

# The Possibility

- I. Even if not exercised, still your right is there.
    - What does it mean?What is the power?
  - II. Think that the word 'power' has the same roots with the word 'potential'.
  - III. If the ruler exercises power excessively, what will happen?
    - : 'Efficient exercise of Power'
- \*Political Science

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## THE POSSIBILITY: Key Word #2 Under Max Weber's Definition of Rights

By Seunhyun & Todd

PART A Even if not exercised, your right is still there. What does this mean?

(a) a closer look at Weber's definition

- A Right or Rights = “the state of mutual social relationships in which **the possibility** of the members of a social group enjoying exclusive spiritual and material interests under its internal order in a continuous way is **guaranteed**.”
- Key to our understanding of Weber's definition, in the context of possibility, are two words: (1) the possibility, and (2) guaranteed.
- **Possibility =**  
1 : the condition or fact of being possible.  
**Possible =**  
1 : being within the limits of ability, capacity, or realization.  
2 : being something that may or may not occur.  
3 : having an indicated potential.
- **Guarantee =**  
1 : to engage for the existence, permanence, or nature of ; undertake to do or secure.  
2 : to give security to.
- If we therefore simplify Weber's definition, focusing on possibility, we can say that **a right is a state in which the possibility of enjoying interests is guaranteed**.
- The **possibility** of enjoying your interests is guaranteed – you do not need to exercise your interests, but if you nevertheless choose to, you are guaranteed to be able to do so as a right. Thus, **even if not exercised, your right is still there**.

(b) Why is your right still there, even if not exercised?

- There are times in society when interests may cease to exist if not exercised:
  - Ownership of land - old (outdated) Canadian and English law – if one occupies a parcel of land for 20 years (though not the owner), and the owner makes no claim to the land, the person occupying the land becomes the legal owner.
  - International law – if a nation cannot assert sovereignty over a piece of territory, other nations may lay claim to it.

- But societies consider some interests so fundamental that they are guaranteed when and if the need to exercise your interest arises. **These rights are important to social order, community, and individual well-being, and therefore guaranteed through social contracts and the law.**
  - Right to free movement (within a country)
  - Right to free speech
  - Right to democracy
  - Right to a fair trial

(c) *examples of major rights widely recognized, guaranteed and protected*

- Preamble United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
  - Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,  
Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law...
    - Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948 without a dissenting vote. It is the first multinational declaration mentioning human rights by name, and the human rights movement has largely adopted it as a charter. For perhaps the first time, representatives from the majority of governments in the world came to the conclusion that basic human rights must be protected, not only for the sake of the individuals and countries involved, but to preserve the human race.
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:
  - Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:
    - a) freedom of conscience and religion;
    - b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
    - c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
    - d) freedom of association.
  - Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein.
  - Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.
  - Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.
  - Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

- Korean Constitution:
  - **Article 10 [Dignity, Pursuit of Happiness]** - All citizens are assured of human worth and dignity and have the right to pursue happiness. It is the duty of the State to confirm and guarantee the fundamental and inviolable human rights of individuals.
  - **Article 11 [Equality]** - All citizens are equal before the law, and there may be no discrimination in political, economic, social, or cultural life on account of sex, religion, or social status.
  - **Article 12 [Personal Liberty, Personal Integrity]** - All citizens enjoy personal liberty. No person may be arrested, detained, searched, seized, or interrogated except as provided by law. No person may be punished, placed under preventive restrictions, or subject to involuntary labor except as provided by law and through lawful procedures.
  - **Article 14 [Residence, Move]**  
All citizens enjoy the freedom of residence and the right to move at will
  - **Article 15 [Occupation]**  
All citizens enjoy freedom of occupation.

## PART B What is the power?

- Think that the word 'power' has the same roots with the word 'potential'.

By Do-sung

As indicated in our second discussion question, etymologically 'power' in Latin is, against some popular knowledge, not *posse* but derived from *potere*, Latin verb. According to my dictionary of etymology, which I purchased by necessity when I was studying at the University of Chicago where my major was East Asian Languages and Civilization, the word 'power' here possesses direct root with potent, potential, potentate, etc.

Numerous scholars have tried to define the concept of power (and especially in this context, political power) with any precision..... the result: there exist a plethora of definitions and conceptualizations on political power. Recognizing that brevity is sometimes virtue, I focus solely on Weber's own definition and remark on politics and its power.

