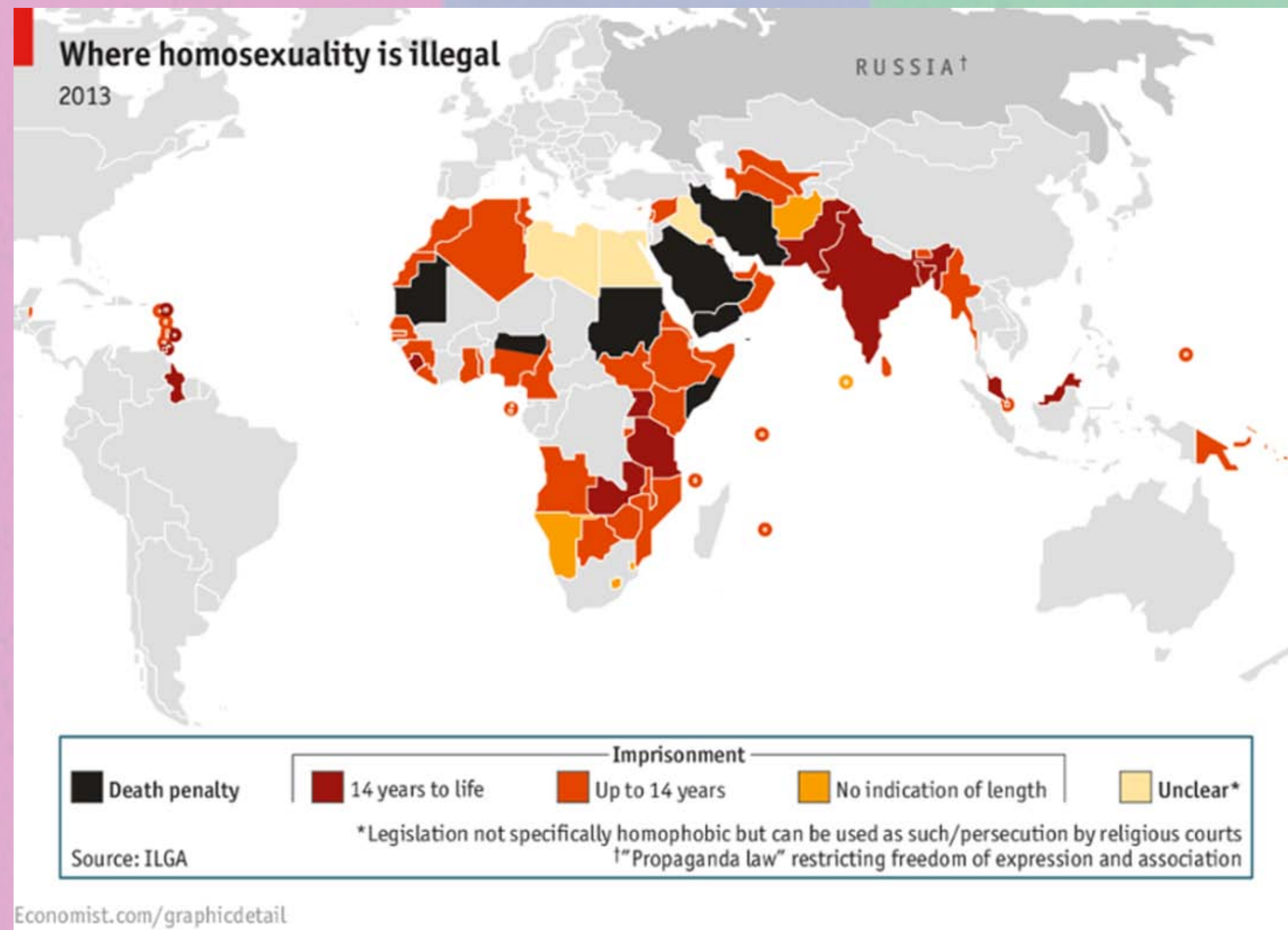


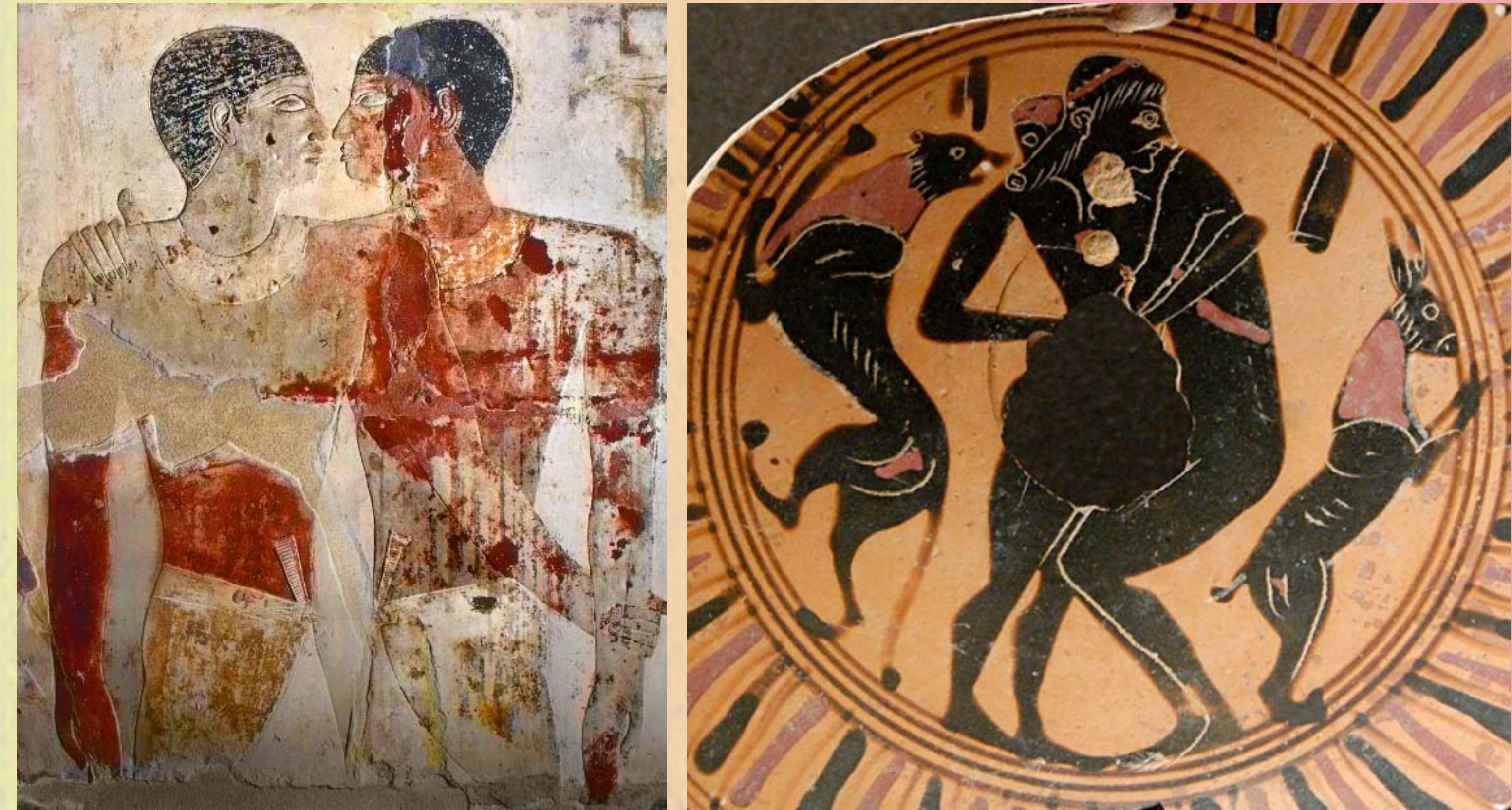
The Stonewall Riots

Homosexuality in Modern Times



Although same-sex marriage is being legalized all over the world, in seven countries homosexuality is still punishable by death. In 74 countries homosexuality and homosexual acts are still a crime.

