Presentation prepared for Warm Cookies of the Revolution

The Science of Effective Resistance

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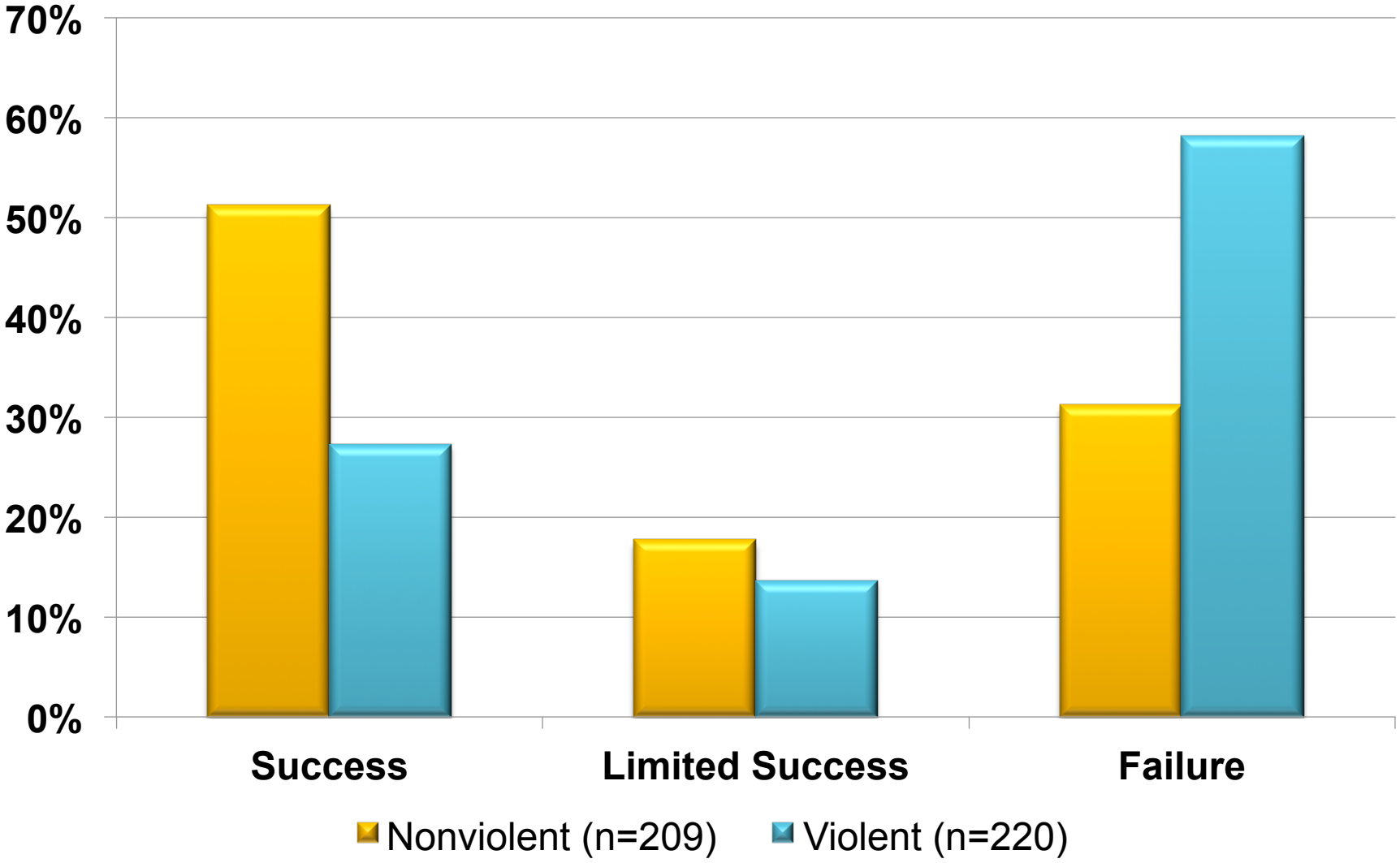
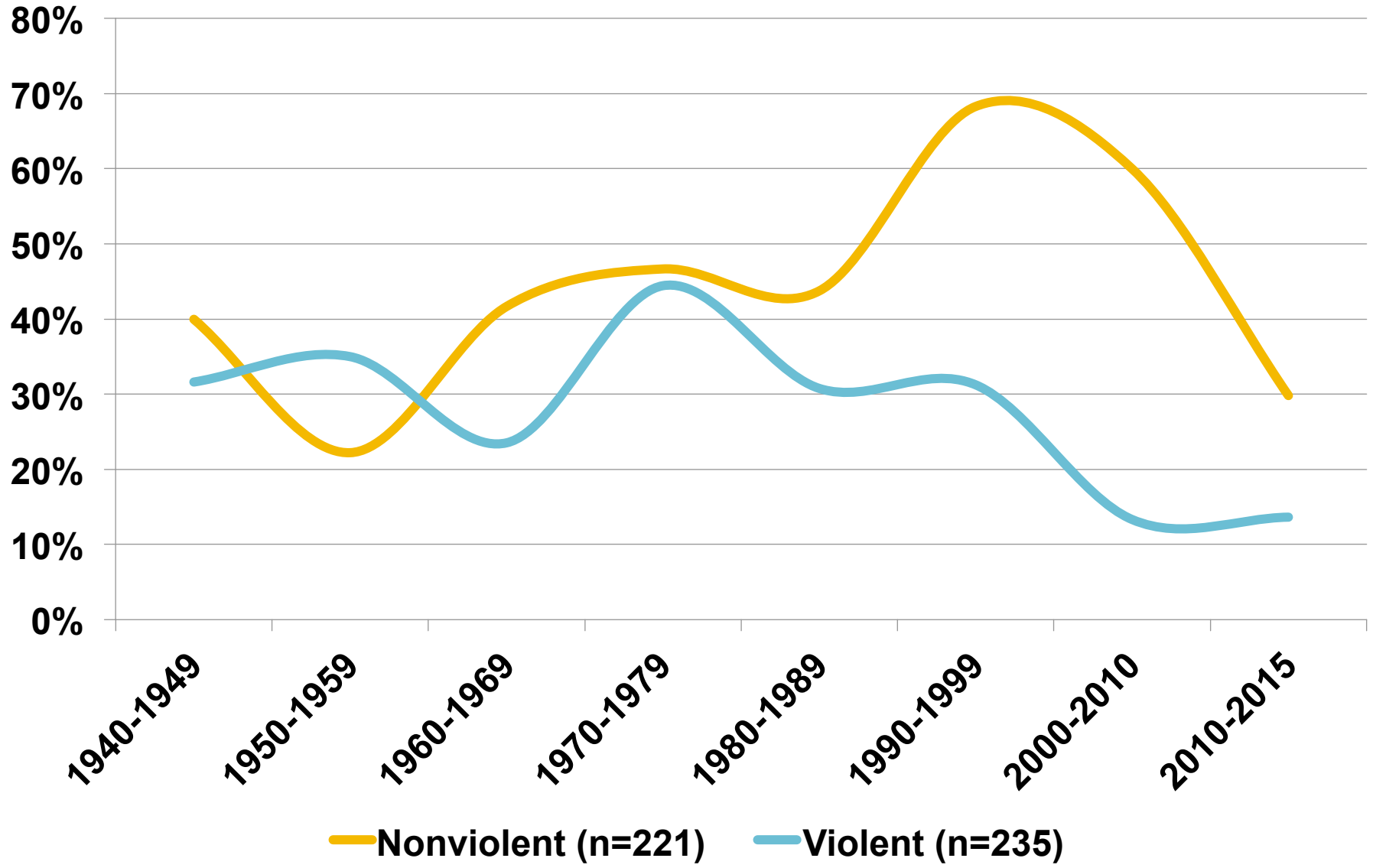
Global Success Rates of Nonviolent and Violent Campaigns, 1900-2015



