

Miranda and Credenda : Symbol Manipulation

Power could be exhaustible. So a government (ruler) has to reproduce the power. For a government to keep and maximize its power, Symbol Manipulation has been used. There are Miranda(Symbol of identification) and credenda(Symbol of rationalization).

Miranda and Credenda of political power have been used to maximize power or to justify exercising of power. Both have made people obedient internally without exercising compulsive and physical power.

1. Miranda (from a Latin word meaning “to be admired”)

Miranda of political power is mysterious feature of power. It means the admirable aspect of political power. People show their respects or obedience to their government (ruler) when they see something admirable such as sacred or greatness in its political power. It appeals to people’s emotion rather than reason.

Symbol is a sign with an intention to deliver some message. National Flags, National Anthem, Uniforms, and Architectures are good examples. Using these symbols, a government (ruler) could get support or obedience from the people (the ruled).

2. Credenda (from a Latin word meaning “doctrines to be believed”)

Credenda of political power is rational and legitimate feature of political power. It is to reasonably persuade the governed the legitimacy of political power and also maintain political power. It provides a variety of theoretical reasons why the power should be sustained. It appeals to people’s rationality rather than emotion. A government (ruler) requires people’s approval or obedience toward its political control. Therefore a government (ruler) needs to establish its legitimacy to retain and strengthen political power.

Both establish political authority through symbol manipulation in politics. Using symbolic manipulation repeatedly, a government (ruler) could continue reproducing the power and get voluntary support or obedience from the people (the ruled). With symbolic manipulation the government can get authority.