Homosexuality in Ancient Times

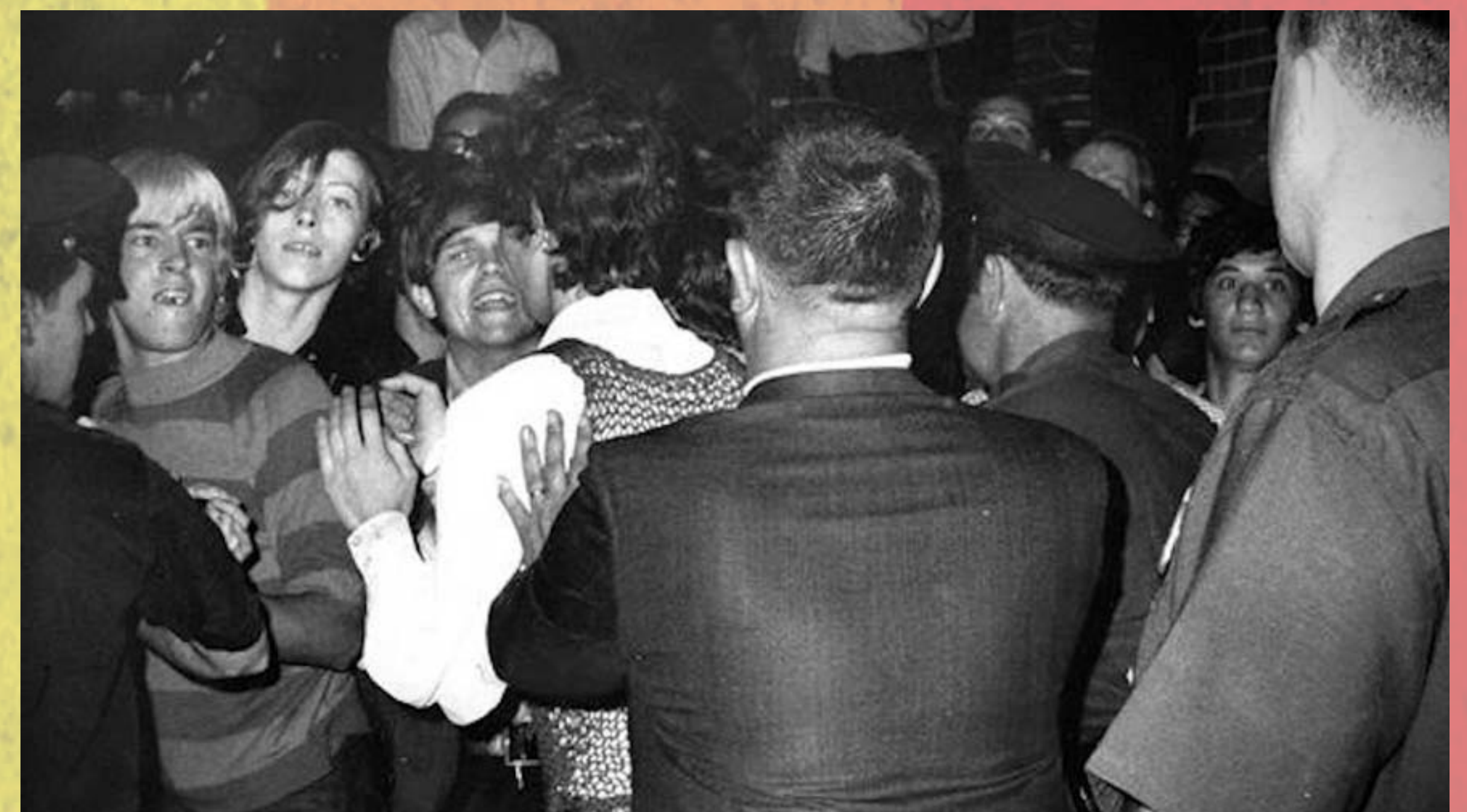


Unlike today, homosexuality in ancient times and religions was not a taboo. In ancient Egypt and ancient Greece it was socially acceptable for someone to be in a same-sex relationship. In Sparta, Greece, it was even encouraged to engage in a same-sex relationship, because it was believed that an intimate relationship between soldiers would result in more loyalty on the battlefield.

Start and Cause of the Movement



Being gay in the 1960s was tough. It was considered a crime in the US and there were no anti-discrimination laws, which could have protected gay people. Gay bars, like the Stonewall Inn, were regularly raided by the police. These raids were often unnecessarily brutal and many people were arrested on nights like these.



On the 28th of June, 1969, after a raid, people started to refuse to cooperate with the police and it quickly turned violent. A riot formed on Christopher Street, the street on which the Stonewall Inn was located, and the crowd got massive. The riot continued for two more days, but on the second night it was much better planned. The protestors had organised speeches and brought signs, which were painted with demands for better treatment of the gay community. The Stonewall riots brought a lot of awareness about the situation to common people and they were the first real step to equality.

Legacy



Up until this day every year Pride Marches are held all over the world to celebrate one's sexuality and one's freedom and as an homage to the original Pride March, the Stonewall Riots.

Special Thanks to Cornelia Wolff and Melissa Mitra