



Social Change

- I. Introduction
 - a. Most important social change in the last 100 years was the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.
 - b. Start by looking at Mississippi in 1963
 - i. One group dominating another
 - ii. That's partly based on force but partly on the *idea* that the dominant group is superior to the subordinate group
 - iii. Use stereotypes to help enforce that idea
- II. Reactions to Stereotypes
 - a. The question is whether (and if so how) stereotypes (meant for the dominant group) affect the subordinate group)
 - b. Internalized Oppression
 - i. Subordinate group members accept the stereotypes of inferiority as true
 - ii. Question is whether this is happening in some particular case (Mississippi 1963)
 - c. Fatalism
 - i. Accepting inferiority because "things can't be changed"
 - ii. Internalized oppression is about culture
 - iii. Fatalism is about structure
 - d. Oppositional Consciousness
 - i. Takes collective action. Created in the movement of a dominated group
 - ii. This consciousness helps overcome internalized oppression and fatalism.
 - e. Don't have to buy internalized oppression to buy fatalism. Could think things can't be changed even if you don't believe the stereotypes are true.
- III. Political Power
 - a. What leads to political power?
 - i. Need large numbers of people to "fight" (maybe through violence, maybe not)
 - ii. Embrace the social structure / culture that's already in place.
 - iii. Get votes, money, connections: traditional ways to grab power.
 - iv. Without those means, may resort to violence.
 - v. Create a crisis
 1. Disrupt political / economic order (structure)
 2. Demonstrate a moral injustice (culture)
 - b. Violence in Gaining Power
 - i. Complete nonviolence (violence isn't even part of the equation)
 - ii. Be nonviolent, but become the victim of violence
 - iii. Be nonviolent but with the threat of violence
 - iv. Directly advocate violence.
 - c. Gains in Mississippi 1963
 - i. What were definite gains?
 1. Got a lot of media coverage. Leads to leverage
 2. Birmingham business community – desegregated lunch counters (and taking down signs, having some black workers)
 3. Got on the president's agenda (Kennedy)
 4. Kennedy asked congress to pass the civil rights act.
 - ii. Several Targets (and Approaches to Violence)
 1. Local businessmen: Took the "threat of violence" approach. Seeing a riot breaking out lead to an immediate agreement
 2. President Kennedy: "Threat of violence" again. He was concerned about riots spreading
 3. Media
 - a. Peaceful demonstrators being attacked with fire hoses and dogs.
 - b. Coverage by international media and "all" TV stations. A huge success!

- IV. Cross-Racial Coalitions
 - a. Knotty Questions
 - i. Should racial inequality be the concern of whites or just minorities?
 - ii. Should whites be involved in movements for race rights?
 - b. Mobilization of an Oppressed Group
 - i. Transition from internalized oppression or fatalism to oppositional consciousness.
 - ii. To make that transition, need to...
 - 1. Identify grievances with the dominant group
 - 2. Prepare to fight the “enemy” (also the dominant group)
 - iii. But taken alone, the minority group often doesn’t have enough power to effect change alone.
 - iv. The dilemmas
 - 1. For minority group: How to gain white allies while at the same time fighting white domination.
 - 2. For whites: How to be allies while allowing for oppositional consciousness at the same time.
 - c. Positions on Racial Domination
 - i. For Minority Group Members
 - 1. Internalized Oppression / Fatalism (accept / support)
 - 2. Oppositional Consciousness (reject, oppose)
 - ii. For Dominant Group Members
 - 1. Domination Consciousness (accept)
 - 2. Anti-Racism (reject)
- V. Legislation
 - a. Civil Rights Act 1964
 - b. Voting Rights 1965
 - c. Housing Rights Act 1968
 - i. Weak legislation!
 - ii. Didn’t give enough power for enforcement
 - d. If Housing Rights Act had been stronger, none of the structure part of this course would have made any sense.
 - e. Still, what congress said in 1964, 1965 changed the entire Jim Crow system
 - i. Some members of congress may have voted down the law
 - ii. Blacks today still wouldn’t be able to vote!
 - f. How can a movement get congress’s attention?
 - i. Persuasion
 - 1. A movement gets public opinion to change
 - 2. So persuade the public and policymakers will follow.
 - ii. Disruption / Threat
 - 1. People expect congress to keep social order
 - 2. Threaten public order and the elite.
 - 3. That thread to order puts pressure on policymakers too.
 - g. Problems
 - i. Need agenda-setting power
 - 1. Congress doesn’t vote on every issue
 - 2. Need to get your bills on the agenda
 - ii. Need legislative power – get congress to *pass* the bills too.
- VI. Unintended Consequences
 - a. We don’t know all the consequences of our actions in advance (thanks, Sisko)
 - i. We could change part of the structure
 - ii. We could end up changing ourselves
 - iii. Usually actions are focused on the short term, but other consequences may appear in the long-term
 - b. What movements came out of Freedom Summer that weren’t intended / anticipated?
 - i. Free speech movement
 - ii. Anti-war movement

- iii. Women's liberation movement
- c. Other examples (not from the reading)
 - i. Chicano Movement (Mexican civil rights)
 - ii. American Indian Movement
 - iii. Gay and Lesbian movement
- d. Johnson and Mississippi Democratic Party
 - i. Johnson wanted to keep the convention united and not lose southern votes
 - ii. Younger generation was disillusioned with the democratic process
 - iii. More violent tactics started to be used (riots in 1965 and afterward)
 - iv. Black-white coalition broke up
 - v. After '65 there was no more important legislation on civil rights – the movement just stalled.
 - vi. White support for blacks' situation (sympathetic)
 - 1. 1963: North = 53%, South = 37% Dogs and fire hoses
 - 2. 1968: North = 29%, South = 35% Riots and King assassination