Weber said "politics means striving to share power or striving to influence the distribution of power, either among states or groups within a state." He also conceptualizes 'power' rather in succinct manner as 'the ability to achieve desired ends despite resistance from others'

In light of Weber's verbatim, I, after thinking over what would be necessary for the today's presentation, have planned to focus on a specific case study to fully illustrate the concepts other than glossing over an amorphous assemblage of ideal and abstract thoughts

I cannot find my case study topic better than **The Black Power and Civil rights Movements**. The philosophy known as **the black power** grew out of the frustration among many African Americans with the slow progress of the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

In 1966---The slogan “**black power**” coined and came to signify both the radical, militant wing of the civil rights movements, and, more generally, the idea of uniting and empowering the black community.

Accordingly, the goals of various groups associated with the black power movement have ranged **from the promotion of political and economic power for African Americans to black separatism and violent revolution.**

Although the term, black power emerged in the late 1960s, the philosophy of the movement had previously been espoused by black nationalist groups including Nation of Islam and Black Muslims

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, Malcolm X, a leader of the organization, believed that racial justice for blacks should be achieved by “any means necessary.”

In 1964, he broke ranks with the Nation of Islam, however, and thereafter advocated racial harmony, a stance that brought threats from his former colleagues.

The next year, in 1965 he was assassinated by members of the Nation of Islam.

During the mid-1960s ---- A growing militancy in the African American community was signaled by the outbreak of violence in urban black neighborhoods, including race riots in Los Angeles, Calif., Newark, N.J., and Detroit, Mich.

In 1966, The Black Panther Party was founded in Oakland, Calif. It was one of groups that Black activists attempted to harness the widespread frustration by establishing Black Nationalist organizations.

1967 ---- As a result of Newton's imprisonment for manslaughter, The Black Panthers were formed as a local group but drew a large national following.

‘Soul on Ice’ (1968), a groundbreaking prison memoir by E. Calver, the organization's minister of information, brought the ideology of the black power movement to mainstream white America.

1960-----The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which had been founded by **Martin Luther King, Jr., to promote nonviolent protest,**

By the late 1960s ----militant groups had gained widespread support among black activists-----international exposure at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City----- Two United States sprinters, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, delivered a **black power salute** while standing silently with heads bowed as the American national anthem played during a medal ceremony.

1970 ----The movement declined after numerous black nationalists were arrested or killed in confrontations with police....

1980--- Notwithstanding the crackdown by (from) the police, the term ‘**black power**’ continues to signify **pride and cohesiveness** in African-American urban communities.

**Conclusion**

## **Part C :**

***If the ruler exercises power excessively, what will happen?***

***Presented by Hyunjung & written by Minhyeong***

### **A preface**

#### **CASE OF 1960. 4.19 revolution against Ri Seung man's autocracy**

You Korea univ. students know well it is the anniversary on 4.18 that we run from the school to the National Cemetery in Su-Yoo. On 4.18, 1960 about 3,000 students in Korea Univ. demonstrated against Ri's autocracy on the road. Cause Ri wanted to be a president three times for his term of office by oppressing the people who want the democracy for election through the fair vote. **It's not democracy but autocracy.** Since he exercised power excessively, the revolution made him stepped down from his post as president. There are many matters to consider how to exercise power efficiently.

#### **1. Definitions of power**

##### **(1) Weber's definition**

*"Possibility to achieve one's will against the resistance of particular group or individual in social relationship.*

\* Examination of Weber's definition on power

Weber's definition of power can be built through the notion of Intention & Conflict. To achieved desired ends ( intention) + despite resistance from others (conflict). Three fundamental element to the concept of power.

- Class : the outcome of the distribution of economic power
- Status : normatively defined a kind of social power
- Party : political groups active in pursuit of various

##### **(2) Power as Substance**

\* Holding power

\* Regarding power as substance, the minority as power holder who have this substance dominate the large mass of the people

\* On the premise of the minority of rulers and the majority of the ruled, it's considered that the ruler is aggressive and active factor.

\* The role of the ruled is underestimated in politics.

\* Supporters: Hobbes, Hegel, Marx, Stalin etc

##### **(3) Power as Relationship**

\* Political power is the rational interrelations or relationship between the ruler(the person in power) and the ruled, not coming into existence without the ruled's agreement or obedience

\* Obedience make the ruler

\* Supporters: Locke, Grazia, etc.

##### **(4) a compromise on conflicting views**

\* Power is relationship that the ruler and the ruled achieve the same purpose through the compulsion and agreement

\* Karl J. Friedrich: Power = Substance + Relationship

## **2. Game Theory of power(the manifestation of power)**

### **(1) Zero-sum concept: substantial theory of power**

Power as scarcity value is definitely not shared. In other words, if people don't compete they can't gain it. Man who wants enlarge his power reduces the other man.

