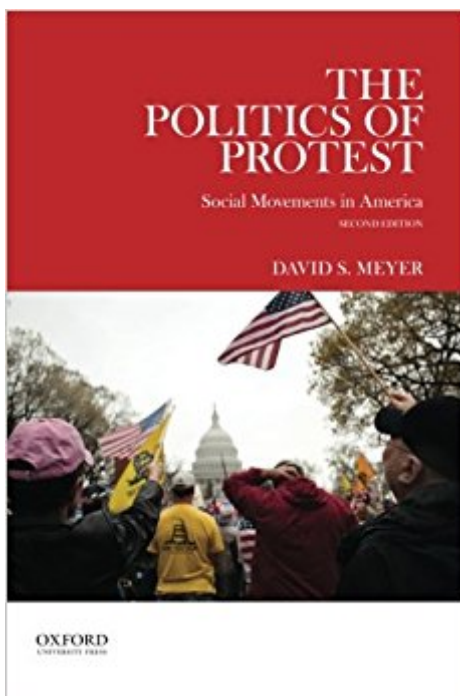


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The Politics Of Protest: Social Movements In America



Synopsis

The Politics of Protest offers both a historical overview and an analytical framework for understanding social movements and political protest in American politics. Meyer shows that protest movements, an integral part of our nation's history from the Boston Tea Party to the Civil Rights Movement, are hardly confined to the distant past. He argues that protest movements in America reflect and influence mainstream politics and that in order to understand our political system--and our social and political world--we need to pay attention to protest. The Politics of Protest opens with a short history of social movements in the United States, beginning with the development of the American Republic and outlining how the American constitutional design invites protest movements to offer continual challenges. It then discusses the social impulse to protest, considers the strategies and tactics of social movements, looks at the institutional response to protest, and finally examines the policy ramifications. Each chapter includes a brief narrative of a key movement that illustrates the topic covered in that chapter.

New to This Edition* A new chapter on media and movements (Chapter 6: Protest and Communication: New and Old Media) that examines how media has changed in the past two decades, focusing in particular on online activism* New discussions on such topics as the election of a black president, the emergence of the Tea Party movement, and the intensifying conflict regarding immigration policy* More material on the successes of the gay and lesbian movement in promoting policy changes to marriage at the state level and in national military service

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Customer Reviews

"This is an accessible but thorough treatment of social movements presented in an engaging format. The coverage is broad yet thorough without becoming shallow. Meyer does an effective job of telling stories in an interesting manner and then integrating these stories with engaging theoretical discussion."--Steve Garrison, Midwestern State University

David S. Meyer is Professor of Sociology, Political Science, and Planning, Policy, and Design at the University of California, Irvine.

This book is a solid overview of the elements of social movements especially in the modern world. At times repetitive, I found it to overall be very credible and logical as well as informative. Uses lots of examples from real protests to back up claims.

It's a gift and shall not read it myself.

The book was in good condition everything that was promised was here Good book, I just needed it for school best way to go.

Meyer has written a clear, sensible, engaging book on a topic too often obscured by academic code. Meyer is good at showing what the connections are between institutional and non-institutional politics, and goes well beyond the simple assertion that these connections exist. Where others often lament these connections or use them to shed doubt on the actual accomplishments of social movements (i.e., "the system was adjusting anyway"), Meyer shows both that American political structures tend toward incremental change and that action outside of these structures sometimes brings more rapid and systemic change, but that this extra-institutional action is also limited by the durability of our constitutional system. Meyer takes policy change seriously, too, but unlike the change-would-have-happened-anyway crowd, he also calls our attention to the dynamics by which movements and authorities attempt to claim credit for change. Thus, in the end, however pessimistic Meyer can be about the prospects for radical change driven by social movements, he cautions against those who downplay the importance of social movements and protest in contemporary American life. This is a perfect introductory text for a class, and one that is usable at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

This a good introductory text and I am using it as my text for an intro undergrad class. My only negative comment is that much of academics is a progression from previous theories. It would have helped if he had provided more background on previous theories and shown how his perspective is a progression from these earlier models. While his points are comprehensible without prior knowledge of the social movements literature, my novice students find it difficult to fully understand without at least a little background.

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