

# THIS IS AN UPRISING By Mark and Paul Engler

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### Core Thesis

The book argues that nonviolent movements can be systematically studied, strategically planned, and effectively executed - they're not just spontaneous eruptions but can follow predictable patterns of success.

### Key Frameworks to Focus On

#### 1. Structure vs. Momentum-Driven Organizing

- **Structure:** Traditional organizing focusing on building institutions
- **Momentum:** Dramatic protests creating peak moments of public attention
- **Key Insight:** Most successful movements combine both approaches

#### 2. The Civil Rights Movement's Hybrid Model

- Mixed dramatic protests with institutional building

- Created crisis moments to force change
- Built sustainable organizations for long-term impact
- **Application:** Study chapters 2 and 7 for this framework

## 3. Four Roles of Social Movements

1. **The Reformer:** Works within system
2. **The Rebel:** Creates direct confrontation
3. **The Citizen:** Supports change through mainstream channels
4. **The Change Agent:** Organizes alternatives

- **Key Point:** Successful movements need all four roles

# Essential Concepts (Focus on These)

## 1. Strategic Nonviolence

- Not just moral choice but strategic advantage
- Creates wider participation
- Harder for opponents to discredit
- More likely to cause defections from power structure

## 2. Momentum-Driven Organizing

- Creates rebellious moments
- Escalates strategically
- Builds mass participation
- Uses symbolic protests effectively

## 3. The Pillars of Support

- Power depends on institutional support
- Identify key institutions maintaining status quo
- Work to shift these institutions
- Create pressure points for change

## 4. Cycles of Movement

1. **Movement Emergence**
  - Grievance identification
  - Early organizing
  - Building networks
2. **Movement Growth**
  - Trigger events
  - Rapid mobilization
  - Peak moments
3. **Movement Maintenance**
  - Institutionalization
  - Long-term organizing
  - Policy change

## Chapters to Prioritize

### Must Read Thoroughly

1. Chapter 1: Introduction to strategic nonviolence
2. Chapter 4: Movement cycles and momentum
3. Chapter 7: Hybrid approaches
4. Chapter 9: Future of movements

### Skim These

- Chapters 2-3: Historical examples
- Chapters 5-6: Case studies
- Chapter 8: Technical details

## Key Case Studies (Read Quickly)

1. **Serbian Student Movement**
  - Youth-led
  - Strategic planning
  - Creative tactics
2. **Civil Rights Movement**

- Strategic escalation
- Media strategy
- Leadership development

### 3. **Marriage Equality**

- Long-term strategy
- Cultural change
- Institution building

# Strategic Applications for FYP

## 1. Movement Building

- Combine dramatic moments with institution building
- Create strategic escalation plans
- Develop both short and long-term strategies

## 2. Organization Development

- Build hybrid structure
- Create leadership pipeline
- Develop sustainable resources

## 3. Tactical Planning

- Design symbolic actions
- Create media strategy
- Build coalition support

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