

Comparative Analysis Paper

Name

Institution

Course

Professor

Date

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At one point or another in life, human beings develop a feel of getting displeased, frustrated and dissatisfied by situations in our surrounding or social places. This dissatisfaction may come along as a result of injustices and unfavorable conditions by those in power and therefore as a result, human beings come together and form organizations where they can freely speak up their minds and articulate their grievances to those in authority. These organizations may be viewed as the birth of social movements where the people under oppression will seek justice by all ways possible including demonstrations, protests, and petitions. The most common and seemingly effective way of fighting oppression from those in power has since time immemorial been through formation of movements. The United States' labor unions formed in the 1940's are a perfect example of these movements and it is considered one of the largest and the most organized labor movement worldwide.

The main motive behind these labor unions in the United States is to improve the working conditions, improve on salaries and wages and other benefits to the American workers in the 1940's, after world war II, a series of strikes by workers followed. The Unions across the States began their demand for new contracts and better wages for their members. The unions, during the war had promised not to engage in strikes so as to enable smooth defense production. These demands by the unions saw a series of strikes in 1946 and raised the alarm to congress that labor unions were becoming extremely powerful. As a result of this raised alarm, the Taft-Hartley Act, a controversial legislation which sought to reduce the power of unions, was passed in 1947. This legislation saw a considerable drop in the number of strikes in 1950s.

Mobilization of labor workers in the 1940 was inefficient although to a greater extent it bore more fruits than it would have been expected since it was just the onset of social movements. Notably, we see that towards the end of the second World War, there was a huge surge of massive strikes all over the U.S among American workers. The main goal was to campaign for better working conditions, improved and better wages, plus other benefits for the American workers. Admittedly, there lacked the enthusiasm needed to drive a revolution for the labor workers hence awareness of these movements before 1975 was limited to the geographical areas of the laborers and up to the state level. Consequently, a lower number of people were reached. Since the participants of early social labor movements in America were few elites who were able to sell the idea of fighting for the rights of the American workers across the state. However, modern day social movements have changed in terms of creating awareness to those concerned. Current movements have created awareness not only at the state level but also to the global level. Inclusivity with other social organizations and other stake holders has, made it possible to achieve mass mobilization. That way, the

unions make known their requests and demands easily to the entire world and the concerned departments. Mobilization of workers and bringing everyone on board makes it possible to achieve inclusivity at its best of all aspects of social movements in the society.

Secondly, resource mobilization is an important factor to facilitate efficient implementation of any social movement. The labor movement of the United States in the 1940s lacked efficient framing and resources to implement its goals. The labor movements lacked money, power and also labor to compel them to articulate their grievances. Power comes through collective action of the social workers. By contrast, modern day labor movements have proved the ability to obtain access to finances through organizing fundraising. This has made modern social movements very efficient in their quest for justice among others. For any social movement to operate and run efficiently there has to be a mechanism that ensures resources are gathered and utilized to the maximum for the benefit of the organization stability. The success of any social movement is highly dependent on the ability to amass strategies that can be used to build a network of wealth. It is important to note that resource mobilization involves the activities that come about acquiring, making use of existing available resources and maximizing them.

Another comparison to take into consideration here is the use of technology. The relationship of social justice movements with the media is very important. Labor movements in 1940 had not adopted effective use of technology to spread their agenda to the personnel involved and the labor workers. Had there been invention of better technology then the results of the movement would have been of greater impact. However, at the moment little technological advancement had been made. Conversely, modern day social justice movements have been able to embrace technology and use it to bring the change they need and spark revolutions globally. Availability of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp have contributed greatly in these social movements selling their ideologies to the world. An example of revolutions sparked by technology is the Green Belt Movement founded by Professor Wangari Maathai in 1977 to save trees from deforestation in Africa. Due to the impact of social media at the time the movement did not only become of state level but also of the global level. The internet has played a great role in revolutions and protests for social justice organizations of the world to seek the change they need.

Demographic population of a place can bring about change. The higher the population of an area or a region the higher the likelihood of people uniting and standing against some instances of mistreatment and injustice in unison. There is evident social change in terms of population increase in modern social justice movements as compared to that of social movements before 1975. The world population has increased to a 7.9 billion people as at 2021. American labor movements in 1940 lacked the masses needed to bring about change.

Social justice institutions like judiciary play key roles in social change. Labor movements of the United States lacked appropriate justice institutions like schools, hospitals and court systems to settle their cases. Tribunals and councils which lacked enough laws to ensure equality and justice were used to settle cases relating to taxation of American workers, social insurance, better education and improved living conditions for the workers. Likewise, current social justice movements have been able to utilize the existence of justice institutions like the courts to amend their ideas. Schools too are an example of social institutions. Existence of learning institutions like universities and colleges comes handy in championing for human rights. An example of a movement that has been powerfully spiked by existence of social institutions is the LGBTQ+ rights by the American Civil Liberties Union to ensure that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people belong everywhere without being discriminated against. Research institutions have been able to conduct research on various aspects of the human race. Justice movements before 1975 faced less politicization unlike modern day social justice organizations which face politicization right, left and center. Labor movements in the United States in 1940 were highly criticized by the government. Any attempt by the workers to raise their grievances was highly opposed. It was highly discouraged to participate in any form of strike and industrial unrest lest one would face severe consequences and punishment from engaging in such.

Lastly, the framing of social movements is of utmost importance. Social movements are framed on the basis of collective identification of the groups involved. These groups include women, environmentalists, students, peasants and workers who organize themselves with a common goal and interest. The American labor movement of 1940 lacked a good frame to represent the interests of the workers. On the contrary, modern social movements have been able to provide a public space to its members to articulate new ideas and knowledge. The cognitive praxis of social justice movements is therefore an important source of new social images and transformation of societal identities because worldviews are developed to restructure cognition that recognizes reality itself. The ideas developed by modern social movements reflect on issues fundamental to the human race as opposed to ideas that were generated to suite certain people and government authorities in the labor movement of America before 1975. Participation in the labor movement was not for the quest of an identity for the labor workers but rather for the gratification of selfish political interests.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that social justice movements are important for any given society. Social movements have been seen to generate a sense of collective identity and stimulate new ideas and visions. This has been perceived as a form of empowerment to the general society in defense of what is right and what they stand for. Without social movements the society would be rotten with all manner of injustices going on. As a scholar I can put it in other words that, social movements are a good source of creation of skillful entrepreneurs in mobilization of social resources or the playing out of the social tensions and conflicts in the society. Thus the motivation of the actors is conceived as a rational economic action. Social movements have made it possible to interpret movements and their ideologies in reality to the management terms. Hence being linked to the policy problem of containment. I believe that the rise of social justice systems in the world was the beginning of the change the world needed for equality.

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