

Annotated Bibliography

PRIMARY SOURCES

"2016 National Prison Strike." *Perilous Chronicle*, 9 Sept. 2016,

perilouschronicle.com/2016/09/09/national-prison-strike/. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article documents the 2016 prison strike that happened on Attica's 45th anniversary.

I used this source to prove Attica's legacy continues and inspired modern prison organizing.

Addison, David. Testimony, New York State Special Commission on Attica Public Hearings

Transcript (McKay Transcript), Rochester, NY, 17 Apr. 1972.

<https://www.talkinghistory.org/attica/documents/mckay-4-17-1972-am2-p62-125.pdf>.

This testimony shows prisoners' letters to Commissioner Oswald asking for reforms and Oswald's response. I used this source to prove inmates tried peaceful methods before rebelling.

"Al-Jundi v. Mancusi 1:75-Cv-00132 (W.D.N.Y.) | Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse."

Clearinghouse.net, 2022, clearinghouse.net/case/15001/. Accessed 23 Mar. 2026.

These court documents contain testimony from prisoners about being tortured and beaten after September 13. I used this source to provide evidence of the state's brutal reaction.

Moralez Allyson. Personal interview. 25 Mar. 2026.

This interview was conducted with an organizer of the Attica 50th Commemoration, whose work centered on the rallying phrases "Attica Is All of Us" and "Attica Means Fight Back." It is used to connect the 1971 uprising to present-day prison justice struggles and to show that the fight for prisoners' rights continues today.

"Attica 14th Anniversary | Law and Disorder Radio." Lawanddisorder.org, 2026, lawanddisorder.org/tag/attica-14th-anniversary/. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This radio program includes interviews with Herbert Blyden and other Attica participants. I used this source to provide firsthand accounts from people who were actually there during the uprising.

"Attica Is All of Us." TML Supplement, Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), 9 Sept. 2021, cpcml.ca/Tmlm2021/MS5120.HTM. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article provides historical analysis of Attica with photographs and primary documents from 1971-1972. I used this source for images showing unity and organization.

Attica Liberation Faction Manifesto of Demands. July 1971. Freedom Archives, freedomarchives.org/Documents/Finder/DOC510_scans/Attica/510.Prisons.AtticaManifesto.pdf. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This document lists the 27-point demands prisoners gave Commissioner Oswald on July 2, 1971. I used this source to prove the prisoners were organized and their requests were reasonable.

Attica: The Official Report of the NYS Special Commission on Attica. 2011, pp. 66, 80, 138, 141. nysl.ptfs.com/aw-server/rest/product/purl/NYSL/s/1d8e4c4c-dfd1-4de1-9ba3-c5541ffb6506

These testimonies from multiple prisoners describe discrimination, failed reforms, and inadequate medical care. I used this source to show widespread problems at Attica.

"Attica Prison Uprising." *BBC Radio*, BBC, www.bbc.com/audio/play/p048k5bn. Accessed 31 Mar. 2026.

This BBC radio program page contains a photograph showing Attica inmates with their hands raised during the 1971 uprising.

"Attica Uprising Documents and Data." New York State Archives, archives.nysed.gov/research/topics/attica.

This collection contains thousands of official documents about Attica. I used these primary documents to get accurate details and statistics.

"The Attica Prison Riot, 50 Years Later." *CBS News*,

www.cbsnews.com/pictures/attica-prison-riot-50-years-later/42/. Accessed 12 Jan. 2026.

This CBS News photo gallery documents the 50th anniversary of the Attica prison uprising through historical photographs taken during and after the 1971 rebellion. It is used to visually show the scale and intensity of the uprising and its lasting place in American history.

Barkley, L.D. Declaration to the People of America. 9 Sept. 1971.

This declaration contains L.D. Barkley's famous "We Are Men" speech was delivered on the first day of the uprising. I used this source to show the uprising was about demanding human dignity.

Bettmann Archive. Photograph of William Kunstler. September 1971.

This photograph from the Bettmann Archive shows William Kunstler at Attica. I used this image to show the lawyers who supported the prisoners.

Black Panther Party. "George Jackson Lives!" *Freedom Archives*, 28 Aug.

1971, https://99books.freedomarchives.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/513.BPP_paper_GJ.8.28.71.pdf. Accessed 17 May 2026.

