

Abstract

This essay will analyse whether the people have power by examining Tiananmen Square, the French Revolution, the anti-war Iraq protests and the #MeToo movement. Finally, it will conclude that the power of the people is on the rise due to the platform that social media and the internet provide.

How much power do the people really have...?

*'The power of the people, is so much stronger than the people in power.'*¹ Ever since 507 BCE, when the Athenian leader Cleisthenes introduced the concept of *demokratia* into the Athenian political landscape, it has undergone profound reform and change.² The Greek word *demokratia* translates directly into 'rule by the people,' but even today, over 2000 years after the fall of Ancient Greece, is our society really ruled by the people? According to the Oxford Dictionary, power is defined as *the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behaviour of others or the course of events.*³ We can only look to our history to determine whether 'the people' truly have any power. This essay will contrast and compare historical events where the people had power and where the people lacked power. Finally, it will examine whether the people's power is on the rise.

It was the 15th of April, 1989. Pro-democratic student protestors marched through Beijing's Tiananmen Square, frustrated by the lack of democracy in their country, frustrated with their lack of personal freedom, and ultimately frustrated by their individual lack of power. According to Jane Bingham – author of 'Tiananmen Square,' as protestor numbers began to swell into the millions, on the 20th of May, the Chinese government enforced Martial Law.⁴ On the night of June 4th 1989, the Chinese military began firing live rounds into the crowds.⁵ CNN estimated that casualties ranged in the tens of thousands and that even more citizens were arrested and incarcerated.⁶ Ironically, Tiananmen translates into *'gateway of heavenly peace.'*⁷ Out of the thousands killed, none of these people had any power. They were unable to *direct or influence the course of events*⁸ and their seemingly futile attempts ultimately led to their death. The New York Times stated that: *'It would be churlish to point out that such people are ill-prepared for democracy, when they risked their lives for it.'*⁹ While Ma Jian from the Guardian emphasised that the Chinese people seized the possibility of freedom and human rights, and desired a democratic nation.¹⁰ So how did the protests at

¹ Ghonim, W. (2011, March). *Revolution: Inside the Egyptian Revolution*. Lecture Presented at TED Conference 2011, Edinburgh.

² History.com Editors. (2018). Ancient Greek Democracy. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-greece/ancient-greece-democracy>

³ Oxford University Press. (2019). Definition of 'Power' in English. Retrieved from <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/power>

⁴ Bingham, J. (2003). *Tiananmen Square 4th June 1989*. Suffolk: Hodder Wayland.

⁵ Tiananmen Square Fast Facts. (2019). Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/15/world/asia/tiananmen-square-fast-facts/index.html>

⁶ Jian, M. (2014). Tiananmen Square 25 Years On. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/01/tiananmen-square-25-years-every-person-victim-massacre>

⁷ History.com Editors. (2019). Tiananmen Square Protests. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/china/tiananmen-square>

⁸ See note 3.

⁹ Hernandez, J. C. (2019). 30 Years after Tiananmen 'Tank Man' Remains an Icon and a Mystery. Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/03/world/asia/tiananmen-tank-man.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FTiananmen%20Square&action=click&contentCollection=world®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=9&pgtype=collection

¹⁰ See note 6.

Tiananmen Square fail? Furthermore, does this prove that no matter the perceived power of the people, the power of the people who rule is far greater?

An ABC News article, published in 2019, details how the Chinese government strictly censors public discussion of Tiananmen and goes to great lengths to scrub references to it from the internet.¹¹ The article referenced several Chinese students who had little to no knowledge of the events of June 4th.¹² Furthermore, when a Weibo user briefly evaded Chinese censors by turning a tank man image into a meme by replacing the tanks with rubber ducks, the image was removed within 24hrs and censored permanently from all accessible Chinese sites.¹³ The speed and finality of the censorship of this image highlights that the Chinese government has so much power that it has the ability to censor the free speech of the Chinese people, 30 years on from the massacre.¹⁴ The fact that three decades later, all knowledge of Tiananmen Square has effectively been erased from the memory of China's population clearly proves that the power of the Chinese government is far greater than the power of its "free" peoples. The Chinese government has effectively been able to rewrite history, blinding its citizens to the truth and highlighting the people's extreme lack of power. It has not only censored their people's freedom of speech and freedom of belief but it has prevented them from protesting peacefully about what they believe in and learning about the history of their culture.

On the other hand, there is other evidence in history that proves that the power of the people is far greater than that of any individual. The French Revolution of 1789 exemplifies the people's power to affect real change in their society. It was the late 1780s, and France was on the verge of bankruptcy following the Seven Year War and American Revolutionary War.¹⁵ The French economy capitulated and on the 14th of June, the people stormed the Bastille, sparking the real beginning of what we now call the French revolution.¹⁶ Following the attack on the Bastille, a general panic set into the French aristocracy and is known today as the Great Fear of July.¹⁷ To prevent a revolt, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen was introduced, proclaiming equal rights, personal liberties, individual freedoms and the abolition of the feudal system.¹⁸

On the 5th of October 1789, the Parisians marched on the king's palace in Versailles, parading the royal family through the streets of Paris.¹⁹ Following the execution of Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette for high treason in 1793, the 'Reign of Terror' or *la Terreur* began.²⁰ This resulted in the execution of an estimated 17 000 people, the arrest of over 300 000 suspects and the death of over 10 000 people in prison.²¹ The French Republic was proclaimed, and France also adopted its first

¹¹ Birtles, B. (2019). Tiananmen Square 30th anniversary: How China erased iconic 'tank man' image for young people .Retrieved from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-04/tiananmen-30th-anniversary-young-people-dont-know-tank-man/11152324>

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Croma, R. (2014). Tiananmen Square in Words and Pictures. Retrieved from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-06-04/tiananmen-square-in-words-and-pictures/5496646>

¹⁵ History.com Editors. (2009). French Revolution. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/france/french-revolution>

¹⁶ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2019). The French Revolution [Electronic Database]. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/event/French-Revolution>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "French Revolution." International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, edited by William A. Darity, Jr., 2nd ed., vol. 3, Macmillan Reference USA, 2008, p. 205. Gale Virtual Reference Library, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3045300863/GVRL?u=hornsby&sid=GVRL&xid=4bde45fe>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ See note 15.

²¹ William A. Darity, Jr. "French Revolution," op. cit. p. 203

written constitution, declaring that '*France would be ruled by her people.*'²² The people had successfully taken back their power. Even today, 226 years after the Revolution, France still adheres to the same democratic system that was introduced by the people two centuries ago. William A. Darity commented that: '*the French Revolution invented modern revolution—the idea that the people can transform the world according to a plan.*'²³ Part of the success of the revolution was the freedom of press that was granted to appease the French people during the early stages of the uprising. France was quickly flooded with pamphlets detailing the reconstruction of the state and the grievances of the people.²⁴ These posters informed and invigorated the French, spreading a message and spurring the people to action. They acted as a rudimentary method of social-based media. This starkly contrasts to Tiananmen Square, expunged from the memory of the Chinese people through censorship of all material relating to June 4th 1989.

Overall, the French Revolution is an extreme example of the might of the masses, truly demonstrating the extent of what can be achieved by a united people. They were able to not only overthrow the monarchy, but instituted new laws and France's first constitution that favoured the common man. We can conclude then, that the Revolution of 1789 truly embodies the 'power of the people.'

However, the 2003 global anti-war protests tell a different story about the power of people. Between the 3rd of January and the 12th of April 2003, there were coordinated protests across over 600 cities throughout the world²⁵ where millions of people took to the streets to protest the looming Iraq War. The imminent war, declared necessary by US President George W Bush during a speech to the United Nations, was to be led by a United States – British Coalition.²⁶

According to French academic Dominique Reynie, in the protests leading up to the war approximately eight to forty million protestors publicly opposed the war.²⁷ According to the BBC News²⁸, six to eleven million people from over sixty different countries took part in the coordinated protests on February 15th 2003. The protest in Rome is listed as the largest anti-war rally ever, with over three million participants.²⁹ In Sydney, Australia, over half a million people flooded Hyde Park and streets of Sydney's CBD, to protest the war on February 15th 2003.³⁰ It was reported by the Sydney Morning Herald as the largest peace rally in Australia's history and involved toddlers, children, teens, adolescents, adults and the elderly – from all walks of life.³¹ The combined might of

²² Mcphee, P. (2006). *French Revolution* (Vol. 2). Detroit: Gale.

