

Mobilization and Democracy

April brought many things with it to the nation's capital, colorful drifts of spring bulbs—Lady Bird Johnson's legacy—record setting days of rain, and an assortment of young protesters intent upon disrupting the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The "Mobilization for Global Justice" was a loose coalition of such groups as the Student Alliance to Reform Corporations, the Rainforest Action Network, Greenpeace, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and the ninja-dressed anarchists of the Black Bloc (a.k.a. the Revolutionary Anti-Capitalist Bloc), whose members shared a common mistrust of global capitalism and a commitment to nonviolent collective action. The protesters, some dressed as trees, others wearing paper mache images of President Clinton and other endangered species were confined to a 13-by-8-block section of the city by the combined forces of the DC police, U.S. Secret Service, and National Guard. Though 1,300 protesters were arrested and nonviolence occasionally gave way to window smashing, the movement participants succeeded in capturing the attention and an indeterminate measure of the hearts and minds of IMF delegates, DC residents, and the national and international press.

The events of April are the most recent reminder of the role that movement politics play in maintaining civil society. This issue's symposium, the joint effort of WETA and APSA, explores the relationship between nonviolent collective action and the evolution and development of democratic societies. The essays complement *A Force More Powerful*, which will be aired on public television stations in September 2000. (Check your local listings.) A study guide for *A Force More Powerful* will appear in the September issue of *PS*.

Special thanks are due to series producers Jack DuVall and Peter Ackerman, Karen Zill, manager of educational services and outreach of WETA, and Sheilah Mann, APSA Director of Educational and Professional Affairs, as well as the authors of the symposium essays.

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Symposium Contributors

Peter Ackerman produced *A Force More Powerful* and served as its principal content advisor. His publications include *Strategic Nonviolent Conflict* (1994), which he coauthored with Christopher Kruegler. He is currently the managing director of Rockport Financial Limited, a private investment firm, and chair of the Board of Overseers for Tuft University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, from which he received his Ph.D.

Allison Calhoun-Brown is associate professor of political science at Georgia State University. Her research interests include various aspects of religion and politics, especially the political influence of African-American churches. She is a past president of APSA's Organized Section on Religion and Politics.

Anne N. Costain is professor of political science and associate vice president, University of Colorado, Boulder. She is the author of *Inviting Women's Rebellion: A Political Process Interpretation of the Women's Movement* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992) and coeditor of *Social Movements and American Political Institutions* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1998).

Jack DuVall served as executive producer of *A Force More Powerful* and coauthored the companion book. He has developed nonfiction programming for television networks and nonprofits. Before becoming involved in film making, DuVall, a retired Air Force officer, worked for WETA in Washington, DC, as vice president for programming resources and as director of corporate relations for the University of Chicago.

Ted Robert Gurr is Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, College. He founded and directs the Minorities at Risk project, which tracks and analyzes the statuses of some 300 politically active communal

