SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD
Also by Donatella della Porta

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND THE STATE
POLICING PROTEST (co-author)
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (co-author)
CORRUPT EXCHANGES (co-author)

Also by Hanspeter Kriesi

NEW SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE: A Comparative Analysis (co-author)
Social Movements in a Globalizing World

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Preface

In June 1995, a group of American and European social movement scholars met at Mont Pélerin in Switzerland to discuss the cross-national influences on social movements. Most of the members of the group had already met on several occasions. Since the summer of 1985 and 1986 they had regularly discussed their work and developed a common approach to social movement research. Conferences at Cornell University (1985), the Free University in Amsterdam (1986), at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Berlin (1990) and at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. (1992) had been key occasions for the elaboration of a common comparative perspective on social movements. The volume based on the Washington conference and edited by Doug McAdam, John McCarthy and Mayer Zald (Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Framing: Comparative Applications of Contemporary Movement Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1996) presents the elements of this synthetic ‘political process’ perspective, which is organized around three broad sets of factors: the structure of political opportunities, the forms of organization (informal as well as formal) and the collective processes of interpretation, attribution and social construction that mediate between opportunity and action. Political opportunities, mobilizing structures and framing processes have become the code words of an emerging consensus among at least this transatlantic group of social movement researchers.

The growing interdependence on a global scale which characterizes the human condition at the end of the twentieth century constitutes a particular challenge for those who focus on national political contexts at the centre of its preoccupations. The 1995 conference and the present volume constitute an attempt to adjust the perspective of the ‘political process’ approach to a world in which opportunity structures and collective action are no longer confined to national contexts.

We incurred many debts in the course of preparing the Mont Pélerin conference and putting together the present volume. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who made it possible. First of all, we would like to thank the authors for their patience and their timely response. We would also like to thank all those participants in the conference who do not figure among the authors, but who contributed with their comments and critiques to the improvement of the essays presented in this volume. They include Mario Diani, Marco Giugni, Bronislaw Misztal, Tony Oberschall, Ron Pagnucco, Jean Rossiaud, Dominique Wisler and Mayer Zald. The conference received financial support from a number of institutions. We wish to thank the Swiss National Science Foundation, the
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Maria Costa was a research assistant for the farmers’ protest study affiliated to the Department of Psychology at the University of Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, Spain.

Donatella Della Porta is Professor of Political Science at the University of Florence. Her main field of research includes social movements, political violence, corruption and the police. Among her recent publications are: *Social Movements, Political Violence and the State* (Cambridge University Press, 1992); *Policing Protest* (Minnesota University Press, 1998, co-edited with Herbert Reiter); *Social Movements* (Blackwell, co-authored with Mario Diani, 1998) and *Corrupt Exchanges* (Aldine de Gruyter, co-authored with Alberto Vannucci, 1998).

Myra Marx Ferree is Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. She received her PhD in 1976 from Harvard. Her work on social movements includes *Feminist Organizations* (1995, co-edited with Patricia Martin) and *Controversy and Coalition* (revised edition, 1994, with Beth Hess), as well as numerous articles on the German women’s movement.

William A. Gamson is Professor of Sociology at Boston College and co-director of the Media Research and Action Project (MRAP). He is the author of *Talking Politics* (1992) and *The Strategy of Social Protest* (second edition, 1990) as well as books and articles on media and social movements. He is a past president of the American Sociological Association.

Doug Imig is a member of the Department of Political Science, University of Memphis, and Visiting Scholar at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. He is the author of *Poverty and Power* and of a number of articles and chapters on social movements and public interest groups.
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Gary Marks is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for European Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His main areas of research are the politics of the European Union, the Left in western democracies, American political development in comparative perspective, and the politics of economic policy in advanced industrial societies. His most recent books are Governance in the European Union with Fritz Scharpf, Philippe Schmitter, and Wolfgang Steeck (Sage, 1996) and *Continuity and Change in Contemporary Capitalism*, co-edited with Herbert Kitschelt, Peter Lange and John Stephens (Cambridge UP, 1998).
Doug McAdam is Professor of Sociology at the University of Arizona and author of two major monographs on the dynamics of social movements, Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, and Freedom Summer. The latter book was granted the C. Wright Mills Award in 1991. He is currently at work, with Charles Tilly and Sidney Tarrow, on an ambitious theoretical book, tentatively titled, The Dynamics of Contention.

John D. McCarthy is a Professor of Sociology at Pennsylvania State University. With his colleague, Mayer N. Zald, he helped formulate the resource mobilization approach to understanding how collective grievances are variably translated into citizen mobilization. His recent research has included studies of local social movement organizations, public protest in Washington, D.C. and Minsk Belarus, as well as the evolving nature of the policing of protest in the US since the anti-Vietnam war movement.

Clark McPhail is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has studied collective action in temporary gatherings, protest events and campaigns for three decades using non-participant observation, photographic, film and video records, experimental studies, computer simulations, systematic direct observation records and archival data analysis. He is the author of numerous journal articles on collective action, The Myth of the Madding Crowd (Aldine De Gruyter, 1991) and is completing a sequel, Acting Together: The Social Organization of Crowds.

Florence Passy is Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Geneva. She is currently working on a comparative research on the impact of social movements on migration policies in France and Switzerland. Her works include Histoires de mobilizations politiques en Suisse (with Marco Giugni, L’Harmattan 1997) and Action altruiste (Droz, 1998).

Dieter Rucht, Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent at Canterbury since 1998, received his PhD at the University of Munich. His main areas are social change, social movements and political protest. He is the author of several books and numerous articles in these areas. Currently he is engaged in study on the patterns of protest in Germany since 1950, an analysis of the public discourse on abortion in Germany and the US, and a study on the transformation of environmental activism in Europe.

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