I. Resource Mobilization Model

A. Assumptions

1. reject pluralist concept of power

2. affirm : elite concept of power

a. concentration of power in hands of few

b. other groups are excluded

3. social movements not irrational

a. excluded groups have real grievances therefore is political

b. traditional institutions and avenues are closed

c. rational collective pursuit of common interests

B. Theory

1. Social strain

a. necessary but not sufficient condition to explain social movement

b. more or less consistent for aggrieved groups

2. primary conditions: social resources available to groups

a. movement: arises with increase in resources

b. increase is immediate pre-condition

3. key factor: role of elites

a. external sponsors: foundations, government agencies, organizations

b. availability of outside resources:

i. material

ii. non-material: legitimacy, trust, authority

4. Success: establish linkage with elite sponsors

a. 60s protest

b. UAW

C. Weaknesses of theory

1. Ignores social movement as challenge to powerful

a. challenge to the social order: power arrangements

b. why would elite groups support social movement?

2. Consequences of partnership

a. transform the movement to reform

b. cost-benefit analysis: balance goals with interests of

benefactors

3. Ignores power of mass based social movement

a. emphasizes limits

b. power to disrupt

i. civil disobedience

ii. labor

c. ignornes indigenous resources

i. church and civic groups

ii. leadership

4. Empirical ?

5. ignore change of view: cognitive liberation

i. unjust

ii. can be changed

D. Strengths

1. emphasis on the political

2. emphasis on rationality

3. need for external groups

4. organizations: formal and informal