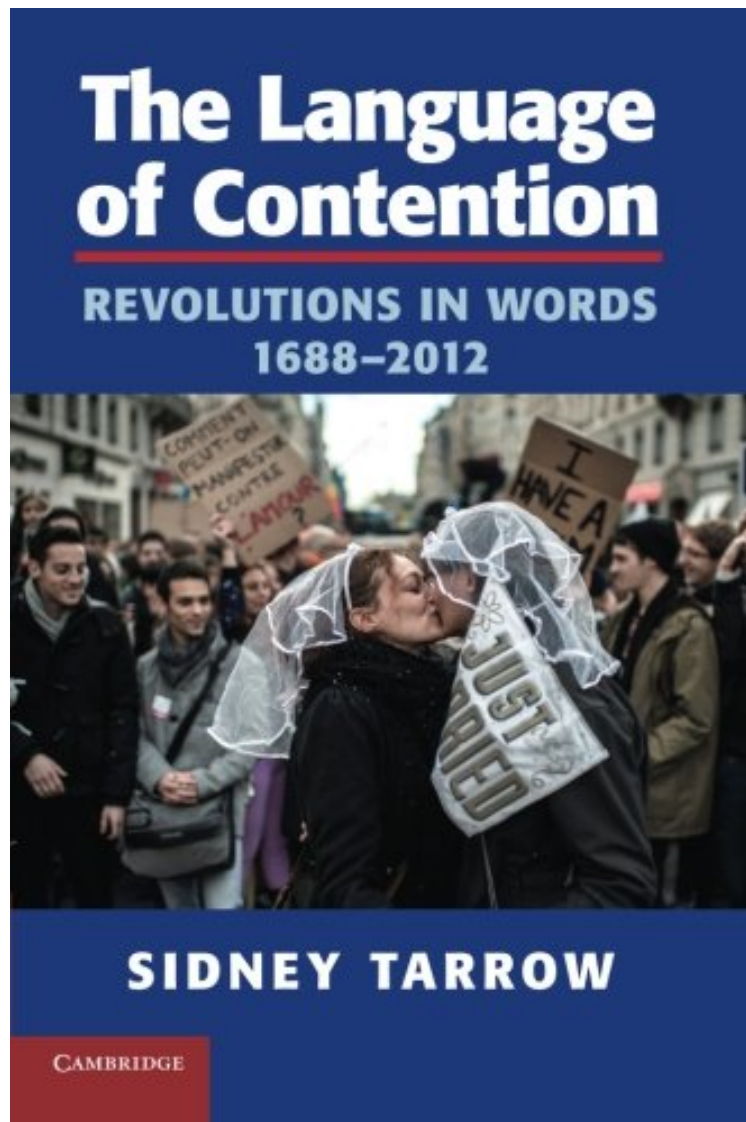


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Sidney Tarrow

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Sidney Tarrow : The Language of Contention: Revolutions in Words, 1688-2012 (Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Language of Contention: Revolutions in Words, 1688-2012 (Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Contentious Language Masterfully Analyzed By Clifford Bob What's in a name? A great deal Juliet discovered to her sorrow. Sidney Tarrow could have told her so. His important new book rises to the difficulties of showing that words matter profoundly whether in clan conflict or transnational movement. Contentious language strike, rights, terror, revolution is forged through interactions among challengers and authorities. It shapes the meaning of politics, and it bounds the possibilities of action. Yet some protest words diffuse across time and space, expanding repertoires of conflict and offering opportunities for all sides in contexts far removed from their origins. Tarrow shows all this and more through his signature blend of theoretical insight, empirical narrative, and clear prose. The book also sparkles with the findings of computerized language analysis, from the French Revolution to Occupy Wall Street. The result is scholarship that dramatically enlarges our knowledge of political contention and offers powerful conceptual props for future research. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but in politics, for better or worse, language demands as much attention as structure and action. Thanks to Sidney Tarrow, it now has it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not always an easy read. By Seann Coistn This book is for wonks who really want to comb through the difference the use of certain words make. It is not for a general audience. It's for those who are studying words in contention. While informative and interesting, it is not always an easy read. Be prepared for lots of academic writing.

