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Pulse of the People

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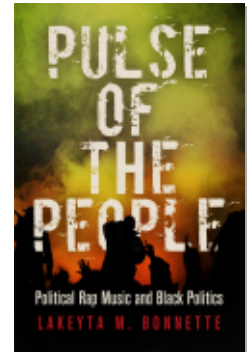
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A p p e n d i x 1

Political Rap Songs

This list is not all-inclusive but provides examples of rap songs that are political according to my definition.

Artist: 2Pac

Album: Greatest Hits

Song: Change

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #32 on US Billboard's Hot 100 (1998);
19 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Poverty, Police Brutality, Racism, War

Artist: 2Pac

Album(s): Tupac Resurrection, 1 in 21: A Tupac Shakur Story, Sunset Blvd,
A Decade of Silence

Song: Panther Power

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Social Inequality, Revolution, Slavery

Artist: Angel Haze

Album(s): Classick

Song: Cleaning Out My Closet

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Sexual Abuse

Artist: Big Boi

Album(s): Idlewild

Song: Mighty O

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #77 on the Hot 100 (2013); 2 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Government Abuse

Artist: Big Boi Featuring Mary J. Blige

Album(s): Sumthin's Gotta Give

Song: Sumthin's Gotta Give

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Unemployment, Single-Mother Child Rearing, Poverty, Prison

Artist: Black Star

Album(s): Black Star

Song: K.O.S. (Determination)

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Black Empowerment, Poverty

Artist: Boogie Down Productions

Album(s): By Any Means Necessary

Song: Stop the Violence

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #76 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Tracks (1988)

Issues: Political and Media Corruption, War, Racism, Violence

Artist: Boogie Down Productions

Album(s): Edutainment

Song: The Racist

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #9 on R&B Albums (1990)

Issues: Racism, Slavery, Civil Rights

Artist: Body Count Featuring Ice T

Album: Body Count

Song: Cop Killer

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #26 on the Billboard 200 (1992); 20 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Racism, Police Brutality, Racial Profiling, Violence

Artist: Common

Album: Like Water for Chocolate

Song: A Song for Assata

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #5 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2000); 40 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Oppression, Violence, Police Brutality, Corruption, Freedom

Artist: Dead Prez

Album: Let's Get Free

Song: They Schools

Chart positions: album peaked at #22 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2000); 20 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Structural Racism, Slavery, Historical Eurocentrism, Educational Reform, Poverty, Police Brutality, Police Militarization

Artist: Dead Prez

Album: Turn Off the Radio The Mixtape Vol.2: Get Free or Die Tryin'

Song: Fuck the Law

Chart positions: album peaked at #32 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2003); 5 Weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Revolution

Artist: Dead Prez Featuring/ Stephen Marley, Ghetto Youths Crew

Album: Black and White soundtrack

Song: Dem Crazy

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: White Patriarchy, Structural Discrimination, Wealth Inequality

Artist: Dead Prez

Album: Turn Off the Radio: The Mixtape, Vol.1

Song: Know Your Enemy

Chart Positions: album peaked at #78 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2002); 3 Weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Propaganda, Black Empowerment

Artist: Dead Prez

Album: Let's Get Free

Song: Propaganda

Chart positions: album peaked at #22 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2000); 20 Weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Education Reform, Poverty, Abuse Among Corporations,
Government Agencies

Artist: Dead Prez

Album: Let's Get Free

Song: It's Bigger than Hip-Hop

Chart Positions: album peaked at #22 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums
(2000); 20 Weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Revolution, Rap Culture

Artist: Dead Prez

Album: DJ-Drama Revolutionary But Gangsta Grillz Mixtape: Turn off The
Radio Vol. 4

Song: Malcolm, Garvey, Huey

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Revolution

Artist: Digable Planets

Album: Reachin' (a New Refutation of Time and Space)

Song: La Femme Fetal

Chart Positions: album peaked at #5 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums
(1993); 32 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Abortion & Associated Violence, War, Wealth Inequality

Artist: Doug E Fresh & the Get Fresh Crew

Album: Chuck D Presents: Louder Than a Bomb

Song: Abortion

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Abortion, Societal Dependence, Immorality

Artist: Dr. Dre

Album: The Chronic

Song: The day the Niggaz Took Over

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #3 on Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums
(1993); 105 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Revolution, 1992 Los Angeles Riots, Violence

Artist: Eve

Album: Let There Be Eve . . . Ruff Ryders' First Lady

Song: Love Is Blind

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #34 on Hot 100 (2000); 16 weeks on Billboard Charts. Album peaked at #1 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (1999); 42 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Sexual Abuse

Artist: El General

Album(s): n/a

Song: Mr. President

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Authoritarianism, Arab Spring, Freedom of Speech, Political Legitimacy

Artist: Field Mob Featuring Slimm Calhoun

Album: From Tha Roota to Tha Toota

Song: Nothing 2 Lose

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #4 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2002); 35 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Slavery, Poverty

Artist: Goodie Mob

Album: Soul Food

Song: Thought Process

Chart positions: Album peaked at #8 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (1995); 47 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Structural Discrimination, Poverty, Black Empowerment

Artist: Goodie Mob

Album: Soul Food

Song: Cell Therapy

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #39 on the Hot 100 (1995); 20 Weeks on Billboard Charts. Album peaked at #8 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (1995); 47 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Racial Warfare, Addiction, Drug Violence, Government Control

Artist: Grandmaster Flash and Melle Mel

Album: White Lines (Don't Do It)

Song: White Lines (Don't Do It)

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Drug Abuse, Corporate Abuse, Government Corruption, Wealth Inequality

Artist: Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five

Album: The Message

Song: The Message

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #62 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Tracks (1982); 7 weeks on the Billboard Charts

Issues: Poverty, Destitution, Drug Addiction, Wealth Inequality, Social Stagnation, Violence

Artist: Gucci Mane & Young Jeezy

Album: Trap House

Song: Icy

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #23 on Hop Rap Tracks (2005); 5 weeks on Billboard Charts.

Issues: Black Empowerment, Rap Culture

Artist: Ice Cube

Album: Death Certificate

Song: Us

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (1991); 44 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Black Empowerment, Poverty, Prejudice, Police Abuse, Structural Discrimination, Familial Abuse

Artist: Ice Cube

Album: The Predator

Song: We had to Tear This Mother Fucker Up

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on the Billboard 200 (1992); 52 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Mistrust of Police, Revolution, Violence, 1992 Los Angeles Riots

Artist: J. Cole

Album(s): Cole World: the Sideline Story

Song: Lost Ones

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on The Billboard 200 (2013); 37 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Abortion, Poverty, Single-Parent Culture, Parental Abandonment

Artist: Jadakiss

Album(s): Kiss of Death

Song: Why

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2004); 38 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Corporate Greed, Violence, Cultures of Violence, Structural Discrimination, Government Abuse, Racially Based Policies

Artist: Jasiri-X

Album: Trayvon

Song: Trayvon

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Racial Violence, Racial Stereotypes, Racial Inequality

Artist: Jasiri-X

Album: #TheWholeWorldIsWatching

Song: I am Troy Davis (T.R.O.Y.)

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Structural Discrimination in the Justice System, Prison, Racism

Artist: Jay-Z

Album(s): The Blueprint

Song: Renegade

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on the Billboard 200 (2001); 35 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Ghetto Culture, Drug Culture, Poverty, Media Culture

Artist: Jay-Z

Album(s): The Black Album

Song: 99 Problems

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on the Billboard 200 (2004); 58 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Socio-Economic Mobility, Poverty Culture, Rap Culture, Legal Inequality in Representation

Artist: Jay-Z

Album: Kingdom Come

Song: Minority Report

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on the Billboard 200 (2006); 19 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Racial Stereotypes, Poverty, Government Indifference

Artist: Jay Electronica

Album: What the F*ck is a Jay Electronica

Song: When the Levees Broke (Katrina)

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Government Indifference, Racial Discrimination, Slavery, Poverty

Artist: Jean Grae

Album(s): Jeanius

Song: My Story

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #71 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2008); 2 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Sexual Abuse, Violence, Addiction, Poverty, Abortion

Artist: Kanye West

Album(s): The College Dropout

Song: All Falls Down

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #7 on the Billboard Hot 100 (2004); 20 weeks on Billboard Charts.

Issues: Culture around Education, Poverty, "Keeping Up with the Jones," Self-Hate, Police Dislike, Wealth Inequality

Artist: Kendrick Lamar

Album(s): Section.80

Song: Fuck Your Ethnicity

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #21 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2012); 52 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Racism, Wealth Inequality, Revolution

Artist: Kendrick Lamar

Album(s): Section.80

Song: Hiii Power

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #21 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2012); 52 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Civil Rights Activism, Revolution, Police Dislike, Black Empowerment

Artist: Lil Wayne Featuring Jay-Z

Album(s): Tha Carter III

Song: Mr. Carter

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #13 on Hot Rap Tracks (2008); 17 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Violence, Revolution, Gang Culture

Artist: Lil Wayn Featuring Robin Thicke

Album(s): Tha Carter III

Song: Tie My Hands

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on the Billboard 200 (2012); 147 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Hurricane Katrina, Socio-Economic Mobility, Structural Inequality, Government Indifference

Artist: Lil Wayne

Album(s): Dedication 2

Song: Georgia . . . Bush

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #69 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2007); 49 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Political & Media Racism, Government Abuse, Drug Culture, Violence,

Artist: Lupe Fiasco

Album(s): Lasers

Song: Words I Never Said

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #89 on the Hot 100 (2011); 1 week on Billboard Charts

Issues: Government Conspiracy, Military-Industrial Complex, Education Quality, Racism, Revolution, Empowerment

Artist: Lupe Fiasco

Album(s): Lasers

Song: All Black Everything

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2011); 47 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Slavery, Black Diaspora, Rap Culture, Racism, Empowerment

Artist: Lupe Fiasco

Album(s): The Cool

Song: Dumb It Down

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #14 on the Billboard 200 (2008); 25 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Educational Disparities, Corporate Influence, Rap Culture

Artist: LL Cool J

Album(s): Bigger and Deffer

Song: I'm Bad

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #4 on Hot R&B/Hip Hop Singles (1987); 14 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Rap culture, wealth, violence

Artist: Lord Jamar

Album(s): The 5% Album

Song: Supreme Mathematics

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #94 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2006);

Issues: Addiction, Black Empowerment, Islam (5 percent Ideology)

Artist: Ludacris

Album(s): Release Therapy

Song: Runaway Love

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #2 on the Billboard 200 (2006); 28 weeks on Billboard Chart

Issues: Abandonment, Addiction, Sexual and Physical Abuse, Alcoholism

Artist: Ludacris

Album(s): The Preview

Song: Politics as Usual

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Political Empowerment, Elections, the Presidency

Artist: Melle Mel
Album: Grandmaster Flash Vs. the Sugarhill Gang
Song: Jesse
Chart Positions: n/a
Issues: Political Representation, Poverty, Political Cynicism, Slavery,
Systemic Discrimination

Artist: Mos Def
Album(s): Tru3 Magic
Song: Katrina Clap/ Dollar Day
Chart Positions: Album peaked at #25 on R&B Albums (2007); Weeks on
Billboard Chart Unavailable
Issues: Government Discrimination, Racial Poverty, Mishandling of
Katrina, Government Apathy

Artist: Nas
Album(s): I Am
Song: I Want to Talk to You
Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on the Billboard 200 (1999); Chart
History unavailable
Issues: Racism, Government Conspiracy and Deception, Systemic
Discrimination, Revolution

Artist: Nas Featuring Millenium Thug
Album(s): Stillmatic
Song: My Country
Chart positions: Album peaked at #2 on the Billboard 200 (2002); 42
Weeks on Billboard Charts
Issues: Violence, Drugs, Ghetto Culture, Historical Racism, Revolution

Artist: Nas
Album(s): Stillmatic
Song: Rule
Chart positions: Single peaked #67 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs
(2002); 9 Weeks on Billboard Charts
Issues: Racism, Poverty, Pacifism, Violence, Ghetto Culture

Artist: Nas
Album(s): The Lost Tapes

Song: Doo Rags

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #3 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Album (2002);
13 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Ghetto Culture, Government Abuse, Drugs, Police Violence, Black
Empowerment

Artist: Nas

Album(s): The Lost Tapes

Song: Black Zombie

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #3 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Album (2002);
13 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Drugs, Ghetto Culture, Single-Parent Poverty, Cultural Paralysis,
Black Empowerment, Revolution

Artist: Nas

Album(s): Nastradamus

Song: Project Windows

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #2 on the Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums
(1999); 33 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Ghetto Culture, Addiction, Black Empowerment, Revolution, Police
Abuse

Artist: Nas

Album: Nas

Song: My President

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Prison, Police Brutality, Political Cynicism, Modern Slavery, Racism

Artist: Nelly

Album(s): Sweatsuit

Song: Grillz

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 (2005); 28
weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Rap Culture, Criminality, Ghetto Culture

Artist: Nick Cannon

Album(s): Can I Live?

Song: Can I Live?

