Urban Social Movements

Urban Social Movements

The City After Castells

STUART LOWE

Macmillan Education

ISBN 978-0-333-37520-4 ISBN 978-1-349-18175-9 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-18175-9

© Stuart Lowe, 1986

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1986

All rights reserved. For information, write:

Scholarly & Reference Division,

St. Martin's Press, Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010

First published in the United States of America in 1986

ISBN 978-0-312-83470-8

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Lowe, Stuart, 1950–

Urban social movements.

Bibliography: p.

Includes index.

1. Cities and towns—History—Cross-cultural studies. 2. Social movements—History—Cross-cultural studies. 3. Castells, Manuel—Criticism and interpretation. I. Title.

HT119.L69 1986 307.7'6 85-22301

ISBN 978-0-312-83470-8

For Sue

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
Introduction	1
1 Castells on Urban Social Movements	8
The urban domain	9
Urban social movements – phase one	17
Urban social movements – phase two	19
2 <i>The City and the Grassroots</i>	29
Urban social change	30
Urban social movements – phase three	33
Conclusion	48
3 The Mobilisation Process	55
The local political system	55
Social bases and the mobilisation process	60
Ideologies of the urban system	76
Conclusion	80
4 Public Sector Housing Movements	82
Council estates as social bases	82
Tenants' associations in Britain	84
The tenants' movement in Sheffield (1967–84)	94
Political strategies of the tenants' movement	110

5 Ideologies in Local Politics – The Ratepayers' and Squatters' Movements	118
The ratepayers' movement	119
Barnsley Ratepayers' Association	124
The squatters' movement	138
Conclusion	150
6 Comparative Urban Social Movements	152
Models of change – the growth or decline of urban social movements?	153
Italy, France and Spain	155
An environmental movement in an East European socialist state	161
Social movements in the United States of America	166
The shanty-towns of South America	173
Models for comparing urban social movements	178
Conclusion	184
7 The Theory and Practice of Urban Social Movements	187
Castells's new urban social movements	187
Analysing urban social movements	193
Urban social movements in Britain in the 1980s	196
 <i>References</i>	 203
<i>Index</i>	209

Acknowledgements

The genesis of this book can be precisely located; it began when Dilys Hill, during the viva for my doctoral thesis, urged me to read in more detail the new urban politics literature. This I subsequently did, and discovered more of its treasures and pitfalls. I am, of course, very grateful to my supervisors at that time, Bill Hampton and Patrick Seyd, for their help in steering me through the hazardous exercise of thesis writing. It was due to them that I set about the long process of seeking a publisher. The end product, however, bears little resemblance to the thesis, although it was a vital stage in the intellectual preparation.

The first version of the text was written while I was working as a tutor organiser for the Workers' Educational Association in South Yorkshire; and it bore, at that stage, the hallmarks of that relatively isolated occupation. The current version has been formulated since I moved to the University of York, and became able to contact a wider academic community. Peter Saunders, Michael Harloe and Bill Hampton generously gave time to comment on drafts of the early chapters. Bill Hampton and Kathleen Jones kindly read at short notice the nearly complete text and made some very useful suggestions. Many thanks are due to James Simmie for suggesting how the first version could be made into a publishable commodity and trusting me to do the job. The creative environment generated by Kathleen Jones in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work has spurred me on. Our indispensable secretary, Alison Holdsworth, proof-read the manuscript and typed some of the draft version. I am very grateful to Janice Vanham for typing most of the draft and all of the final text.

But the greatest debt of all is owed to my family for making it possible for me to spend the hundreds of hours necessary to produce a book of this type.

January 1985

Stuart Lowe