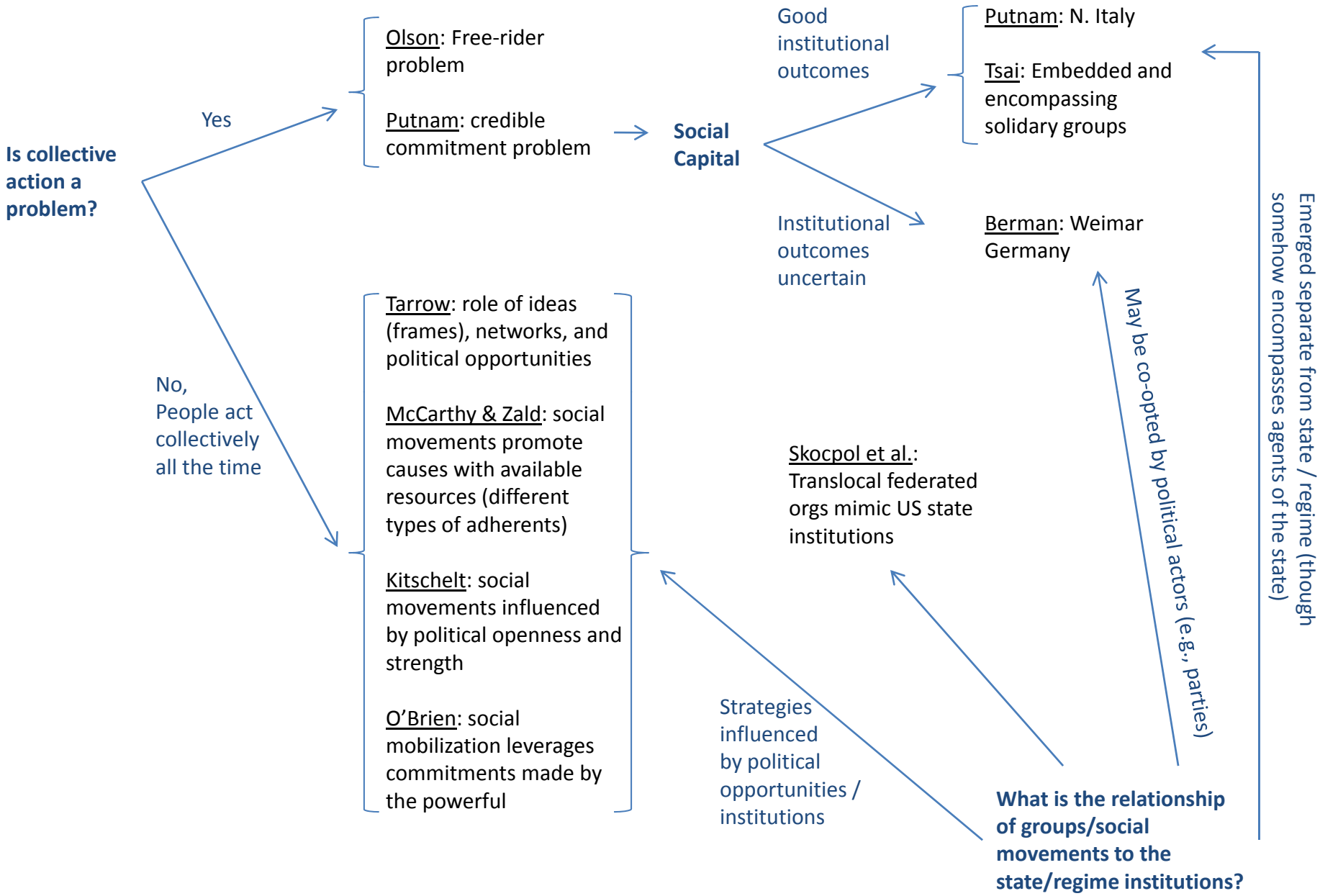
Is collective action a problem?
Yes
No, People act collectively all the time
Olson: Free-rider problem
Putnam: credible commitment problem
Social Capital
Good institutional outcomes
Institutional outcomes uncertain
Putnam: N. Italy
Tsai: Embedded and encompassing solidary groups
Berman: Weimar Germany
Tarrow: role of ideas (frames), networks, and political opportunities
McCarthy & Zald: social movements promote causes with available resources (different types of adherents)
Kitschelt: social movements influenced by political openness and strength
O'Brien: social mobilization leverages commitments made by the powerful
Skocpol et al.: Translocal federated orgs mimic US state institutions
Strategies influenced by political opportunities / institutions
May be co-opted by political actors (e.g., parties)
Emerged separate from state / regime (though somehow encompasses agents of the state)
What is the relationship of groups/social movements to the state/regime institutions?