Chart Positions: n/a
Issues: Abortion, Single-Parent Poverty

Artist: Nick Cannon
Album: If I Die Young
Song: If I Die Young
Chart Positions: n/a
Issues: LGBT Discrimination, Social Isolation, Slut Shaming

Artist: Nicki Minaj
Album(s): Sucka Free
Song: Autobiography
Chart Positions: Album peaked at #95 Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2008);
1 week on Billboard Charts
Issues: Addiction, Childhood Abandonment, Violence, Abortion

Artist: Organized Konfusion
Album(s): The Equinox
Song: Invetro
Chart Positions: Album peaked #29 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (1997);
5 weeks on Billboard Charts
Issues: Marital Abuse, Addiction, Abortion, Drugs

Artist: OutKast
Album(s): ATLiens
Song: Jazzy Belle
Chart Positions: Single peaked at #7 on Hot Rap Singles (1997); 27 weeks
on Billboard Charts
Issues: Sex Culture, Drugs, Abandonment

Artist: OutKast Featuring Big Rube
Album(s): ATLiens
Song: 13th Floor/Growing Old
Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums
(1996); 40 weeks on Billboard Charts
Issues: Black Empowerment, Structural Discrimination, Self-Hate

Artist: OutKast Featuring Goodie Mob
Album(s): Southernplayalisticadillacmuzik

Song: Git Up, Git Out

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #13 on Hot Rap Singles (1994); 18 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Black Empowerment, Drugs, Poverty, Social Inequality

Artist: Plies

Album(s): We Are Trayvon

Song: We Are Trayvon

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Racial Profiling, Racism, Systemic Discrimination, Social Justice

Artist: Public Enemy

Album(s): Apocalypse 91

Song: By the Time I get to Arizona

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on R&B Albums (1991); 32 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Political Marginalization, Poverty, Racism, Political Indifference, Revolution, Civil Rights Activism

Artist: Public Enemy

Album(s): Hell No (We Ain't Alright)

Song: Hell No (We Ain't Alright)

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Systemic Racism, Katrina, Government Indifference, Revolution, Violence, Racial Stereotypes

Artist: Screwball

Album(s): Y2K: The Album

Song: Who Shot Rudy

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #50 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2000); 3 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Assassination, Ghetto Culture, Racial Profiling, Gang Violence, Drugs

Artist: Stop the Violence Movement

Album(s): Self Destruction

Song: Self Destruction

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Rap Culture, Violence, Perceptions of Rap, Racial Activism, Prison, Drugs

Artist: Trick Daddy

Album(s): Thug Holiday

Song: Thug Holiday

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #24 on Hot Rap Tracks (2003); 4 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Jail, Ghetto Culture, Drugs, Education Reform,

Artist: Remy Ma

Album(s): There's Something About Remy: Based on a True Story

Song: What's Going On

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #7 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums; 29 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Drugs, Abortion, Sex, Poverty

Artist: West Coast Rap All-Stars

Album(s): We're all in the Same Gang

Song: We're all in the Same Gang

Billboard Charts: Single peaked at #10 on Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs (1990); 16 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Gang Violence, Poverty, Incentives for Criminality, Gang Culture, Systemic Discrimination

Artist: Wu-Tang Clan Featuring Isaac Hayes

Album(s): The W

Song: I Can't Go to Sleep

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #7 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2006); 29 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Government Abuse, Violence, Addiction, Drugs, Ghetto Culture, Black Empowerment, Structural Racism

Artist: Wu-Tang Clan Featuring Junior Reid

Album(s): The W

Song: Jah World

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums (2000); 19 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Violence, Slavery, Sexual Abuse, Cultural Imperialism

Artist: Wyclef Jean

Album(s): n/a

Song: Justice (If You're 17)

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Racial Profiling, Racism, Black Empowerment

Artist: Yasiin Bey, Dead Prez, MikeFlo

Album(s): n/a

Song: Made You Die

Chart Positions: n/a

Issues: Trayvon Martin, Racial Stereotypes, "Stand Your Ground" Laws, Political Cynicism, Racial Profiling, Revolution

Artist: Young Jeezy

Album(s): TM:103: Hustlerz Ambition

Song: Trapped

Chart Positions: Album peaked at #1 on Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums (2013); 77 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Ghetto Culture, Violence, Structural Inequality, Racism, Prison System, Poverty

Artist: Young Jeezy

Album(s): The Recession

Song: My President

Chart Positions: Single peaked at #13 on Hot Rap Songs (2008); 12 weeks on Billboard Charts

Issues: Prison, Election Controversy, Poverty, Jim Crow Laws