



This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the Twenty-First Century

By Mark Engler, Paul Engler

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Strategic nonviolent action has reasserted itself as a potent force in shaping public debate and forcing political change. Whether it is an explosive surge of protest calling for racial justice in the United States, a demand for democratic reform in Hong Kong or Mexico, a wave of uprisings against dictatorship in the Middle East, or a tent city on Wall Street that spreads throughout the country, when mass movements erupt onto our television screens, the media portrays them as being as spontaneous and unpredictable. In *This is an Uprising*, political analysts Mark and Paul Engler uncover the organization and well-planned strategies behind such outbursts of protest, examining core principles that have been used to spark and guide moments of transformative unrest.

This is an Uprising traces the evolution of civil resistance, providing new insights into the contributions of early experimenters such as Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., groundbreaking theorists such as Gene Sharp and Frances Fox Piven, and contemporary practitioners who have toppled repressive regimes in countries such as South Africa, Serbia, and Egypt. Drawing from discussions with activists now working to defend human rights, challenge corporate corruption, and combat climate change, the Englers show how people with few resources and little influence in conventional politics can nevertheless engineer momentous upheavals.

Although it continues to prove its importance in political life, the strategic use of nonviolent action is poorly understood. Nonviolence is usually studied as a philosophy or moral code, rather than as a method of political conflict, disruption, and escalation. *This is an Uprising* corrects this oversight. It argues that if we are always taken by surprise by dramatic outbreaks of revolt, and if we decline to incorporate them into our view of how societies progress, then we pass up the chance to fully grasp a critical phenomenon—and to harness its power to create lasting change.

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Editorial Review

Review

"[An] important analysis of nonviolent strategy." *Tina Rosenberg, New York Times*

"Thorough and authoritative...Both as a primer on the theory of nonviolent protest and as a practical guide to positive action, [*This Is An Uprising*] is an invaluable resource." *Peter Whittaker, New Internationalist*

"A terrific survey of direct action strategies, bringing out many of the strengths and weaknesses of activist efforts to effect major change in the United States and around the world since well before the twenty-first century. It should be taught in every level of our schools." *David Swanson, Let's Try Democracy*

"Engler and Engler have distilled decades of complex and often discordant theories into an accessible guide to effective lasting civil resistance and organization building. This is a book that is likely to be read and reread for years to come." *Shelf Awareness, Starred Review*

"Compellingly readable and quite timely...[The authors] deftly argue that organizers can define the terms of their own victory." *Matt Wasserman, The Independent*

"I picked up [*This Is An Uprising*], and within minutes I was engrossed... [The Englers] argue, persuasively, that... uprisings that use nonviolent confrontation have changed the world. And they have done it with such passion, intensity, and page-turning storytelling, that I had barely been able to put the book down." *Ellen Michaud, QuakerBooks*

"Anyone who doubts that community organizing is a significant part of the social fabric will find such assumptions dispelled by this intriguing and illuminating overview." *Booklist*

"I've rarely seen movements described so intimately at their strategic turning points, supported with the comparative insights of scholars in the field. Reading the gripping stories alone makes the book worthwhile." *George Lakey, Waging Nonviolence*

"Especially timely in the wake of protests across the United States, this book offers insight into how far we've come as a country and how much further we have to go." *Library Journal*

"A usefully organized, concise history of social movements that will appeal to newer generations of activists." *Kirkus Reviews*

"If you want to understand the social movements that are erupting all around us, you should be reading the Englers. Their writing is a revelation." *Andy Bichlbaum, The Yes Men*

"Simply outstanding. The success or failure of future campaigns for peace and justice could depend on

how many people read this book. Yes, it's that good."?Stephen Zunes, University of San Francisco

"This is truly an important work. The moments and movements that drive societal change have remained elusive and misunderstood by most, whether pundits, activists, or everyday people consuming the news. In *This is an Uprising*, Mark and Paul Engler brilliantly unearth, explain, and contextualize the dynamics of breakout mobilizations--both dispelling the popular notion that transformational progress simply arises from historical circumstance, and pushing back on long-held dogma that hinders more successful engineering of people-driven campaigns. For all those who seek to play an effective role in creating social or political change in the modern era, the Englers' book is a must read."?James Rucker, cofounder of ColorOfChange.org and Citizen Engagement Lab

"An ambitious, sweeping analysis of how uprisings do and do not bring progressive change... On issue after issue-immigrant rights, gay marriage, police shootings, protests against nuclear power to name but a few-the Englers show how and why mass protest prevailed over electoral politics. This is one of the many reasons why *This is an Uprising* is a worthwhile read for all activists."?Randy Shaw, *Beyond Chron*

"This book tells the stories of the mass movements that have made our world and continue to change it, and it tells them with excitement, insight, and hope like few have told them before."?Maria Elena Durazo, international union vice president for civil rights, diversity, and immigration, UNITE HERE!

"This book is the *Rules for Radicals* for a new generation. Mark and Paul Engler have written a defining work on the science of popular movements... A must-read for everyone fighting the battle for justice in this world."?Carlos Saavedra, lead trainer, Ayni Institute and former National Coordinator of United We Dream

"Mark Engler and Paul Engler haven't written a predictable book. The brothers have spent considerable time studying-and participating in-social movements, and their deep curiosity lends a propulsive feel to *This Is An Uprising*... The world is already messy and chaotic; social movements make it more so. And so a book like *This Is an Uprising*-crisply written, rigorous, blessedly free of clichés-is long overdue."?Gabriel Thompson, *Truthdig*

"Engler & Engler carefully arrange the complex pieces of the puzzle that comprise a nonviolent movement...The authors touch on a range of issues that are certain to be of value to those most in need of such a timely work of scholarship - activists throughout the globe. In their impressive analysis and practically step-by-step account of what it takes for movements to instill change, the authors highlight the critical strategic undertones of otherwise seemingly spontaneous uprisings."?Pauline Moore, *Journal of Peace Research*

From the Inside Flap

Strategic nonviolent action has reasserted itself as a potent force in shaping public debate and forcing political change. Whether it is an explosive surge of protest calling for racial justice in the United States, a demand for democratic reform in Hong Kong or Mexico, a wave of uprisings against dictatorship in the Middle East, or a tent city on Wall Street that spreads throughout the country, when mass movements erupt onto our television screens, the media portrays them as being as spontaneous and unpredictable. In *This is an Uprising*, political analysts Mark and Paul Engler uncover the organization and well-planned strategies behind such outbursts of protest, examining core principles that have been used to spark and guide moments of transformative unrest. *This is an Uprising* traces the evolution of civil resistance, providing new insights into the contributions of early experimenters such as Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.,

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About the Author

Mark Engler, a writer based in Philadelphia, is an editorial board member at *Dissent*, a contributing editor at *Yes! Magazine*, and author of *How to Rule the World: The Coming Battle Over the Global Economy* (Nation Books).

Paul Engler is founding director of the Center for the Working Poor, based in Los Angeles. He worked for more than a decade as an organizer in the immigrant rights, global justice, and labor movements.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Rhone:

Now a day people that Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources included can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How a lot more to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the Twenty-First Century book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Johnny Allen:

The e-book untitled This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the Twenty-First Century is the reserve that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to a person. The language that writer use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, hence the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the Twenty-First Century from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Geneva Orta:

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Shirley Eagle:

Is it an individual who having spare time after that spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This This Is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt Is Shaping the Twenty-First Century can be the reply, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

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