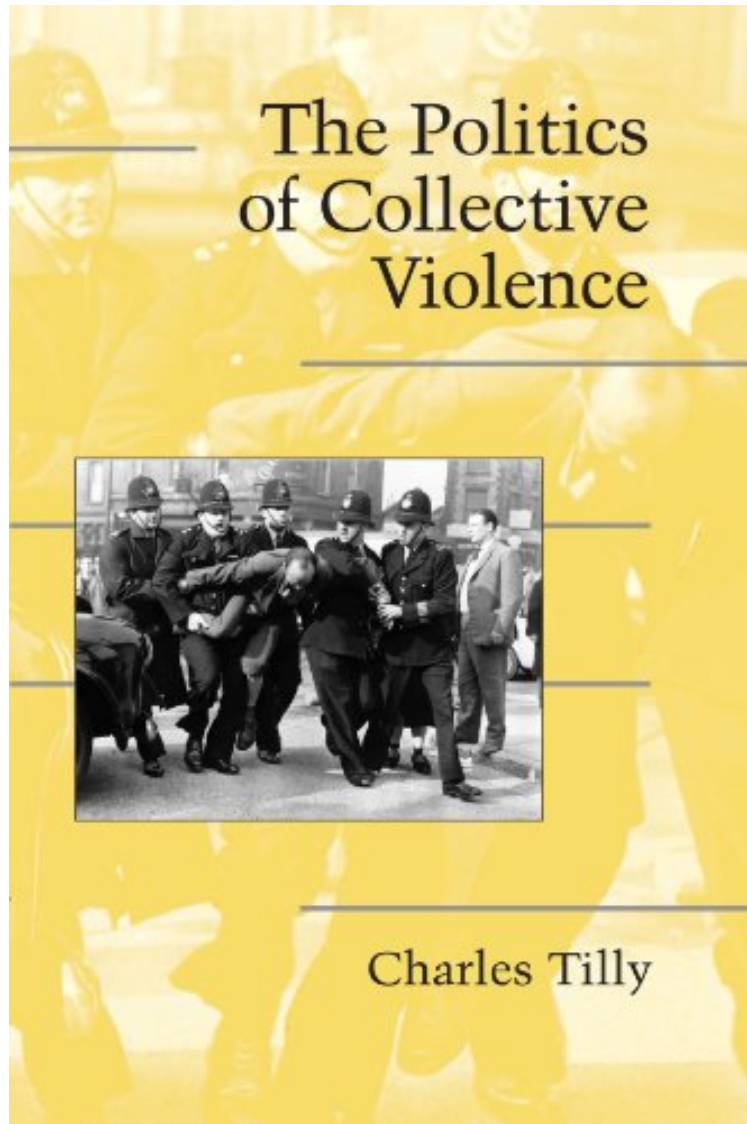


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The Politics of Collective Violence (Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics)

Charles Tilly

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Charles Tilly : The Politics of Collective Violence (Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of Collective Violence (Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nevertheless we can see easily that under the same regime but in different areas By Hui-wen Huang This book proposes a clear scheme to analyse different forms of collective violence

under different regimes. Nevertheless we can see easily that under the same regime but in different areas, the salience of collective violence can be very different. Theory always need to elaborate, I think. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. useful framework about collective violence By Arnold Tilly is probably best known for his theories about state violence, but here he turns to collective or non-state violence. He categorizes collective violence along a spectrum or coordination amongst members and political salience of any damage that occurs. The book is also a tour de force of various types of collective violence (at least circa 2001 in the last edition). Definitely recommended for students of collective violence. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Must for any Student of Collective Violence By Student Forever One reason for political scientists to be wary of the analyses offered by their discipline is that sociologists have always been better at providing contemporary political analysis. Charles Tilly goes even further when he comes as a historical sociologist. In *The Politics of Collective Violence*, he provides, in a readable fashion, an analysis of collective violence through time and space. By forcefully advancing the notion that collective violence is best explained when considered as a form of "contentious politics", Tilly dismisses the good versus evil dichotomy that seeks to understand any type of violence including collective violence as steaming from evil. By demonstrating the shortcomings of the type of collective violence analysis available so far ("ideal", "behavioral", and "relational"), he highlights relational analysis to tells us that it does not matter what people believe or what their genetic predispositions to violence are for collective violence. This is important because now we recognize individual responsibility without being able to raise anybody's moral superiority (p. 8). The categories of collective violence provided in *The Politics of Collective Violence* (Violent rituals; coordinated destruction; opportunism; brawls; individual aggression--indeed; individual aggression is considered part of collective violence; scattered attacks; and broken negotiations) seem to include all types of collective violence known so far. Showing the functions of different actors, namely, the "political entrepreneurs" who differentiate between who is "us" and who is "them", the "violent specialists" who have tools necessary for carrying out damage (corporal, etc.), and, perhaps implicitly, the ordinary people who get co-opted, Tilly demonstrates how complex the task of identifying who is responsible is. This is complemented when he depicts how different types of state governments lead to different types of outcomes in collective violence. Do not expect Tilly to be precise when it comes to facts (as for example when he calls the current president of Rwanda Paul Kagame (the real name is Paul Kagame, or when he calls Hutus who opposed Habyarimana regime "dissidents" as if the regime was totalitarian like North Korea for instance and not authoritarian); however, whether or not he misses a fact or two does not affect the overall argument of the book--collective violence must be understood as a form of politics--is not affected. That is the power of history-based theory in explanation. Theory-based arguments are useful especially when one is dealing with policy recommendations such as policy recommendations for reducing collective violence as is the case in this book. Tilly's book is a must for any student of collective violence. Different people will judge Tilly on, for instance, the type of boundaries that he stresses and other he does not, but, from now on, anyone studying collective violence from anywhere, anytime, will have to struggle with the arguments in *The Politics of Collective Violence*.

Are there any commonalities between such phenomena as soccer hooliganism, sabotage by peasants of landlords' property, road rage, and even the events of September 11? With striking historical scope and command of the literature of many disciplines, this book seeks the common causes of these events in collective violence. In collective violence, social interaction immediately inflicts physical damage, involves at least two perpetrators of damage, and results in part from coordination among the persons who perform the damaging acts. Charles Tilly argues that collective violence is complicated, changeable, and unpredictable in some regards, yet also results from similar causes variously combined in different times and places. Pinpointing the causes, combinations, and settings helps to explain collective violence and also helps to identify the best ways to mitigate violence and create democracies with a minimum of damage to persons and property. Charles Tilly is the Joseph L. Battenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University. He has published more than twenty scholarly books, including twenty specialized monographs and edited volumes on political processes, inequality, population change and European history.

"The Politics of Collective Violence offers an arsenal of testable hypotheses that have the capacity to render intelligible the actions of statesmen, terrorists, and road-ragers who turn to violence as a means of staking claims, asserting identity, or exacting retribution...Tilly has drawn the subject of violence into the same rational-strategic frame that defines political process theory." *American Journal of Sociology* "....interesting insights...useful..." *Foreign Affairs*