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'This has turned into a riot': Chaos in Seattle as anti-capitalist demonstrators smash windows, set fires and attack police after May Day protest turns violent

- Protesters began peacefully supporting workers' and immigrants' rights
- Turned violent later - police responded with flash-bangs and pepper spray
- Seattle Police Department said three officers had been injured by 9pm
- Said protesters were throwing bricks and rocks, and starting fires

By [Kieran Corcoran For Dailymail.com](#) and [Associated Press](#)

Published: 23:11 EST, 1 May 2015 | Updated: 08:08 EST, 2 May 2015

A riot broke out on the streets of Seattle on Friday night as anti-capitalist protesters smashed windows, lit fires and attacked police officers.

Demonstrators had been marching through the city in support of workers' and immigrants' rights, but started throwing rocks and smashing windows around 7pm, police said.

The violence was centered on the Capitol Hill area of the Washington city, where authorities warned residents and businesses to take cover from a hail of bricks and stones thrown by violent thugs.

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Burning: Protests continued into the night, and saw demonstrators start fires in a college campus (pictured)



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Protests: Police reported that violence and fire were sweeping parts of Seattle on Friday night



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Response: Bicycle-mounted police flocked to the areas of conflict



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Injuries: Police said that three of their officers were hurt in the clashes, two of whom were hospitalized

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The Seattle Police Department said that three of its officers had been attacked by 9pm local time - two of whom were taken to hospital with 'serious injuries'.

Law enforcement hit back at protesters with pepper spray, and footage posted online showed flash-bang grenades being used as dozens of police flocked to the area by bicycle.

By 9:30pm police said they had arrested 15 people. Local news station [King5](#) broadcast images of the violence.



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Clash: Anti-capitalist protesters clashed violently with police in downtown Seattle on Friday evening



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Response: Police officers arrested several protesters, whom they said were wielding sticks, throwing rocks and bricks and setting fires in the Washington city



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Weapons: Police used flash-bang grenades and pepper spray in response to the protesters, who began the day peacefully marching in support of workers' and immigrants' rights

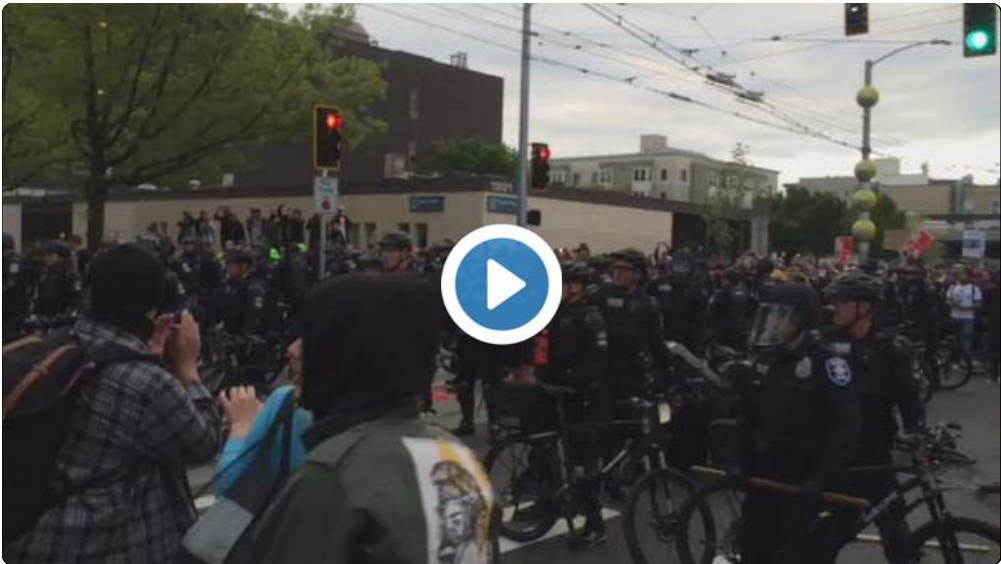
Officers reported that 25 cars had been damaged by protesters, whom they said also smashed windows of downtown stores and set fires - one of which was set in the campus of Seattle Central College.

Police Captain Chris Fowler, who commands the city's West Precinct, said Friday night: 'This is no longer demonstration management, this has turned into a riot'.

A news release from the Seattle Emergency Operations Center Friday night warned people to 'take precautions' in light of the violence.

It said: 'Protesters have been seen throwing bricks, overturning dumpsters, and wielding sticks and other weapons.'

[Police in Seattle fight back as May Day protest turns violent](#)



Lauren Frohne

@laurenfrohne

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Pepper spray flash bangs craziness. Police took back the street [#MayDaySea](#) [#Video](#)

7:31 PM - 1 May 2015 · Seattle, WA, United States

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Aggressive: These protesters were carrying an anti-police banner as they marched through Seattle

'As of 8:15 p.m., three police officers have been injured in clashes with protesters. Several protesters have been arrested.'