This source was used to show how George Jackson was connected to the Black Panther Party and why his death mattered to prison activists. It also helped explain how his words inspired prisoners at Attica to think about unity, resistance, and Black liberation.

Boyer, Hersey. "Attica Reflections." *Inquest*. 1971. <https://inquest.org/we-are-men-attica-at-50/>
Accessed 9 January 2026

This poem by inmate Hersey Boyer describes the violence and injustice of September 13.
I used this source to show how prisoners processed the trauma through their own words.

Bottone, Ralph. Testimony, New York State Special Commission on Attica Public Hearings
Transcript (McKay Transcript), Rochester, NY, 14 Apr. 1972. p. 691.
<https://www.talkinghistory.org/attica/documents/mckay-4-14-1972-pm1-p675-698.pdf>.

This testimony from Correction Sergeant Bottone admits Attica had terrible conditions
like limited food budgets and one shower per week. I used this source to prove even
prison staff knew conditions were bad.

Burton, Orisanmi. "Attica Is: Revolutionary Consciousness, Counterinsurgency and the Deferred
Abolition of New York State Prisons". 2016. *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*,
PhD dissertation. ProQuest
[go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-the-ses/attica-is-revolutionary-consciousness/docview/1858569026/se-2](https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-the-ses/attica-is-revolutionary-consciousness/docview/1858569026/se-2).

This dissertation includes images of the 15 Practical Proposals and analysis of prisoners'
revolutionary strategy. I used this source to understand the prisoners' political thinking

Chen, David W. "\$8 Million Offered to End Attica Inmates' Suit." *New York Times*, 05 Jan. 2000, pp. 2. ProQuest, <https://go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/8-million-offered-end-attica-inmates-suit/docview/91830713/se-2>.

This newspaper article details the 2000 settlement for Attica survivors. I used this source to explain how survivors finally got some justice after 29 years.

Davis, Angela Y. "Lessons: From Attica to Soledad." *The New York Times*, 8 Oct. 1971.

This newspaper article by Angela Davis connects Attica to other state violence like Birmingham and Kent State. I used this source to show how activists understood Attica as part of a bigger pattern.

Davies, Dave. "How the Attica Prison Uprising Started — and Why It Still Resonates Today." *NPR*, 27 Oct. 2021,

<https://www.npr.org/2021/10/27/1049295683/attica-prison-documentary-stanley-nelson>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

This source consists of multiple quote which was used to show the violence and chaos of the attack on Attica from more than one point of view. It helped describe how the prisoners experienced tear gas, gunfire, and fear, while also showing how the uprising ended in a brutal assault by law enforcement

Eve, Arthur. *Interview with Arthur Eve* (Video). Washington University in St. Louis Libraries, <http://repository.wustl.edu/concern/videos/qv33s160s>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

This source was used to show that the prisoners wanted to be treated like human beings and not be brutalized. It also helped explain that their demands were focused on improving the quality of life inside Attica.

Getlen, Larry. "The True Story of the Attica Prison Riot." *New York Post*, 20 Aug. 2016, <https://nypost.com/2016/08/20/the-true-story-of-the-attica-prison-riot/>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

This image is used to show a visual representation of what Attica looked like after the uprising and to give a clear visual of the chaos in the prison. It also helped show the violence and harsh treatment prisoners faced during and after the riot.

Freedom Archives. "George Jackson." *Freedom Archives*, <https://www.freedomarchives.org/George%20Jackson.html>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

This source was used to show how George Jackson connected prisons to Black liberation and Black Panther ideas. It also helped explain why many younger prisoners at Attica were politically aware and ready to speak out against injustice.

Gist, Shelley. "WHM: Angela Davis." Carolina Women's Center, U of North Carolina, 7 Mar. 2017, womenscenter.unc.edu/2017/03/whm-angela-davis/. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article analyzes Angela Davis's activism, including her work on prison issues. I used this source to provide context for how activists influenced the prison reform movement.

Heather Ann Thompson. *Blood in the Water : The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*. Vintage Books, 2017.

This Pulitzer prize winning book by Heather Ann Thompson covers the history of the Attica prison uprising and the state's response. I used this source to show the prisoners' determination. And capture Brother Flip's last words before the assault: "If we cannot live as people, then we will at least try to die like men."

