

Group 2: The possibility

To: Introduction to Korean Law Class
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Date: May 13, 1999
Re: political and sociological approach to the concept "power"

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1. Politics and Power

This writing investigates the dynamics of power in and between societies. A central concept of this inquiry is politics. Politics or the polity is the major social institutions by which a society distributes power and organizes decision making. Since politics is about power, we begin by examining the role of power in societies.

2. Concept of Power

(1) Definitions

Max Weber: Power is the ability to **achieve**

B. Russell: Power may be defined as the production of intended effects.

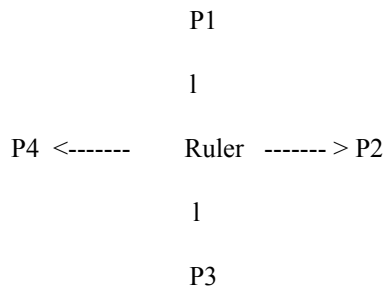
Cf) criticism by HD. Lasswell: Power is an interpersonal relation.

H.D. Lasswell: Power is participation in the making decisions. Ex) G has the power over H with respect to the values K if G participates in the making of decisions affecting the K-policies of EL

(2) Power as Substance

Power is substantial concept so that the few who have power can dommtte the many.

Supporters: Hobbes, Hegel, Marx, Stalin etc

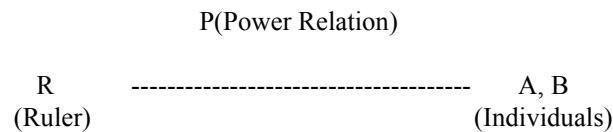


(3) Power as Relationship

When we consider the fact 'time', the concept of sub power is uncertain. In other words, for guaranteeing people's obedience to a nation for a long time, we need to rational interrelations between the ruler(the person in power) and the ruled.

S. de Grazia: "In every case, ruler is dependent on popular belief. Once that is gone, he too is gone. He lives or dies in the minds of his subjects."

Supporters: Locke, Grazia, etc.



(4) Evaluation

Karl J. Friedrich: Power = Substance + Relationship

3. Zero-sum & Non zero-sum concept

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

TheRuler(Winner+100benefit) + The Ruled(loser,-100loss) = Zero(O)

In the power game between A and B, if A gets power over B, A is sum but B is zero.

(2) Non zero-sum concept: relation theory of power

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

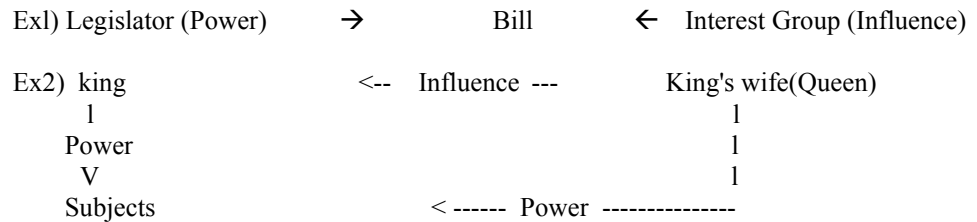
Ex) How to construct the Highway

4. Power, Influence, Authority, Violence

1) Power and Influence (Power < Influence)

Influence **implies** the power of persons or things to affect others.

Power is included **in** influence, and especially is a decision-maker having validity or legitimacy.



(2) Power and Authority

The key to social stability is exercising power within a framework of 'justice', the concept of 'authority', which Max Weber defined as 'power that people **perceive** as **le** rather than **coercive**. Ex) When parents, professors, or police perform their work in a normative way, their power is transformed into authority. 'The source of authority, Weber continued, differs according to a society's economy.

a) Traditional Authority

Pre industrial societies, Weber explained, rely on traditional authority, power legitimized by respect for long established cultural patterns.

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.

b) Rational-Legal Authority

Weber defined rational-legal authority (sometimes called bureaucratic authority) as power legitimized by legally enacted rules and regulations. Rational-legal authority is closely linked to 'government' or 'bureaucracy'. We will see bureaucracy in the Last part of **this** writing.