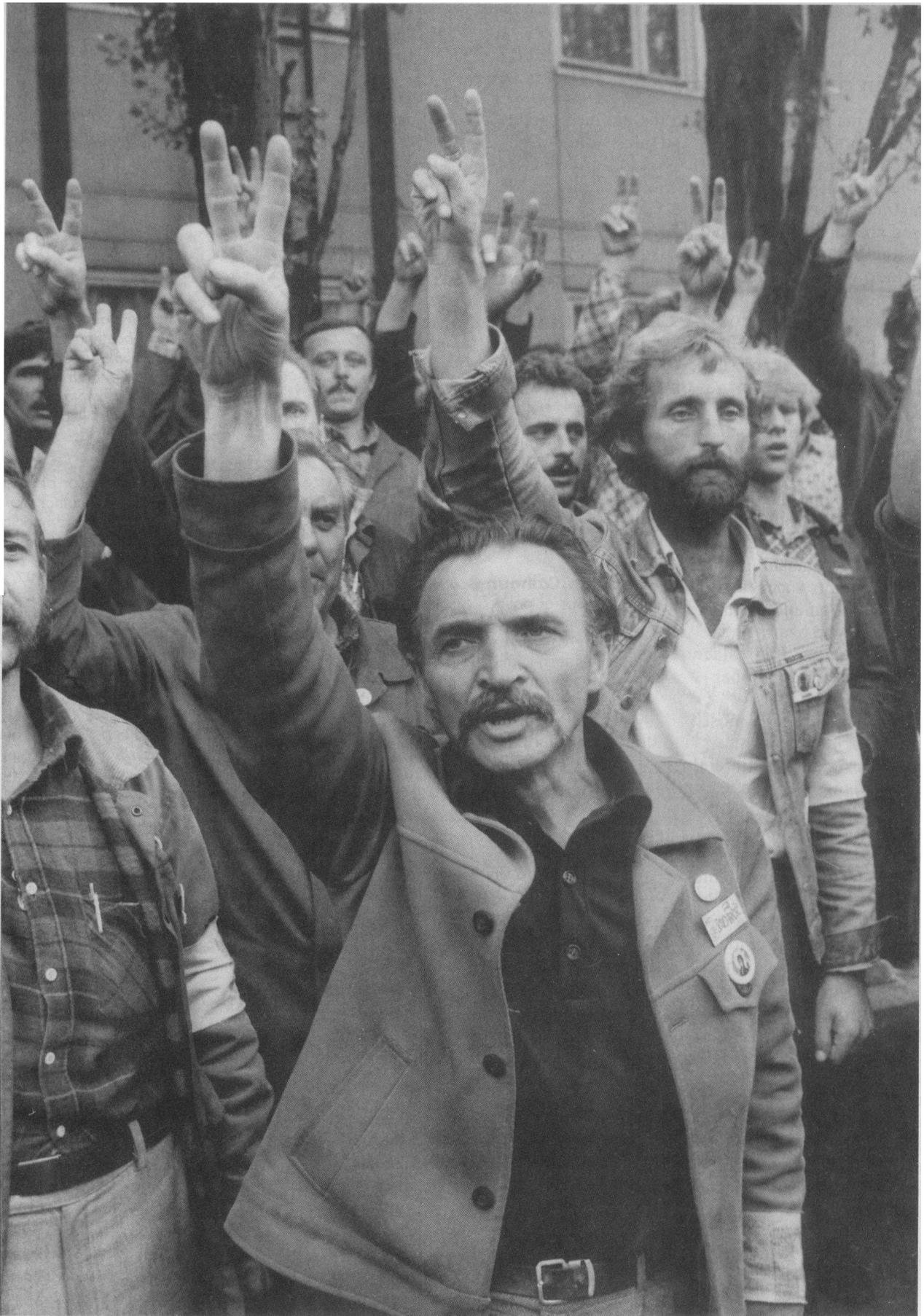
groups throughout the world. His books include *Why Men Rebel* (Princeton University Press, 1969); *Handbook of Political Conflict: Theory and Research* (Free Press, 1980); and *Peoples versus States: Minorities at Risk in the New Century* (U.S. Institute of Peace Press, 2000).

Doug McAdam is professor of sociology at Stanford University and author of numerous articles and books on social movements and the dynamics of contention, including *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*, a new edition of which was published last year by the University of Chicago Press, and *Freedom Summer* (Oxford University Press, 1988), which was a finalist for the American Sociological Association's Best Book Award for 1991.

Gay W. Seidman is associate professor of sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has written extensively on social movements in South Africa and elsewhere. Her books include *Manufacturing Militance: Workers' Movements in Brazil and South Africa, 1970-1985* (University of California Press, 1994). She is currently completing a study of the South African Commission on Gender Equity.

Sidney Tarrow is Maxwell Upson Professor Government at Cornell University. He has published dozens of articles on political activism and social movements. His recent books include *Democracy and Disorder* (Oxford University Press, 1989); *Power in Movement: Collective Action, Social Movements and Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 1994); and *The Social Movement Society: Contentious Politics for a New Century* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1998), which he coedited with David E. Mayer.

Stephen Zunes is an associate professor of politics and chair of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at the University of San Francisco. He is the coeditor of *Nonviolent Social Movements: A Geographical Perspective* (Blackwell, 1999).



Poland. Polish workers demonstrate at the Gdansk shipyard. Photo by Erazm Ciolek