Between new protest movements and formal politics

New protest movements and social networks: part of the problem or part of the solution?

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Social media as an organizational tool in protest movements

• Easy way to organize and mobilize
• Participatory tool

• Mobilization in social networks has to be transferred into mobilization in the real world
• Necessity to delegate tasks and positions to keep movement active?
Protest movements as a form of political participation

• Decline in formal political participation accompanied by rise of single-issue politics
• Nevertheless continuously strong support for democratic principles
• Protest as extension of formal political participation not alternative to it → does not have to be disconnected from formal politics
Characteristics of the new protest movements

• Independence: not led by a party, organization or trade union
• No leader, leading group
• No connection between formal politics and protest movements (requested?)
Challenges and chances

• No European movement – no European vision?
• Danger of rising opposition towards formal politics
• Demands can be implemented into political process
• Strong mobilising potential!