²³ William A. Darity, Jr. "French Revolution," op. cit. p. 204

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Mercer, N., Nicholls, S., Connolly, E., & Lawson, V. (2003). From the Archives: Sydney protests the Iraq War. Retrieved from <https://www.smh.com.au/world/middle-east/from-the-archives-sydney-protests-the-iraq-war-20190214-p50xtd.html>

²⁶ The Guardian. (2002). Transcript: George Bush's speech on Iraq .Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/sep/12/iraq.usa3>

²⁷ Callinicos, Alex (March 19, 2005). "Anti-war protests do make a difference". Socialist Worker. Archived from the original on March 26, 2010. Retrieved from <https://socialistworker.co.uk/art/5932/Anti+war+protests+do+make+a+difference>

²⁸ BBC News. (2016). Timeline: Iraq War. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-36702957>

²⁹ "Guinness World Records, Largest Anti-War Rally". Guinness World Records. Archived from the original on 2004-09-04.

³⁰ See note 25.

³¹ Ibid.

the protestors was so strong that New York Times writer Patrick Tyler claimed that *'they showed that there were two superpowers on the planet: the United States and worldwide public opinion.'*³²

Instead, the so-called leaders of the free-world, George W Bush, Tony Blair, and John Howard ignored the people.³³ Mr Howard even remarked that he was not convinced that the mass rallies proved public opinion was against a possible war, despite the attendance of over 600 000 Australians in Sydney alone.³⁴ At the time, 0.6% of the entire world's population had protested the war, and only four countries announced that they would support the war, causing the United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan, to declare that the US-led war on Iraq was illegal as it was not sanctioned by the UN Security Council.³⁵ However, despite the seemingly overwhelming 'power of the people,' on the 20th of March 2003, the United States led 'coalition of the willing' bombed Baghdad, the capital city of Iraq.³⁶ Ultimately, the power of forty million people was not great enough to prevent the conflict in Iraq.

In a more recent setting, the #MeToo movement highlights the change that a united people can affect in their society. Since the start of the #MeToo movement in 2017, fifteen American states have passed new laws to protect victims,³⁷ with over 425 prominent people across industries publicly accused of sexual misconduct in 2018 alone.³⁸ Most importantly, it has started a global conversation about sexual harassment and sexual assault, leading to the creation of organisations like 'Time's Up,' to share the stories of survivors and support victims.³⁹ This movement highlights how effective social media and the internet are at empowering the common people. The instantaneous global social-based connection that social media provides has meant that the #MeToo movement, like the viral message of the Free Press in 1789, has been able to spread their message to others and encourage more people to speak out. Social Media has given victims and advocates a platform to spur the world to act in a way that the leaders of the world cannot ignore. It seems then, that Social Media and the internet, are what is truly empowering the people in today's world, and perhaps it was this connection that the people of 1989 and 2003 lacked.

Today, over half the countries in our world are democratically ruled and in the 'golden age of free speech' we have the capacity to spread our ideas, beliefs or opinions instantaneously and to the world stage. The world has changed drastically since the events of 1989 and 2003. And for the first time, innovations such as social media provide us with a place to express our views freely, virally and on a global platform. We are more connected than we ever have been before. Technology is resulting in the 'democratisation' of power, enabling the voice of the people. The failure of the people's power in both Tiananmen Square and in 2003 is perhaps due to the lack of a platform for

³² Tyler, Patrick (February 17, 2003). "A New Power in the Streets". New York Times. Archived from the original on December 25, 2013.

³³ Fishwick C. (2006). 'We were ignored': Anti-war protesters remember the Iraq war marches. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/08/we-were-ignored-anti-war-protestors-remember-the-iraq-war-marches>

³⁴ Fairfax Media Australia. (2003). Howard Rejects Global Protests. Retrieved from <https://www.smh.com.au/national/howard-rejects-global-protests-20030217-gdga9s.html>

³⁵ MacAskill E., & Borger, J. (2004). Iraq war was illegal and breached UN charter, says Annan. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/sep/16/iraq.iraq>

³⁶ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2019). Iraq War 2003–2011. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Iraq-War>

³⁷ Retta, M. (2019). 15 States Have Passed New Laws to Protect Women After #MeToo. Retrieved from https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/a35z3p/new-harrasment-laws-me-too

³⁸ Griffin, R., Recht, H., & Green, J. (2018). #MeToo: One Year Later. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2018-me-too-anniversary/>

³⁹ Time's Up. (2019). *Time's Up*. Retrieved from <https://www.timesupnow.com/>

the people to express their views, and to rouse others to action as social media can today. This is evident in the #MeToo campaign where Social Media has been used to urge others to speak out. Even the success of the French Revolution in 1789 was partly due to the shocking nature of the message of revolution and call to arms that quickly went 'viral'.

