

THE JAPANESE ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE

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Abstract

Social movements are agents of change in society that challenge power holders and authorities (Goodwin and Jasper 2003). However, there is a lively debate among social movements scholars about what makes a movement successful in bringing about change in a society. Some scholars tend to argue that achieving the ultimate goal of the movement and changing the social structures of the society are what determine a movement's success. On the other hand other scholars argue that a movement's success is determined by its strength in gathering and mobilizing its resources to create a pressure on the authorities. This paper aims to discuss the "success" and "failure" of social movements theoretically in order to address how this is conceived and measured using the Japanese anti-nuclear movement as a case study. By analyzing this anti-nuclear movement I will be able to further the understanding of movement success and failure theory.

Keywords: Anti-nuclear movement, success, failure, social movements, networks