I. Social Movement Theory

A. New phenomena: social movements

1. Post WWII/Mid-Twentieth century

a. U.S.: social change

b. Global: movements of national liberation

2. Late Twentieth-early Twenty-first century

a. anti-globalization

b. fundamentalist

B. Theories

1. Social Strain Theory

2. Political Process Theory

II. Political Process Theory (Doug McAdam)

A. Two goals

1. develop a general theory of social movements

a. avoid weaknesses of classical theory and social strain theory

c. use the “black insurgency” as the empirical model

2. explain the rise, success, and failure of the black insurgency

(aka Civil Rights Movement) 1930-1970.

B. Political Process Theory: Assumptions

1. Elite concept of power

a. elite groups control institutions

b. not homogenous: different goals

2. excluded groups

a. powerless within normal political processes

b. necessary to act extra-institutionally and unconventionally

3. social movements are rational

a. excluded groups have real grievances

b. insurgency is common action to achieve goals

4. social movement are long term political/historical processes

5. social strain and psychological deviance inadequate to explain

social movements

a. social strain: always present

b. participants most integrated into community

D. Argument

1. political opportunity

a. breakdown in control by elites

b. causes:

i. social change = realignment of power relationships

ii. opportunities to define and achieve goals

c. differences pre 1930 vs post 1930

i. black migration

ii. black voters

iii. WWII

iv. Cold War

v. King Cotton

2. indigenous organizations

a. infrastructure: buildings to equipment

b. popular support: membership

c. leadership

d. interaction: leadership and populace

e. post-1930s:

urban black churches

black universities

NAACP

3. cognitive liberation

a. system no longer perceived as just, or inevitable

c. belief in the power to change things

4. sustaining organizational strength

a. need to build new organizations

b. formal movement organizations: SNCC, CORE, SCLC

5. need external support: Northern liberal groups

F. Repression

1. strength of movement vs elite

2. tactics: how radical (non-violence vs violence)

3. goals

1. how threatening (Jim Crow vs capitalism)

b. cohesive

III. Right Wing Populism: 1970s to present

A. Most important movement

1. shaping institutions: political, education, marriage and family

2. shaping laws and daily life

B. New Right: two main groups

1. Neo-conservatives

2. Christian right

C. Popular base:

1. evangelical/fundamentalist Protestants

and conservative Catholics (mainly middle class)

2.. white working class (semi-skilled and unskilled)

D. Backlash movement

1. liberation movements: civil rights, women’s movement,

AIM, Gay rights

2. economic crisis 1970s

3. cultural change

a. abortion, homosexuality, sexuality

D. Ideology

“ Secular humanists (aka liberal elite, or godless Communists, pro-terrorist who hate America) control society. They want to undermine our freedoms by imposing “big government” (New Deal liberalism and the U.N.) on us. They also are trying to undermine traditional American values (God, family, and country) and way of life (the joys of high level consumption ). The secular humanists want to replace those traditional values with liberal values: abortion, homosexuality, sexual promiscuity (aka sex education), social welfare culture, and impose politically correct lifestyles on us all.

“We want to put God back into American institutions (political, legal,education), reassert the values of family and support the American way of life.”

E. Goals:

1. Neo-conservative

a. role back New Deal

b. Free market

c. U.S. as global power

2. Christian Right

a. theocracy

b. converting world to Christianity

F. Political Process and RWP 1970s

1. Political Opportunity

a. decline in power of Democratic Party

b. decline in power of labor

2. Indigenous organizations

a. church

b. private schools

c. corporate media

d. think tanks

3. cognitive liberation:

a. free market capitalism

b. 21st Century and Millenialism

4. Formal movement organizations

a. grass roots: Christian Coalition, Focus on the

Family

b. mega-churches

c. more think tanks

i. web sites

ii. magazines

iii. newspapers

d. television networks/shows

i. CBN

ii. 700 Club

e. radio networks and stations

f. publishing/book stores

5. External resources

a. Foundations: Four Sisters

i. $1 billion to top 20 think tanks

ii. Bradley, Scaife ($350 million),

Richardson, Olin + Coors and Koch

b. Corporations

G. Success

1. Republican Party and Democratic (Welfare Reform, Drug War, media)

2. Policy

a. economic

i. tax

ii. regulation

. education

i. sex education

ii. religion inschool

iii. law schools, science schools

c. mass media

i. concentration

ii. decency

d. foreign policy

i. Middle East

ii. Israel: Christian Zionists

e. health

i. women and reproduction

ii. global aids

iii. global birth control

f. family: anti-gay agenda

g. science: research, theory