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

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Subject(s): Gender Studies, Media studies, Civil Society, Health and medicine and law, Radical sociology, Present Times (2010 - today)

Published by: Collegium Civitas

Keywords: social movements; civil society; Black Protest; Women's Strike; women; feminism; abortion;

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

Details

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Journal: *Zoon Politikon*

Issue Year: 2016

Issue No: 7


Page Range: 91-113


Page Count: 23


Language: English

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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 late 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'. #StrajkKobiet #abortionban #WomensStrike #StrajKobiet pic.twitter.com/mlyJd8KHGN. — Stefan Simanowitz (@StefSimanowitz) October 30, 2020.