

# Social Movements and Transformation

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This series tackles one of the central issues of our time: the rise of large-scale social movements and the transformation of society over the last thirty years. As global capitalism continues to affect broader segments of the world's population workers, peasants, the self-employed, the unemployed, the poor, indigenous peoples, women, and minority ethnic groups there is a growing mass movement by the affected populations to address the inequities engendered by the globalization process. These popular mass movements across the globe (such as labor, civil rights, women's, environmental, indigenous, and anti-corporate globalization movements) have come to form a viable and decisive force to address the consequences of the operations of the transnational corporations and the global capitalist system. The study of these social movements their nature, social base, ideology, and strategy and tactics of mass struggle is of paramount importance if we are to understand the nature of the forces that are struggling to bring about change in the global economy, polity, and social structure. This series aims to explore emerging movements and develop viable explanations for the kind of social transformations that are yet to come.

Charmain Levy • Laureen Elgert  
Valérie L'Heureux  
Editors

Social Movements and  
the Struggles for  
Rights, Justice and  
Democracy in  
Paraguay

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## Praise for *Social Movements and the Struggles for Rights, Justice and Democracy in Paraguay*

“This superb collection on Paraguayan social movements offers us an unparalleled account not only of why Paraguay’s democratization can appear more formulaic than functional, but also more broadly of how democracy seeps into any crack afforded it and works to slowly fracture the authoritarian edifice.”

—Sean Burges, Assistant Professor, *Global and International Studies, Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs Carleton University*

“Paraguay has long been treated as an enigmatic country. But it really is not. Insightful inquiries on this country, as offered in this edited volume, underscore the point. They reveal a complex yet discernable political process. Levy, Elgert and L’Heureux’s collection of twelve essays does so by exploring Paraguay contentious politics. The editors have assembled a group of Paraguayan and international scholars, activists and practitioners, who examine various progressive social movements in this country, namely, among the peasantry, labor, indigenous people, women, LGBT+ community, and students. Challenging the status quo in Paraguay has been a daunting task, given the weight of the country’s conservative inertia. This impetus is embedded in the nation’s deep structural inequities, authoritarian legacies, patriarchal traditions, and in the nature of its political regime: a feeble democracy established in the 1990s under the aegis of the political party that sustained the country’s previous autocratic rule. This book highlights the quest for social justice, freedom and substantive rights amid this conservative momentum. It does so by offering a sympathetic, yet clear-eyed assessment of these social movements. As the studies show, in such settings, the struggle to effect change must, first and foremost, stir efforts to break with the past.”

—Miguel Carter, PhD, *DEMOS – Center for Democracy, Creativity and Social Inclusion*

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