

SOCI 360

**SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS
AND
COMMUNITY
CHANGE**

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(DR. K)**



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**STRUCTURAL-
FUNCTIONALISM**

**“Anomic Disruptions
and Disorder”**



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Durkheim's "Anomic Theory"

and its "Mass Society" and "Collective Behavior" Variants

- a. For society to experience order, all of its subparts must be healthy or functional. All of its parts must be perfectly **integrated**.
- b For Durkheim, social movements are a **symptom of social disintegration, or anomic disruption** (the condition of **normative breakdown**).
- c. The most reliable signs of **societal anomie** are **increases in social deviance, crime, suicide, and social movements**.



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Historical Examples of Significant Anomic Disruptions

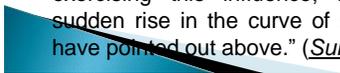
- 1. Shift from an agrarian society to an industrial one. Watch: [The Industrial Revolution \(1750-1850\)](#).
- 2. Collapse of the Soviet Union: The shift from a Communist Society to a Capitalist one. Watch: [Perestroika in the former U.S.S.R \(1990-2000\)](#).
- 3. The shift from an Industrial Society to a Post-Industrial one: Watch: [The Information Revolution \(1960- Present\)](#).
- 4. Our current period of growing [nationalism and "Kleptocracy" \(2020-future\)](#)



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Durkheim on Anomic Disruptions and their Effect on the Individual

"[Man] is governed not by a material environment brutally imposed on him, but by a conscience superior to his own, the superiority of which he feels. Because the greater, better part of his existence transcends the body, he escapes the body's yoke, but is subject to that of society. But when society is disturbed by some painful crisis or by beneficent but abrupt transitions, it is momentarily incapable of exercising this influence; thence come the sudden rise in the curve of suicides which we have pointed out above." (*Suicide*, pg. 252)



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STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONALISM

“Value-Added Theory”



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Neil Smelser’s “Theory of Collective Behavior”

The theory of collective behavior argues that social movements are a response to major interruptions in the natural operation of society. Writing on the origins of social movements under this paradigm, Gusfield (1970: 9) notes the following:

“We describe social movements and collective action as responses to social change. To see them in this light emphasizes the disruptive and disturbing quality which new ideas, technologies, procedures, groups migration, and intrusions can have for people”
(Protest, Reform, and Revolt, New York: John Wiley).

Social changes engender strains on the population, and **social movements are one way that people cope** with the uncertainty and angst of rapid and unexpected alterations in social patterns according to Neil Smelser.



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Value-Added Theory (Smelser): Six Determinants of Collective Behavior

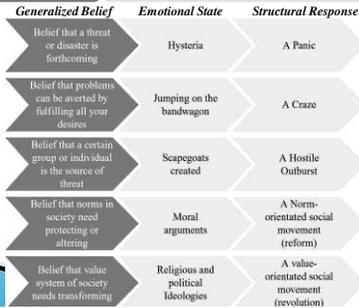
Structural conduciveness	• The opportunities, or lack of them, afforded by the social structure of society e.g. democracies are more conducive to collective behaviour than authoritarian regimes.
Structural strain	• Breakdown in the ability of society to meet needs and expectations, meaning that ‘strains’ arise in different parts of the social structure.
Growth and spread of generalized beliefs	• Development of shared beliefs about the situation, e.g. why it is happening, who is to blame, what can be done.
Precipitating factors	• Trigger events, catalysts that enable people to attach their grievances to a concrete cause.
Mobilization of participants for action	• Organizational capacities of the group, including leaders, communication channels, money and other resources.
Operation of social control	• Ability of authorities, police and media to exercise social control (e.g. by public pressure or physical force).

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Value-Added Theory (Smelser): Six Determinants of Collective Behavior

Growth and spread of generalized beliefs

• Development of shared beliefs about the situation, e.g. why it is happening, who is to blame, what can be done.



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Early Theories of Collective Behavior

Structural Strain/Value-Added Theory (structural functionalism)

Neil Smelser, "Theory of Collective Behavior" (1962) (p30)

- i. Structural strains are social problems;
- ii. Generalized beliefs lead to collective behavior due to structural malfunction (p33)
- iii. Value-added model (structural conduciveness, strain, beliefs, precipitating factors, mobilization, social control) (p34)
- iv. Critique: Does not theorize the complex way beliefs come to be shaped by interpretation and definition (p37)

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Which Side Are You On?

WANTED



A Living Wage

Which side are you on boys?
Which side are you on?

They say in Harlan County
There are no neutrals there.
You'll either be a union man
Or a thug for J. H. Blair.

Which side are you on boys?
Which side are you on?

My daddy was a miner,
And I'm a miner's son,
He'll be with you fellow workers
Until this battle's won.

Oh workers can you stand it?
Oh tell me how you can?
Will you be a lousy scab
Or will you be a man?

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In Context: Worker's Rights

- ▶ The [Worker's Rights \(Labor\) Movement](#) of the late 19th and early 20th century is an example, for Durkheim and the functionalists, of the anomic disruption related to the economic and social changes happening as a result of industrialization.
- ▶ For Marx and social-conflict oriented sociologists, the worker's movement is the result of the working class being pushed too far by the capitalist class.
- ▶ From the symbolic-interaction perspective, the micro-level aspects of the worker's movement involved examining milling, collective excitement, and the creation of new norms in the midst of social protest.
- ▶ Review the videos and readings on the details of the history of the worker's movement to connect theory to practice.



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“Materialist Movements” Seeking Physiological Security The Worker's Movement

- ▶ The worker's movement sought to obtain relief from horrible working conditions for the working class as capitalism rose in Europe and America in the 19th century.
 - [Click here for examples of such poor conditions](#)
- ▶ These movements wanted to ensure the physical security – or “put enough food on the table” – for the masses of the working class who were subject to the social contract terms of the growing institution of capitalism.



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(Psychological) Symbolic- Interaction Theory

“Emergent Norms”



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Early Theories of Collective Behavior

Emergent Norm Theory (symbolic interaction)

Turner & Killian, 1957 (Locher p24)

- i. Maintains "rational" actors;
- ii. Confusing situations are left open to interpretation
- iii. People take their cues from others (*reference groups*) around them (*conformity* creates collective behavior)
- iv. Critique: too "psychological"; no connection to larger social processes, such as resource availability or politics (p37)



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Emergent Norm Theory: 6 Conditions

- ▶ According to Turner and Killian, six conditions are necessary to exist in the mindset and behavior of the social activist for collective behavior to occur:
 - **1) Uncertainty** (about expected behavior)
 - **2) Urgency** (something must be done *soon*)
 - **3) Communication** (of mood and imagery within crowd)
 - **4) Constraint** (conformity to the new crowd norms)
 - **5) Suggestibility** (individual acceptance of crowd attitude)
 - **6) Permissiveness** (normally inhibited behavior is permitted in the crowd)



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Emergent Norm Theory: Types of Activist

- ▶ According to Turner and Killian, there are five types of collective behavior personalities:
 - **1) The Ego-involved/Committed**
 - **2) The Concerned**
 - **3) Insecure**
 - **4) Spectators**
 - **5) The Ego-detached/Exploiter**(see Locher p.33 for descriptions)



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Emergent Norm Theory

- ▶ Postulates that people faced with an unusual situation can create meanings that define and direct the situation.
- ▶ Group norms govern collective behavior, but the norms that are obeyed are newly created as the group responds to its new situation.
- ▶ Members of the group follow norms—they just may be created on the spot.



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In Context: The Suffragettes

- ▶ The Suffragette movement was the early 1900s movement that sought to get the vote for women. For structuralists, the movement is a sign of an anomic disruption in the institution of politics and government. *Value-added theory focuses at this level.*
- ▶ For social-conflict theorists, the large social class based on gender can be seen to be fighting back against the male patriarchy. *Critical Marxist Theory focuses at this level.*
- ▶ For symbolic-interactionists, the mutual action and solidarity of the women who fought back against the oppression of government and police took on important cultural meanings and actions. *Emergent Norm Theory focuses at this level.*
- ▶ Review the videos and readings on the details of the history of [the women's movement](#) to connect theory to practice.



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1912–1920 Women’s Suffrage

Film: [Iron-Jawed Angels](#) (on YouTube)



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Arrested, jailed, beaten, chained, body-slammed, twisted, punched, & tortured to win us women the right to vote...and you're NOT going to use it?! Really?

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Materialist Movements (security) The Women's Liberation Movement

a. Three Waves of Feminism

Feminism is a social movement that resurges through history.

1. **First wave** of feminism took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The wave formally began at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, when 300 men and women rallied to the cause of equality for women. Elizabeth Cady Stanton (d.1902) drafted the Seneca Falls Declaration outlining the new movement's ideology and political strategies.
2. The **second wave** is truly "post-materialist" and began in the 1960s and continued into the 1990s. This wave unfolded in the context of the anti-Vietnam War and civil rights movements and the growing self-consciousness of a variety of minority groups around the world.
3. The **third wave** of feminism began in the mid-1990s and is informed by post-colonial and post-modern thinking. In this phase many constructs have been destabilized, including the notions of "universal womanhood," body, gender, sexuality and heteronormativity.



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