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March 15 Reaction Paper

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McAdam, "On the International Origins of Domestic Political Opportunities"

McAdam suggests that previously political change has been originated and influenced only by domestic forces, but should include international forces. He surveys various examples from the MLK era contrasting Truman and FDR's politics to glasnost. His take is that changes in the political opportunity structure allow for international and national movements to take advantage of weaknesses in the system.

Snow and Benford, "Alternative Types of Cross-National Diffusion"

Snow and Benford propose that the old method of defining Cross-National Diffusion is inadequate. Typically, diffusion has required that items transmitted and adopted be useful to both parties, both have mutual identification, and both linked through social networks and/or media. They write that this model lacks variations and represents only one form of diffusion, the reciprocal. There is also adaptive and accommodating diffusion. They give examples of each type and conclude that the methods and objects of diffusions change based on sociocultural contexts. What is social constructionism?

Carmin and Hicks, "International Triggering Events..."

The authors of this article summarize how transnational influences affect the environmental movements in stable and volatile authoritarian and democratic regimes by tracking two cases: Poland and the Czech Republic from the 1970's until the end of the century. The article concludes external influences must respond uniquely to the regime it faces in order to alter the political opportunity structure or advance the environmental changes. How close does this framework follow regimes and influence? Is there a metric?

Hicks, "Setting Agendas and Shaping Activism"

Hicks describes environmentalism in CEE beginning with the Soviets in the 1980s and moving on to EU influence currently. She describes the mixed effects the EU has had helping to build up organizations but at the same time stifling diversity and making grassroots support difficult to rally. The EU affects CEE directly and indirectly in several ways. She suggests that the democratization of the EU process would be beneficial in strengthening its effects.

Crotty, "Managing Civil Society"

Crotty talks about the lack of civil society in post-Communist Russia, specifically the Samara region, due to a lack of contextualization and administration. She delves into other problems such as the previous mindset of the people to be reliant on the system and fearful of change or protest groups. In the end, these projects failed because the scant resources available were not prioritizing Russian needs and empowering civil society. What should be done in Russia?