

Saving the World or Wasting Time: Understanding the Impact of Social Movements and Activism

496: Thursday – 9-11

<p>Waiting On The World To Change – John Mayer (2006)</p> <p>me and all my friends we're all misunderstood they say we stand for nothing and there's no way we ever could now we see everything that's going wrong with the world and those who lead it we just feel like we don't have the means to rise above and beat it</p> <p>so we keep waiting waiting on the world to change we keep on waiting waiting on the world to change</p> <p>it's hard to beat the system when we're standing at a distance so we keep waiting waiting on the world to change now if we had the power to bring our neighbors home from war they would have never missed a Christmas no more ribbons on their door and when you trust your television what you get is what you got cause when they own the information, oh they can bend it all they want</p> <p>that's why we're waiting waiting on the world to change we keep on waiting waiting on the world to change</p> <p>it's not that we don't care, we just know that the fight ain't fair so we keep on waiting waiting on the world to change</p> <p>and we're still waiting waiting on the world to change we keep on waiting waiting on the world to change one day our generation is gonna rule the population so we keep on waiting waiting on the world to change</p> <p>we keep on waiting waiting on the world to change</p>	<p>The Times they are a Changin' – Bob Dylan (1964)</p> <p>Come gather 'round people Wherever you roam And admit that the waters Around you have grown And accept it that soon You'll be drenched to the bone. If your time to you Is worth savin' Then you better start swimmin' Or you'll sink like a stone For the times they are a-changin'.</p> <p>Come writers and critics Who prophesize with your pen And keep your eyes wide The chance won't come again And don't speak too soon For the wheel's still in spin And there's no tellin' who That it's namin'. For the loser now Will be later to win For the times they are a-changin'.</p> <p>Come senators, congressmen Please heed the call Don't stand in the doorway Don't block up the hall For he that gets hurt Will be he who has stalled There's a battle outside And it is ragin'. It'll soon shake your windows And rattle your walls For the times they are a-changin'.</p> <p>Come mothers and fathers Throughout the land And don't criticize What you can't understand Your sons and your daughters Are beyond your command Your old road is Rapidly agin'. Please get out of the new one If you can't lend your hand For the times they are a-changin'.</p> <p>The line it is drawn The curse it is cast The slow one now Will later be fast As the present now Will later be past The order is Rapidly fadin'. And the first one now Will later be last For the times they are a-changin'.</p>
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Introduction

We are in this class to learn about how we can and cannot improve our world by engaging in activism.

Attendance:

Show up, learn, contribute (20% of the grade) and do not lose points for missing quizzes

Grading:

Participation: 15%

- contributing to classroom discussion through informed commentary/reflection about reading and/or prior discussion

Individual Examination: 40%

- one formal test (25%)
- an undisclosed number of informal quizzes, administered randomly throughout the semester (15%)
 - o if a quiz is missed and there is no University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be issued a "0" for the assignment.
 - o if missed is missed and there is a University sanctioned excuse, then the student will be given a make-up examination.

Group Assignment: 20%

- all team members must participate, overall product must be divided across team members (what is being pursued, why does the problem exist, what strategies were applied to fix the problem, what would success look like and was the effort successful) and all components of the assignment must be submitted in class on the due date

Individual Final Submission: 25%

- format to be determined

Orientation and Introduction – **Jan 10**

Sense it

Reading:

Two Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace.... One School at a Time

– Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

Jan 17

Small Acts of Resistance: How Courage, Tenacity and Ingenuity Can Change the World

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– Steve Crenshaw and John Jackson

Jan 24

Reading for another time:

The Activists Handbook

– Randy Shaw, University of California Press, 2001

An Action a Day Keeps Capitalism Away

– Mike Hudema, Between the Lines, 2004

Its Your World, If you Dont Like it Change it

– Mikki Halpin, Simon Pulse, 2004

Be the Change

– Michele Nunn (editor), Hundreds of Heads Books, 2006

How to Save the World in Your Spare Time

– Elizabeth May, Key Porter Book, 2007

Steal This Book

– Abbey Hoffman, Four Walls Eight Windows, 1995

Study it: What we know

Reading (read articles for each class):

Amenta, Edwin, Drew Halfmann & Michael P. Young (1999): “The Strategies and Contexts of Social Protest: Political Mediation and the Impact of the Townsend Movement in California,” *Mobilization* 4: 1-24.