p<.001 (omitting ongoing cases)

Source: MEC Dataset

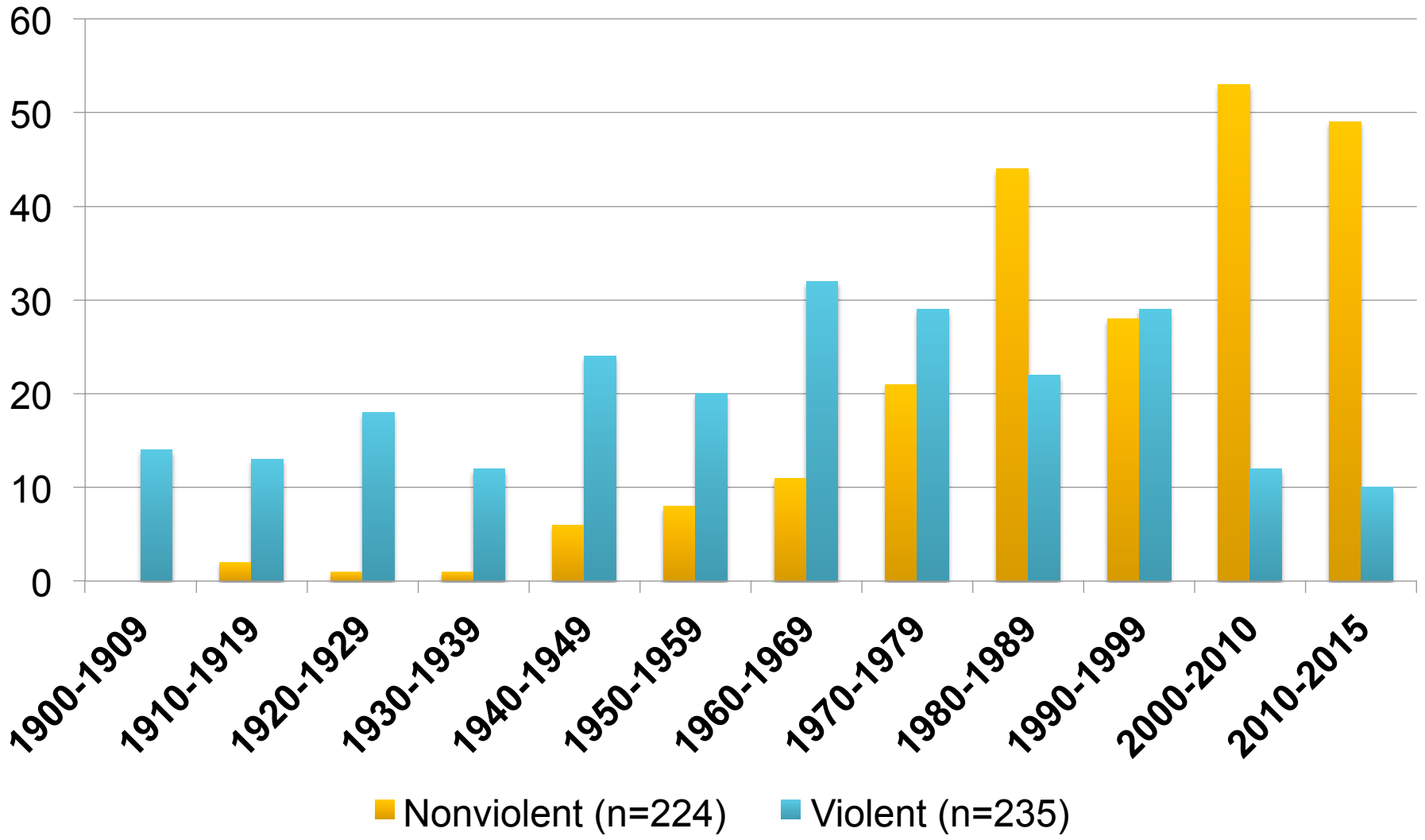
Global Success Rates by Decade, 1940-2015



