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Rage Against the Machine documents both the history of the anti-establishment Orange County ensemble and of political protest music in the U.S. In the late 1990s, RATM became the house band for the incipient American anarchist movement, which organized loud protests against the 1999 World Trade Organization meeting, in Seattle. The group's music, which combined hip-hop, rock and reggae elements, was thunderously loud and exceedingly angry. It filled a vacuum left behind after the dissolution of the Clash, by demanding of fans that they rage against fascism, imperialism, racism, rampant consumerism and the warehousing of political prisoners.

Alas, too many of those same fans seemed more attracted to **Zack De La Rocha's** flailing dreadlocks than his '60s-era message, which demanded that they put down the bong long enough to read a book. Archival photos and footage of **Joe Hill, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Public Enemy, Bob Marley and Bob Dylan** help put the group's mission into context, as well. Naturally, RATM broke up over financial and creative issues, long before **Barack Obama** staged his own takeover of Washington.

– Gary Dretzka