Giugni, Marco G. (1998): "Was It Worth the Effort? The Outcomes and Consequences of Social Movements," *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 371-393.

Jan 31

Hafner-Burton, Emilie. “Sticks and Stones: Can Naming and Shaming Solve Human Rights Enforcement Problems? Manuscript.

http://www.princeton.edu/~ehafner/pdfs/sticks_stones.pdf

King, Brayden and Sarah A. Soule. “Social Movements as Extra-Institutional Entrepreneurs: The Effect of Protest on Stock Price Returns.” *Administrative Science Quarterly*, September 2007.

Feb 7

Linders, Annulla (2004): “Victory and Beyond: A Historical Comparative Analysis of the Outcomes of the Abortion Movements in Sweden and the United States,” *Sociological Forum* 19: 371-404.

Luders, Joseph (2006): "The Economics of Movement Success: Business Responses to Civil Rights Mobilization," *American Journal of Sociology* 111: 963-998.

Feb 14

McAdam, Doug and Yang Su. 2002. "The War at Home: The Impact of Anti-War Protests, 1965-1973," *American Sociological Review* 67: 696-721.

McCammon, Holly J., Karen E. Campbell, Ellen M. Granberg & Christine Mowery (2001): "How Movements Win: Gendered Opportunity Structures and U.S. Women's Suffrage Movements, 1866 to 1919," *American Sociological Review* 66: 49-70.

Feb 21

McVeigh, Rory, Michael R. Welch & Thoroddur Bjarnason (2003): "Hate Crime Reporting as a Successful Social Movement Outcome," *American Sociological Review* 68: 843-867.

Soule, Sarah A. & Susan Olzak (2004): "When Do Movements Matter? The Politics of Contingency and the Equal Rights Amendment," *American Sociological Review* 69: 473-497.

Tauber, Steven (1998): "On Behalf of the Condemned? The Impact of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund on Capital Punishment Decision Making in the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Political Research Quarterly* 51(1): 191-219

Feb 28 **[receive group assignments]**

Readings for another time:

Rojas, Fabio (2006). "Social Movement Tactics, Organizational Change and the Spread of African American Studies." *Social Forces* 84(4): 2139-2158.

Deng, Fang (1997): "Information Gaps and Unintended Outcomes of Social Movements: The 1989 Chinese Student Movement," *American Journal of Sociology* 102: 1085-1112.

Meyer, David S. & Steven A. Boutcher (2007): "Signals and Spillover: Brown v. Board of Education and Other Social Movements," *Perspectives on Politics* 5: 81-94.

Markoff, John (1997): "Peasants Help Destroy and Old Regime and Defy a New One: Some Lessons from (and for) the Study of Social Movements," *American Journal of Sociology* 102: 1113-1142.

Soule, Sarah A. and Brayden King. 2006. "The Impact of Social Movements at Stages of the Policy Process: The Equal Rights

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Amendment, 1972-1982.” American Journal of Sociology 111(6): 1871-1909.

Stearns, Linda Brewster & Paul D. Almeida (2004): “The Formation of State Actor-Social Movement Coalitions and Favorable Policy Outcomes,” Social Problems 51: 478-504.

Midterm Examination - Mar 7

Evaluate it: Rumors of a Better World

Successes or Failures?! – **Mar 14** [Group Assignments]

- Land Mines Treaty
- International Criminal Court
- Ending Death Penalty
- Yo No Quiero Taco Bell
- The Holocaust Reparations Movement
- Anti-Globalization movement
- The Red campaign

Successes or Failures?! - **Mar 21** [Group Assignments]

- Stopping Torture
- We are the World
- Food Aid
- Live Aid
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Stopping the Patriot Act

Successes or Failures?! - **Mar 28** [Group Assignments]

- Anti-Lynching campaign
- Civil Rights Movement
- Anti-Colonialism/Imperialism
- Women’s movement
- Anti-nuclear movement
- The Million Man March
- Ending Genocide in Darfur

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Build It: Each one, Revolutionize one

Film: "Taking Down a Dictator" - **Apr 4**

Successes or Failures?! - **Apr 11** Special Guest

What Works? - **Apr 18**

Final Submission – During Examination Period (Change Something)