

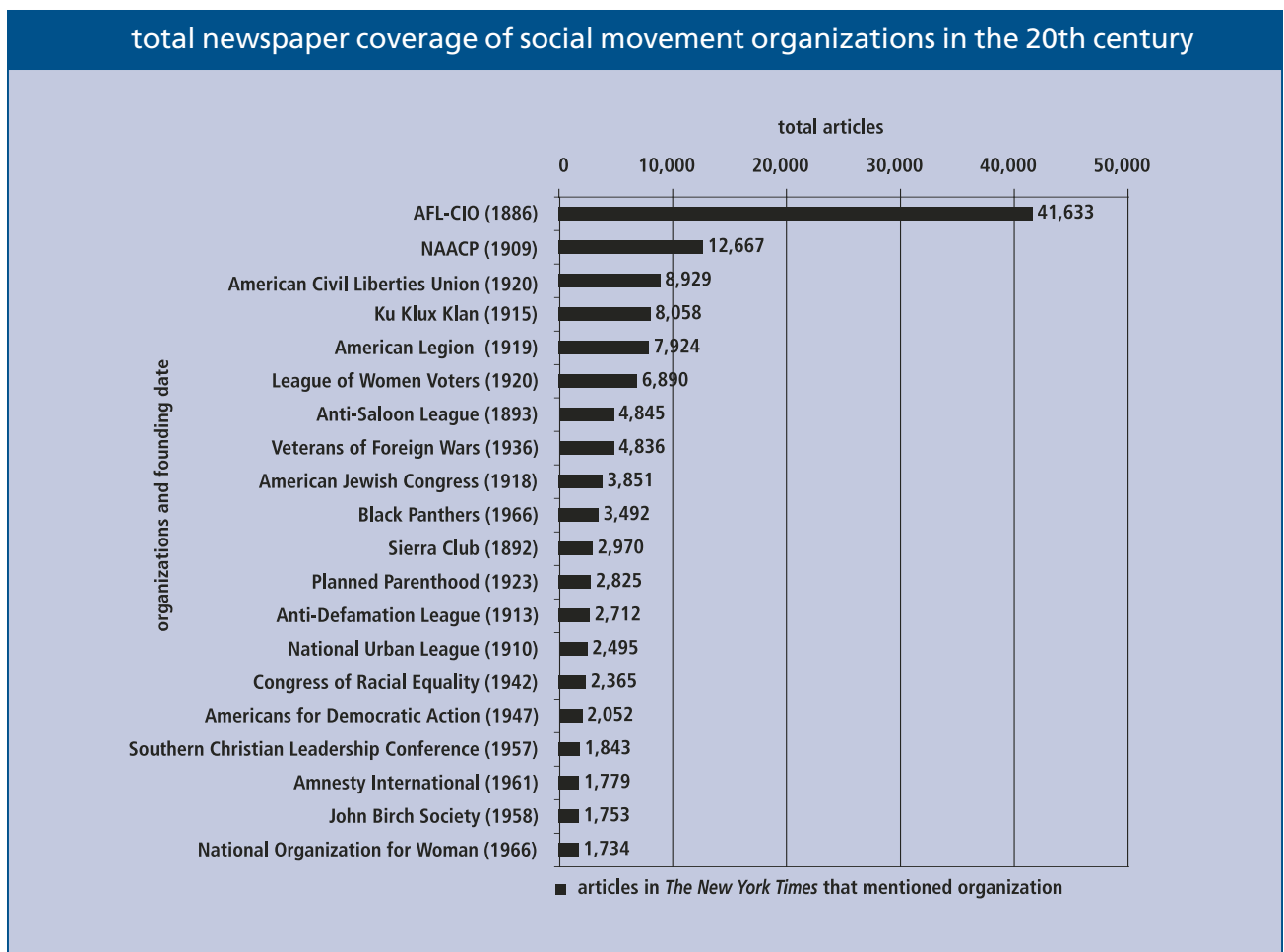
newspaper coverage of social movement organizations in the 20th century

Which U.S. social movement organizations have received the most newspaper publicity? Here are the ones that have served as reference points for elites and the informed public in the 20th century. The peak labor association and several civil rights organizations top the all-time list. But veterans organizations are well represented, too, and the one-year rankings offer a few surprises from the 1930s, including the Townsend Plan (7), the America First Committee (10), the German-American Bund (17), and the American Liberty League (20).

