I. Contemporary Social Movement Theories

1. New theories: new context

1. domestic: social movements of 1960ss/70s

a. definitions: popular movements for social change

b. examples

i. civil rights (black insurgency)

ii. feminist or women’s rights movement

iii. AIM

iv. UFW

v. Anti-Vietnam War movement

vi. environment

vii. gay rights

viii. anti-poverty

x. occupational safety and health

xi. Free Speech

2. global: present

a. national liberation: popular movements to liberate nation from colonial control

i. Vietnam

ii. Algeria

iii. Guatemala

iv. Angola and Mozambique

v. Indonesia

vi. Congo

vii. Iran

c. anti-globalization movements

i. Seattle 1999

ii. Landless Peasants Movement

iii. Cochabamba

iv. “The Take”

C. Goals: Contemporary Theory

1. Critique: classical theory

2. Explain: social movements

D. Social Strain Theories

1. Classical Collective Behavior

a. unit of analysis: crowd

b. crowd behavior is pathological

c. alienated masses in society acting together

d. no political goals

e. irrational acting out: violent

d. theories

i. law of mental unity

ii. contagion theory

iii. circular reaction theory

2. Summary: Social Strain

1. social strain: urbanization, industrialization etc
2. psychic trauma
3. collective behavior

translation

3. (Social strain) – leads weak psyches to - misbehave in groups (collective behavior) – disrupt the normal functioning of society- with no real goal (psychopathology of the crowd)

3. assumptions

a. normally functioning society (good)

b. normal people (don’t gather in crowds)

c. pluralistic concept of power

E. Critique of classical theory

1. concept of power

a. power elite

b. excluded groups with real grievances and no power

2. social strain

a. reject social strain as primary causal factor

b. social strain is always present

3. participants

a. not alienated/psychologically weak/”masses”

b. empirical studies

i. alienated less likely to participate

ii. psychological problems also less likely to

translate into social action

iii. more integrated

4. collective behavior

a. not “acting out”

b. goals and purpose

5. focus/analysis: social movements

II. Political Process Theory

A. Two goals

1. general theory: social movements

2. application: rise, success, and failure of the black insurgency

1930-1970.

B. Political Process Theory: Assumptions

1. reject: pluralist model of power

2. modified elite model

a. elites hold power and control institutions

b. elites are not homogenous

c. differ in goals/strategies

3. . excluded groups

a. powerless within normal political processes

b. necessary to act extra-institutionally and unconventionally

4. social movements are rational

a. excluded groups: real grievances

b. movement: collective behavior to achieve political goals

c. goals

i. inclusion

ii. transformation: social institutions

5. social movements: long term political/historical processes

C. Political Process theory: Generation of a social movement

1. political opportunity

a. breakdown: elite power structure

b. opportunity: define and achieve goals

c. Black insurgency: 1930-1965

i. black migration: tenancy to industrial north

ii. the fall of “Cotton as King”

iii. WWII

iv. Cold War

2. indigenous organizations

a. infrastructure: buildings to equipment

b. participation: membership, leadership, interaction

c. Black insurgency: 1930-1965

i. Black Church

ii. Black Colleges

iii. NAACP

3. cognitive liberation

a. delegitimation: system is unjust

b. not inevitable

c. belief: change things

d. Black insurgency: 1930-1965

i. WWII

ii. movements of national liberation

iii. power of collective behavior

4. sustaining organizational strength

a. need to build new organizations

i. new organizations

ii. CORE, SNCC, SCLC

b. dilemmas

i. Iron Law of oligarchy

ii. cooptation

iii. loss of indigenous support

D. Social Control Response (Repression)

1. support $

2. power elite’s capacity to stabilize

3. tactics: how radical, goals: how transformative

4. Black insurgency 1965-1970

1. disagreement over tactics
2. new targets: economic inequality
3. urban rebellions
4. southern strategy
5. lack of support
6. repression: COINTELPRO
   1. infiltration
   2. dirty tricks
   3. legal harassment
   4. extra-legal violence