

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q8(c)

Examine how social movements come to an end. Illustrate with examples.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 1 · 15 marks · Politics and Society

Politics and Society: Sociological theories of power; Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties; Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology; Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

Core demand of the question

- Examine how social movements come to an end. Illustrate with examples
- Keep the examination within a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Movements end by success, co-option, repression, split, or exhaustion.

Institutionalisation can be victory and an ending of the street form.

Michels and **Tilly** explain oligarchy and closed opportunity.

Labour deals, anti-corruption peaks, and NGO displacement illustrate.

Women's movements often cycle rather than die.

Examine which form ended, not only the grievance.

Introduction

Social movements are collective challenges with some continuity and a public claim. They end in several ways: success, split, repression, co-option, or fade. Ending is a process, not a single death certificate. **Resource mobilisation** and political process theories help name the paths.

Body**Paths of ending**

- **Success and institutionalisation:** the claim becomes law or a party. The movement as extra-institutional actor thins. Indian independence organisations and some environmental PILs illustrate.
- **Co-option:** leaders enter office; the cadre loses the street. Robert **Michels**'s oligarchy is a cousin.
- **Repression and labelling:** the state criminalises the claim. Charles **Tilly**'s repertoires meet a closed opportunity.
- **Faction and identity split:** goals multiply until the "we" breaks.
- **Exhaustion and generation change:** emotions cool, after Durkheimian effervescence fades.
- **Goal displacement:** the organisation survives as an NGO while the movement ends.

Illustrations

- Many labour strikes end in a wage deal and demobilisation.
- Some new social movements, after Alain **Touraine**, become lifestyle scenes.
- Anti-corruption waves in India have peaked, entered parties, and receded as street force.
- Women's movements rarely "end"; they cycle, which feminist scholars stress against a male riot model.

Examine

- "End" can mean the campaign, not the grievance.
- Success can look like death of the extra-institutional form.
- Informal labour movements may end for a season and return, as Bremen's workers circulate.

Flow diagram

Social movement -> Success institution
Social movement -> Co-option
Social movement -> Repression
Social movement -> Split fatigue
Success institution -> End as street actor

Conclusion

Movements end through victory, absorption, repression, split, or fatigue. **Tilly**, **Michels**, and resource-mobilisation theory map those doors. Indian nationalist, labour, anti-corruption, and women's campaigns illustrate different endings. Examine the form that dies, not only whether the file closed.

Facts & figures

Tilly

Movements as political claim-making whose opportunity can close.

Michels

Organisational oligarchy that can end internal democracy and street energy.

Touraine

New social movements whose cultural claims may institutionalise as identity scenes.

Resource mobilisation

When money, networks, and frames fail, campaigns demobilise.