

- Agenda**
1. Administrative
 2. Defining social movements
 3. Theories of social movements
 4. *Discussion:*
Theorizing textile worker strikes

Final exam

- ⋮ Wednesday, April 16, 2:00pm-5:00pm
- ⋮ Exam format will be similar to the midterm, but somewhat longer

Final exam reference sheets

- ⋮ Reference sheets will be *individually created*
Change from the group sheets from the midterm
- ⋮ You may work with others on the sheet, but you are responsible for printing and bringing your own sheet to the exam
- ⋮ One sheet of letter/A4 paper (front and back)
- ⋮ No electronic devices allowed

Defining social movements



Collective behavior

- ⋮ Very broad category
- ⋮ Groups coordinating action
(not necessarily deliberately or toward a goal)
- ⋮ Variety of causes and consequences

Social change

- ⋮ Very broad category
- ⋮ Change in institutions, norms, culture, values
(not necessarily through deliberate action)
- ⋮ Wide range of causes

Social movements

- ⋮ *Deliberate* push for *social change* through *collective action* (of non-elites)
Successful or unsuccessful

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

5



Broad(er) definition

- Any collective force working to change society
- Examples abound throughout history
 - Revolution
 - Mass violence
 - Coalitions forcing change



Narrow(er) definition

- Specific form of institutionalized political activity (Charles Tilly)
- "Social movements" are defined by organizations or groups of organizations (*campaigns*)
- Repertoire of actions
 - Rallies; marches; petitions; strikes; vigils; ...
- Historically specific form
 - Emerged in 18th century
 - Specific to modern democratic ideals and "civil society"

Theories of social movements



What is there to explain?

⋮ Emergence

Why do social movements arise?

What conditions favor a concerted, collective effort to change the status quo?

⋮ Success

How do social movements achieve their goals?

What increases a movement's chances of

⋮ Persistence

Why do social movements last?

What helps certain social movements maintain relevance?

Explanatory theories

⋮ Many, *many* theoretical approaches to the study of social movements

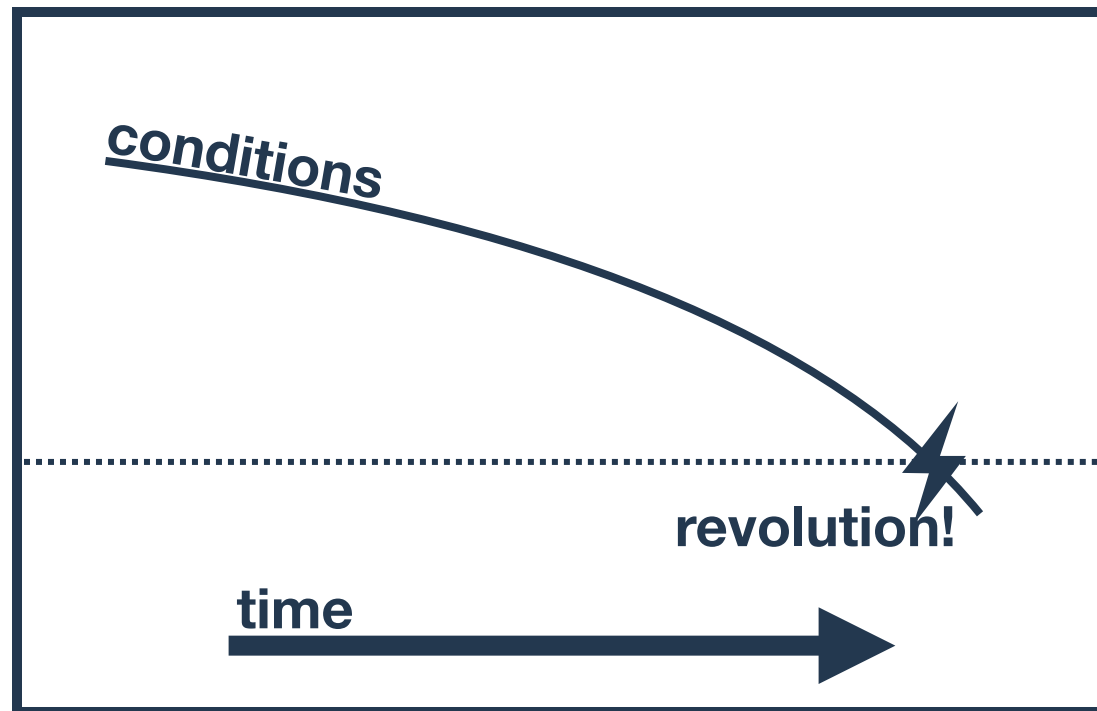
⋮ We will discuss five prominent sociological perspectives

