

The Haymarket Riot of 1886 had significant ramifications on the way workers' rights are perceived even to this day. The riot began during a labour protest which demanded an 8 hour workday, which led to a violent conflict between the protestors and the police (Encyclopedia Britannica). The outcome of the protest was used by those in power to vilify and suppress organised labour movements, and fueled fears among the business elite. After the event, there was an increase in hostility towards labour unions, protests, and there were stricter anti-labor policies. Authorities used the riot as a pretext to suppress dissent among workers (Encyclopedia Britannica). Despite the pushback against labour unions, they saw a large spike in membership right after the riot., as seen on the graph on the right from a history textbook. The Haymarket Riot serves as one of the most important points in labour history, a blatant example of the struggle for worker's rights and the tension between the average worker and those who are in charge. Today, it serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for workers' rights.

