

Government and Politics



Learning Objectives

Power and Authority

- Define and differentiate between power and authority
- Identify and describe the three types of authority

Forms of Government

- Define common forms of government (monarchy, oligarchy, dictatorship, democracy)
- Compare common forms of government and identify real-life examples of each

Power and Authority

- **GB:** the role of the royal family in the British government
King Henry VIII ≠ Will & Kate
- **US:** former (бывшие) British subjects (подданные) fought for an alternative system of government - no room (нет места) for royalty (королевская власть).
- **Governments** play the same **fundamental role:** they control over the people they govern. The nature of that control - **power and authority** - important part of society.

Power and Authority

Sociologists ≠ political scientists (политологи):.

Political scientists:

- how power is distributed in different types of political systems. E.g., the US' political system is divided into 3 distinct branches;
- public opinion (общественное мнение) affects political parties, elections, etc.

Sociologists:

- the influences of governmental power on society;
- how social conflicts arise (возникают) from the distribution of power;
- how the use of power affects local, state, national, and global agendas (план) □ affect people differently based on status, class, and socioeconomic standing

What is Power?



The White House symbolizes the authority of the Kazakhstani presidency.

What is Power?

- **Pittacus** (с. 640-568 В.С.Е. (до н.э.): “The measure (мера) of a man is what he does with power”
- **Lord Acton**: “Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely” (1887).
- **Max Weber**: Power - ability to exercise (осуществлять) one’s will (воля, желание) over others (Weber 1922).

Power □ more than personal relationships: **social groups, professional organizations, and governments.**

≈ government’s power is not necessarily (не обязательно) limited (ограничена) to control of its own citizens. A dominant Nation will often use its clout (влияние) to influence or support other governments or to seize control of other nation states (US in Iraq)

What is Power?

Power - not necessarily lead to violence, exploitation, or abuse (плохое обращение).
E.g.: Martin Luther King Jr., Mohandas Gandhi - commanded powerful movements that affected
+change without military force, using nonviolent protests.

Nonviolent protests: <rallies, sit-ins, marches, petitions, and boycotts> (митинги, сидячие забастовки, марши, петиции, бойкоты)

What is Power?

Modern technology □ nonviolent reform easier to implement (осуществить). Cell phones/internet to disseminate information. In Tunisia in 2011, a nonviolent popular uprising (восстание) □ president's resignation (отставка), end of one-party rule (однопартийность), efforts at reform. The success of the Tunisian uprising □ the “Arab Spring”).

✓ The users of power were the citizens rather than their governments. They found they had power because they were able to exercise their will over their own leader. □ government power (гос. власть) ≠ absolute power (абсолютная власть)

John Pollock (2011) in MIT's *Technology Review*: two revolutionaries named “Foetus” and “Waterman,” who are leaders in the Tunisian rebel group Takriz. Both men relied heavily on the internet to communicate

Types of Authority

Authority - accepted power, power that people agree to follow.
Police officer, deputy, etc.

Not all authority figures elected officials or government authorities.
Authority can arise from **tradition and personal qualities**

Weber's Three Types of Authority Max Weber identified and explained three distinct types of authority:

Traditional	Charismatic	Legal-Rational
Legitimized by long-standing custom	Based on a leader's personal qualities	Authority resides in the office, not the person
Historic personality	Dynamic personality	Bureaucratic officials
Patriarchy (traditional positions of authority)	Napoleon, Jesus Christ, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Jr.	U.S. presidency and Congress Modern British Parliament

Forms of Government

*Anarchy

Monarchy - a government in which a single person (a monarch) rules until that individual dies or abdicates (отречься) the throne



Absolute monarchy

Middle East and Africa. E.g.:
small, oil-rich nation of Oman.
Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said
has ruled since the 1970s.



Constitutional Monarchy

recognize monarchs but require them to abide (следовать) the laws of a greater constitution. In most cases, e.g. in GB and Canada -- elect prime ministers whose leadership role is more significant than that of the monarchs.

Forms of Government

Oligarchy – power is held by a small, elite group.

Members of an oligarchy do not necessarily achieve their status based on ties to noble ancestry (unlike monarchs). Rather, they may ascend to positions of power because of **military might, economic power**, or ≈ circumstances.

- A society rarely (редко) defines (определяет) itself as an oligarchy □ negative connotations (смысл): a corrupt group whose members make unfair (несправедливые) policy decisions (полит. решения) in order to maintain their privileged positions.
- Many modern nations that claim to be democracies are really oligarchies. Some prominent journalists have labeled the US an O. □ the influence of large corporations and Wall Street executives
- Other political analysts: all democracies are really just “**elected oligarchies**”: citizens must vote for an individual who is part of a pool of candidates who come from the society’s elite ruling class

Forms of Government

Dictatorship – a single person (or a very small group) that wields complete and absolute authority over a government or populace after the dictator rises to power, usually through economic or military might.

- Corrupt and seek to limit and even eradicate the liberties of the general population. Many dictators start out as military leaders and are more conditioned to violence if they face opposition than non-military figureheads.
- Popular images of the late Kim Jong-Il, as well as his successor, Kim Jong-Un, exemplify this type of charismatic dictatorship.

Forms of Government

The **totalitarian dictatorship** - more ambitious and oppressive style of dictatorship that attempts to control all aspects of its subjects' lives.

E.g., communist regimes: regulate how many children citizens bear, what religious beliefs they hold. + demand that citizens publicly demonstrate their faith in the regime by participating in public marches and demonstrations..



Dictator Kim Jong-Il of North Korea was a charismatic leader of an absolute dictatorship. His followers responded emotionally to the death of their leader in 2011.