

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: Bachelor of Arts (F.Y.B.A)

Subject: Political Science

Semester: I

Paper Code: DSC1A

Paper Title: Introduction to Political Theory

Title of the Unit: Power, Authority & Legitimacy

Module Name: Meaning & Definition of Power

Module Number: 14

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Notes

Introduction

Power is the capacity of an individual to influence the actions, beliefs, or conduct (behavior) of others.

In political theory, power is the central issue, whether it is clothed in law or whether authority that renders obedience.

Power can be seen as evil or unjust; however, power can also be seen as good and as something inherited or given for exercising humanistic objectives.

Power is dynamic in nature, as it changes.

➤ ***Power may derive from a number of sources, such as***

1. