

LEARN ABOUT #OCCUPY

BACKGROUND & TIMELINE



Photo courtesy of David Shankbone

the #occupy movement

is an international movement driven by individuals like you. All of us have many different backgrounds and political beliefs but feel that, since we can no longer trust our elected officials to represent anyone other than their wealthiest donors, we need real people to create real change from the bottom up. Organized in over 100 cities in the United States, #occupy aims to fight back against the system that has allowed the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer. We no longer want the wealthiest to hold all the power, to write the rules governing an unbalanced and inequitable global economy, and thus foreclosing on our future.



Photo courtesy of David Shankbone

how did #occupy start?

The #occupy movement, originally initiated by a [call from Adbusters](#) to "Occupy Wall Street," was inspired by several international protests, most notably, the Arab Spring protests. Thousands answered the call and arrived in Zuccotti Park, at the heart of New York City's financial district, to protest the damaging influence of corporations on politics as well as social and economic inequality. Hundreds stayed every night for two months and created an encampment in the park, a model that was adopted by people all over the country as the movement spread to well over 500 cities.

HISTORY & TIMELINE

DEC 17

JAN 25

FEB 17

MAY 15



Tunisia

December 17, 2010

Twenty-six-year old produce vendor Mohammed Bouazizi sets himself on fire in response to years of petty police harassment in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. His self-immolation sparks a wave of protests against the decades-long autocratic rule of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. After four weeks, Ben Ali is forced to dissolve parliament and flees to Saudi Arabia.

how is #occupy organized?

The #occupy movement has no official leaders. Anyone can be involved in the process and pick up the flag to address the problems they face in their community. We do not believe in placing the power of the movement in the hands of the few, but rather empowering everyone to be involved and share the responsibility together.

what does #occupy want?

#occupy wants to end the relationship built on money and donations between our elected officials and corporate interests. We believe this relationship has led to rampant corruption and criminal activities that undermine our economic and political system. We simply want a system that operates in the interest of the people and to empower people to be a part of the process.

how does the movement work to achieve these goals?

RESIST

In the spirit and tradition of civil disobedience #occupy takes to the streets to protest corporate greed, abuse of power, and growing economic disparity.

RESTRUCTURE

#occupy empowers individuals to lead others into action by gathering in the commons (public spaces, parks and online) as engaged citizens to demonstrate a culture based on community and mutual aid. We will be the change we are seeking in the world.

REMIX

Work to make fundamental changes in the system.

ABOUT #OCCUPY | GET INVOLVED & MOBILIZE | CONNECT | SPREAD THE WORD | SUPPORT #OCCUPY | ARTS & CULTURE

ISSUES

What issues are being addressed by the #occupy movement?

While every individual is empowered to bring to light issues that directly affect themselves or their community, #occupy collectively addresses a narrower set of issues that embody the root of our connected grievances.



Corporate Influence

Billions of dollars are donated to political campaigns by corporations, Super PACs, and lobbyists every election cycle, buying time and influence. Many issues within #occupy stem from policies made by elected officials acting in the interest of corporate



Corporate Personhood

Citizens United declared money as speech and corporations as people—allowing for unlimited corporate influence through monetary contributions. Human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS

Web2PDF

converted by Web2PDFConvert.com



profit rather than what is best for the people.



ISSUE:

[Move to Amend](#)



Student Debt

Financial speculators have wasted the jobs economy, leaving graduates unemployed and in hock for decades to come. Education is a right and knowledge should not be a source of profit for Wall Street.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS ISSUE:

[Occupy Graduation](#)
[Occupy Student Debt](#)



Wrongful Foreclosures

Bankers and speculators had been gambling with our most valuable asset, our homes. Because of the foreclosure crisis Wall Street banks created, millions of Americans have lost their homes and 1-in-4 are currently underwater.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS ISSUE:

[Occupy Our Homes](#)
[Occupy Foreclosure](#)



"Too Big to Fail" Banks

Too big to fail is too big to allow. They've been bailed out at the expense of the 99% and now they need to be broken up so they can no longer threaten our economy.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS ISSUE:

[Foreclose the Banks](#)
[Occupy the SEC](#)
[Move Your Money](#)



Healthcare

The profiteering of private hospitals, insurance, and pharmaceutical companies is a threat to our human rights and economic stability both as individuals and as a country.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS ISSUE:

[Healthcare for the 99%](#)
[Occupy Healthcare](#)



Living Wage

Workers—who bring the 1% their wealth—should be able to make a wage that allows them to afford housing, food, utilities, transport, health care.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS ISSUE:

[Living Wage NYC](#)



99% Budget Cuts

We can no longer stand to have our schools shut down and public services withered away. Where we can not rely on our elected officials to work in the interest of the 99%, we will join together and offer each other mutual aid. We build community centers, free markets, workshops, and alternative structures. We will be the change we are seeking in the world.