⋮ As we go through these theoretical frameworks, think about *whether* and *how* they were used by Roscigno and Danaher (2001)

1a (Absolute) deprivation theory

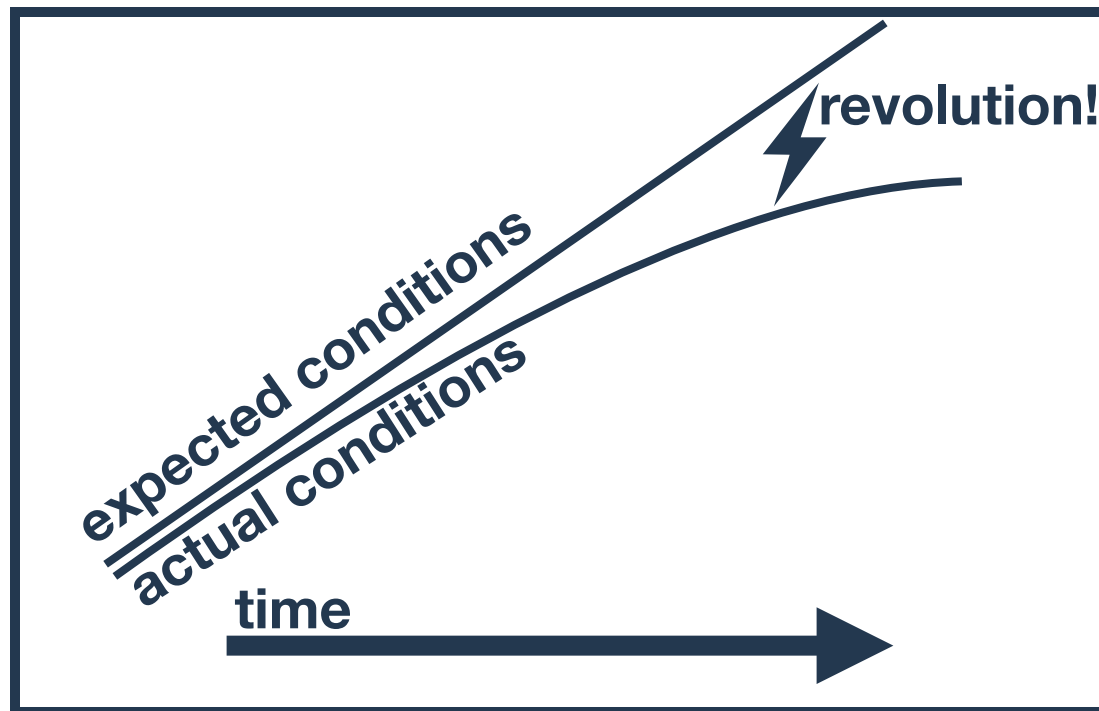
- ∴ Aims to explain the *emergence* of social movements
- ∴ People will organize against oppression if material conditions fall below breaking point
- ∴ Marx & Engels

Capital accumulation will lead to absolute deprivation of workers, resulting in revolution



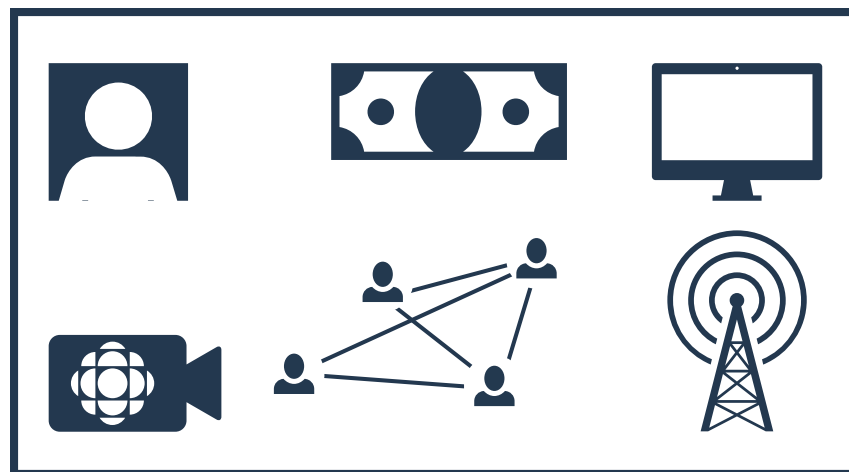
1b Relative deprivation theory

- ⋮ Revolts occur even when people have the basic requirements for survival
- ⋮ Important factor is the difference between actual conditions and expectations



2 Resource mobilization theory

- ⋮ To *emerge, succeed, and persist*, social movements need resources.
Money; leadership; people; networks; attention; ...
- ⋮ Many causes have large numbers of supporters, but not all causes build successful movements.
- ⋮ Movements exist because they are able to acquire resources and mobilize those resources actively and strategically.
- ⋮ Approach focusses on *organizations* and their *administration*.