The historical coverage of protest organizations follows patterned trajectories. The most publicized civil rights organ-

ization, the NAACP, increased its coverage sharply during the heyday of the movement in the early 1960s but was reported on extensively before and afterward, while coverage of CORE increased dramatically and fell off at a similar rate. Even more precipitous was the newspapers' interest in the Black Panthers, whereas the National Urban League's coverage was lower but more consistent. Recent conservative groups exhibit similar patterns of attention, though at lower levels.

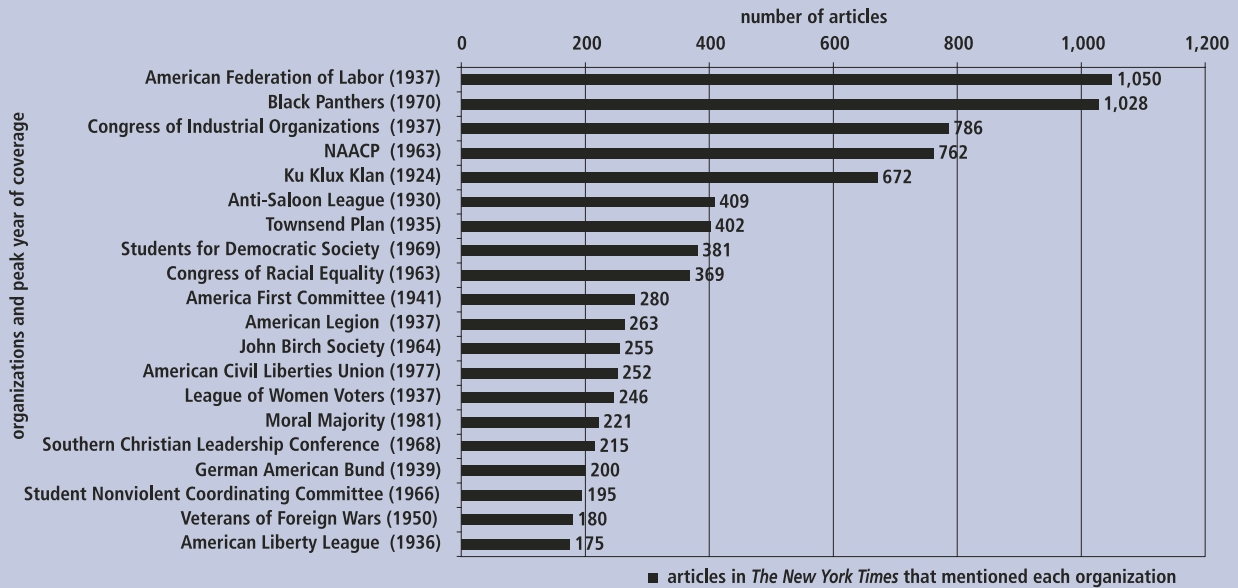
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peak-year newspaper coverage of social movement organizations

For this table, we first looked at how many *New York Times* articles were devoted to an organization in any given year to ascertain their year of peak coverage. We present the twenty that had the most articles about them in their peak years.



selected civil rights organizations by mentions in *New York Times* articles, 1950–1979

This layer graph shows a cumulative trend. At any given point the top-most line indicates the total number of mentions received by all four civil rights groups, while the shaded areas indicate the proportion that each civil rights group contributed to the total. Thus, 1970 was the peak year for mentions in the *New York Times* (just over 1400), and the Black Panthers made up the lion's share of that total.

