

Resurrecting Smelser: Collective Power, Generalized Belief, and Hegemonic Spaces

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When people mobilize for collective action, it is because they want something. These wants are known as grievances, and in order for them to emerge, collectivities must break free of hegemonic power to see their true interests. This paper takes a new look at Smelser's *The Logic of Collective Action* and finds that by incorporating a robust understanding of power, Smelser's framework can provide an understanding of grievance emergence. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2009 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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INTRODUCTION

When people organize collectively, it is because they want something. In other words, a group of people has somehow come to *believe*, as a group, that some aspect of their social life needs to be altered. Most inquiries into the worlds of social movements start after this belief has emerged.

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