

Political Sociology

Concept of Power

- Max Weber, Talcott Parsons
- & Karl Marx

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CONCEPT OF POWER:-

- **Introduction:-** Power is the probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out his own will despite resistance regardless of the basis on which this probability rests.

- **DEFINATION OF POWER:-**

Max weber has define power as the chance of a man or a number of men to realise their own will in a communal action even against the resistance of others who are participating in the action. Power is therefore is an aspect of social relationship.

Authority:-

Authority - Authority is that form of power which is accepted as legitimate that is a right and just are therefore obeyed on that basis parliamentary power may be defined as legitimate authority.

Coercion - Is that form of power which is not regarded as legitimate by those subject to it the power of british government may be defined as coercion.

Types of Power:-

- Positive power
- Legitimate power
- Reward power
- Referent power
- Expert power

Sources or Bases of Power:-

- Knowledge
- Possessions and achievement
- Organisation
- Form
- Self-confidence
- Authority
- Thoughts and actions
- Circumstances

Concept of Power by Max weber, Talcott Parsons, Karlmarx

Views of power given by Max weber, Parsons and Karl Marx.

Weber definition of power does views is sometime known as constant sum concept of power since the amount of power is constant power is hold by an individual or group to the extent that is not hold by others .

Talcott parsons reject the constant sum concept of power and the view that power is employed in the furtherance of sectional interest this view is sometime known as variable some concept of power. Power in society is not seen as fixed or constant it is variable in the sense it can increase or decrease .

Marx does not give a clear definition of power for him power means coercion Marx views power to be held by a particular group in society at the expense of the rest of the society. According to him the source of power in society lies in economic infrastructure and those who own the modes of production that is the dominant group uses power to for the its own interest and their by exploiting those who are subject to power marks argues that although from time to time dominant class do have to resort to naked force to maintain their power and supremacy the absence of such obvious caution should not be taken to signify in absence of exploitation a lack of naked operation does not indicate lack of cooperation and the lack of any need of force lack of naked operations does not mean that domination is not taking place it is only that the dominated are unaware of their condition because of the effectiveness of the ideologies into which they have been socialized.

Conclusions:-

Imperative control is a probability that a command with the given specific content will be obeyed by given group of persons .Thus power manifest in decision making and exist in social relationships Weber closely linked power with legitimacy to him class status and party are three dimensions of stratification in society.

weber did not give much emphasize on it is normal phenomenon to distinguish between charismatic traditional legal rational types of domination.

Parsons viewed power is generated by social system in much the same as wealth generated in this productive organisational economy. the parallels which parson developed between power and money was based upon the supposition that each had similar role in the two of the four function subsystems of the social system evolved by persons.

References:-

Weber , Max 1947 -The Theory of Social and Economic Organisation, New York, Macmillan

Haralambos M- Sociology Themes and Perspectives, Oxford University, Press



Thanking You