p<.001 (ongoing cases counted as failures through 2015)

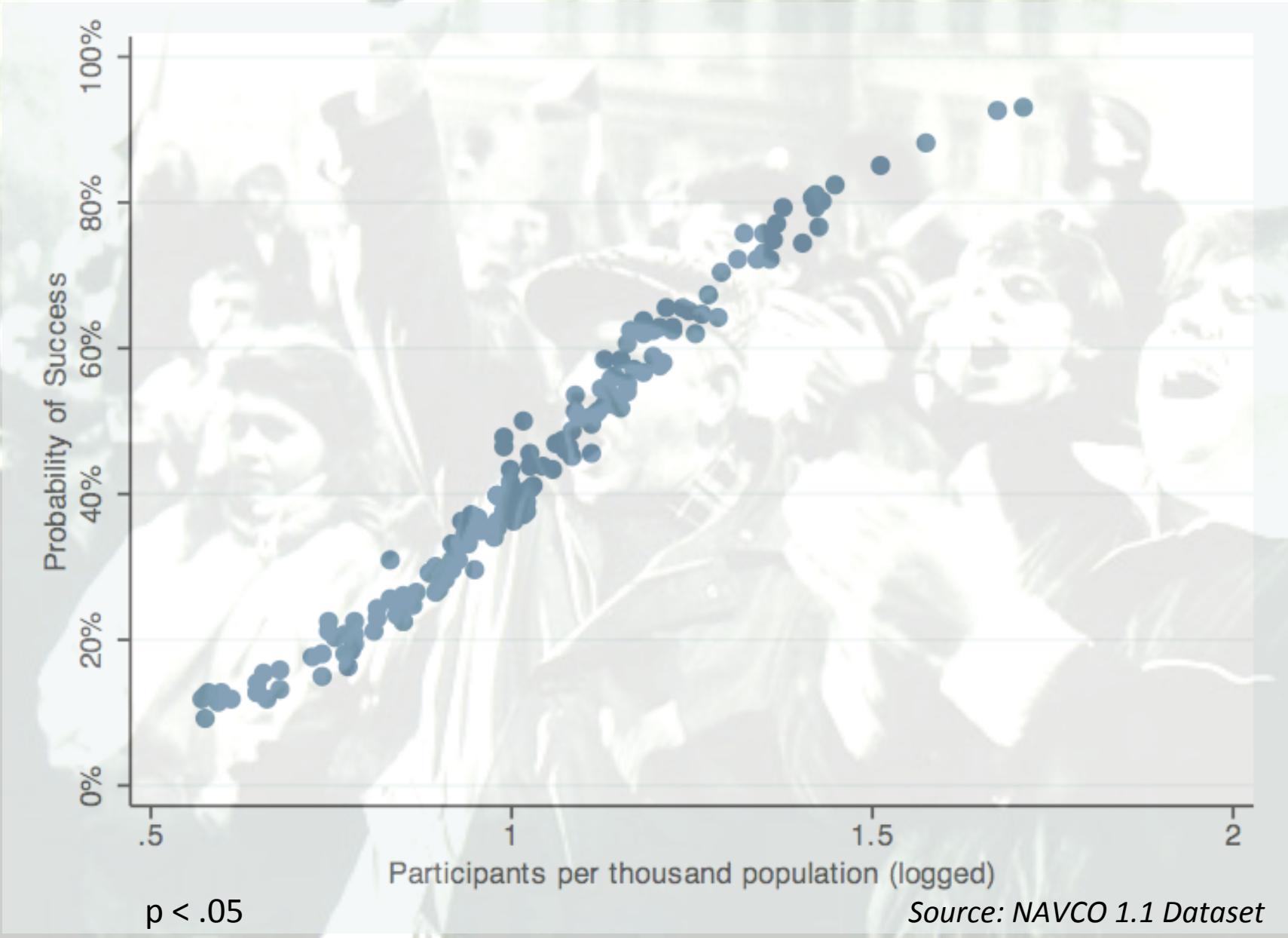
Source: MEC Dataset

Global Onsets of Nonviolent and Violent Campaigns, 1900-2015



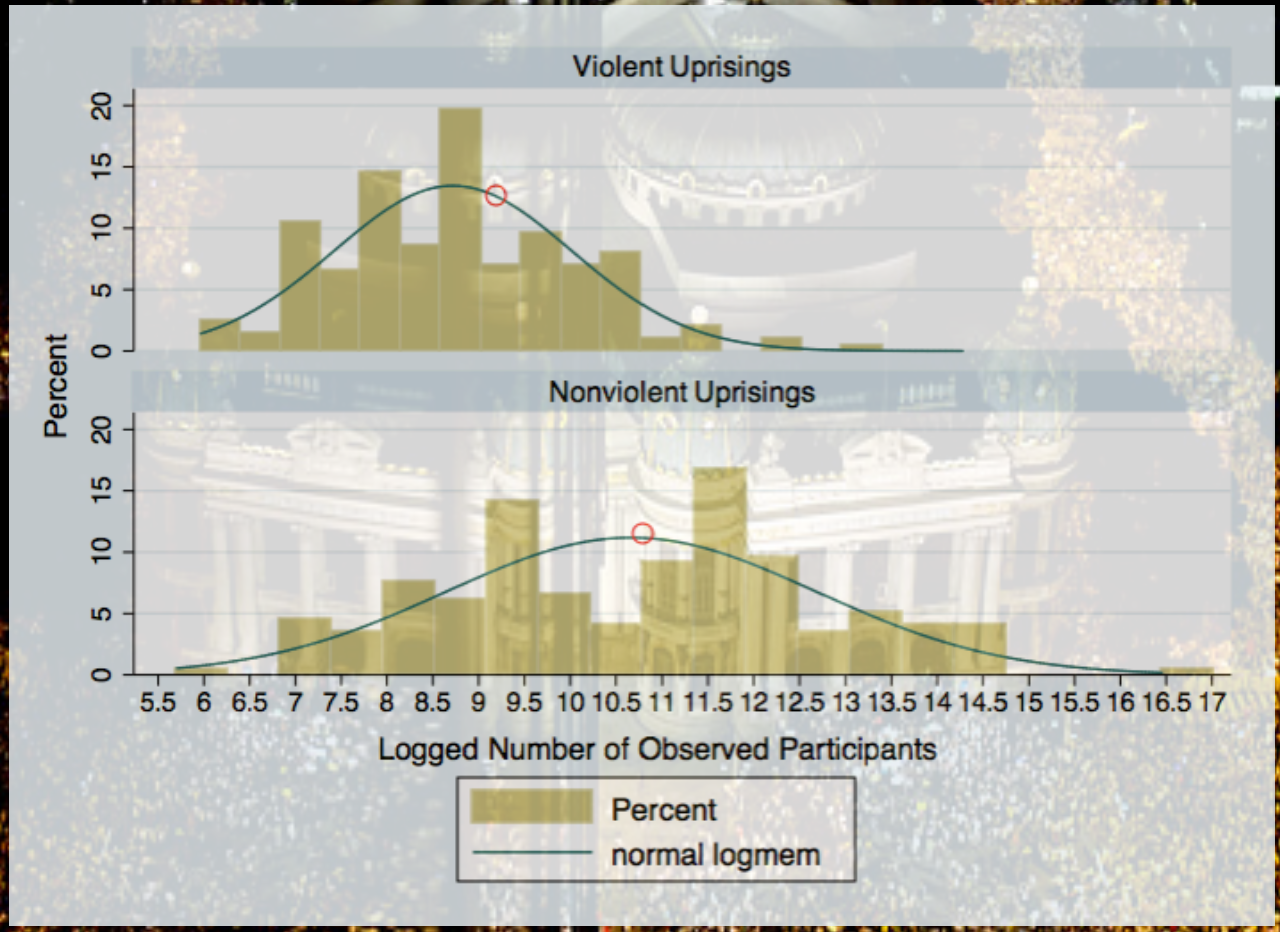
Source: MEC Dataset

The Effects of Campaign Participation on the Probability of Success, 1900-2006



