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Revolution in the Head

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Title: [Revolution in the Head: Rage Against the Machine and the Art of Protest](#)

Format: DVD (Color, NTSC, all regions)

Label: Sexy Intellectual

Catalog No.: SIDVD552

Release date: 2010

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Formed in Los Angeles in 1991, [Rage Against the Machine](#) is known as much for their political leanings as their fiery mix of rap and hard rock. Led by vocalist Zach de la Rocha and guitarist [Tom Morello](#), the band has used their music to spread awareness about a variety of domestic and international issues.

Revolution in the Head: Rage Against the Machine and the Art of Protest is an engaging documentary that discusses the rap-rock band's rise to fame and political nature.

The film naturally offers significant background information on the band, including its formation, their recordings, and their 2000 breakup. The filmmakers delve deep into the personal histories of leaders de la Rocha and Morello, being especially attentive to the influences on and the growth of their respective political ideologies. Most provocative is the discussion of the history of American protest music and the band's relationship to the legacy left by artists such as Woodie Guthrie, Bob Dylan, and Public Enemy. The featured commentators do an excellent job of showing how Rage Against the Machine is a contemporary participant in this long and rich revolutionary continuum.

While the film does a great job of situating the band within the larger field of protest in folk/rock music, it fails to acknowledge the history of resistance among African American musicians save for hip hop and Bob Marley. This is a grave misstep considering the influence of artists such as Leadbelly, Sam Cooke, Marvin Gaye, and others . Furthermore, though the featured journalists and scholars offer informative commentary, the lack of the band's voice makes the story somewhat incomplete. Considering that the band's political ideology was developed based on the personal ones of Zach De LaRocha and Tom Morrello, it would have been worthwhile to include footage of them discussing their ideas.

Following is the trailer for the documentary:



Revolution in the Head: Rage Against the Machine and the Art of Protest is a solid look into one of the most revolutionary bands of the last 25 years. After a seven year hiatus, the band is now back together, continuing their artistic battle with injustice. This DVD is recommended for fans of Rage Against the Machine or anyone interested in the relationship between music and politics.

Reviewed By Langston Collin Wilkins

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