

# 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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