

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Contentious Politics

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CONTENTIOUS POLITICS IN EMERGENCY CRITICAL JUNCTURES

*Progressive Social Movements
during the Pandemic*

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CAMBRIDGE
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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-01648-3 — Contentious Politics in Emergency Critical Junctures
Donatella della Porta
Frontmatter
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009016483
DOI: 10.1017/9781009025638

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First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-01648-3 Paperback
ISSN 2633-3570 (online)
ISSN 2633-3562 (print)

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Contentious Politics In Emergency Critical Junctures

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009025638
First published online: July 2022

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Abstract: Social movements have often played an important role in emergencies, mobilizing in defence of those rights that they perceive as being at risk or more urgently needed than ever. In general, progressive social movements develop in moments of intense change, mobilizing with the aim of turning them to their advantage. The specific balance of challenges and opportunities faced by progressive social movements during the Covid-19 crisis is a central question addressed in this Element. Based on existing research on the first phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, this Element addresses the ways in which the health emergency had an impact on the repertoire of action, organizational networks and collective framing of progressive social movements that adapted to the pandemic conditions and the related crises, but also tried to transform them.

Keywords: social movements, contentious politics, pandemic, Covid-19, progressive politics

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ISBNs: 9781009016483 (PB), 9781009025638 (OC)
ISSNs: 2633-3570 (online), 2633-3562 (print)

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