2. Global Social Movements

Jiří Navrátil

GLCb1001 Introduction to Global Challenges

Intro

- Global challenges vs. Global movements
- What is a social movement? What is a global social movement?
- Global challenges: …
- How global movements relate to structural conflicts/challenges?
- Indirect relation between structural conflicts and mobilizations/collective actors

Society vs. Social movements

- Socioeconomic structure affects the type of conflicts (*cleavages* ...)
- Contemporary social movements often bearing post-materialist interests
- Structural grievance not necessarily transformed into the protest
- Key spheres of transfromation: economy, politics, culture

Theories of global economic conflicts

- Theory of world systems (Wallerstein)
- Multitude (Hardt/Negri)
- Theory of neoliberalism

- Examples of global economic conflict:

Global political conflicts

- IGOs and the spread of globalized norms
- Political and corporate globalization
- Global politics (level of coordination vs. target level): collective transnational, cooperative trasnational, rooted cosmopolitan, domesticated activism

- Examples of global political conflict:

Global cultural conflicts

- Diffusion of ideas, practices, images, symbols (Zapatistas, Arab Spring, pro-Palestinian activism, pro-Ukranianian activism…)

- Global counter-culture?

- https://www.adbusters.org/campaigns

- Examples of global cultural conflict:

Global Justice Movement

- What's the name?

- *Global Justice Movement, Anti- (Alter-)globalization movement, Anti-neoliberal Movement, Anti-corporate movement, Anti-capitalist movement, New Anarchism, Mouvement altermondialiste (Altermondialisme)...*

- Different perspectives
- Different histories
- Different themes & currents within

- Movement of movements?

Global Justice Movement: histories

- Founding myth of Seattle (1999) – or just global „coming out"?

- Critique of structural programs of IMF and debt crisis of Third world since 1970´s (peak of protests between 1983 – 1985)
- Zapatistas insurgence (since 1983, declaration of war to Mexican state in 1994)
- Social riots in France (mid-90´s) – „*Le retour de la question sociale*"

- Polanyi's double movement?
- Second coming of 1968? (revitalization of various „new" and old movements - feminists, environmentalists, students, unions)
- Processes of transnationalization of „new" social movements
- Processes of convergence in the 90´s: new social movements > global justice issues (N. Klein)
- Revival of traditional anti-capitalism (Marxism, anarchism)

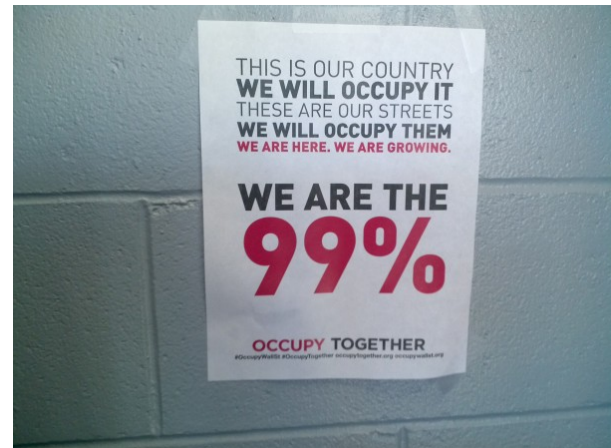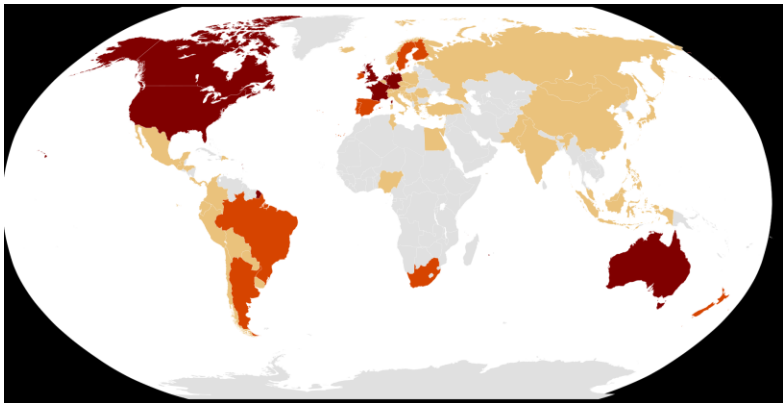# Global Justice Movement: key themes of / main currents within

✓Transnational corporations, international economic institutions, Neoliberalism

✓Women's rights, feminism

✓Environment

✓Third World development, indebtedness, poverty

✓Labour unions, workers´ rights, welfare state

✓War, militarism, imperialism

Global Justice Movement: perspectives

- Various methods and approaches to the study of Global Justice Movement (GJM) within the field of collective action research

- *Empirical meso-structuralism* vs. *social holism* vs. *political and moral philosophy:*

➢GJM primarily as a <u>network of organizations with common themes, goals, social base</u> – study of a change in resources, political opportunities structure, framing etc. - della Porta, Tarrow, Rucht, Reiter, Starr etc.

➢GJM as a <u>consequence (or, bearer) of broader societal and economic processes</u>, dynamics and change, and as a political (social) sign of moral rage or discontent in societies - Crossley, Munck, Klein etc.

➢GJM as a historically <u>new political subject</u> that is bearer of hope for universal emancipation or at least better future – George, Aguiton, Graeber, Monbiot, Kingsnorth

Occupy Movement

- Followed Great Recession of 2007/2008
- Inspired by the Arab Spring (and European anti-austerity protests) – mass occupation of public spaces (squares)
- Concerned by global financial system, economic and social inequalities, undermining of democracy
- Goals: tax rich, regulate financial industry

Occupy Wall Street