

## **ASSIGNMENT by Kevin Reuning, Miami University**

### ChatGPT and Social Movements

In a group of 2 or 3 pick one of you to go to <https://chat.openai.com/chat> and create an account. Select one of your movements and one of our theories and then ask ChatGPT the following: “Can you apply [theory] to the mobilization of the [movement]?” For example: “Can you apply framing theory to the mobilization of the Black Lives Matter movement?” I want you to work through the following questions as a group. Talk about them before putting an answer down.

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1. Read through the output. Summarize the output. What information does ChatGPT provide?
2. Usually, ChatGPT has two or three things it identifies as examples of the theory in the context of the movement. What does it identify here?

3. Do you think ChatGPT makes any mistakes in applying the theory? For example, it might identify a factor as being part of political opportunity structure that is closer to resource mobilization in your opinion. Explain how it makes these mistakes.

4. ChatGPT tends to make very broad and vague claims. Does it do this in your case? Or does it provide *specific* evidence of the theory explaining your movements mobilization?

5. What evidence would be convincing for you? What would that evidence look like?

## EXAMPLES From ChatGPT (in case the bot is not working)

### Resources and Farm Workers

Can you apply resource mobilization theory to the mobilization of the Farm Workers Movement?

Yes, resource mobilization theory can be applied to the mobilization of the Farm Workers Movement. Resource mobilization theory is a social movement theory that emphasizes the importance of resources, such as money, personnel, and organizational infrastructure, in the success of social movements.

The Farm Workers Movement, led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, was a social movement that aimed to improve the working conditions and wages of farmworkers in the United States. The movement was successful in mobilizing a wide range of supporters and achieving significant policy changes, such as the Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975.

According to resource mobilization theory, social movements are more likely to succeed when they have access to key resources, such as funding, organizational infrastructure, and skilled personnel. In the case of the Farm Workers Movement, the movement was successful in mobilizing resources from a variety of sources, including labor unions, religious organizations, and political allies.

One key resource mobilized by the Farm Workers Movement was funding. The movement relied on a variety of sources for funding, including individual donations, foundation grants, and contributions from labor unions. The movement also engaged in creative fundraising tactics, such as the "Boycott Grapes" campaign, which encouraged consumers to boycott grapes produced by growers who mistreated their workers.

Another key resource mobilized by the Farm Workers Movement was organizational infrastructure. The movement established the United Farm Workers (UFW) union, which served as a key vehicle for organizing and mobilizing farmworkers. The UFW also developed a sophisticated media and communications strategy, which helped to raise awareness about the issues faced by farmworkers and mobilize support for the movement.

Finally, the Farm Workers Movement mobilized skilled personnel, such as organizers and lawyers, who played key roles in the success of the movement. For example, the movement relied on skilled organizers to mobilize farmworkers and supporters across the country, and on skilled lawyers to challenge unfair labor practices in the courts.

In conclusion, the Farm Workers Movement provides a strong example of how resource mobilization theory can be applied to the study of social movements. The movement's success was due, in large part, to its ability to mobilize key resources, including funding, organizational infrastructure, and skilled personnel, which helped to build and sustain the movement over time.

## Political Opportunity and the Second KKK

Can you apply political opportunity theory to the mobilization of the Second KKK?

Yes, political opportunity theory can be applied to the mobilization of the Second Ku Klux Klan (KKK). Political opportunity theory is a social movement theory that emphasizes the importance of political context and opportunities for social movements to emerge and succeed.

The Second KKK was a white supremacist organization that emerged in the United States in the early 20th century. The KKK mobilized around a range of issues related to white supremacy, including opposition to immigration, support for racial segregation, and hostility towards African Americans, Jews, Catholics, and other minority groups.

According to political opportunity theory, social movements are more likely to emerge and succeed when they have access to favorable political opportunities, such as the presence of sympathetic politicians, weak law enforcement, and favorable legal frameworks. In the case of the Second KKK, the movement was able to capitalize on a range of political opportunities to mobilize and expand its influence.

One key political opportunity that helped to fuel the growth of the Second KKK was the widespread sentiment of nativism and anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States at the time. The KKK mobilized around the issue of opposition to immigration and was able to tap into broader anxieties and fears about demographic change and cultural displacement.

Another key political opportunity that helped to mobilize the Second KKK was the weakness of law enforcement and the failure of the government to effectively respond to the activities of the KKK. This allowed the KKK to operate with impunity in many parts of the country and to engage in acts of violence and intimidation against minority groups without fear of prosecution.

Finally, the Second KKK was able to benefit from a favorable legal framework, which allowed the organization to operate as a legal entity and to engage in political activities, such as lobbying and endorsing political candidates.

In conclusion, the mobilization of the Second KKK can be understood through the lens of political opportunity theory. The movement was able to capitalize on a range of favorable political opportunities, including the presence of nativist sentiment, weak law enforcement, and a favorable legal framework, to mobilize and expand its influence in the United States.

## Framing and BLM

Can you apply framing theory to the mobilization of the Black Lives Matter movement?

Yes, framing theory can be applied to the mobilization of the Black Lives Matter movement. Framing theory is a communication theory that suggests that the way an issue or message is presented can influence how people perceive and respond to it.

In the case of the Black Lives Matter movement, the framing of the issue has been critical to its mobilization and success. The movement has framed the issue of police brutality and racial injustice as a systemic problem that affects the lives and well-being of black people. This framing has helped to raise awareness about the issue and mobilize support for the movement.

The movement has also used a variety of frames to convey its message, such as the use of hashtags like #BlackLivesMatter and #SayHerName, which have helped to amplify the voices of black activists and victims of police brutality. The movement has also used frames that emphasize the humanity of black people, such as "I Can't Breathe," which was the last words of Eric Garner before he died at the hands of the police.

The Black Lives Matter movement has also been successful in countering frames that have been used to dismiss or downplay the issue of police brutality, such as the "All Lives Matter" frame, which has been criticized for ignoring the specific issues faced by black people.

Overall, the framing of the Black Lives Matter movement has been crucial to its success in mobilizing support and raising awareness about the issue of police brutality and racial injustice.