

The Surprising Politics and Values Behind Anthropology and Social Movements

The Crucial Role of Anthropology in Understanding Social Movements

Social Movement Theories

- **Relative Deprivation**
- People compare achievements, become discontent and join social movements to get their "fair share".
- **Resource Mobilization**
- People participate in social movements when the movement has access to key resources.
- **New Social Movement**
- The focus is on sources of social movements, including politics, ideology, and culture. Race, class, gender, sexuality, and other sources of identity are also factors in movements such as ecofeminism and environmental justice.
- **Social Construction Theory:**
- Used to determine how people assign meaning to activities and processes in social movements.
- **New Social Movement T**

Anthropology, as a multifaceted field of study, delves into the complexities of human societies, their cultures, and their social movements. It helps us grasp the interactions between politics, values, and social change. While social movements may seem spontaneous, anarchic, or even chaotic, anthropology reveals the hidden layers, motivations, and dynamics beneath the surface.

Unearthing the Politics of Social Movements

When we think of politics, we often associate it strictly with government systems, elections, and policies. However, the politics within social movements offer a different perspective. Social movements inherently challenge existing power structures and aim to bring about social, cultural, or political change.

Anthropologists examine the intricate web of power relations, strategies, and negotiation processes that shape these movements.

The Power Dynamics Within Social Movements

Social movements are not exempt from power struggles, hierarchies, and internal politics. Within a movement, different factions may hold varying views on how change should be brought about or what the ultimate goal should be. For instance, in the civil rights movement, there were differing approaches between those advocating for peaceful protests and those promoting more radical action.



Food for Change: The Politics and Values of Social Movements (Anthropology, Culture and Society) by Baby Professor (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 741 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 262 pages





Anthropologists analyze and understand the power dynamics within social movements, shedding light on the decision-making processes, leadership structures, and conflicting interests that shape their direction.

The Connection Between Values and Social Movements

Social movements are often deeply rooted in the values and beliefs of their proponents. Anthropologists explore how these values shape the movement's goals, strategies, and collective identity.

Values as the Driving Force Behind Change

Social movements emerge from a dissatisfaction with the existing social order and a desire for change. These movements are often driven by core values such as justice, equality, freedom, or environmental sustainability. For example, the

feminist movement fights for gender equality, while the climate justice movement advocates for environmental preservation.

Types of Social Movements

- Alternative – change one specific thing about people
- Redemptive – change people totally
- Reformative – change specific aspect of society
- Transformative – everything in society
- Millenarian – change something based on the prophecy of coming social upheaval
- Transformational – change on condition around the world
 - New type of social movement
 - Metaformative – changing everything

Anthropology gives us insights into how these values mobilize individuals and groups, providing a powerful force for social transformation.

Value Conflicts Within Social Movements

While social movements may be united by shared values, conflicts can arise when different values clash within the movement itself. Similarly, different social movements may compete for attention or resources due to differing values and priorities. Anthropologists strive to capture these complex dynamics and help navigate potential tensions.

Anthropology as a Tool for Social Movements

Anthropology is not merely an observer of social movements; it can also serve as a valuable tool for activists and organizers.

In-depth Understanding and Collaboration

Anthropologists immerse themselves in communities and movements, listening to the voices of those involved. This deep understanding allows them to collaborate with activists and organizers, providing insights into the social, cultural, and political context that can inform strategies and decision-making.

Nash, June (ed.), 2005, *Social Movements. An Anthropological Reader*, Oxford:

Blackwell, xiv + 494pp. Hb.: £60.00. ISBN: 0 631 23175 7. Pb.: £19.99. ISBN: 1 4051

2358 3.

It is quite a good anthropological reader. Case studies are interesting and reflect important problems. My reservations are mainly to the editorial work and the introduction, where, in my opinion, too much is taken for granted, or not discussed sufficiently, as if the book was addressed to experts primarily. For instance I cannot find any definition of a social movement.

Instead of in the Introduction a clearly presented overview of historical changes of the theme is to be found in one of the chapters. Molly Doane writes about the transformation that took place both in theory and practice of social movements. Before they were connected to socialistic politics and the discourse of class, after 1968 – to a politics of democratization formulated in terms of civil society. It meant rejection of authoritarian, universalistic models of social change and instead adoption of cultural pluralism. New Social Movements Theory does not necessarily mean focusing only on cultural issues without referring to economic or political ones. Civil society movements challenge the authority of the state, they are more inclusive but politically more elusive as they avoid party ties.

