

Comment

FOR WHOM THE WORLD CHANGES – HOW ACTIVISTS CONSTRUCT MEANINGFUL TURNING POINTS

This comment will focus on turning points in activism and to which extent they are visible to society as a whole.

Of course, some turning points are more visible than others, but a few throughout history really stand out being very visible to all of society. Especially those that try to tackle problems that concern the survival of all of humanity or that threaten basic human rights of many people. Special examples for the former are turning points surrounding climate change and most notably the clear boundary of the so-called '1,5-Grad-Grenze'. Important examples for the latter on the other hand, are women gaining the right to vote and the emancipation of slaves. All these examples are major turning points for most all of humanity and can be easily defined as such.

Not all aspects of activism are as privileged to get this level of attention and visibility though. There is a distinction to be made with there being multiple possible reasons for this lack of visibility. One very possible reason for activism and important turning points to receive a lacklustre amount of visibility, arises when inside one certain movement multiple goals are strived to be accomplished. This very prominently happened in the 20th century when there was a big push for abortions to be legalized. While women were fighting for bodily autonomy in this way, with the same end goal there were groups of activists fighting against abortions to be made more available. The reason for this was that some women were having abortions forced on them. Ultimately, fighting for the right of control over their own body meant two completely different things for certain parts of the same movement and in the end because the fight *for* abortions garnered more attention, other opinions and goals within the one movement did not get any meaningful recognition throughout society. Another very possible reason for turning points, or any form of activism to go unnoticed for that matter, plainly is that many people may just not be affected by it. Most people go through their day with some degree of ignorance towards others and as a result of this some events – no matter the severity – just go unnoticed or dismissed by the masses. We see this especially with conflicts in the middle east and political suppression in third world countries. Conflicts that warrant any sort of activism like these often go unnoticed themselves, so the events following them often receive the same treatment.

Conclusively, most turning points in activism still struggle to find real traction and attention from the public with many movements just being overlooked or utterly dismissed. This is something we all should aim to change and ultimately let this be a lesson to try and seek to be more aware of everyone's struggles and not just your own.