

POL101

Assignment 1

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Write a 200-250-word introductory paragraph, including a thesis statement, for an essay that responds to the question below. Please note that you do not need to write the whole essay.

Why do social movements succeed, and why do they fail?

According to Dr. Deva Woodly, she made a case for the factors that contributed to the successes and failures of American political movements to sustain the fundamentals of organizing long-lasting social movements. She attributed the subsequent durability of the Black Lives Matter or BLM movement and the demise of Occupy Wall Street or OCW to their contrasting approaches to organizational leadership. (Woodly 2020) The BLM believed in ongoing attempts to develop their movement, but OCW opposed the idea. However, some feel that having strong and stable leadership at the top of the hierarchy is critical to success in any movement. I propose that a significant grassroots mobilization, defined as increased machinery amongst the regular members of a given social movement, is necessary for the movement to attain its social purpose. For example, before the Malaysian United Democratic Alliance became a political party, this movement triumphed due to the significant contributions of their grassroots members, who were all actively involved in their social aid efforts and united by a common social cause. (Tan 2022) Some may dispute that this condition would result in internal instability because grassroots members would demonstrate a degree of superiority toward the organization's upper echelons. However, I would raise concerns about these movements, which presume a stable and robust leadership yet rely on a weak and unconvincing grassroots mobilization. Thus, in this essay, I will address the topic of grassroots mobilization and how it will change the perspective of institutional leadership in the pursuit of social justice.

(250 words)

REFERENCES

Tan, Vincent. 2022. "In Malaysia, New Political Parties Signal Their Strengths and What They Can Bring to the Table - CNA." Channel News Asia. 2022.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/malaysia-new-political-parties-general-election-muda-gerak-independent-parti-kuasa-rakyat-parti-bangsa-malaysia-2466156>.

Woodly, Deva. 2020. “‘Social Movements and Black Lives Matter’ Podcast Interview by Courtney Jung.” Toronto: *The Real World of Politics*, University of Toronto.