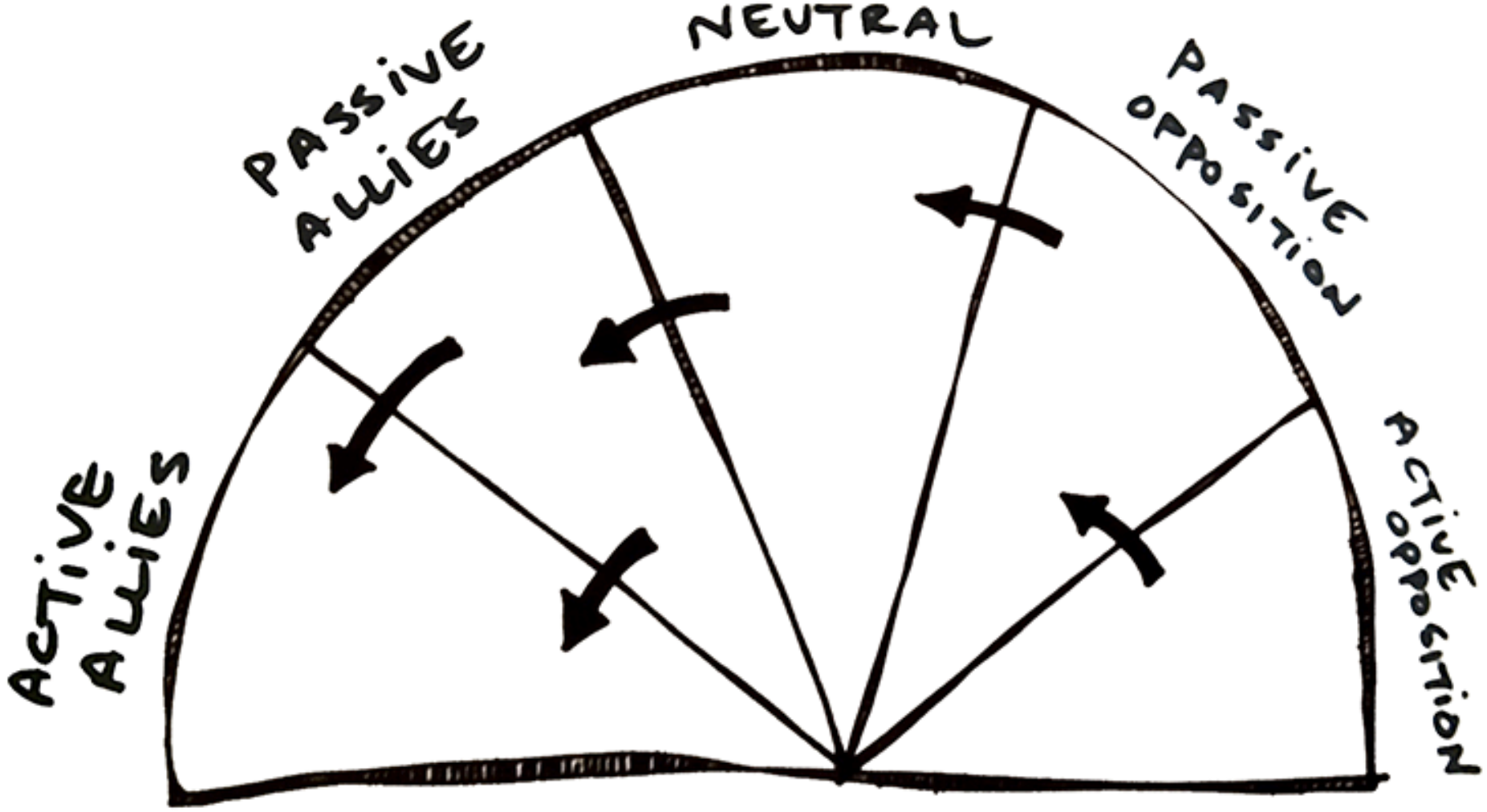
$p < .05$

Source: NAVCO 1.1 Dataset


Violent Uprisings
Nonviolent Uprisings
Percent
0
5
10
15
20
5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9 9.5 10 10.5 11 11.5 12 12.5 13 13.5 14 14.5 15 15.5 16 16.5 17
Logged Number of Observed Participants
Percent
normal logmem

