


HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THIS MOMENT?

This chart describes historic patterns. Each moment is unique, but broadstrokes help us to understand social movement impact as well as to prepare for counter-movement forces.

Shared patterns arise during social movement turning points

Historic moments of collective action	REALITIES EXPOSED Public Dialogue shifts	FORCES EMBOLDENED More room for new organizing	VICTORIES LEAD TO STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES Beyond initial tactics
SNCC 1960-65 Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee	More than just a hamburger: The occupation of lunch counters by Black Southern students exposes blatant, violent and irrational nature of racism and Jim Crow. Integrity of students is juxtaposed against the hatred and violence of racist whites. For people working within the Civil Rights Movement it becomes clear that the Federal Government is not an ally and in fact is complicit with the same state & local government officials that condone segregation and the violence that is required to enforce it.	The sit-in movement spreads like wildfire across the South and other forms of nonviolent direct action against Jim Crow become emboldened. Congress On Racial Equality (CORE) launches Freedom Rides to challenge the legality of segregation across state lines. SNCC workers and Nashville students organize effectively to complete the Freedom Rides in the face of violence and under the threat of death.	Ella Baker plays her position as a Southern movement anchor and convenes student sit-in leaders and supporters to coordinate strategy and tactics. This meeting facilitates the creation of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In visits to the Deep South, SNCC workers listen to existing leadership on the ground and develop a voting rights strategy to break the back of Jim Crow. WIN: Legal Segregation Defeated
WTO Shutdown 1999	Massive demonstrations led by mostly local students and workers introduce the reality of corporate globalization & the destructive daily effects of global financial institutions into US public dialogue. Community organizers recognize the need for a grassroots, sustained fight against globalization.	One key reason that the ministerial collapsed was that the leaders from the global South were emboldened to resist the US/European policies. Rank & file workers participated beyond the official union marches in support of the young people and forged new alliances.	Success of Seattle led to phenomenon of "action-hopping" and attempting to shut down every trade meeting. Non-localized organizers were not as successful. Opportunities missed: to connect with global justice movements in the US & around the world in order to further de-legitimize and undermine financial institutions with innovative strategies. WIN: WTO Derailed & Delegitimized
Mass Immigrant Marches 2006	The numbers represented by millions marching on Mayday and throughout 2006, expose the population growth and potential power of Latino immigrants and migrants in all major US cities, including the South.	Day labor organizing is visibilized and increases force. Connections between communities affected by criminalization and displacement spark framing of shared imperative, "the right to remain."	Populist masses step ahead of existing movement infrastructure. Only a few organizations are prepared to connect to the momentum. Next steps are unclear as forces argue multiple strategies varying from universal citizenship to mild reforms. WIN: Federal Law Defeated. State-based legislation represent new battles
USSF I Atlanta 2007 & USSF II Detroit 2010	Grassroots movements in the US, rooted in community struggles for racial, economic, and gender justice begin to connect after decades of isolation and fragmentation. Social justice movements in the US connect meaningfully to movements in the global South. Under-resourced financially, grassroots leadership achieves functional infrastructure for massive convergences.	Alliances are formed. Networks are created. Collaborations between and across communities deepen. South by Southwest Freedom Caravan and other organizing activities connect local communities to regional, cross-regional, and global visions of movement possibilities.	Two strategies emerge: to continue facilitating the Social Forum convergence process in key sites affected by neoliberalism and injustice AND to establish Peoples Movement Assemblies to organize strategic participation in the convergence space, sharpen movements' collective analysis, and develop action plans that strike at the intersections of oppression. WIN: Grassroots Movements Connect & Grow Alliances toward United Front
99% Occupy Wall St	Who is the target of 21st century resistance? Wealth inequities, income gap, massive unemployment, and the economy of lifetime debt exposed in a new moment by younger generation. Wall Street identified as target rather than Washington DC. Shifts in power recognized by general public.	How do frontline communities engage? Existing social justice movements, for the most part, support and stand in solidarity with the 99% actions, occupations, and assemblies. Dialogue sparked in every sector from neighborhoods and organizations up to the White House press conferences.	How do we expand on the success of the General Assemblies as a mass-based governance process? What are the strategic targets locally, regionally, and nationally? 

