

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

Q7(c)

Do you agree that social movements are caused by opportunity structures that are generated by media? Why?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Impact of colonial rule on Indian society

Impact of colonial rule on Indian society: Social background of Indian nationalism; Modernization of Indian tradition; Protests and movements during the colonial period; Social reforms.

Core demand of the question

- Do you agree that social movements are caused by opportunity structures that are generated by media? Why?
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Media creates simultaneous publics and cheaper coordination.

That is an opportunity structure, not the origin of discontent.

Peasant and caste movements show older causes.

Media can also suppress or distort movements.

Cause is inequality plus organisation; media is a catalyst.

Introduction

I agree only in part. Media-generated opportunity structures help movements scale and sync. They do not cause the grievance. Land, caste, and dignity still do.

Body**Opportunity structure**

- **Political opportunity** means openings in the state and public. Media, especially television and phones, create a simultaneous audience, cheaper coordination, and a stage for shame.
- Anti-corruption spectacles, student protests, and some environmental campaigns grew because cameras made a national 'now'.

Why media is not the cause

- Tebhaga and tribal autonomy grew from tenure and dispossession, which Ranajit Guha would call a subaltern domain, not a studio.
- Caste movements used print and later video, but Ambedkarite organisation predates 24-hour news.
- **Media can also close opportunity:** silence, stigma, or majoritarian **framing**.

Balanced thesis

- Media is a catalyst and a field of struggle. Cause remains structured inequality plus organisation.

Flow diagram

Grievance land caste -> Social movement
Media opportunity -> Social movement
Media opportunity -> Framing silence risk

Conclusion

Media generates opportunity structures that shape timing, scale, and style of movements. They are not the root cause. Sociology should study both the camera and the field.

Facts & figures

Political opportunity

Openings in regime and public that movements exploit.

Simultaneous public

Broadcast and phones that make distant protests feel co-present.

Guha

Peasant insurgency as structured politics before electronic media.

Framing

How news names a movement as justice or disorder.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-2/2019/do-you-agree-that-social-movements-are-caused-by-opportunity-structures-that-are-generated-by-media-why/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com