This book examines the relations between the material and political bases of contentious politics and the construction, diffusion, and endurance of contentious language. Beginning with the language of revolution developed from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, it examines contentious language at work, in gender and race relations and in nationalist and ethnic movements. It closes with an examination of emotions in contentious politics, reflecting on the changes in political language since 9/11 and assessing the impact of religion and recent innovations in electronic communication on the language of politics.

"Classism, racism, sexism. Words, words, words? Revolutions, protests, riots - more words? That master of contentious politics, Sid Tarrow, examines how language constructs (empowers and unites) and deconstructs (disempowers and divides) actors. Using word counts and ethnography, his positivist constructivism connects words to actions as well as to historical structural contexts. Exploring cognitions, emotions, and meanings, Tarrow's rich analyses demonstrate how language endures through time and diffuses through populations via mechanisms of symbolic resonance and processes of strategic modularity." Mark I. Lichbach, University of Maryland "Sid Tarrow's great genius is the capacity to see connections that others miss. He has done it for decades and does it again here, brilliantly showing us that the language of contentious politics is a tireless traveler across space and time. But as those who wander know well, the journey can change the voyager as much as the land where she alights. And thanks to Professor Tarrow, we now understand how it all happens." Joseph Margulies, Northwestern University School of Law "An immensely wide-ranging, provocative examination of contentious words in motion by one of our foremost experts on comparative politics, *The Language of Contention* is a fitting capstone to Sidney Tarrow's distinguished career." Daniel T. Rodgers, Henry Charles Lea Professor, Emeritus, Princeton University "In this engaging work, Sidney Tarrow, long a preeminent analyst of contentious politics, turns to contentious language - exploring shifting terminologies of race, class, gender, citizenship, and more, in many times and places. He makes a compelling case that politics cannot be understood without grasping how, symbolically and strategically, words stigmatize, valorize, divide, unite, and inspire political actors and action." Rogers M. Smith, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, and author of *Stories of Peoplehood: The Politics and Morals of Political Membership* (Cambridge, 2003) "A dazzling contribution by a master of the study of contentious politics, *The Language of Contention* takes us on a journey from the seventeenth century to the present to demonstrate the power of contentious language in social and political change. Drawing on an extraordinary range of revolutionary, nationalist, and ethnic movements as well as movements mobilized around gender, race, and sexuality, Tarrow adds an important cultural dimension to his concept of 'cycles of contention' by showing us that, indeed, words matter." Verta Taylor, University of California Santa Barbara "In *The Language of Contention*, Sidney Tarrow steps back to explain historical changes and continuities in the language that inspires and encapsulates those contentious episodes ... Beyond its refreshing historical scope, Tarrow's framework may help to reconcile a paradigm split within social movement studies, where the long-dominant school takes an instrumentalist approach to organizational strategies and outcomes, while more recent challengers have argued that movements are more centrally about the spread of ideas and cultural change." W. Lance Bennett, *Perspectives on Politics* "This is an immensely rewarding book. It tackles the issues that are at the center of cultural turn in the study of contentious politics, as it provides a systematic overview of words people employ to explain to themselves and to others what it is they are doing when they are challenging power holders." Jan Kubic, *Mobilization* About the Author Sidney Tarrow is Maxwell M. Upson Professor Emeritus of Government at Cornell University and a visiting professor at Cornell University Law School. His recent books include a collection of essays, *Strangers at the Gates: States and Social Movements in Contentious Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and a revised and expanded edition of *Power in Movement* (Cambridge University Press,

2011). He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and past president of the Comparative Politics Section of the American Political Science Association. He is currently completing a book on states, wars and movements.