

Written by Allan Besselink

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This past summer of 2011, on a trip to Sacramento, I decided to head to the coast for a little sight seeing. I drove to the north side of the Golden Gate bridge, then headed through San Francisco.

I have always had an interest in the cultural changes that took place during the Sixties. With that in mind, I thought that a return trip through Berkeley was in order.

I drove along [Telegraph Avenue](#) towards the UC-Berkeley campus. A turn to the right and I was driving past [People's Park](#), site of the Bloody Thursday protest in 1969. That was the fateful day when Governor Ronald Reagan declared a "state of extreme emergency" and sent in 2,000 National Guard troops. Why? The 3,000 to 6,000 activists who did not want People's Park to be destroyed.

For many, People's Park was the epicenter of the counterculture. Now, it is a husk of its former

Is The Occupy Movement The Counterculture Of The New Millennium? | Allan Besselink

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self.

Fast forward 42 years - to 2011. Students have set up camp at [Zuccotti Park](#) in New York City to protest Wall Street. But that's not the only protest. Imagine a peaceful sit-in on the campus of UC-Davis that was met with a barrage of pepper spray. The responses to the Occupy protests are growing more violent.

The ideological roots to Occupy Wall Street run deep and wide. Has the counterculture found its way to the new millennium?

As I drove past People's Park, I was reminded of what the Sixties looked like. It was, in many regards, just like stepping back 40 or so years.