Chinese officials.

Fei, Lam Yik. Thousands of people gathered at Victoria Park in Hong Kong on Tuesday, the 30th anniversary of the crackdown on a student-led democracy movement at Beijing's

Tiananmen Square. 4 June 2019. *The New York Times*, 4 June 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/06/04/world/asia/tiananmen-anniversary-china.html. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Henriette, Catherine. Beijing residents holding placards written in English walk in procession on May 18, 1989 in support of student hunger strikers. 18 May 1989. *Hong Kong Free Press*, 30 Dec. 2016, www.hongkongfp.com/2016/12/30/pictures-june-4-1989-night-tanks-rolled-beijings-tiananmen-square/. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

---. A girl wounded during the clash between the army and students near Tiananmen Square. 4 June 1989. *Hong Kong Free Press*, 30 Dec. 2016, www.hongkongfp.com/2016/12/30/pictures-june-4-1989-night-tanks-rolled-beijings-tiananmen-square/. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

How Tiananmen Protests in 1989 Shaped the China of Today. *The Washington Post*, 1 June 2019, www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/how-todays-china-was-shaped-by-the-events-in-tiananmen-square-30-years-ago/2019/06/01/21119780-7708-11e9-a7bf-c8a43b84ee31_story.html. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Hu Yaobang. *China Digital Times*, 16 Apr. 2019, chinadigitaltimes.net/2019/04/hu-yaobang-the-death-that-sparked-a-movement/. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

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March on Tiananmen Square. *Harvard Magazine*, July 2014, www.harvardmagazine.com/2014/07/tiananmen-plus-twenty-five. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Morio. June 4 marks the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre. *Freedom House*, 29 May 2019, freedomhouse.org/blog/what-lessons-have-chinas-leaders-learned-tiananmen. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Munro, Robin. Protesters March on Tiananmen Square, in "The People versus the Party." Credit... *The New York Times*, 25 June 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/arts/television/whats-on-tv-tuesday-the-people-versus-the-party-and-only-one-mike.html. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

On the night of June 3 and into the early hours of June 4, armed troops and tanks moved in on students and other civilians in the areas around Tiananmen Square, opening fire on the crowds. Photos: 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown Crackdown – On the night of June 3 and into the early hours of June 4, armed troops and tanks moved in on students and other civilians in the areas around Tiananmen Square, opening fire on the crowds. 3 June 1989. *CNN*, 4 June 2019, www.cnn.com/2013/09/15/world/asia/tiananmen-square-fast-facts/index.html. Accessed 7 Feb. 2020.

Perkins, Dorothy. "Tiananmen Square Massacre." *Encyclopedia of China*, Facts On File, 1998. *Modern World History*, online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=101192&itemid=WE53&articleId=247597. Accessed 19 Sept. 2019. Democratic students protested after Hu Yaobang's death because he stood for political reform and supported the students, unlike the Communist Party of China (CCP). The CCP tolerated the demonstrations until Mikhail Gorbachev (U.S.S.R. leader) was scheduled to visit Tiananmen Square where students were protesting. CCP warned students to leave and troops and tanks were headed toward the square, and soldiers began shooting people in their way, including those trying to escape. This

information briefly summarizes the event. The article gives me an idea about what the protests were, why they happened, and the aftermath of the massacre. This source is helpful because it gives a general idea on what I'm researching and also gives basic background information.

Perlman, Merrill. "1989: Tiananmen Square Massacre." *New York Times Upfront*, 12 Jan 2009. *sirsdiscoverer*,

<https://explore.proquest.com/sirsdiscoverer/document/2265993392?accountid=2402>.

Soldiers were ordered to Tiananmen Square and were driven away by the protesters, this cycle repeated for about three days until the soldiers came to the square armed. After the massacre, students were still being collected and were publicly executed or thrown into prison. Since then, China doesn't have a lot of political freedom and little human rights.

This article gives more specific information on what happened during the weeks of protests. It also gives a lot of primary sources, such as quotes from people. The article will be useful if I need quotes and there's a lot of information I can use to cite my information.

Protestors at Tiananmen Square. *Global Research*, June 2014, www.globalresearch.ca/the-tiananmen-massacre-what-massacre/5574567. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Protestors in Front of Tiananmen Square. *Africa China Press Centre*, 2 June 2018, africachinapresscentre.org/2018/06/02/families-of-victims-of-tiananmen-square-massacre-want-xi-jinping-to-compensate-them/. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Protestors in Tiananmen Square. 2 June 2014. *BBC*, 2 June 2014, www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-27410482. Accessed 20 Jan. 2020.

Ramzy, Austin. "China's Cultural Revolution, Explained." *New York Times* [New York], 14 May 2016. *ProQuest*,
search.proquest.com/docview/1788753923/58D19252FD4E4D29PQ/5?accountid=2402.
Accessed 7 Feb. 2020.

"Tiananmen Square Incident." *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, Britannica School, 29 May 2009, school.eb.com/levels/high/article/Tiananmen-Square-incident/475782. Accessed 27 Oct. 2019. In this article, they provide events leading up to the events such as the government figures involved and events that were happening at that time. This includes the visit from the Soviet leader and other details on China's political climate at the time. They also provide information on the aftermath of the massacre. It's useful in the fact that it gives an overview of the whole situation, not giving unnecessary details. It gives an insight without being outright biased and it's based off an outsider's perspective. I'll use this article when giving statistics for how many people died, were injured, soldiers who were affected, etc.

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Yip, Bobby. *Protesters construct tents in Tiananmen Square to protect themselves from the elements on May 26, 1989*. 26 May 1989. *Public Radio International*, 4 June

2019, www.pri.org/stories/2019-06-04/1989-tiananmen-square-protests-photos. Accessed
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