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The North needed more soldiers to fight in America's Civil War, so Congress passed a Conscription Law in the summer of 1863. Riots erupted in New York City, protesting the law. This image, from an 1863 issue of *The Illustrated London News*, depicts a scene during those riots. Online via Wikimedia Commons.

New York City <u>rioters</u> rebelled against the Conscription Law in the summer of 1863. For nearly a week in July, <u>lawlessness</u> ruled <u>the streets</u> as draft <u>opposition</u> quickly gave way to gangs who joined forces to fight the establishment.

The "Dead Rabbits" united with their enemies, the "Bowery Boys," and other criminal elements to destroy buildings, defy the government, <u>lynch</u> blacks, <u>burn</u> bodies, <u>take over</u> the Second Avenue Armory, and generally sack the city. It is estimated that nearly three-quarters of the rioters were young men under the age of 20 who were not even eligible to be drafted.

<u>Horace Greeley</u>, who would <u>run</u> for President <u>against</u> U.S. Grant in 1872 and had initially supported draft opponents, was shocked when rioters <u>attacked</u> his *Tribune* <u>newspaper</u> building.

Even the militia could not stop the riots as the <u>mob</u> built <u>barricades</u> and refused to stand down:

- Rioters <u>dragged</u> Colonel O'Brien's body through the streets.
- <u>Dead bodies</u> were <u>sent</u> to the morgue.

• Innocent children were not spared as the mob <u>deliberately</u> destroyed the "<u>Colored Orphan Asylum</u>" and murdered a hiding child.

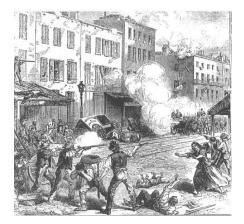
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Media Stream

1863 DRAFT RIOTS





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