And so The Ruler(Winner+100benefit) + The Ruled(loser,-100loss) = Zero(O)

It's based on power as substance.

### **(2) Non zero-sum concept: relationship theory of power**

Existence of power itself can make the public profits of society. For the benefits of both, the cooperation between the ruler and the ruled can be needed.

## **3. The motion of power**

### **(1) Principle of oligarchy**

\* People who take the charge of politics are always a minority. It is the most universal phenomenon through transcendence of space-time in social life that a few rulers dominate the majority of the ruled.

\* The advent of political elites.

Though the concept of political equality is established, it's not true that everyone has the same influence into the real politics.

### **1) Mosca, Gaetano [Italian] The theory of elite**

\* The society consists of rulers and the ruled.

\* The ruled are dominated & led by the legitimacy and voluntary violence of the ruler

\* It's inevitable that the minority who are organized systemically dominates the majority not organized. Cause it's difficult to organize the majority.

### **2) Pareto, Vilfredo [Italian] The circulation of elite**

\* The history of mankind is just an internal strife of a few elites.

\* People are divided by their nature into a few elites and the majority of the ruled.

### **3) Michels, Robert [German] The ironbound rule of oligarchy**

\* The scale and extension of an organization tend to produce an oligarchic ruler.

\* Any organization concentrates his power into a few leaders to extend the scale.

\* As the extension of an organization members have difficulty in decision-making directly, so the mechanism that efficiently functioning based on maximization and specialization need to be a solid organization makes the whole group oligarchic.

\* Oligarchic rulers who once hold power just devote themselves to sustaining their power for the maintenance of an organization though the purpose of an organization is different from the beginning.

## **4. Efficient ways to exercise of power**

According to C.E. Merriam, there are two methods to make people obey to political power voluntarily rather than to force them to do so. Those are 'miranda' and 'credenda' of political power.

### **(1) Miranda of political power (from Latin, meaning 'admirable')**

The word 'miranda' is Latin for 'admirable'

It appeals to people's emotion and makes the political power look sacred, mysterious, great, or admirable.

In these ways, people are easy to feel that it is natural to obey to the power.

Songs, slogans, flags, and uniforms are the good examples of miranda.

**(2) Credenda of political power.( from Latin'credo', meaning 'things to be trusted )**

The word 'credenda' is Latin for 'things to be trusted' and it originally means 'rule of God'.

While Miranda appeals to people's 'emotion', credenda appeals to people's 'rationality'.

That is , credenda of political power develops its symbol of rationality into political symbol and explain legitimacy of power to people.

**(3) Propaganda of political power**

'Propaganda' means dissemination of information, facts, arguments, rumors, half-truths, or lies to influence public opinion. It makes systematic effort to manipulate other people's beliefs, attitudes, or actions by means of symbols.

**5. The three types of authority by Max Weber's definition**

Weber distinguished three main modes of claiming legitimacy. Authority may be based on rational grounds and anchored in impersonal rules that have been legally enacted or contractually established. This type is *rational-legal authority*(sometimes called bureaucratic authority), which has increasingly come to characterize hierarchical relations in modern society. *Traditional authority*, on the other hand, which predominates in pre-modern societies, is based on belief in the sanctity of tradition, of "the eternal yesterday." It is not codified in impersonal rules but inheres in particular persons who may either inherit it or be invested with it by a higher authority. Ex) Some well-established upper-class families in the US such as the Roosevelts, Kennedys, and Bushes, have occupied a privileged position for several generations and enter the political arena with some measure of traditional authority.

*Charismatic authority*, finally, rests on the appeal of leaders who claim allegiance because of their extraordinary virtuosity, whether ethical, heroic, or religious.

Ex) Vladimir Lenin, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr, Kim IL-Sung, etc

**6. Bureaucracy: legitimate power through bureaucracy**

Weber's interest in the nature of power and authority, as well as his pervasive preoccupation with modern trends of rationalization, led him to concern himself with the operation of modern large-scale enterprises in the political, administrative, and economic realm. Bureaucratic coordination of activities, he argued, is the distinctive mark of the modern era.

\* Characteristics of Bureaucracy

What specific traits promote organizational efficiency? Weber identified six key elements of the ideal bureaucratic organization.

- a. Specialization
- b. Hierarchy of offices
- c. Rules and Regulations
- d. Technical Competence
- e. Impersonality
- f. Formal, written communication

**7. Review the revolution on 4.19 against Ri's autocracy**