

<REPORT> GROUP NO.2

POWER

- POLITICAL SCIENCE

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I. Introduction : What is politics ?

Max Weber wrote , "Politics means striving to share power or striving to influence the distribution of power, either among states or among groups within a state." And we can simply define politics as " a struggle for power

II. The relationship between right and power

1. The course of establishing the relationship : social contract between society and state

State has political power over people. So people had to exercise their rights under the authority of state.

But that doesn't mean that there is no other way to exercise it. The people still have the potential to realize their rights, which we will mention later on.

2. The result of social contract : political power

(1) The definition of political power

Political power can be defined such as "the means of ordering the lives of others" or "the ability to influence people through persuasion and compulsion", which explains the relationship of those who governed(state with political power) to those who are governed(people as a member of the society)

(2) Differences between power and influence

For another viewpoint Bertrand Russell defines power as " the production of intended effects ". This definition is meaningful if we assume power as participation in the making of decisions in interpersonal relation. And if we follow this assumption we would need to add another element to this definition - the availability of sanctions¹⁾ when the intended effects are not forthcoming.

1) sanction is a behavior which is intended to make people obey laws or customs

It is the threat of sanctions which differentiates power from influence in general. Power is a special case of the exercise of influence : it is the process of affecting policies of others. In other words a form of power is a form of influence in which the effect on policy is enforced by relatively severe sanctions. So what is common to all power and influence is only effect on policy.

(3) The root of political power

When we refer to the root of political power we need to explain the relationship between economic power and political power. As for the ancient conception , political power derived squarely from economic power : particularly from the control of land. And then changes in ownership , emergence of new modes of production , etc, created new sources of political power and thus made for conflicts. As a result for the nowadays conception , the independence of political power has settled and its interconnection with economic power still exists.

(4) The state exerting authority

Authority is the right to command and control other people. Usually authority is in the form of official organization or government departments that has the power to make decisions.

3. A point to think about : does professor Kim have political power ?

The answer is "no". Referring to Russell's definition I would say professor Kim is more closer to having influence toward us. It is because he can't enforce us his educational intentions by sanctions. (Discussion is needed during class.)

III. The realization of individual rights

Although the state has political power, that does not mean that the state has coercive power. Individuals as well have the types of power to order or influence others in order to realize their individual rights against the government. For example the vote, economic pressures , and public opinion may be the ways. Consequently people can influence the government to realize their rights.

1. Pressure groups

It is an organized group of people whose aim is to persuade the government or authority to take a particular course of action. They are mainly concerned with what policies shall prevail.

2. Public opinion

Public opinion means any collection of individual opinions designated. And we are usually interested in those collections of opinion which exert the greater influence upon government.

IV. Efficient exercise of power

1. emotional grip (Miranda)

- (1) Chicago school(led by Charles E. Merriam and Harold D. Laswell)'s view:
 - emphasized the role of psychological factors in political life
 - cf) Merriam was also interested in the use of mathematical techniques such as statistics in the analysis of politics.

- (2) The system of admiration by symbolism:
 - glorification of the power association by
 - memorial days and periods
 - public places and monumental apparatus
 - music and songs
 - artistic designs, in flags, decorations, statuary, uniforms
 - story and history
 - ceremonials of an elaborate nature
 - mass demonstrations, with parades, oratory, music

2. rationalization (credenda)

- (1) systematic explanations of authority:
 - Why should we obey & give assent to the continuance of power?
 - esp. among the higher level of culture groups

- (2) principal forms of belief appeared in history:
 - political power is ordained of God or the gods.
 - political power is the highest expression of expert leadership.
 - political power is the will of the many or the majority

3. manipulation (propaganda)

- (1) social control of propaganda
 - dissemination of information, facts, arguments, rumors, half-truths, or lies to influence public opinion.
 - systematic effort to manipulate other people's beliefs, attitudes, or actions by means of symbols

- (2) compare with education
 - deliberate selectivity and manipulation distinguish propaganda from education.

<references>

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A Grammar of Politics . Harold J. Laski