Therefore, despite the evidence for both sides of the argument, it is logical to conclude that with new technological innovations every year, every month, every day, the people DO have the power *to direct or influence the course of events*.⁴⁰ With every message we send, every tweet we post, we are empowering the common man. It seems then, that the power of the people, *is* stronger than the people in power.⁴¹ We can only hope that this power will be used wisely.

Annotated Bibliography

Ghonim, W. (2011, March). *Revolution: Inside the Egyptian Revolution*. Lecture Presented at TED Conference 2011, Edinburgh.

This TED Talk presented the idea that the people have more power than the people in power – which is the topic examined in this essay. This source is considered to be credible as its author, Wael Ghonim is a respected pro-democracy internet activist, and computer engineer. Furthermore, Wael is also the author of the book *Revolution 2.0* and he has first-hand experience regarding the power of the people, as he was one of the administrators of pro-democracy protests that ultimately overthrew Egypt's Ḥosnī Mubārak in 2011.

History.com Editors. (2018). Ancient Greek Democracy. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-greece/ancient-greece-democracy>

This was a valuable source as it provided information about one of the first ever examples of the people's power in Ancient Greece. Furthermore it presented a succinct and clear outline of how democracy worked in Ancient Greece. It is considered to be a reliable source as it has been reviewed by more than one editor, and was updated recently in 2019. The website also states that it strives for accuracy and fairness.

Oxford University Press. (2019). Definition of 'Power' in English. Retrieved from <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/power>

This source provided a clear definition of 'power.' Oxford University Press is a well-respected, highly regarded publisher. Furthermore, the definition was updated recently in 2019, ensuring that the source is relevant and up to date.

Bingham, J. (2003). *Tiananmen Square 4th June 1989*. Suffolk: Hodder Wayland.

This book was useful to an extent as it provided a brief outline of the events of Tiananmen Square. It was primarily used to verify numbers and statistics presented by other sources. Although it lacked an in-depth analysis of what happened, the book seemed to be intended to inform younger children about what occurred at Tiananmen Square. Despite this, the facts that it presented were accurate and its author – Jane Bingham – specialises in historical and contemporary issues and has won multiple awards.

⁴⁰ See note 3.

⁴¹ See note 1.

Tiananmen Square Fast Facts. (2019). Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/15/world/asia/tiananmen-square-fast-facts/index.html>

This website listed key facts and statistics about Tiananmen Square. Furthermore, it provided multiple primary sources – images and photographs from 1989 – and the site was reviewed and edited recently in 2019, ensuring that its information is relevant and up to date. CNN has a reputation as a credible news outlet, and the information was presented from an objective viewpoint.

Jian, M. (2014). Tiananmen Square 25 Years On. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/01/tiananmen-square-25-years-every-person-victim-massacre>

This source provided the perspective of an author who experienced Tiananmen Square first-hand. Although the article is biased towards the protestors, it presented an interesting analysis about the repercussions of Tiananmen Square and the effects on survivors and victims. The article highlighted a different interpretation of Tiananmen Square compared to other more detached, objective recounts by other sources/media outlets. Even though the content of the article may have been coloured by the author's experiences, it can still be considered a reliable first-hand account of the events that unfolded. Regardless of his prejudices, Ma Jian is a reputable novelist who has written multiple books on a range of Chinese-based topics. Also, the Guardian is a credible news outlet that has a reputation for its diverse range of opinion pieces.

History.com Editors. (2019). Tiananmen Square Protests. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/china/tiananmen-square>

This source was valuable as it provided factual information from an objective viewpoint. The information that it contained was consistent with other sources. In addition, it was reviewed by multiple editors and published recently (31st of May, 2019), ensuring that the information is up to date and accurate. Furthermore, the article cited its own sources, providing references for its information such as reputable news outlets and US government websites, making the facts it presented verifiable. Finally, the website also states that it strives for accuracy and fairness.

Hernandez, J. C. (2019). 30 Years after Tiananmen 'Tank Man' Remains an Icon and a Mystery. Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/03/world/asia/tiananmen-tank-man.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FTiananmen%20Square&action=click&contentCollection=world®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=9&pgtype=collection

This source explained how censorship of Tiananmen Square since 1989 has effectively rewritten history in China. The article also discussed the identity of the unknown 'tank-man' and how China has managed to wipe this image from the Chinese search engines. This source was written by the New York Times' China correspondent Javier C Hernandez, who has worked for the NY Times for over a decade. Furthermore, the New York Times is a respected, reliable, news outlet, having won 127 Pulitzer Prizes and ranked 3rd in the United States and 18th in the world.