"How Attica's Ugly Past Is Still Protected." *TIME*, 26 May 2015, time.com/3896825/attica-1971-meyer-report-release/. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article includes Santi Visalli's photograph of D-Yard after the assault showing debris and prisoners on the ground. I used this powerful image to show the immediate aftermath of violence.

"Interview with Herbert X. Blyden." Washington University in St. Louis Libraries, 2021, repository.wustl.edu/concern/videos/6d570192f. Accessed 22 Jan. 2025.

This interview with Herbert Blyden gives his firsthand account of organizing and negotiations. I used this source to get details from one of the main uprising leaders.

"Interview with Philip Watkins." Washington University in St. Louis Libraries, repository.wustl.edu/concern/videos/dj52w835j. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This interview describes guard Philip Watkins being kicked at first but then other prisoners stopped the violence. I used this source to prove the uprising had organization and rules.

John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. Statement. 1977:3.

This statement, signed by Larry White, calls for support in fighting organized racism in New York State prisons. I used this source to show that organized white supremacy remained a problem years after Attica.

Jones-El, Carl. Interview excerpt. Project NIA, Attica Prison Uprising 101,

<https://project-nia.org/uploads/documents/Educational-Curricula/Attica%20Prison%20Uprising%20101.pdf>.

This interview with Carl Jones-El describes how prisoners educated themselves about political ideology. I used this source to show the uprising was organized and connected to broader liberation movements.

Josker, Karl R. "Attica Prison." Base, 2019, pbase.com/kjosker/attica_prison&page=all.

This photo gallery provides detailed visuals of Attica Prison's architecture. I used this source to illustrate the physical setting.

Kim, E. Tammy. "A National Strike against 'Prison Slavery.'" *The New Yorker*, 3 Oct. 2016, www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/a-national-strike-against-prison-slavery. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article analyzes the 2016 prison strike and connects it to the 13th Amendment's slavery exception. I used this source to show Attica's continued relevance.

"Lehman Asks Speed on Attica Prison." *The New York Times*, 23 Dec. 1929, pp. 11. ProQuest, go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/lehman-asks-speed-on-attica-prison/docview/104831004/se-2.

This newspaper article from 1929 discusses plans for building Attica prison. I used this source to show the original promises that were broken by 1971.

Lennon, John. "Attica State." *Sometime in New York City*, Northern Songs 71.

This protest song by John Lennon was performed at a benefit for Attica victims in December 1971. I used this source to show cultural support for prisoners and how the government feared people who supported Attica.

"Liz Fink Collection Disc 1." Talkinghistory.org, 2025, www.talkinghistory.org/attica/index1.html.

This collection includes photographs documenting the Attica uprising and aftermath. I used these images to visually show what happened during and after the rebellion.

McFadden, Robert D. "Ex-Attica Inmate Wins \$4 Million for Reprisals After '71 Uprising." *New York Times*, 06 June 1997, pp. 1. ProQuest, <https://go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/ex-attica-inmate-wins-4-million-reprisals-after/docview/109712136/se-2>.

This newspaper article reports on Frank Big Black Smith winning a lawsuit for torture. I used this source to show the long-term legal battles and prove the state's violence against prisoners

Melville, Samuel. *Letters from Attica*, Chicago Review Press, 1971.

Letters from Attica is a collection of letters by inmate Samuel Melville. I used this source multiple times to provide a prisoner's perspective.

Miller, Deanne Quinn. *The Prison Guard's Daughter*. Prologue.

This memoir provides perspective from the daughter of the only guard killed by prisoners during the initial takeover. I used this source to show how even families of victims came to understand the complex truth.

Minta, Molly. "Prison Education Programs Are Primed to Take Off in Mississippi." *Mississippi Today*, 9 June 2023, [mississippitoday.org/2023/06/09/prison-education-programs-are-primed-to-take-off-in-mississippi/](https://www.mississippitoday.org/2023/06/09/prison-education-programs-are-primed-to-take-off-in-mississippi/). Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article includes photographs of modern prison education classrooms. I used this source to show Attica's lasting legacy in prison education reforms.

Muller, E. Interview with the author, 15 July 2014, p. 121.

[go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-the-theses/attica-is-revolutionary-consciousness/docview/1858569026/se-2](https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-the-theses/attica-is-revolutionary-consciousness/docview/1858569026/se-2).

This interview describes how Warden Follett used a "goon squad" to break strikes by forcing prisoners to crawl while being beaten. I used this source to document brutality at Attica.

