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.*