

Tiananmen Square

Political protesters camped out and wouldn't leave.

- They had a right to.
- The government should have sent in the police and tear gassed them.
- If I lived nearby, I'd find at least some small way to show solidarity.

Tahrir Square

Political protesters camped out and wouldn't leave.

- They had a right to.
- The government should have sent in the police and tear gassed them.
- If I lived nearby, I'd find at least some small way to show solidarity.

Oakland Square

Political protesters camped out and wouldn't leave.

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**What's your answer? Where's your voice?
What does your country look like?**

Yes, there is a big difference between sending in the army in China (where they committed mass murder) and Egypt (where they refused), and hoping that tear gas would be enough. Yes, there is a difference between cracking the skull of one protestor using tear gas and rubber bullets, vs mixing in bullets and killing hundreds or thousands in Tiananmen. We all have to ask ourselves if this difference is enough to make us proud as Americans. Yes, there is a tradition of democracy and police/military restraint about attacking people who want to engage in politics against the interests of their leaders, at least compared to China or pre-Spring Egypt. What are you going to hand down to your kids?

The answer is your choice. The only unacceptable answer is to pretend that Tiananmen or Tahrir protests had no one pee in the wrong place, nor have a handful of provocateurs (paid or just self-anointed troublemakers) at the fringes vandalizing and being the excuse to restore order, blasted across state media. Protests in the US, open to anyone who wants to show, are vastly less destructive than Halloween or a Superbowl victory, and police attacks obviously, purposefully weaken the mainstream of the protests inspired by Gandhi and win a point for those who say the police are the enemy. In any other country we'd instantly recognize: the point of police attacks is distraction, where poor people hate (hello police: with growing justification) the police instead of the banks that own us all. Teargas is politics.