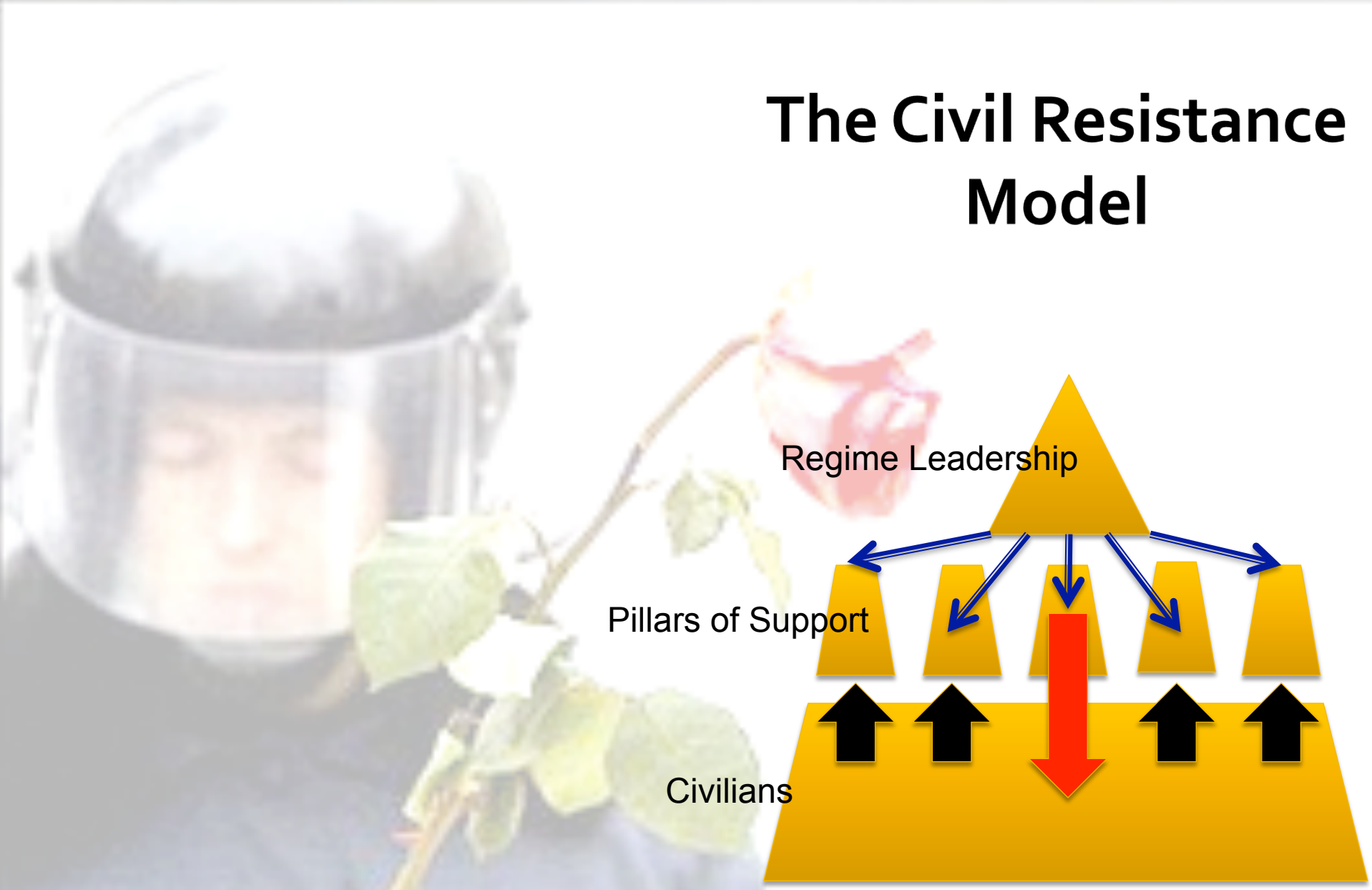
Barriers to Participation

The Spectrum of Allies



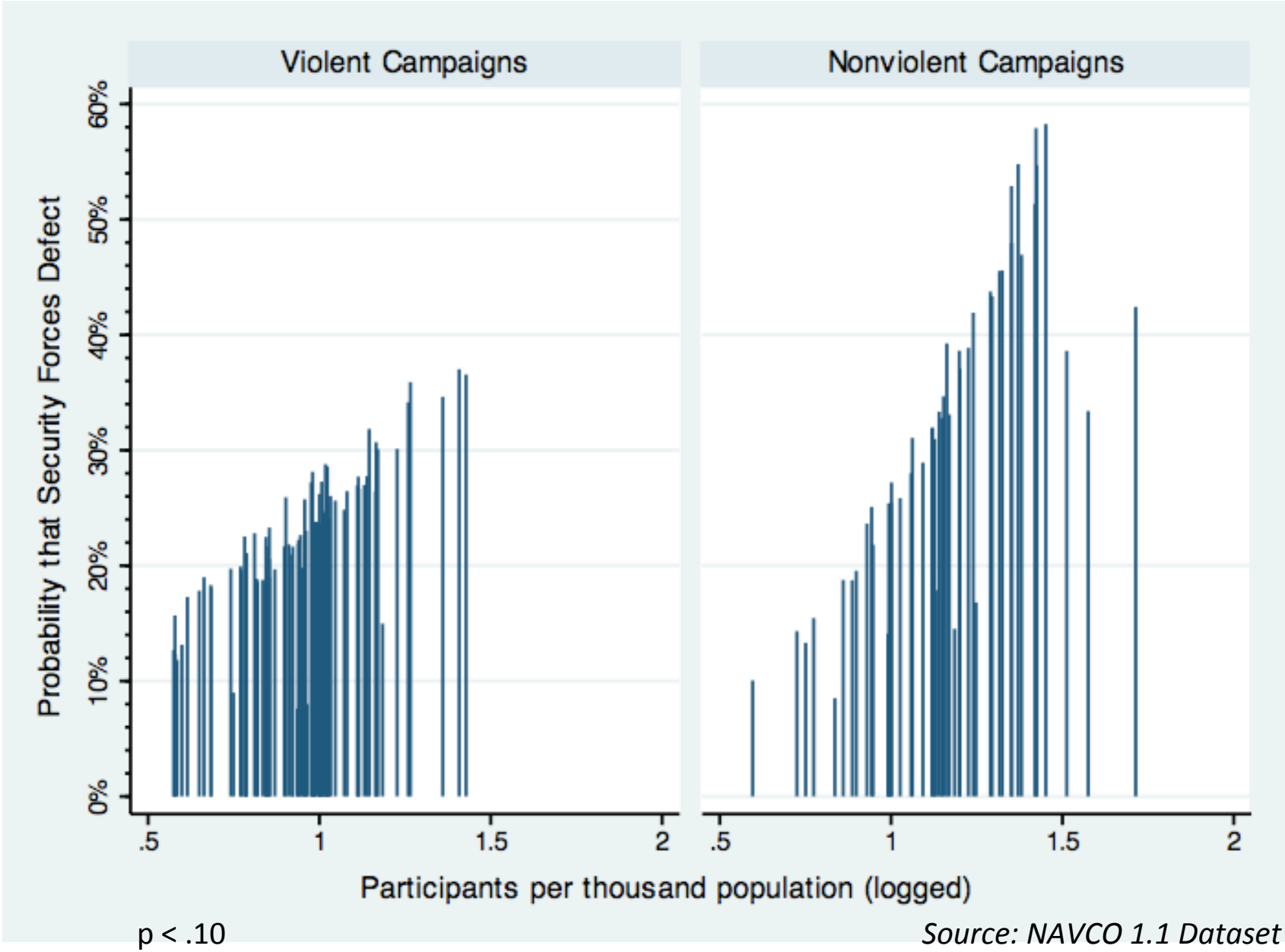
Source: 350.org

The Civil Resistance Model



Gandhi 1927; Hart 1965; Roberts 1967; Arendt 1970; Sharp 1973, 2005; Ackerman and Kruegler 1995; Schock 2005; Chenoweth & Stephan 2011; Nepstad 2013; etc.

