

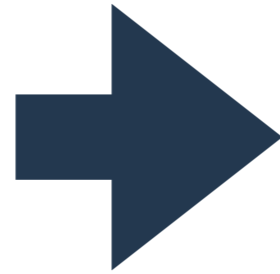
Social change



Social change

Social *rigidity*

- ∴ Much of what sociologists look at is ways that social structures *resist* change
- ∴ E.g:
 - Class boundaries
 - Gender essentialism
 - Racialization
 - Economic inequality
 - Socialization
- ∴ All focus on ways that *dominant ideologies and norms are reinforced*



Social *change*

- ∴ Empirically, social structures *do change*
- ∴ New norms emerge
- ∴ Understanding the parts of social structures that *resist* change can help understand *how change does happen*

Social change

How do we explain *endogenous* social change?

1 Conflict theories

- ∴ Social change is the product of oppressed populations realizing their *common cause* and changing institutional framework (class consciousness)
- ∴ Powerful reassert dominance in new context
- ∴ ***Work of deliberate social change is making the systems of oppression clear, helping oppressed see their common plight, and organizing***

2 Interactionist theories



Protestors stand in front of the burning Minneapolis Police Third Precinct (May 28, 2020)

Social change

How do we explain *endogenous* social change?

1 Conflict theories

2 Interactionist theories



Rosa Parks sitting in the front of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama in 1956

- ∴ Social inertia based on constant *normalization* and *reinforcement* in everyday interaction
- ∴ Social change occurs when new norms of interaction take hold, subverting previous assumptions
- ∴ ***Work of deliberate social change is to upset expectations of interaction as visibly as possible***

Social change

How do we explain *endogenous* social change?

1 Conflict theories

2 Interactionist theories

***Common thread:
Collective behavior***

| Social change happens when
| enough people decide it should

Image credit



Photo by [Oliver Hale](#) on [Unsplash](#)

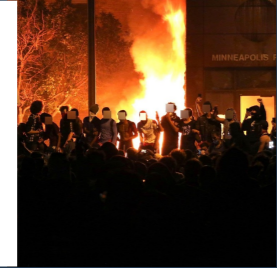


Photo: [@nickwoltman](#) ([Twitter](#))



Photo: [United Press](#)