

Social Movements and Freedom of International Movement

In this paper, I develop a political argument for freedom of international movement. As several theorists of democracy point out, social movement constitutes an indispensable mechanism to hold governments accountable for their domestic and foreign policies and hence strengthen political justice domestically and internationally. In addition to domestic and international justice, social movement can strengthen global social justice by pressuring social actors such as multinational corporations or international actors such as the WTO to comply with norms of social justice. The efficacy of social movements, however, depends on whether their participants can enter the territory in which the targets of protest are located. Accordingly, given the importance of social movements for achieving social, domestic, and international justice, individuals should possess the right to freedom of international movement. Unlike the argument for freedom of international movement based on individual well-being, the political argument developed here focuses on the institutional precondition for promoting individual well-being. Unlike the argument against freedom of international movement on the grounds of state sovereignty, the political argument highlights that this freedom can bolster government's accountability to their own citizens.