Birtles, B. (2019). Tiananmen Square 30th anniversary: How China erased iconic 'tank man' image for young people. Retrieved from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-04/tiananmen-30th-anniversary-young-people-dont-know-tank-man/11152324>

This article analysed the censorship of Tiananmen Square since 1989. This source is credible and reliable for a number of reasons. Firstly, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) Bill Birtles is a respected journalist and has been the ABC's Chinese correspondent since 2015. In addition, the ABC is a highly scrutinised news outlet that strives for independent, investigative journalism. Furthermore, the article presented quotes from several current Chinese students who have poor knowledge of Tiananmen Square, corroborating the idea explored in the article – that China has wiped the events of June 4th from the memory of its people.

Croma, R. (2014). Tiananmen Square in Words and Pictures. Retrieved from <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-06-04/tiananmen-square-in-words-and-pictures/5496646>

This article presented multiple primary sources – 9 photographs and quotes from witnesses – relating to Tiananmen Square. This article is considered to be a reliable source as the quotes that it provided were corroborated by other news outlets, and the photographs that it showed were verifiable – referenced and cited. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation is a highly scrutinised news outlet dedicated to investigative journalism.

History.com Editors. (2009). French Revolution. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/topics/france/french-revolution>

This source presented clear, concise information and facts about the French Revolution. This article was reviewed by multiple editors, and was updated recently in 2019 since its original publication in 2009. The website also states that it has a commitment to accuracy and fairness.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2019). The French Revolution [Electronic Database]. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/event/French-Revolution>

This article was extremely useful as it analysed the events leading up to the French Revolution and the repercussions of the uprising. Furthermore, the Britannica Encyclopaedia is a reputable source and this article was reviewed by multiple editors before being published. This source was also updated recently in August, 2019 and this article also cites multiple sources for its own information, including primary sources.

"French Revolution." International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, edited by William A. Darity, Jr., 2nd ed., vol. 3, Macmillan Reference USA, 2008, p. 203-205. Gale Virtual Reference Library, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3045300863/GVRL?u=hornsby&sid=GVRL&xid=4bde45fe>.

This source provided detailed information about the French Revolution and the aftermath of the revolution, and the creation of the Republic. Furthermore, the author of the piece, William A Darity, is a renowned American economist and researcher. In addition, the International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences is a highly credible source, reviewed by multiple editors and revised since the 1st Edition.

Mcphee, P. (2006). *French Revolution* (Vol. 2). Detroit: Gale.

This source provided an alternate perspective on the French Revolution. However, parts of the book were slightly biased towards the revolutionaries, dismissing the death toll that the uprising caused and the horrifying treatment of counterrevolutionaries.

Mercer, N., Nicholls, S., Connolly, E., & Lawson, V. (2003). From the Archives: Sydney protests the Iraq War. Retrieved from <https://www.smh.com.au/world/middle-east/from-the-archives-sydney-protests-the-iraq-war-20190214-p50xtd.html>

This was an extremely valuable source as it detailed the February 15th protests in Sydney in 2003, providing a timeline of the protests, quotes from protestors and images from the day. This article was reviewed and edited by multiple authors who were present at the time of the protests, and all the quotes, statistics and facts that it presented were corroborated by other news outlets and sources. Furthermore, the article's publisher, Fairfax Media, is widely regarded as a source of independent journalism.

The Guardian. (2002). Transcript: George Bush's speech on Iraq. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/sep/12/iraq.usa3>

This article included the full transcript of President George W Bush's speech to the United Nations General Assembly in 2002. During the speech, Mr Bush describes the rise of Iraq as a dangerous global threat, emphasising the necessity of war. Furthermore, the transcript that was included was accurate as it was corroborated by other media outlets.

Callinicos, Alex (March 19, 2005). "Anti-war protests do make a difference". Socialist Worker. Archived from the original on March 26, 2010. Retrieved from <https://socialistworker.co.uk/art/5932/Anti+war+protests+do+make+a+difference>

This source includes a quote from French academic Dominique Reynie who stated that over 36 million people attended protests across the globe between the 3rd of January and the 12th of April, 2003. This statement is considered to be well-informed considering Mr Reynie's reputation as a well-respected professor of political science. He is currently a Professor at Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. Although the majority of the article is biased and based off the author's opinion, this particular quote from Mr Reynie is verifiable and was corroborated by multiple sources.

