



# Poor People's Movements: Why They Succeed, How They Fail

*Frances Fox Piven, Richard Cloward*

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Have the poor fared best by participating in conventional electoral politics or by engaging in mass defiance and disruption? The authors of the classic *Regulating the Poor* assess the successes and failures of these two strategies as they examine, in this provocative study, four protest movements of lower-class groups in 20th century America:

- The mobilization of the unemployed during the Great Depression that gave rise to the Workers' Alliance of America
- The industrial strikes that resulted in the formation of the CIO
- The Southern Civil Rights Movement
- The movement of welfare recipients led by the National Welfare Rights Organization.

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