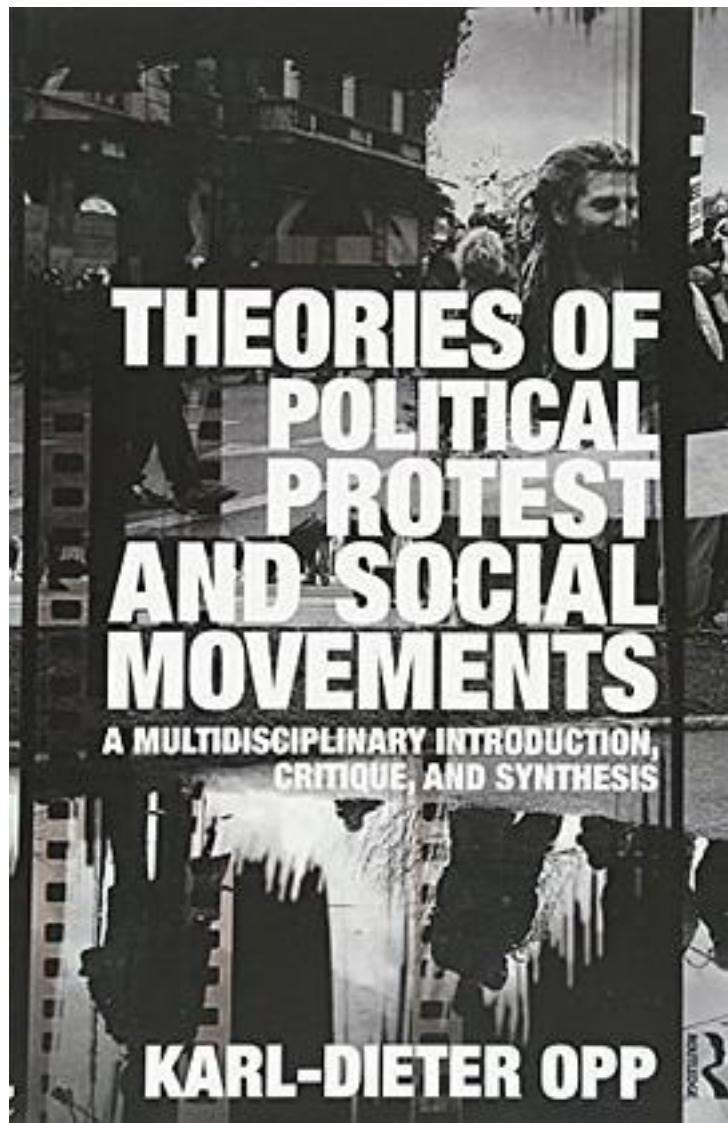


Theories of Political Protest and Social Movements



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Political protest and social movements are ubiquitous phenomena. This book focuses on the current theoretical approaches that aim at explaining them: the theory of collective action, the resource mobilization perspective, political opportunity structure theory, the identity approach, the framing perspective, and the dynamics of contention approach. The book has three objectives: Many basic concepts like political opportunities or identity are not clearly defined. It is further often a matter of interpretation what factors are supposed to affect which phenomena. The first aim is therefore to provide a detailed introduction to and a clear restatement of the theories. Only then is it possible to assess and improve them. For each theory the major strengths and weaknesses are discussed, and various modifications and extensions are suggested. Building on these analysis, it is shown how the theories can be integrated into a single theoretical paradigm: the structural-cognitive model.

作者介绍:

Karl-Dieter Opp is Professor at the University of Leipzig (Germany) and Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington (Seattle). His areas of interest include collective action and political protest, rational choice theory, philosophy of the social sciences and the emergence and effects of norms and institutions.

Karl-Dieter Opp is the author of *The Rationality of Political Protest* (1989), coauthor of *The Origins of a Spontaneous Revolution. East Germany 1989* (1995) and editor (with M. Hechter) of *Social Norms* (2001).

Karl-Dieter Opp has widely published in the field of social movements and protest. Articles were published in the journals mentioned before, and I have written two books about the theme.

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