IN ORDER TO PLAN WHAT COMES NEXT, WHAT FACTORS CAN WE ANTICIPATE?

Institutions adapt and respond in order to counter social movement gains

Historic moments of collective action	POLICE STATE RE-ORGANIZES Violence used as counter-force	ECONOMY RECONFIGURES On local, regional, global levels	INTERNAL CONFLICT Lack of attention to race & other power dynamics allows for external attacks
SNCC 1960-65 Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee	In 1968, Nixon runs and wins on a "Law & Order" campaign platform to expand prisons and police controls. Conditions are set to increase and normalize constant police presence in Black communities. Drug trade introduced and guns appear in poor and working class communities.	Movement forces ensure the victories of a Voting Rights Act and desegregation of public spaces breaks the back of legalized Jim Crow across the South. The economy shifted to allow a small segment of Black people to be integrated into the middle class economy while using the same victories to dismantle Black economic and political power that existed during segregation. Education system reconfigured and Black teachers are fired en masse from Black schools while white teachers remain in place.	In a volatile movement moment and against a backdrop of FBI aggression SNCC workers developed a clear race analysis and practice to drive their work across the South. Although a radical call was made for almost all white SNCC workers to separate and organize among white Southern communities the larger realities of white supremacy limited that potential. Multi-racial SNCC women veterans correct a narrative that discounted the reality of gender liberation within SNCC.
WTO Shutdown 1999	Weapons, tanks, and riot gear purchased from private manufacturers. Police chief fired as scapegoat for excessive use of force. Seattle police department immediately writes report and police departments are trained in every major city. 9-11 justifies the establishment of Homeland Security, permanent war, and domestic surveillance.	Global trade and finance abandons "worldwide" institutions and re-focuses on bilateral trade agreements like FTAA and CAFTA and invite-only convergences like the G8. Market economies begin to overtake trade economies.	External: Some level of destructive critique from inside the US dismisses the protests as "white-led" and opportunities are missed. Internal to the leadership & local communities: white organizers struggle with the real effects of racism and power dynamics (and many abandon movement rather than articulate collaborative strategies with existing social movements.)
Mass Immigrant Marches 2006	ICE raids increase and terrorize communities. Deportations increase. Explicit anti-immigrant legislation passed in Arizona four years later and sweeps the South in 2011.	Agriculture owners and state programs look to prisons, probation programs, and Black high schools to replace immigrant labor. Guest worker programs legitimized and considered "solution."	Media and right-wing forces drive and exacerbate historic divisions between Latino immigrant/migrant communities and Black communities. Mulsims & immigrants from Caribbean, Africa, and parts of Asia often overlooked within many immigr. rights conversations.
USSF I Atlanta 2007 & USSF II Detroit 2010	Negotiations with city officials minimize police presence but expose hidden tanks in multiple parts of the city. In Detroit, Israeli Zionist forces attempt infiltration but are countered by forum leadership.	Weeks after the Forum in Atlanta, city tries to shut down the largest shelter for homeless located on prime downtown real estate. Only public hospital in Georgia, privatized after long fight. Detroit Mayor introduces gentrification plan that would eliminate parts of the city and displace thousands. (Prepared to respond: Collaborative Peoples Movement Assembly process stalls the attack.)	Contradictions and tensions emerge between organizing styles, purposes, and analyses. Larger social institutions dismiss the Forum and do not invest in the process. Black leadership in both sites struggle with planning process and are sometimes invisibilized or undermined.
99% Occupy Wall St	In what ways will the police state reconfigure to protect private interests and eliminate public spaces? How will checkpoints and barricades be used in cities and towns to reduce mass gathering spaces?	How do we identify clear & relevant targets while we build viable community-based economies? Significant indicators of gains: Banks stall increases and additional fees based on public pressure. Obama introduces potential decrease in student loan debt.	How do social movements understand and address racism in this new moment, not centering individual behaviors and prejudices, but by evolving our politics and practices to counter white supremacy and recolonization?