New York State Special Commission on Attica. *Attica: The Official Report of the New York State Special Commission on Attica (McKay Commission Report)*. Bantam Books, 1972.
<https://nysl.ptfs.com/aw-server/rest/product/purl/NYSL/i/1d8e4c4c-dfd1-4de1-9ba3-c5541ffb6506>.

This official report contains statistics proving discrimination and terrible conditions at Attica. I used this source extensively to provide facts and the commission's conclusions.

O'Brien, John. *The Grim Bedlam of Attica*. *Life*, 1 Oct. 1971, pp. 26-33.

This reporting documented that state troopers used unjacketed bullets designed to cause maximum damage. I used this source to expose excessive force during the assault.

People's Law Office. "41st Anniversary: Attica Prisoner Civil Rights." *People's Law Office*, 2012, peopleslawoffice.com/41st-anniversary-attica-prisoner-civil-right/.

This page from the People's Law Office, a civil rights legal organization involved in Attica litigation, contains a photograph of Attica inmates with their hands raised. It is used to visualize the prisoners' surrender during the uprising.

Photograph by Alex Milan Tracy. Kim, E. Tammy. "A National Strike against 'Prison Slavery.'"

The New Yorker, 3 Oct. 2016,

www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/a-national-strike-against-prison-slavery.

This photograph shows the 2016 prison strike. I used this image to visually connect Attica to modern prison activism.

The 15 Practical Proposals. 9 Sept. 1971, p. 209.

go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-the-ses/attica-is-revolutionary-consciousness/docview/1858569026/se-2.

This is the list of concrete reforms prisoners asked for on September 9. I used this source to show the prisoners were reasonable and organized.

Project NIA. Image: Katy Groves. "'We Are Men' | Remembering Attica, 50 Years Later."

Inquest, 28 Sept. 2021, inquest.org/we-are-men-attica-at-50/.

This photograph shows Attica imagery from the 50th anniversary. I used this image to show how Attica is still remembered today.

Robbins, Tom. "Attica's Ghosts." *The Marshall Project*, 28 Feb. 2015,

www.themarshallproject.org/2015/02/28/attica-s-ghosts.

This video clip shows CS gas being dropped on D-Yard. I used this source to visually show the assault.

Roche, Carlos. Personal interview. 29 Mar. 2026.

This interview was conducted with Carlos Roche, an incarcerated individual who provided a firsthand account of brutal daily prison conditions. Roche specifically emphasized that state officials falsely claimed prisoners killed the hostages, when in truth it was the state troopers who shot and killed all ten corrections officer hostages during the violent retaking of Attica and explaining the brutal conditions at Attica.

Rockefeller, Nelson. Photograph. "'On His Own Terms' by Richard Norton Smith." Boston Globe, 2016,

www.bostonglobe.com/arts/books/2014/11/29/book-review-his-own-terms-life-nelson-rockefeller-richard-norton-smith/vlBOEfOibGRcG5Mg7OPKpK/story.html.

This photograph shows Governor Nelson Rockefeller. I used this image to show the person who ordered the assault on Attica.

Rose, Akira. "A History of the Attica Uprising." *American Friends Service Committee*, 10 Sept. 2021, <https://afsc.org/newsroom/history-attica-uprising>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

This source was used to explain how the Attica Liberation Faction formed in response to the cruel treatment in prison. It also showed how prisoners tried to educate each other politically and organize for change.

Smith, Frank "Big Black." Interview. Attica Defense Committee, 1972, p. 81.

go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-the-ses/attica-is-revolutionary-consciousness/docview/1858569026/se-2.

This interview gives detailed testimony about Frank Smith being tortured after the assault. I used this source to provide powerful evidence of torture and racial hatred.

Smith, Frank "Big Black." Interview. Eyes on the Prize II.

<http://repository.wustl.edu/concern/videos/ks65hg93z>.

This interview describes daily degradation, for example, bucket showers and inadequate healthcare. I used this source to establish dehumanizing conditions.

"Text - S.866 - 104th Congress (1995-1996): Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995."

Congress.gov, Library of Congress, 27 July 1995,

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/104th-congress/senate-bill/866/text>.

