

VIVA LA CAUSA-The Story of Cesar Chavez and a Great Movement for Social Justice

Video Notes

1. What kind of injustices did the workers hope to undo by going on strike? How did these injustices undermine their humanity?
 - endured long hours w/out rest breaks
 - little access to water or restrooms
 - toxic pesticides sprayed on them
 - endured hard labor for very little pay & no health benefits

* These injustices communicated to workers that they were subhuman & not deserving of even the most common dignities offered to others.
2. What role did nonviolence play in the farmers' struggle?

Workers leveraged nonviolent strategies to dismantle the stranglehold of the growers.
3. Why did the strikers need help from others? What kinds of things did the strikers ask them to do in support of *la causa*? Why were the actions of these allies important?
 - strikers felt there was power in numbers & they felt that the more diverse their movement was, the more people outside the movement might listen to their cause.
 - others were asked (invited) to join them in striking, boycotting & picketing
 - actions of allies were imp. b/c they told the workers they were not alone & that their actions were supported by many people everywhere
4. What factors motivated people to get involved in *la causa*?
 - wanted fair wages & good working conditions
 - realized that rights won today for themselves would be enjoyed by future generations
 - many people of faith became involved in the cause b/c it was a way to physically manifest their faith
 - for many, being involved in the cause was a moral imperative
5. What did workers gain as a result of the strike and boycott?

Pragmatically, they won cold drinking H₂O in the fields, rest periods, grievance procedures, pesticide controls, a hiring hall, a wage ↑ & the right to be represented by a union.

Morally & spiritually, they won dignity & the realization that a group dedicated to a cause can make a difference.