



Bottom-up political violence

CDSN4002 POLITICAL VIOLENCE

MIRIAM MATEJOVA, PHD

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Agenda

- ▶ How is collective action linked to political violence?

Collective action

- ▶ Any goal-oriented activity that involves two or more individuals
- ▶ Joint action and pursuit of a common goal

Grievances

- ▶ **Grievance:** a *feeling* of being wronged
- ▶ Can be political, economic, religious, territorial, ethnic, etc., but often overlap
 - ▶ *Political:* seeking to overthrow the government or reform
 - ▶ *Economic:* seeking to force the government to adopt a different economic policy or address an economic grievance
 - ▶ *Territorial:* fight for autonomy or independence

Grievances and relative deprivation

- ▶ Loss or inadequate access to something that one thinks they are entitled to
- ▶ Absolute deprivation (i.e., poverty) may change over time but relative deprivation doesn't as long as there is lasting social inequality and some are better off than others

Relative deprivation critique

- ▶ Grievances are an inherent part of societies
- ▶ Cannot explain why some people with grievances don't act (i.e., don't join social movements)

Resource mobilization

- ▶ Resources are critical for success of social movements ← explains why some people with grievances can create movements
- ▶ Resources can be knowledge, money, media, solidarity, legitimacy, as well as internal and external support from elites
- ▶ Social movements come to being when individuals with grievances are able to mobilize enough resources for action

Political opportunity structures

- ▶ Political opportunities and constraints
- ▶ Opportunity to take action is given by the structure of the society

Discussion

- ▶ When do movements become violent?
- ▶ What is the role of violence in social movements?

Violent vs non-violent movements

- ▶ "Non-violent resistance is a civilian-based method used to wage conflict through social, psychological, economic, and political means without the threat or use of violence" (Chenoweth and Stepan 2012)
- ▶ ***Are nonviolent campaigns more effective than violent ones?***

Effectiveness of non-violent campaigns

- ▶ Non-violent campaigns have a much higher success rate
- ▶ Two reasons:
 - ▶ Backlashes against the government
 - ▶ Openness to negotiation

Discussion

- ▶ Does political violence work? If so, when and how?
 - ▶ What are the political impacts of violence?