The Effects of Campaign Participation on the Probability of Security Force Defections, by Campaign Type



p < .10

Source: NAVCO 1.1 Dataset

The Effects of Repression

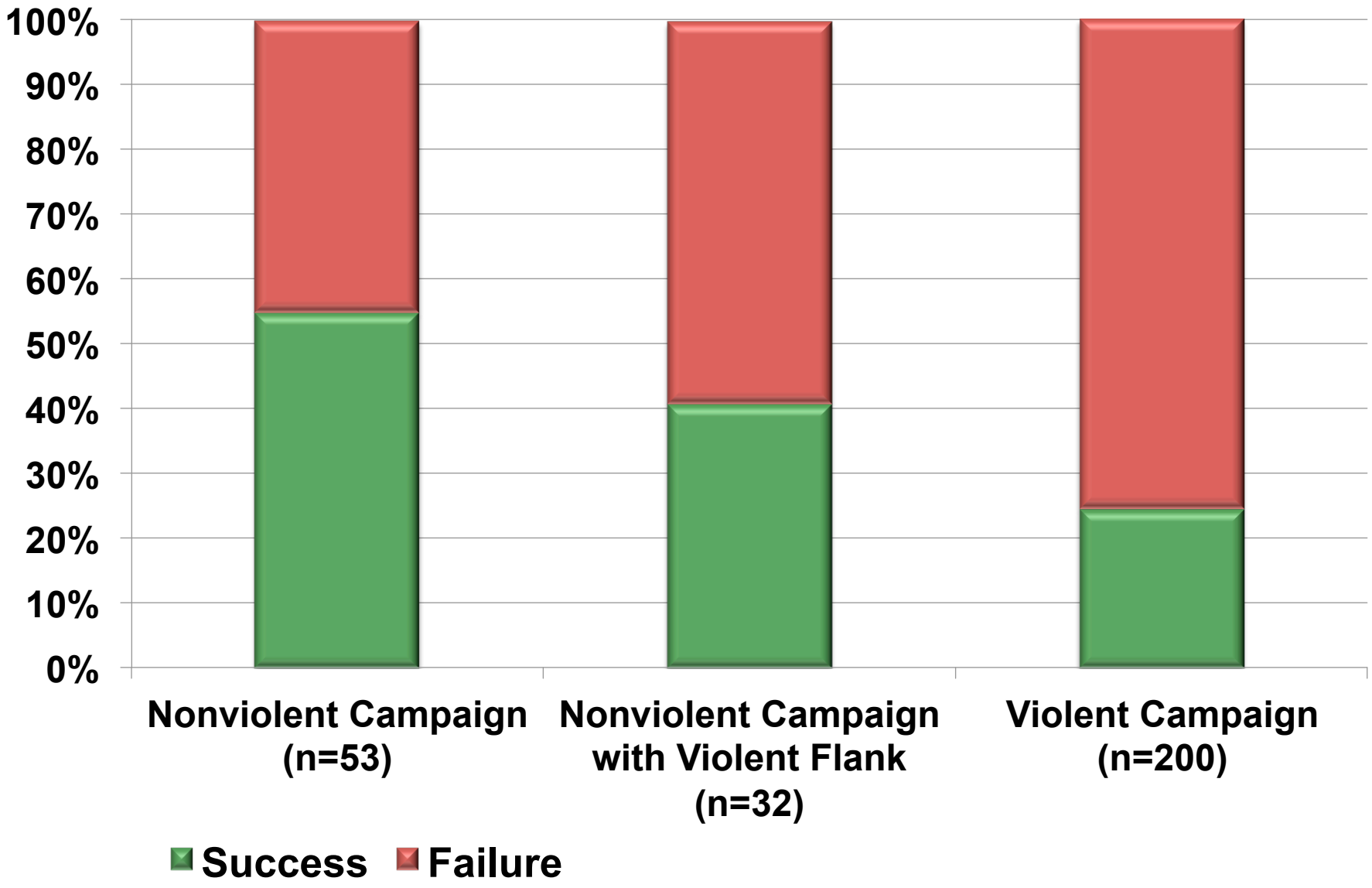
Nonviolent campaigns have a **46%** success rate against repressive opponents, compared with only **20%** for violent campaigns.

