Civil Rights Movement:
Circumstances and Conditions

According to Doug McAdam’s *political model of social movements* in *POLITICAL PROCESS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK INSURGENCY, 1930-1970*, the successful development of a social movement requires the following three conditions:

- **Organizational readiness**
- **Significant insurgent consciousness**
- **Opportunities for change within the larger political environment---events, circumstances that disrupt the status quo**

According to Klinkner and Smith in *THE UNSTEADY MARCH*, *progress in racial equality in the US has occurred only* when all of the following circumstances are operative. **Progress has come only:**

- **In the wake of a large-scale war requiring extensive economic and military mobilization of African Americans for success;**
- **When the nature of America’s enemies has prompted American leaders to justify such wars and their attendant sacrifices by emphasizing the nation’s inclusive, egalitarian, and democratic conditions;** and
- **When the nation has possessed domestic political protest movements willing and able to bring pressure upon national leaders to live up to that justificatory rhetoric by instituting domestic reforms.**