

The Politics of Protest in Central Europe

Ionel N. Sava

The 2nd generation of grassroots movements in CEE The case of “Save Bucharest“, Romania

Increased urban and environmental activism in Central and Eastern Europe could indicate the emergence of a new wave of grassroots social movements. The city movements in Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic, the anti-corruption protest in Bulgaria as well the “Rosia Montana” green movement in Romania suggest new mobilization patterns and new forms of social participation that are locally-centered and more community-oriented. If *Solidarność* was the “civil rights movement” of Eastern Europe during transition to democracy and western integration, then what forms of current collective action will prevail in the nearest future? Sava argues that new forms of social participation seem to be culturally motivated and community-oriented rather than reflecting class struggle. The case of “Save Bucharest” is analyzed as a laboratory where new styles, social meanings and cultural critiques are informally exercised and eventually institutionalized.

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