Compared to traditional authority, rational-legal authority flows not from family background but from organizational position. Thus while a traditional monarch rules for life, a modern president accepts and give up power according to law, with presidential authority remaining in the office.

c) Charismatic Authority

Weber defined charismatic authority as power learned through extraordinary personal abilities that inspire devotion and obedience. However, unlike tradition and rational law, charisma is less a quality **of** social organization and more a dimension of individual personality.

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

(3) Power and violence

Power - organized physical might - Validity or legitimacy **O**

Violence- physical might - Validity or legitimacy **X**

5. Efficient ways to exercise of power. ways to maximize 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) **What is Miranda of political power?**

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 the power.

Songs, slogans, flags, and uniforms are good examples of miranda. You might have an experience when you sing the national anthem with a huge crowd in a big stadium. What kind of feeling was it?

(2) **What is Credenda of political power?**

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'.

Let us think there is a teacher who is not respected by his or her students. How can one expect that the students follow the teacher's advice?

The same story can be applied to a nation. In other words, it needs to be respected by its people. Credenda means an effort for a nation to convince its people reasonably and get their consents.

(3) Evaluation

Professor Merriam called the above two things 'the corner stone of the power situation.' If a nation fails in it, chances are a nation has to use compulsory methods such as force or violence. That is a tragedy.

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

(1) **Origins of Bureaucracy**

Only in the last few centuries did there emerge what Max Weber called a 'rational world view'. With the Industrial Revolution, the organizational structure called 'Bureaucracy' became commonplace in Europe and North America.

(2) **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

(3) **Problems of Bureaucracy**

- g. Bureaucratic Alienation: dehumanization
- h. Bureaucratic Ritualism: a preoccupation with organizational rules and regulations to the point of thwarting an organization's goal

- c. Bureaucratic Inertia: tendency of bureaucratic organizations to perpetuate themselves
- d. Erosion of Personal Privacy
- e. Oligarchy: the rule of the many by the few
- f. Parkinson's law: "Work expands to fill the time available for its completion"
The Peter Principle: "Bureaucrats are promoted to their level of incompetence"

(4) Humanizing Bureaucracy

Humanizing bureaucracy means fostering an organizational atmosphere that recognizes and encourages the contributions of everyone.

- i. Social inclusiveness
- j. Sharing of responsibilities
- k. Expanding opportunities for advancement

7. Summary & Key concepts

Summary

- Max Weber explained that three social contexts transform coercive power into legitimate authority: (i) tradition, (ii) rationally enacted rules and regulations and (iii) personal charisma of a leader
 - Traditional authority is common to pre industrial societies; industrial societies legitimize power through bureaucratic organizations and law. Charismatic authority arises in every society, if charismatic leaders are to perpetuate their organizations, they must routinize authority into traditional or rational-legal authority.
 - To maximize power or to justify exercising of power, miranda and credenda of political power is needed.
 - Bureaucratic organization expands in modern societies to perform many complex tasks efficiently. Bureaucracy is based on specialization, hierarchy, rules and regulations, technical competence, impersonal interaction, and formal-written communications.
 - Ideal Bureaucracy may promote efficiency, but bureaucracy also generates alienation and inefficiency, tends to perpetuate itself beyond the achievement of its goals and contributes to the contemporary erosion of privacy.
- Humanizing bureaucracy means recognizing people as an organization's greatest resource. To develop human resources, organizations should spread responsibility and opportunity widely.

Key concepts

Power the ability to achieve desired ends despite resistance from others

Authority power that people perceive as legitimate rather than coercive

Traditional authority power legitimized through respect for long-established cultural patterns

Rational-legal authority (also Bureaucratic authority) power legitimized by legally enacted rules and regulations

Charismatic authority power legitimized through extraordinary personal abilities that inspired devotion and obedience.

Bureaucracy an organizational model rationally designed to perform complex tasks efficiently

Humanizing bureaucracy fostering an organizational atmosphere that recognizes and encourages the contributions of everyone