

Social Movements

According to Aberle, a social movement is an organized effort by a group of human beings to effect change in the face of resistance by other human beings.

Aberle also discusses four different types of social movement and those are alternative, redemptive, reformatory, and revolutionary. He categorizes these based on how much they're trying to change and what they are trying to change. So, whether they're trying to make change at an individual level or at a societal level and whether they're seeking partial change or total change.

1. **Alternative Movement (الحركات البديلة)** : an alternative movement is after partial individual change. An example of this would be efforts to promote recycling. They're merely trying to get individuals to recycle their waste.
2. **Redemptive Movements (حركات الخلاص)** : redemptive seek total individual change. The defining characteristic, Aberle says, is the search for a new inner-state. These are most often religious movements promoting a total change in a person. For example, a religious movement that promises salvation through a complete personal transformation.
3. **Reformatory Movements (الحركات الإصلاحية)** : reformatory movements seek partial social change. An example would be the Women's Suffrage Movement, the movement for women to gain the right to vote. They merely wanted to change a part of the system — they wanted to have equal voting rights, the same as men.
4. **Revolutionary Movements (الحركات الثورية)**: revolutionary movements seek total social change. Usually, revolutionary movements arise when people have no other alternative to reform the social system other than changing it as a whole. Revolution serves as an alternative to the individuals to come out of their existing misery. The communist revolution in Russia and China are the examples of revolutionary movements.