This is the official legislative text of the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995, a federal law that placed significant new restrictions on the ability of incarcerated people to file lawsuits challenging their prison conditions in court. It is used to show how government policy after Attica moved in the opposite direction of reform, making it harder for prisoners to seek legal justice.

TML Weekly Supplement." *CPCML.CA*, 2021, cpcml.ca/Tmlm2021/MS5120.HTM. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article discusses Attica's historical significance with photographs and primary documents. I used this source to connect Attica to modern prison abolition movements.

Walt, Vivienne. "State of Prisons 20 Years Later: The Aftereffects of Attica." *Newsday*, 10 Sept. 1991, pp. 1. ProQuest, go.openathens.net/redirector/coastal.edu?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/state-prisons-20-years-later/docview/2316199931/se-2.

This newspaper article examines Attica's impact 20 years later. I used this source to analyze the medium-term effects of the uprising.

White, Larry. Interview with author, 14 June 2014 and 16 July 2014.

This interview describes Larry White organizing prisoners to "have unity" and guards threatening to murder him. I used this source to document ongoing brutality and organizing efforts.

Wicker, Tom. *A Time to Die*. 239. Haymarket Books, 2011.

This book by Tom Wicker covers the Attica Uprising and contains many first-hand accounts from the inmates. I used this source to prove even hostages supported the prisoners' demands.

---. Photograph. "Tom Wicker, a Columnist Not Afraid of Controversy." *The New York Times*, 26 Nov. 2011,

www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2011/11/26/obituaries/20111126_WICKER/s/20111126_WICKER-slide-YPBW.html.

This photograph shows Tom Wicker who was an observer during negotiations. I used this image to show one of the people who witnessed the events.

Wilbur, Lewis G. "Attica Prison to Be Convicts' Paradise." *The New York Times*, 2 Aug. 1931,

www.nytimes.com/1931/08/02/archives/attica-prison-to-be-convicts-paradise-each-prisoner-will-have.html. Accessed 24 Feb. 2026.

This newspaper article from 1931 describes promises made when Attica opened. I used this source to show how the prison failed to live up to its original promises by 1971.

Wicker, Tom. *A Time to Die*. Quadrangle/New York Times Book Co., 1975.

This firsthand account as a New York Times Associate Editor who acted as an observer provides crucial eyewitness testimony to negotiations. I used this source to get details about what happened during the four days.

William Kunstler: *Disturbing the Universe*. *PBS*, 2010.

This documentary includes photographs of Bobby Seale and William Kunstler at Attica. I used these images to show the lawyers and activists who supported the prisoners

Winerip, Michael, et al. "Revisiting Attica Shows How New York State Failed to Fulfill Promises." *The New York Times* and *The Marshall Project*, 26 Aug. 2016, www.nytimes.com/2016/08/26/nyregion/revisiting-attica-shows-how-new-york-state-failed-to-fulfill-promises.html.

This joint investigation by *The New York Times* and *The Marshall Project* is used to document how New York State failed to honor its commitments to prisoners, and contains the 1971 Associated Press photograph of inmates negotiating with officials in D-Yard.

SECONDARY SOURCES

"99 Books: A 50 Year Anniversary Tribute to George Jackson." Freedom Archives, freedomarchives.org/projects/99-books-a-50-year-anniversary-tribute-to-george-jackson/. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This webpage provides context and images related to George Jackson whose death sparked the Attica inmates' silent fast. I used this source to explain a catalyst that united prisoners.

"Attica Prison Riot, Ghost Stories among Holland Land Office Programs in September." Livingston County News, 28 Aug. 2022, thelcn.com/lifestyles/entertainment/attica-prison-riot-ghost-stories-among-holland-land-o

ffice-programs-in-september/article_64ee5ee1-4535-57fc-a58f-676b36d86ebc.html.

Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article includes a photograph of Deanne Quinn Miller, daughter of the only guard killed by prisoners. I used this source to show the complexity of Attica's story.

"Attica." Encyclopædia Britannica, [britannica.com/event/Attica-prison-riot](https://www.britannica.com/event/Attica-prison-riot). Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This encyclopedia entry provides basic facts about Attica including overcrowding statistics. I used this source for fact-checking basic information.

Conaboy, Chelsea. "New Files Reveal Attica Prisoners Were Beaten, Possibly Tortured During 1971 Uprising." *New York Daily News*, 21 May 2015, www.nydailynews.com/2015/05/21/new-files-reveal-attica-prisoners-were-beaten-possibly-tortured-during-1971-uprising/.

