Orchestrated to the Extreme:
The Collective Action of the Israeli Settlement Movement

Orchestrated to the Extreme: The Collective Action of the Israeli Settlement Movement
Invitation to the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy Faculty Seminar

A lecture by:

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On:

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Arison Lauder Building
Room A321

Abstract

This study investigates the mechanisms under which radical collective activism become politically salient. Although there have been numerous explanations for radical activism, little agreement exists concerning the specific mechanisms which underlie this process, especially in deeply divided societies and in those facing [perceived or real] political threats. I identify three important clusters of mechanisms, not often considered jointly and structurally in the study of collective action -- resources, collective identity, and political opportunities – and take advantage of the natural experimental environment provided by the Israeli Disengagement Plan, which meant evacuating Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip. The analyses suggest that radical collective action can be attributed to organizational mechanisms: The extent and nature of the organization, particularly organizational ties and organizational structure, best account for radical activism. In addition, I find evidence for a collective identity mechanism: Findings suggest that group [religious] identity and ideological environment are important factors in shaping activism; and, more importantly, modes of collective action. Surprisingly, I find only partial evidence for political opportunity mechanisms: The political hue of the government (i.e., left-wing or right-wing) does not affect the activists' repertoire of action. However, traumatic political events (e.g., the disengagement) do matter, by changing state-movement relations, which affects not only the structure of the movement, but also its choice of repertoire of action.

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