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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