

Source: Page and Shapiro, *The Restless Public*, p. 351-2.  
 Table 8.6 Public Opposition to Protest and Social Movements

Protest in General

"Suppose all other methods have failed and the person decides to try to stop the government from going about its usual activities with sit-ins, mass meetings, demonstrations and things like that? Would you approve of that, disapprove, or would it depend on the circumstances?" (SRC/CPS)	% Disapprove: 11/68 74 11/70 65 9/72 59 11/74 52
"Most people seem to agree that there is a great deal more dissent and protest in our society than there used to be. Do you feel the level of today's dissent and protest is generally a healthy thing for the country, or do you think it is dangerous and destructive?" (Harris)	% Dangerous: 8/70 70
"Do you tend to agree or disagree that protests in this country by students, blacks and antiwar demonstrators will lead to positive change and should be continued?" (Harris)	% Disagree: 1969/72
The Civil Rights Movement	
"Have you heard or read anything about the 'freedom rides' taking place in the South?" (Asked to the 63% responding "yes" to the first question) Do you approve or disapprove of what the 'freedom riders' are doing?" (Gallup)	% Disapprove: 5-6/61 64
"Do you feel demonstrations by Negroes have helped more or hurt more the advancement of Negro rights?" (Harris)	% "Hurt More": 1963 45 1965 58 9/66 80 10/66 86
"America has many different types of people in it. But we would like to know whether you think each of these people is more helpful or more harmful to American life, or don't they help or harm things one way or the other? . . . Civil rights demonstrators." (Harris)	% Harm: 9/69 69
"Let me ask you about different types of people in this country. For each, tell me if you feel they do more good than harm, more harm than good, or are neither helpful nor harmful to the country . . . Blacks who demonstrate for civil rights" (Harris)	% More Harm: 8/73 40

(continued)

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TABLE 8.6 (Continued)

Antiwar and Student Protest

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Chicago police dealt with the young people who were registering their protest against the Vietnam War at the time of the Democratic convention?" (Gallup)	% Approve: 9/68 56
"Did you happen to hear anything about what went on between the police and the demonstrators in Chicago at the Democratic convention? (IF YES) Do you think the police used too much force, the right amount of force, or not enough force with the demonstrators?" (SRC/CPS)	% Right Amount: 1968 43 % Not Enough: 1968 33
"America has many different types of people in it. But we would like to know whether you think each of these different types of people is more helpful or more harmful to American life, or don't they help or harm things one way or the other? . . . People who picket against the war in Vietnam." (Harris)	% Harmful: 9/69 59
"Some people are pretty upset about rioting and disturbances on college campuses and in high schools. Some feel sympathetic with the students and faculty who take part in these disturbances. Others think the schools should use police and the National Guard to prevent or stop these disturbances. And others fall somewhere in between these extremes. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?" (SRC/CPS)	% Use Force (5-7): 11/70 66 11/72 55
"Do you agree, or disagree, that college student protests and demonstrations in general have gone too far, and should be stopped?" (CBS)	% Agree: 10/70 81
The Women's Movement	
"Women who picket and participate in protests are setting a bad example for children. Their behavior is undignified and unwomanly." (Harris)	% Agree: 10/71 (women) 60 10/71 (men) 57
"Women are right to be unhappy with their role in American society, but wrong in the way they're protesting."	% Agree: 10/71 (women) 51 10/71 (men) 44