BBC News. (2016). Timeline: Iraq War. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-36702957>

This timeline presented accurate information and facts about the lead up to and cause of the Iraq war. The information presented was corroborated by other sources and the publishers of the article, BBC News, have a reputation for quality journalism. Furthermore, the article provided references for its own sources and it was published recently (2016), ensuring that the information is relevant and up to date.

"Guinness World Records, Largest Anti-War Rally". Guinness World Records. Archived from the original on 2004-09-04.

This source states that the anti-war rally in Rome on February 15th holds the record for the largest anti-war rally ever, with an attendance of over 3 million participants. This information was corroborated by multiple reputable media outlets across the globe.

Tyler, Patrick (February 17, 2003). "A New Power in the Streets". New York Times. Archived from the original on December 25, 2013.

This article included a quote from respected New York Times reporter Patrick Tyler. At the time of the quote, Patrick was the Chief Correspondent for the New York Times and since then has authored four books, receiving the Lionel Gelber Prize in 2000. Mr Tyler's quote about the 2003 Iraq protests seems to be well-informed, as he covered the 2003 anti-war protests in great detail, acting as a news anchor for the NY Times in Kuwait during the invasion of Iraq.

Fishwick C. (2016). 'We were ignored': Anti-war protesters remember the Iraq war marches. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/08/we-were-ignored-anti-war-protestors-remember-the-iraq-war-marches>

This was a useful source as it presented a range of different perspectives and opinions of the public on the invasion of Iraq, reinforcing the idea that the people *were* ignored. The Guardian is generally considered to be a credible news outlet, renowned for its diverse opinion pieces, and Carmen Fishwick has written many community articles for the Guardian. Furthermore, this article was published in 2016 – suggesting that the views and opinions presented in the article are relatively recent and relevant.

Fairfax Media Australia. (2003). Howard Rejects Global Protests. Retrieved from <https://www.smh.com.au/national/howard-rejects-global-protests-20030217-gdga9s.html>

This article provided quotes from John Howard – the Australian Prime Minister in 2003 – about the February 15th Iraq protests. Published at the time of the protests, this article is also written from an objective viewpoint and was also reviewed by multiple editors before it was published. As mentioned earlier, Fairfax Media is considered to be a reliable source as it has a reputation for producing independent, quality journalism, and all Mr Howard's quotes were verifiable and corroborated by the Australian Broadcasting Network and BBC News.

MacAskill E., & Borger, J. (2004). Iraq war was illegal and breached UN charter, says Annan. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/sep/16/iraq.iraq>

This source provided a quote from the UN Secretary General at the time, Kofi Annan. This source is reliable and accurate due to corroboration from multiple TV networks, news outlets and other sources.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2019). Iraq War 2003–2011. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Iraq-War>

This source contained accurate, verifiable facts and information about the invasion of Iraq. The Britannica Encyclopaedia is a reputable encyclopaedia and this article was reviewed by multiple editors before being published. Furthermore, the article cited several of its own sources, supporting the information that it presented, and was only published recently in 2019, ensuring that the source is relevant and up to date.

Retta, M. (2019). 15 States Have Passed New Laws to Protect Women After #MeToo. Retrieved from https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/a35z3p/new-harrasment-laws-me-too

This source highlighted multiple shocking statistics and facts about the #MeToo movement. It also emphasised the repercussions of the #MeToo movement, particularly the fact that 15 States have passed new laws to protect women as a result of the #MeToo campaign. Although a sensationalist piece, the facts that it presented were accurate and referenced.

Griffin, R., Recht, H., & Green, J. (2018). #MeToo: One Year Later. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2018-me-too-anniversary/>

This source analysed the #MeToo movement, highlighting the history of the movement, the result of the campaign and several confronting statistics. This article was written recently in 2018, ensuring that the figures that it presented were relevant and accurate. It was also edited, reviewed and produced by multiple authors and provided corroboration for its claims, including a list of related news-stories published globally by different media outlets since the beginning of the movement in 2017.

Time's Up. (2019). *Time's Up*. Retrieved from <https://www.timesupnow.com/>

This source is the webpage of the newly created organisation 'Time's Up,' providing information about the history of the #MeToo movement and the global repercussions that the movement has had. The majority of the contributors to the website are sexual assault survivors and it provides a platform for them to tell their stories. The website also presented corroborating news stories from other media outlets across the globe.