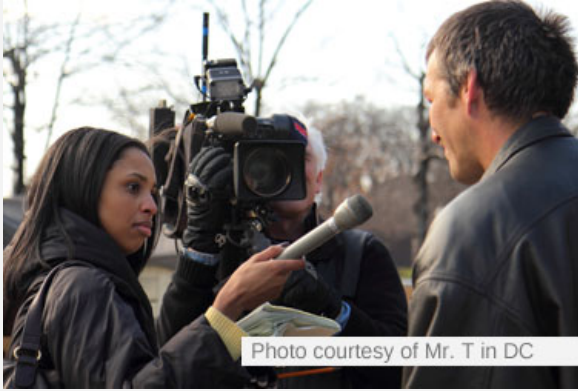


Photo courtesy of Mr. T in DC

Changing Discourse

One of the important accomplishments may simply be changing the social and political discourse in America as the #occupy movement has called attention to important issues of unchecked corporate influence in politics and social and economic inequality. "We are the 99%" has become a rallying cry by many, familiar by virtually all, and acknowledged but mocked by the wealthy, showing their disregard for the majority of American people.



Photo courtesy of Elliot Margolies

From Big Banks to Credit Unions

On November 5th, 2011, #occupy held its first National Bank Transfer Day, encouraging individuals to transfer money from their accounts with major corporate banks to local credit unions. The event was a success as over \$50 million dollars were withdrawn and accounts were closed with big banks. On an even larger scale, Occupy Buffalo pressured the City of Buffalo to withdraw \$45 million dollars from JP Morgan Chase and start a new account with a smaller regional bank.



Photo courtesy of Occupy Our Homes

Ending illegal foreclosures

Occupy Our Homes and Occupy Foreclosure have been two organizations that have been at the front of preventing banks from foreclosing on homeowners affected by predatory lending and corporate wrongdoing. Employing many tactics including camping out on property to prevent evictions, these groups have prevented many all over the country from getting kicked out of their homes due to the greed of banks. Actions continue from Buffalo to Birmingham, St. Paul to Oakland as the foreclosure crisis continues to affect millions.



Photo courtesy of Fibonacci Blue

ALEC

On February 29th, 2012, Occupy protesters from around the country coordinated demonstrations in over 80 American cities. The day was known as #F29 Shut Down the Corporations and its intent was to turn the spotlight on the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), and organization that brings elective officials and corporations like Walmart, Bank of America, and McDonalds together to draft legislation beneficial to corporations. These demonstrations caused a high-level of scrutiny to befall ALEC, forcing many of its largest corporations to abandon the organization.





Photo courtesy of JBrazito

Rolling back greedy bank practices

When Bank of America, Chase, Suntrust, and Wells Fargo announced they were all going to charge their customers an additional \$5 a month to use their debit cards, many were angry. Occupy protesters amplified the displeasure felt by many by demonstrating in and out of the bank. Bank of America heard the message and dropped the fee.

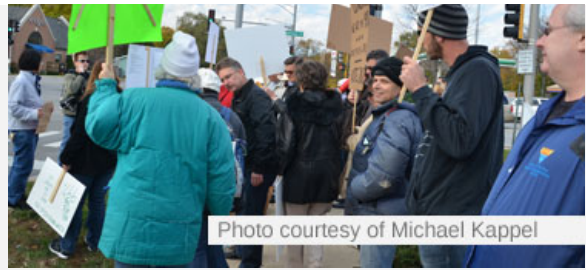


Photo courtesy of Michael Kappel

And More Every Day...

Visit [What the Heck Has Occupy Done So Far](#) to view a regularly updated list of successes of and within the #occupy movement up until now.

#occupytogether is an independent group of activists working to help people learn how to get involved in #occupy in whatever way they find meaningful.

(CC) CREATIVE COMMONS COPYRIGHT LISCENSE

#OT ON THE WEB

Join us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
Watch us on Vimeo

#OCCUPY NEWS

OccupyWallSt.org
Occupied Media
Occupied Stories

HELPFUL LINKS

InterOccupy
occupy.net
#HowToOccupy