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## The evolution of radicalization of protest activity: a generalization of modern research

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### Abstract

The study of the evolution of radicalization of protest movements has allowed us to identify a number of models characteristic of all countries and political regimes that allow us to form an idea of how the process of radicalization is carried out in forms that pose a public danger. The authors show that it is necessary to divide the processes of radicalization into "spontaneous", corresponding to the world practice of the evolution of social movements and "coordinated", associated with the introduction of social technologies by public organizations operating in this area at the international level. In conclusion, it is noted that in modern political science and sociology, a significant proportion of research relates to the study of such a phenomenon as the radicalization of protest activity as one of the forms of the political process. In particular, the work showed that there are a number of characteristics that allow predicting the radicalization of a particular social movement, identifying the most characteristic features of various forms of radicalization and the possibility of their prevention.

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### Keywords

Protest activities, radicalization, social groups, public organizations, illegal actions.

## **Introduction**

Radical actions have been the only form of implementation of the political process for centuries, however, even in modern conditions, when forming appropriate institutions for the implementation of political activity, such as the possibility of participation in the assessment of regulatory impact, participation in the activities of local governments, broad involvement in the political process through the activities of political parties, the level of radicalization does not decrease, and in some cases increases. However, in modern conditions, the effectiveness of radicalization of protest activity is becoming less and less effective tools of political struggle. Thus, despite all attempts to revise existing environmental norms or counteract the processes of globalization, political results are small or completely absent. The phenomenon of radicalism in the implementation of protest activities of the country is a widespread social phenomenon characteristic of most countries with an average and high level of development of political processes.

## **Main content**

Regardless of the impact of radicalization on the quality of life and the level of political freedom of citizens, it can arise in relation to any of the elements of the political or social structure of society and lead to irreversible consequences for the political and socio-economic life of society.

The issues of generalization of the approach itself to assessing the transformation of the protest movement into radical currents, taking into account modern changes in society, is a subject for further research. In this regard, it is necessary to study the categories associated with the phenomena of radicalization, as well as their boundaries in the aspect of the implementation of political processes. In the scientific literature, this phenomenon has been studied for a very long time based on the study of the experience of the transformation of protest movements in various countries and social groups.

The sociological understanding of radicalism can be expressed in words "... radicals are people who promote institutional change." Radicalism in modern research is studied in virtually all social sciences. The aspects of radicalism based on the study of personality psychology, the norms of national and international law, social phenomena and processes are widely studied.

Various disturbances are very often inherently radical, as they lead to mass riots and clashes with the police. But they did not have a clear political program related to institutional changes. It can be said that this definition of radicalism, in fact, does not reflect the essence of the influence of this movement on the social and political structure of society.

In a number of works, three types of political radicalism are distinguished, characterized by the practice of conducting high-risk or extremist activities, the processes as a result of which activists become radicals and the degree of identification of radicalization of activists to one degree or another. Thus, the state determines what level is necessary in order to undertake, for example, attempts to reform the public administration system to take into account the opinions of individual social groups, or vice versa, to attempt to neutralize the activities of relevant organizations and socio-political changes that occur as a result of their actions. In this regard, it is necessary to investigate not only works devoted to the study of radicalization processes, but also works devoted to the structure and dynamics of these processes. Radical ones include those political trends whose activities the state responds to in a certain way.

As a result of observations, it was noted that violent actions of radicals provoke activists to intensify political activity through various actions, including more radicalized ones if activists share the views

and beliefs of radical groups. There is an opinion that both radical organizations and activists have a positive or negative impact on moderate political organizations by encouraging non-radical protest movements to take more active actions.

This approach has been widely studied all over the world, where a number of radical activists have significantly influenced public organizations engaged in the protection of civil rights and led to institutional changes related to the acquisition of equal rights, including political and economic.

More recent studies have shown that participation in radical protest actions strengthens and provokes participation in further protest actions, strengthens the radicalism of political protest, involving more and more new participants in it. It is also proved that the radicalization of social activity is influenced not only by the tendency of certain social groups to regard violence as an acceptable form, but also by the frequency of the political process of interaction with these organizations.