This news article reports on newly released records showing Attica prisoners were beaten and tortured following the 1971 uprising, and contains a photograph of hundreds of inmates gathered in the prison courtyard on September 9, 1971.

Correctional Association of New York. *2014 Updated Correctional Association Report on Attica*. Correctional Association of New York, 24 Nov. 2014, static1.squarespace.com/static/62f1552c1dd65741c53bbcf8/t/63f2859e1253b45175c37b92/1676838304691/2014_Monitoring-Attica.pdf.

This report by the Correctional Association of New York documents ongoing staff brutality, racial abuse, and inhumane conditions at Attica forty-three years after the 1971 uprising. It is used to show that the conditions prisoners revolted against were never fully corrected.

"Correctional Officer William E. Quinn." The Officer Down Memorial Page, www.odmp.org/officer/10937-correctional-officer-william-e-quinn. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This memorial page provides information and photographs of Officer William Quinn who died from injuries during the initial takeover. I used this source to acknowledge all victims.

Critical Resistance. "Fighting Imprisonment: Overview." *Critical Resistance*, criticalresistance.org/fighting-imprisonment-overview/. Accessed 12 Mar. 2026.

This page from Critical Resistance, a national organization that works to end the prison industrial complex, contains a photograph of Carlos Roche speaking at a protest.

"EAA Windicator 357 Magnum 4in Blued Revolver." Sportsman's Warehouse, sportsmans.com/shooting-gear-gun-supplies/handguns/ea-windicator-357-magnum-4in-blued-revolver-6-rounds/p/1571004. Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This page shows a .357 Magnum revolver like the weapon troopers used. I used this image to illustrate the disparity in firepower during the assault.

"Elliott Barkley." *Historica Wiki*, Fandom, historica.fandom.com/wiki/Elliott_Barkley. Accessed 31 Mar. 2026.

This wiki page contains a photograph of Elliott "L.D." Barkley, the twenty-one-year-old Attica prisoner who became one of the most prominent voices of the uprising. It is used to visually identify one of the key leaders who spoke on behalf of the prisoners during the 1971 rebellion.

Gilbreth, Edward. "Attica! The Legacy of a Prison Uprising." *The Marshall Project*, 9 Sept. 2021, www.themarshallproject.org/2021/09/09/attica-the-legacy-of-a-prison-uprising.

This source documents Attica's cultural impact including the "Attica! Attica!" scene in *Dog Day Afternoon*. I used this source to show how Attica became a cultural symbol.

Lennon, John, and Yoko Ono. "Attica State." *Some Time in New York City*, Apple Records, 1972. *Cleveland.com*, www.cleveland.com/entertainment/2025/11/documentary-director-chose-to-tell-john-lennon-yoko-ono-story-in-a-fresh-way.html.

This article from *Cleveland.com* covers the documentary about John Lennon and Yoko Ono, which includes their song "Attica State" written in direct response to the 1971 prison uprising and features an image of the two artists. It is used to show how Attica inspired major cultural figures to speak out against state violence

Mamo, Andrew B. "The Dignity and Justice That Is Due to Us by Right of Our Birth: Violence and Rights in the 1971 Attica Riot." *Harvard Civil Rights–Civil Liberties Law Review*, vol. 49, no. 2, 2014, pp. 531–574, journals.law.harvard.edu/crcl/wp-content/uploads/sites/80/2011/09/531_Mamo.pdf.

This law review article examines how Attica prisoners used rights and dignity within the context of the civil rights movement. It is used to show that the Attica uprising was a legally and politically conscious act.

Melville, Josh. "Attica's Ashes." *Dissent*, vol. 68, no. 3, Summer 2021, pp. 35–42. *Project MUSE*, muse.jhu.edu/pub/255/article/797270/pdf.

This personal essay by Josh Melville, son of Attica prisoner and radical activist Samuel Melville, includes a photograph of Samuel Melville and documents his role in the uprising.

Melville, Joshua. "Joshua Melville's Search for the Truth about His Radical Bomber Father, Sam Melville." *CrimeReads*, 21 Sept. 2021, [crimereads.com/joshua-melvilles-sam-melville-radical-bomber/](https://www.crimereads.com/joshua-melvilles-sam-melville-radical-bomber/). Accessed 27 Feb. 2026.

