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## How Social Movements Die

*Repression and Demobilization of the Republic of New Africa*

How do social movements die? Some explanations highlight internal factors such as factionalization, whereas others stress external factors such as repression. Christian Davenport offers an alternative explanation where both factors interact. Drawing on organizational as well as individual-level explanations, Davenport argues that social movement death is the outgrowth of a coevolutionary dynamic whereby challengers, influenced by their understanding of what states will do to oppose them, attempt to recruit, motivate, calm, and prepare constituents, while governments attempt to hinder all of these processes at the same time. Davenport employs a previously unavailable database that contains information on a black nationalist-secessionist organization, the Republic of New Africa, and the activities of authorities in the U.S. city of Detroit and state and federal authorities.

Christian Davenport is professor of political science and faculty associate at the Center for Political Studies at the University of Michigan and Global Fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo. He is the author of *State Repression and the Promise of Democratic Peace* (Cambridge, 2007) and *Media Bias, Perspective, and State Repression: The Black Panther Party* (Cambridge, 2010), which won an award for the best book in racial politics and social movements from the American Political Science Association. He is a coeditor of *Repression and Mobilization* (with Carol Mueller and Hank Johnston, 2004) and *Paths to State Repression: Human Rights Violations and Contentious Politics* (2000).

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## *Repression and Demobilization of the Republic of New Africa*

CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

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*To Juliet “Ndidi” Seignious*

*The freest and most beautiful human I know*

*Mother, mentor, miracle*

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## Acknowledgments

As people who know me would readily attest, I am fond of saying that “it takes a village to” do a wide variety of things. This is definitely true with regard to writing a book – especially one that has taken nearly a decade to complete and that has followed me to numerous institutions and parts of the United States. While working on this manuscript, I received a hundred and one kindnesses and a few bruises along the way. This said, some individuals and institutions provided a bit more consistent assistance than others as I repeatedly came back to them for a clarifying point, yet another reread, some coffee, a meal, a distraction, or a brilliant insight. I wish to acknowledge them here and give them their props.

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Peace,  
Christian Davenport  
(Nom de Guerre)