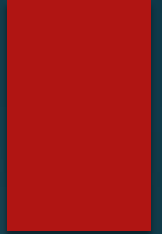


Political Order & Social control



- ▶ Politics is culturally based, difficult to define
- ▶ In IS , politics include the process of selecting **rulers/decision makers** for communities
- ▶ Political scientists study government (i.e., structures, practices and functions)
- ▶ Examine the distribution of **power** and **authority** and **decision-making processes**
- ▶ Anthropologists **examine political issues across cultures**
- ▶ Diverse political systems make the task difficult (ie., Non Western Societies (NWS)
- ▶ **Consideration of what is political varies from society to society**

▶ Political Concepts

- ▶ **Power**: ability to influence people or cause them to do thing that they would not do otherwise
- ▶ Two common types of power: coercive and persuasive
- ▶ **Coercive power**: involves the **use of force**
- ▶ **Persuasive power**: use of **argument, reciprocity, wealth, ideology, reputation** and other **personal attributes**
- ▶ **Authority**: **exercise of legitimate** power; the right to rule invested by members of the community in its leaders
- ▶ Society members have agreed and accepted the right of the rulers (e.g., presidents, royalties, chiefs) to rule
- ▶ In some NWS, (e.g., foraging, horticultural, pastoral) power is present but authority can be absent

- ▶ e.g., Yanomamo headman: **personal power** to influence people's behaviors but **has no authority** to force their compliance with his wishes
- ▶ **Chief** has both the power and the authority
- ▶ State societies, power and authority are intertwined
- ▶ Power is unequally distributed in most societies

Forms of Political Structure and Leadership

- ▶ Several features of political organization have been used to classify human societies
- ▶ e.g., types of authority, political institutions and integration
- ▶ Four types of political structures: bands, tribes, chiefdoms and states

1. Band Societies



- ▶ Marked by **egalitarian** social structure
- ▶ Everyone within the **same category** (e.g., age and gender, etc.) has equal access to status mechanisms
- ▶ **Status** is achieved through **personal traits**, not inherited
- ▶ **Leadership** based on the **individual's skills** and earned respect, mostly **informal**
- ▶ Decisions are **made by the group**
- ▶ There is **no authority**
- ▶ **No separate identifiable political institution within the band societies, political life is part of social life**
- ▶ **Kin based societies**

2. Tribal Societies

- ▶ Tribal societies are groups that share a common language and culture- pastoral and horticultural economies
- ▶ Kin based societies, **larger groups** than bands
- ▶ Egalitarian
- ▶ **Property** is communally owned by the group and managed by **lineages** and **clans**
- ▶ Leaders **are not vested with authority**
- ▶ Leaders (e.g., headmen and big men) used **persuasive power**
- ▶ Headmen or big men gain prestige, status and power by being generous, giving feast, helping others (e.g., built houses, sponsor feasts)
- ▶ No distinct political institutions
- ▶ Exogamic marriage rule

3. Chiefdoms

- ▶ Chiefdom is not egalitarian, **social ranking exists** (e.g., chief and his family and others)
- ▶ **Formal leader**, chief has authority, power, prestige and status and his family benefit too
- ▶ Members of the society recognize and acknowledge the chief
- ▶ Chief punishes individuals who break the rules
- ▶ People pay tribute to the chief who then redistributes it to the community through communal feasts or subsidies
- ▶ Office of chief is often hereditary

The Ashanti Kingdom (Ghana)

<https://login.libserv-prd.bridgew.edu/login?url=https://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=103198&xtid=3076>

4. State societies

- ▶ Most recent forms of political organization to emerge in the history of humanity
- ▶ Various forms of states: democratic, authoritarian, communist,
- ▶ Common features of states:
 - ▶ Have laws and administer them
 - ▶ Empower some people to enforce the laws
 - ▶ Political and economic classes stratify the society
 - ▶ Wealth is not equally distributed
 - ▶ Specialization exists at every level
 - ▶ Intensive agriculture support the bureaucracy

▶ Rank And Stratification

- ▶ Anthropological approach to classifying societies based on people's access to wealth, prestige and power and social structure, Fried
- ▶ Classification includes four types of societies: egalitarian, rank societies, stratified societies and stratified state societies

1. Egalitarian society

- ▶ Everyone has access to wealth, prestige and power within categories (e.g., age and gender)
- e.g., bands


2. Rank societies

- ▶ Individuals gain **prestige** and **wealth** through the use of **persuasive power**
- ▶ Number of rank position is limited, not everybody can achieve the status of the position
- ▶ Rank may be
- ▶ associated with control of production (e.g., economics)
- ▶ sociopolitical aspects of society (e.g., authority to punish people who break the rules)
- ▶ ceremonial (e.g., access to ritual and the supernatural- religion)

- ▶ Most tribal and chiefdom societies fit this category: Trobriand society (e.g., Big men), Hawaiian and Maori of New Zealand (e.g., chiefs)

3. Stratified State Societies (SSS)

- ▶ **Stratified society is based on inequity: unequal access to resources**
- ▶ SSS consist of institutions in which coercive power and authority are not based on kin relationships and social stratification is manifest in the institutions
- ▶ Dimensions of social stratification include
 - ▶ Economic status or wealth
 - ▶ Power status
 - ▶ Prestige or social status
- ▶ Strata groups are called classes
- ▶ **Class is a group of people who have a similar relationship to the mechanisms of wealth, power and social status**

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- ▶ Inequities exist between classes with respect to these dimensions
 - ▶ Ruling class people have wealth and power
 - ▶ Caste is ranked group with membership determined at birth (e.g., India)
 - ▶ Caste endogamy prevents people from acquiring another caste

Disorder and Social Control (SC)

▶ Disorder occurs when people deviate from the accepted norms and rules of a society

▶ SC: way a society ensures that people behave themselves

▶ SC involves structures and mechanisms use to ensure that people do not violate accepted forms of behaviors

▶ Both formal and informal means are used to address issues of deviance -violation of the society's ideal pattern of behavior-

▶ Informal Means of SC

▶ In societies where there is no political entity with authority or formal laws (e.g., bands and tribes), informal sanctions are used to control people

▶ Most common informal means of SC involve the use of social pressures (e.g., ridicule, gossip, ostracism)

▶ Informal means of SC are effective in SSS (e.g., Mbuti hunter)

- ▶ **Formal Means of SC**
- ▶ Include formalized laws and sanctions with formal court system