

Handout

Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville Timeline

On August 11 and 12, 2017, the Unite the Right rally occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia. This was one of the largest, most violent gatherings in the United States in decades. The rally brought together various racist, antisemitic, white nationalist, and white supremacist groups, including the alt-right, neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan. Jason Kessler, the rally's organizer, claimed that the rally's goal was to save the statue of the Confederate general Robert E. Lee. During the rally, hundreds of people came to Charlottesville to march and show their antisemitic and racist views. Protesters chanted "you will not replace us," "Jews will not replace us," and "blood and soil," directly echoing the chants and slogans used in Nazi Germany. Many brought full battle gear, including torches, weapons, shields, and flags with Nazi or Confederate insignia. Many openly gave Nazi salutes during the marches. There were numerous fights with counter-protesters throughout the day. The violence ended with a deadly attack on counter-protesters, when a car driven by a rally attendee plowed into a crowd, killing one person and injuring nineteen others. The Virginia governor then declared a state of emergency and the rally disbanded.

February 2017 Charlottesville City Council votes to remove a statue of Robert E. Lee.

March 2017 A lawsuit is filed against Charlottesville City Council protesting the Lee statue removal.

May 13, 2017 A group protesting the statue removal gathers and is met by counter-protesters.

June 5, 2017 Robert E. Lee Park is renamed Emancipation Park, the city's mayor announces.

August 11, 2017 In the evening, hundreds of white nationalists gather at University of Virginia ahead of August 12th's planned Unite the Right rally. Wielding torches, their chants include phrases such as "white lives matter," "Jews will not replace us," and the Nazi-associated phrase "blood and soil."

August 12, 2017 8:30 a.m. Demonstrators begin gathering.

10:30 a.m. Violence breaks out between protesters and counter-protesters.

11:35 a.m. The event is declared an unlawful assembly by law enforcement.

11:52 a.m. Virginia Governor McAuliffe declares a state of emergency.

1:19 p.m. President Trump tweets, calling for unity.

1:40 p.m. A car plows into a crowd of people. Heather Heyer, a counter-protester, is killed, and 19 others are sent to the hospital.

3:30 p.m. President Trump addresses the nation, condemning the violence "on many sides."

5:00 p.m. Two policemen are killed when their helicopter crashed as they were responding to the day's events.

9:46 p.m. Police announce the arrest of James Alex Fields Jr., charged with second-degree murder in the death of Heather Heyer.