Explaining mass protests against abortion ban in Poland: the power of connective action

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Summary/Abstract: This article examines successful mass mobilization of Polish women against the proposed total ban on abortion in 2016. It is argued that the mass participation in the protests resulted from a range of factors, e.g. the heightened political climate in Poland and normalization of street protests, as well as an emotional dynamic of mobilization and wide use of social media for communication and networking. The analysis shows that the protests followed the logic of connective action based on the use of flexible, easily personalized action frames, which were well-embedded in local cultural narratives referencing the struggle for Poland's independence and...
Those standing against the ban on social media have come up with the #CzarnyProtest hashtag which stands for “black protest.” People from Poland and others willing to show their solidarity have been posting photos of them dressed in all black to symbolize their protest. More than 13,000 photos have been posted on Instagram so far.

#CzarnyProtest. Polish women wearing black tomorrow to protest against the introduction of the ultra-radical anti-abortion law. pic.twitter.com/aXxI8nHBa5. — Wioletta Greg (@ViolaGreg1) September 20, 2016. Cafébabel stands in solidarity with the #CzarnyProtest against the resistance against an oppressive state.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Year</th>
<th>Issue No</th>
<th>Page Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>91-113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Count</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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abortion ruling. Credit: Omar Marques/Getty Images. Why did the governing party push on abortion now? The governing party, which took power in 2015, presents itself as the defender of traditional, Catholic values, and denigrates its opponents as anti-Polish and anti-Christian. Central to that vision are Polish women as wives and mothers, and women's rights groups are depicted as dangerous agents of liberal, Western propaganda. A protest against a decision by the Constitutional Tribunal on abortion law restriction, in the Polish capital on Monday. Credit: Wojtek Radwanski/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images. What sets these protests apart? WARSAW (Sputnik) – Around 100,000 people took part in Friday protests in the Polish capital of Warsaw over the government's decision to outlaw access to abortion in the... As a result of that, it is now possible to make abortion in Poland only in case of life-threatening condition of a woman, or a rape. “About 100,000 people are protesting in the streets of Warsaw,” the spokeswoman said on Friday. The streets of Warsaw tonight. Tens of thousands gather in Poland's capital ahead of the introduction of a new law that will make the termination of a pregnancy due to fetal defects 'unconstitutional'. #StrajKobiet #abortionban #WomensStrike #StrajKobiet pic.twitter.com/mIyJd8KHGN. — Stefan Simanowitz (@StefSimanowitz) October 30, 2020.