Backfire

Repression Is Unsustainable

Method shifts: Concentration vs. dispersion

Success Rates of Different Methods When Opponents Use Violent Repression



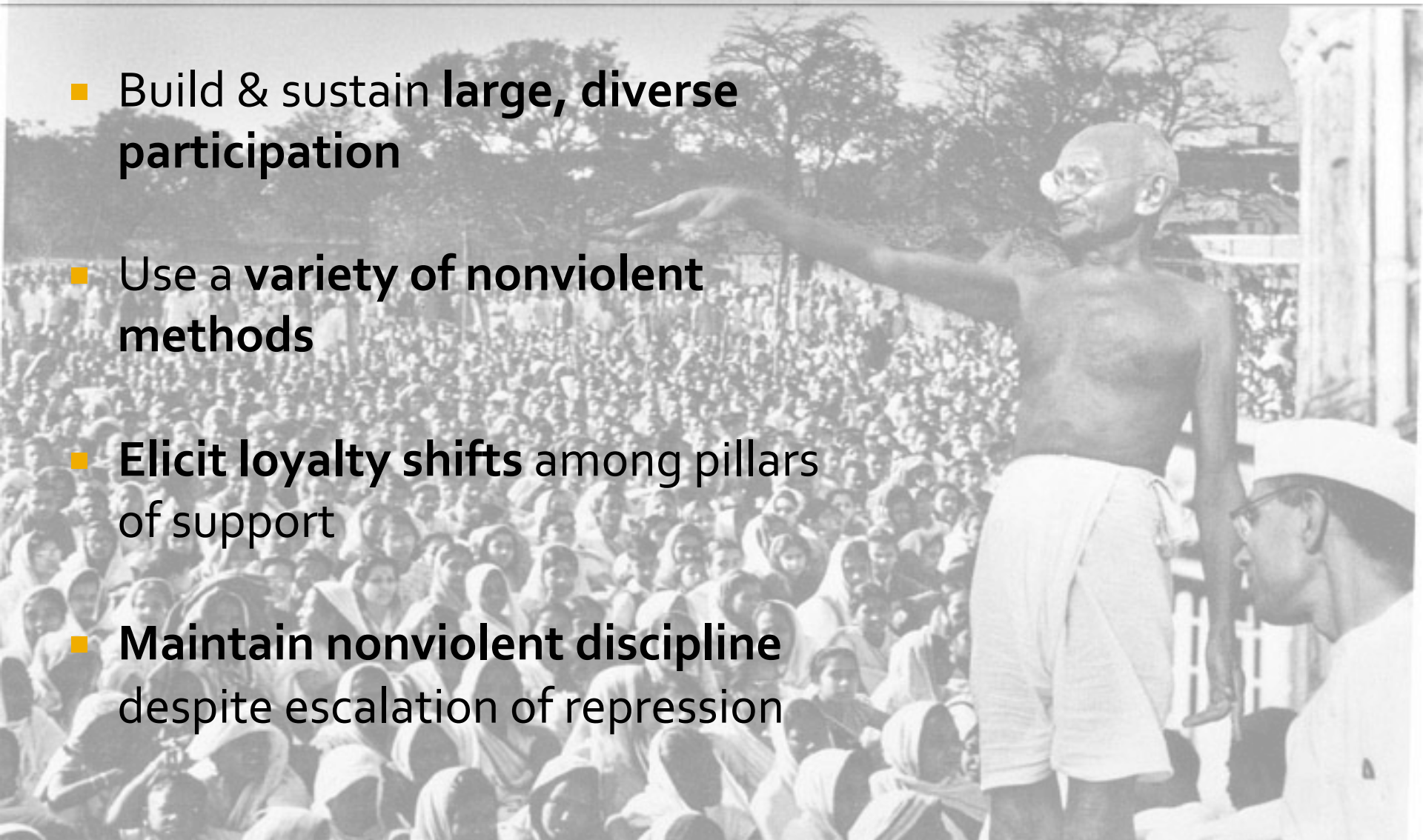
p < .001

Source: NAVCO 1.1 Dataset (Chenoweth & Schock 2015)

Maintaining Nonviolent Discipline is Crucial

- Average NV campaign with a violent flank is **17% smaller** than average NV campaign without one (Chenoweth & Schock 2015).
- Use of violence by movement **repels potential allies, increases widespread repression** (Thompkins 2015), & **discourages defections** (Wasow 2015).
- By **decreasing the level of popular participation** in a nonviolent campaign **& discouraging defections**, a violent flank **decreases its likelihood of success** (Chenoweth & Schock 2015; Wasow 2015; Huet-Vaughn 2016).
- Violent flanks also predispose societies to **higher risks of losing political influence & mass civil conflict** in the longer term (Wasow 2015; Chenoweth & Stephan 2011).

Four Things Successful Resistance Campaigns Do



- Build & sustain **large, diverse participation**
- Use a **variety of nonviolent methods**
- **Elicit loyalty shifts** among pillars of support
- **Maintain nonviolent discipline** despite escalation of repression

Resources on Maintaining NV Discipline

- Hardy Merriman, Movement Building and Civil Resistance: Key Resources for Movement Organizers: http://bit.ly/2ipWD6R
- War Resisters International: Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns: https://www.wri-irg.org/pubs/NonviolenceHandbook
- Veterans for Peace: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/.
- American Friends Service Committee (Quakers): https://www.afsc.org/
- Nonviolent Peaceforce: http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/

Nonviolence Training

- Information about Nonviolence Trainings
  - Campaign Nonviolence: http://www.paceebene.org/programs/campaign-nonviolence/
  - Showing Up for Racial Justice: http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/
  - Training for Change https://www.trainingforchange.org/
- Online Must-Reads
  - Act Up New York: http://www.actupny.org/documents/CDdocuments/NV%20Training.html
  - War Resisters International: Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns: https://www.wri-irg.org/pubs/NonviolenceHandbook
  - CANVAS: http://canvasopedia.org/project/canvas-core-curriculum/

Further Resources

- International Center on Nonviolent Conflict https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/
- Albert Einstein institute http://www.aeinstein.org/
- Rhize http://www.rhize.org/
- 350.org http://trainings.350.org/for/organisers/
- An article summarizing much of this info: https://t.co/3MilHGBBPe.

Blogs:
Political Violence @ a Glance
The Monkey Cage
Rational Insurgent

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@EricaChenoweth