This article includes photographs of Samuel Melville. I used this source to help visualize this key figure.

Miller, Deanne Quinn. *The Prison Guard's Daughter: My Journey through the Ashes of Attica*.
Diversions Books, 2021.

This memoir is written by the daughter of the only guard killed by prisoners during the initial takeover. I used this source to provide perspective from a victim's family member who came to understand the truth.

Merriam-Webster. "Uprising." *Merriam-Webster Thesaurus*, Merriam-Webster,
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus/uprising>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

This source was used to explain the difference between an uprising and a riot. It helped show that an uprising is usually more organized and purposeful, while a riot is more about violent public disorder.

New York State Museum. "Open Wounds: The Fifty-Year Legacy of the Attica Prison Uprising."
New York State Museum,
nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/open-wounds-attica-prison-uprising. Accessed 31 Mar. 2026.

This museum exhibition presents multiple perspectives on the 1971 Attica uprising, examining its social, racial, and political legacy through primary sources and artifacts. It is used to document how Attica has been officially remembered and why it's relevant fifty years later.

NYU School of Law. "Attica Uprising Anniversary: Impact and the Robert McKay Legacy."

NYU School of Law,

www.law.nyu.edu/news/attica-uprising-anniversary-impact-robert-mckay-alumni.

Accessed 24 Mar. 2026.

This article from NYU School of Law commemorating the Attica uprising's anniversary contains a photograph of Attica Correctional Facility. It is used to give viewers a visual sense of the physical environment where the 1971 uprising took place.

Pfaff, John F. "The Incentives of Private Prisons." *Academy for Justice, Arizona State*

University, <https://academyforjustice.asu.edu/resource/the-incentives-of-private-prisons/>.

Accessed 17 May 2026.

This source was used to explain how private prisons are motivated to cut services, programming, and training in order to make more profit. It helped show why private prisons are often criticized for putting money ahead of prisoner care and rehabilitation.

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This quote from Jerry Rosenberg, a white inmate, declares unity across races in D-Yard. I used this source to demonstrate unprecedented racial solidarity.

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Taxpayers." *Princeton University*,

<https://legaljournal.princeton.edu/the-economic-impact-of-prison-labor-for-incarcerated-individuals-and-taxpayers/>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

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<https://www.statista.com/chart/24031/prisoners-in-private-prisons-in-the-united-states/>. Accessed 17 May 2026.

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"Russell G. Oswald." *Historica Wiki*, Fandom, historica.fandom.com/wiki/Russell_G._Oswald. Accessed 31 Mar. 2026.

This wiki page contains a photograph of Russell G. Oswald, the New York State Commissioner of Corrections during the 1971 Attica uprising. It is used to visually identify the state official who negotiated with prisoners and ultimately approved the violent retaking of the prison.

Schutz, Bob. "Revisiting the Attica Riot in Real-Time 50 Years Later." *The Marshall Project*, 13 Sept. 2016, www.themarshallproject.org/2016/09/13/the-riot-and-the-retaking.

This documentation shows prisoners refusing meals every September 13. I used this source to show Attica's ongoing significance within prisons.

Thompson, Heather Ann. *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*. Pantheon Books, 2016.

This Pulitzer Prize-winning book provides the most comprehensive account of Attica including the uprising, assault, cover-up, and legal battles. I used this source extensively throughout my project.

Thompson, Heather Ann. "Lessons from Attica." Article.

This article reveals that Rockefeller had already ordered force before negotiations ended. I used this source to show the state never intended a peaceful resolution.

Village Preservation. "The Attica Prison Riots and the Village." *Village Preservation*, 10 Sept. 2019, www.villagepreservation.org/2019/09/10/the-attica-prison-riots-and-the-villae/

This article from Village Preservation, includes a photograph of attorney William Kunstler speaking at Attica during the 1971 uprising negotiations.

Wagner, Peter. "Importing Constituents: Prisoners and Political Clout in New York." Prison Policy Initiative, 2002, prisonpolicy.org.

This website contains census data and prison population data that communicates the explosive prison population growth from 12,000 to 50,000+. I used this source to show how mass incarceration expanded despite Attica's reforms.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*. Harper & Row, 1980, p. 480.

This book analyzes Attica within broader American inequality and racism. I used this source to connect Attica to larger patterns of injustice in American history.