TAKING TO THE STREETS:
THE 1919 UPHEAVALS IN SHANGHAI AND BOMBAY—
AND HOW 1919 HELPS US UNDERSTAND
THE HONG KONG OF 2019

Abstract: The protests that swept through the streets of Shanghai and Bombay in 1919 are often viewed as local variations of national outrage over the actions of imperialist powers in the aftermath of the First World War. A close look at the evidence suggests that the protests shared much in common with what Manuel Castells characterized as urban social movements. The protests also share much in common with the protests that have swept Hong Kong in 2019. This talk explores the evolution of similar political geographies and the connections between Bombay and Shanghai in the nineteenth century, and their emergence as leading centers of protests that shared many tactics in common and that involved broader claims of urban citizenship, in 1919 and the decade that followed.

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