

## The draft riots, July 1863



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The New York City draft riots (July 13-16, 1863), known at the time as Draft Week, were violent disturbances in Lower Manhattan, widely regarded as the culmination of working-class discontent with new laws passed by Congress that year to draft men to fight in the ongoing American Civil War. Background - Riots - Aftermath - Order of battle. Draft Riot of 1863, major four-day eruption of violence in New York City on July 11-16, 1863, mobs (mostly of foreign-born, especially Irish). In the midst of the American Civil War, Congress passed a conscription law making all men between 20 and 45 years of age liable for military service. On July 13, the government's attempt to enforce the draft in New York City ignited the most destructive civil disturbance in the city's history. In the month preceding the July lottery, in a pattern similar to the anti-abolition riots, antiwar newspaper editors published inflammatory attacks on the draft law aimed at inciting the white working class. On Saturday, July 11, 1863, the first lottery of the conscription law was held. The New York City Draft Riots remain today the single largest urban civilian riot in American history. When the draft came to New York City in July 1863, anti-government anger turned into riot. In the New York riots that followed the draft, an entire sector of the white working class turned against the government. On Saturday, July 11, 1863, the first lottery of the conscription law. On Saturday, July 11, 1863, the first draft lottery was held. For 24 hours the city remained quiet, but on Monday, July 13, 1863, between 6 and 7 a.m., the draft riots of July resulted in 150 dead, 2,000 injured and millions of dollars in property damage. The riots, a backlash to the nation's first compulsory draft, still rank as one of the most bloody and devastating riots in American history. At a time when the Civil War was being fought, the riots set the stage for the bloody and brutal violence of July 1863. Anna Elizabeth Dickinson (1831-1886). The Draft Riot of July, Stedman and Hutchinson, eds. A Library of American Literature: An Anthology in 11 Volumes. New York City Draft Riots. PHOTO: Wikicommons. On the morning of Monday, July 13, 1863, thousands of white workers in Manhattan erupted in riot. In March 1863, Congress passed the Enrollment Act to establish a draft for the first time. A lottery was scheduled to begin in July of that year to pull names for the draft. The burning Ninth Congressional District draft office, where the riots started on the morning of Monday 13 July, as depicted in Martin Scorsese's 'Gangs of New York'. The New York draft riots were a macabre episode, a three-day orgy of violence that set the stage for the bloody and brutal violence of July 1863. The New York City Draft Riots took place between July 13 and July 16 of 1863. The violent insurrection was a reaction to conscription into military service during the Civil War.

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