

A primer on social movements

contemporary societies series

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Social Movements: Types, Characteristics, and Theories**

Social movements are collective efforts aimed at bringing about social change. There are various classifications and theories regarding social movements:

Types of Social Movements

- **Melucci's New Social Movements:** Focus on identity, cultural change, and autonomous organizations.
- **Aberle's Social Movements:** Based on needs, grievances, and relative deprivation.
- **Types of Social Change by Aberle:** Propulsive (planned), reactive (unplanned), and transformative (fundamental).
- **4 Basic Types of Movements:** Reformatory, revolutionary, restorative, and transformative.
- **Modern Social Movements:** Often decentralized, networked, and focused on issues such as environmentalism and social justice.

Characteristics of Social Movements

- Shared goals
- Collective action
- Organizational structure
- Ideology and belief system

- Mobilizational resources

Types of Social Systems

- **Organic Solidarity Systems:** Based on common values and shared norms.
- **Mechanical Solidarity Systems:** Based on social cohesion and shared tasks.
- **Traditional Systems:** Rigid and hierarchical.
- **Modern Systems:** Flexible and egalitarian.

Types of Social Change

- **Incremental Change:** Gradual and cumulative.
- **Reformative Change:** Modifies existing systems.
- **Revolutionary Change:** Overthrows the existing system.
- **Punctuated Equilibrium:** Alternates periods of stability and rapid change.

New Theory of Social Movements

- Created by Alberto Melucci
- Emphasizes cultural change, identity construction, and social mobilization.

21.3 Social Movements

- Term coined by Manuel Castells to describe movements centered around technology and identity.

4 Roles of Social Movements

- Catalyst for social change
- Guardian of democracy
- Advocate for the marginalized
- Generator of new ideas

Gandhian Approach to Social Movement

- Nonviolent resistance
- Civil disobedience
- Satyagraha (truth force)

7 Cs of Social Change

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Conflict
- Culture
- Consciousness
- Creativity
- Change agents

4 Rs of Social Transformation

- Recognition
- Representation
- Redistribution
- Regulation

4 Areas of Movement

- Social (e.g., civil rights)
- Economic (e.g., labor unions)
- Political (e.g., electoral campaigns)
- Cultural (e.g., environmentalism)

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