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray said in a later statement: 'Tonight we saw assaults on police officers and senseless property damage, which cannot be tolerated.'

'Those who are violent will be arrested. We will work to disperse groups that are threatening the safety of our residents and businesses.'

Earlier in the day there had also been a Black Lives Matter protest in a different area of Seattle, which appeared to pass without incident.

A protest that drew more than 1,000 people in Oakland, California, was largely peaceful, though by Friday night a small group of people smashed windows and vandalized several businesses.



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Political point: Pictured above are peaceful protests from earlier in the day. By evening at least three police officers had been injured



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Arrest: Bicycle-mounted police wearing body armor are shown above clashing with a protester

In Austin, Texas, about 200 marchers railing against police brutality closed a downtown bridge with their numbers, but police blocked them from marching onto a freeway.

Marches held in cities from Minneapolis to Denver drew crowds ranging from a few dozens to hundreds of people.

While labor unions have long led demonstrations on International Workers' Day, the May 1 marches got a boost in 2006 when stringent immigration legislation drove hundreds of thousands of demonstrators to rally in the streets. Since then, attendance at the annual rallies has been much smaller.

Read more:

- [Police: May Day protest has turned into a riot](#)




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 [ned Citizen](#), Seattle, United States, 12 minutes ago
Las Vegas,... oh well lets all get on the floor and bow to the holy I-phone! Get real idiot.


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 s Vegas, about 2 hours ago
m what they are "LEFT WING-ANARCHISTS-DEMOCRATS"

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 Las Vegas, about 2 hours ago
or just "DEMOCRAT"

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 [Grim](#), Steilacoom, United States, about 3 hours ago
Aliens pay in state tuition when not covered by minority scholarships, while soldiers and sailors assigned to wasnington pay out of state tuition.

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 , Chilicothee USA, about 4 hours ago
| so sick of illegals and their demands!!!!


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 [loe](#), middle America, about 4 hours ago
tupid behavior from the so called tolerant leftist.

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 [party](#), long beach, United States, about 4 hours ago
| bunch of idiots. If it weren't for the so called 'capitalists' who are paying the taxes, there wouldn't be all the social programs/benefits that these losers are getting. Who do they think are paying for their food stamps?

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okane, about 4 hours ago
many years in Seattle, glad I left.

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Click to rate 45 6



[Morningstar](#), Hillsboro, United States, about 4 hours ago

Me too! I spent 38 years there and left in 2008.

Click to rate 32 5



[ntWantToo](#), griffin, United States, about 2 hours ago

I couldn't stand the west coast, Washington and Oregon, where I grew up, use to be a wonderful place to live now its turning into a cesspool. Now I live in a small Georgia town and couldn't be happier. The cops don't try to kill us and the gangs know that we are off limits to them.

Click to rate 17 3



[George](#), Utopia, United States, about 4 hours ago

... does. This is what the left always does sooner or later when they don't get their way. They're like little toddlers. They simply want what they want, and that's all that matters. And if you keep it from them long enough, they will throw temper tantrums (riots) until you cave into their childish demands. This is how the left has been getting their way for almost 70 years now. Piece by piece, little by little, they've been getting what they want. And unless we finally stop them, and start taking stuff away, they will have everything they want. And THIS is what they want. I wish people would wake up before it's too late, not after.

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[lon](#), bridge, about 4 hours ago

So let me get this straight. Equality, fare wages, entitlement, citizenship and many other privileges granted to Americans is only reserved for the RIGHT? So sad you people don't GET IT because you already HAVE IT!

Click to rate 7 51



[ck7](#), Highland California, United States, about 4 hours ago

... kind of riots will become more frequent and more dangerous as a result of political cowardice. The protest should have immediately been ended the moment it became destructive. And anyone even showing up wearing a mask covering their face immediately detained.

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..., San Francisco, United States, about 5 hours ago

... sm has destroyed our country. I'm with the protestors on this one. I don't support violence, but capitalism is wrong.

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Click to rate 11 82

2 of 13 replies | [See all replies](#)



..., Allendale, United States, 36 minutes ago


hey, buddy_, So you're saying that Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, the Wright brothers, etc. were successful because of American imperialism? Somehow I'm just not able to make that connection.

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 [cerned Citizen](#), Seattle, United States, 16 minutes ago

@ Fit as a fiddle, you are wrong to consider Scandinavian countries unsuccessful.... they are considered some of the happiest and most successful countries. Capitalism is only serving the greedy at this point.

Click to rate  1  0

 , annandale, about 5 hours ago



ft always resorts to irrational violence or support the perpetrators. That is why they should never be trusted with leadership.

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