Thus, it is generally accepted in world practice that the radicalization of activities intensifies protests in a certain area of the implementation of the political process (the struggle for minority rights, environmental restrictions, fair distribution of resources).

World practice classifies radical groups into four types – opportunistic, coordinated, militarized and solitary.

Opportunistic groups constitute separate radicalized groups whose ability to establish links with other groups engaged in similar activities is limited. This type of radicalized social groups is rarely persecuted by law enforcement agencies as participants in formal and informal social movements, since their actions are random, they do not belong to other public associations, in addition, there is rarely a lack of trust between the members of the group. Most often, such groups pursue certain interests that directly affect the level or quality of life. For example, opposition to the development of parks adjacent to the places of residence of activists. It should be noted that radical actions carried out by such groups are associated with illegal actions of the greatest severity, for example, arson of cars and construction equipment. One of the forms of opportunistic radicalism can be the radicalism of individuals, implemented by one participant. This type of radicalism poses the maximum threat to society, as it is associated with the most brutal crimes committed for political purposes. And these crimes are less preventable.

Coordinated radicals carry out activities within the framework of separate groups connected with each other, which exchange experience on the implementation of certain radical and illegal actions. In general, this type represents a lesser public danger in relation to individual actions, but in general can lead to the involvement of a significant mass of participants who can be realized as militarized, capable of engaging in armed opposition groups.

World practice shows that in order to prevent the negative consequences of radicalism, it is necessary to investigate the social context of protest movements. Consequently, from the standpoint of modern political science, the source of radicalism is social movements that realize their goals through violence and actions of high public risk.

When implementing a protest movement, radicalization seems to activists to be the most effective tool for achieving the goals obtained. To date, sociological studies have shown that activists, as they become radicalized, consider actions within the framework of a normatively defined protest activity to be less effective. Any social movement can acquire a radical character, while the tendency to take risks in choosing forms of protest movement depends on the closeness of social ties in a social group between activists of a particular type of protest movement.

The spread of activism is significantly influenced by socio-cultural factors – that is, the extent to which such instruments of political struggle are acceptable from the point of view of society.

If such actions are socially acceptable, then the radicalization of protest movements is more active and takes a variety of forms, allows you to create special social groups for planning and implementing protest actions.

## Conclusion

Based on the study of the experience of protest movements, scientists have proposed a model of radicalization of protest movements. According to this model, public organizations that defend the interests of certain social groups or implement actions related to beliefs can realize their political interests through their institutionalization. As well as giving them a formal structure and status, they can become the basis for the self-identification of their constituent members, and in this case the relations between them become more informal and lead to the radicalization of activities. The differences in both cases lie in the extent to which these social groups are homogeneous. Thus, more homogeneous groups in social and age terms are more susceptible to radicalization than formal and heterogeneous ones.

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## Эволюция радикализации протестной деятельности: обобщение современных исследований

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**Аннотация**

Исследование эволюции радикализации протестных движений позволило выделить ряд характерных для всех стран и политических режимов моделей, позволяющих сформировать представление о том, каким образом осуществляется процесс радикализации, представляющих общественную опасность в формах. Авторами показано, что необходимо разделить процессы радикализации на «стихийные», соответствующие мировой практике эволюции общественных движений и «координированные», связанные с внедрением социальных технологий общественными организациями, осуществляющими деятельность в данной области на международном уровне. В заключении работы отмечается, что в современной политологии и социологии значительная доля исследований относится к изучению такого явления как радикализация протестной деятельности как одна из форм политического процесса. В частности, в работе было показано, что существует ряд характеристик, позволяющих прогнозировать радикализацию того или иного общественного движения, выявить наиболее характерные черты различных форм радикализации и возможности их предотвращения.

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**Ключевые слова**

Протестная деятельность, радикализации, социальные группы, общественные организации, противоправные действия

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