3 Political opportunity theory

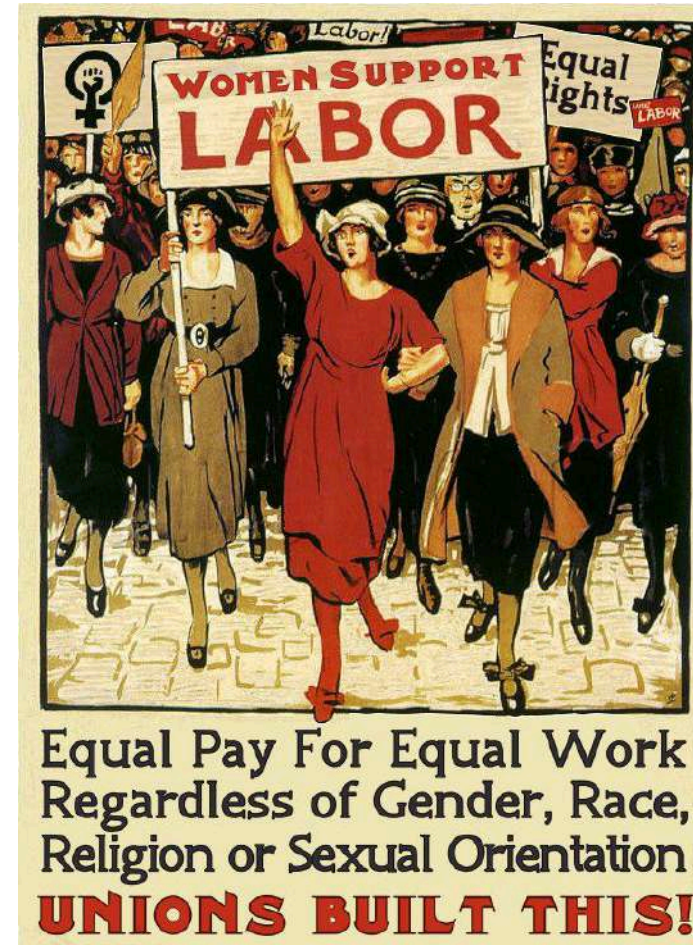
- ‡ *Emergence and success of social movements depends on the political context.*
- ‡ Some dimensions of political opportunity:
 - ‡ **Access** – (Perceived) ability to affect policy processes
 - ‡ **Instability** – Disruptions of existing coalitions (party politics)
 - ‡ **Allies** – Sympathetic and influential political actors
 - ‡ **Elite conflict** – Schisms and discord among political actors
- ‡ Focus on *interplay* between state (and other powerful actors) and movements.
- ‡ State action has sway over movement outcomes.

Changes in voting laws may change types of political allies
Changes in governance structure may lead to elite conflict
- ‡ *Perceptions* of political opportunity may differ from *realized structures* of political opportunity



4 Collective identity theory

- ‡ *Emergence, success, and persistence* of movements often relies on shared social identity among participants
- ‡ Many movements are based on defining a *relevant group identity* for those affected
E.g. Labor, ethnic, racial, gender categories
"Mothers Against Drunk Driving"
"Students for a Democratic Society"
- ‡ Collective identity can help *frame* ideals, problems, and actions



5 Frame theory

- ⋮ **Application of frame analysis (symbolic interactionism)**

Frames are clusters of basic, contextual expectations about roles, behavior, responses, relevant criteria of judgement

- ⋮ **Frames provide legitimacy, encouraging participation in social movements.**

- ⋮ **Movements are not just about resources, specific grievances, or political goals**

- ⋮ **Value orientations, expectations of social structures, ideas about tactics, etc. can be at odds even if broad grievances are the same**

E.g. liberal versus radical feminist movements

- ⋮ **Frame matters as much as content**

Opposition to genetically modified food can be framed in terms of health, environmental justice, anti-capitalism, ...

Diagnostic frame

What is the problem that needs to be addressed?

Prognostic frame

What is causing the problem and what should be done about it?

Motivational frame

Why should I be involved?

In groups of 2-3

∴ Briefly consider the *role of radio in the textile worker insurgency* described in Roscigno and Danaher (2001) through the five theoretical frameworks just discussed

1. Deprivation theory

2. Resource mobilization theory

3. Political opportunity theory

4. Collective identity theory

5. Frame theory

∴ Which frameworks did Roscigno and Danaher rely on?

∴ Which frameworks do you think explain the insurgency?