June Nash in her introduction addresses the problem of “Social Movements and Global Processes”. She points out that the globalization makes people mobilized to protect their lands, cultural identities and autonomy. But on the other hand global civil society develops the awareness of inequities in the distribution of wealth and the knowledge of human rights violations. The author does not notice, however, that the constituencies of these two kinds of movements are usually separate.

Nash’s aim in organizing the anthology was to “document through case studies of social movements, their ongoing task of building the institutional networks needed to transform the policies required to ensure social justice in the globalization process” (4). The

Anthropologists can analyze the strengths and weaknesses of social movements, identify potential allies or opponents, and advise on communication and outreach strategies.

Promoting Inclusivity and Empowerment

Anthropology emphasizes inclusive and participatory research approaches. By actively involving marginalized communities, individuals, and groups,

anthropology contributes to empowering those most affected by social issues. In social movements, anthropology can amplify often unheard voices and experiences, fostering a more inclusive and diverse movement.

Anthropology acts as a prism through which we can better understand the politics and values that drive social movements. By uncovering the power dynamics, conflicts, and shared values within these movements, anthropology deepens our appreciation for the complex interplay between politics, values, anthropology, culture, and society. It also showcases how anthropology can be a valuable tool for activists and organizers, facilitating collaboration, inclusivity, and empowerment.



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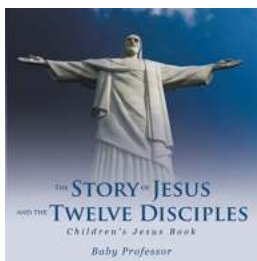


Concern about our food system is growing, from the costs of industrial farming to the dominant role of supermarkets and recurring scandals about the origins and content of what we eat.

Food for Change documents the way alternative food movements respond to these concerns by trying to create more closed economic circuits within which

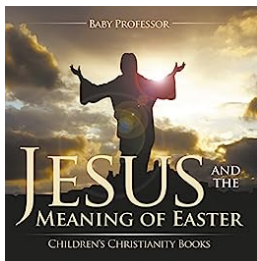
people know where, how, and by whom their food is produced.

Jeff Pratt, Peter Luetchford and other contributors explore the key political and economic questions of food through the everyday experience and vivid insights of farmers and consumers, using fieldwork from case studies in four European countries (France, Spain, Italy and England). Food for Change is an insightful consideration of connections between food and wider economic relations and draws on a rich vein of anthropological writing on the topic.



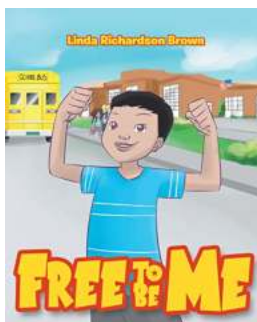
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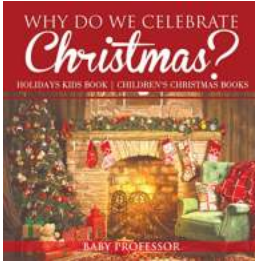
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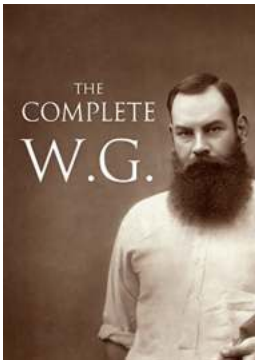
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Christmas is a joyous time of year that is celebrated by millions around the world. It is a time filled with love, laughter, and warm feelings, especially for kids and...

 December Holidays From Around The World Holidays Kids Children S Around The World

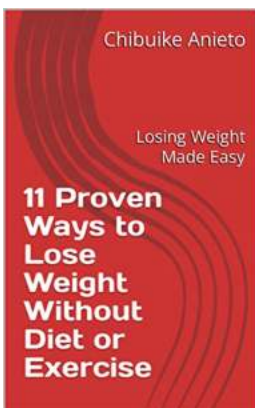
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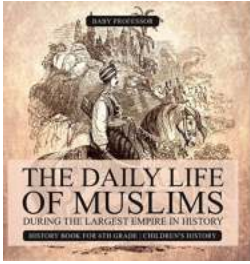
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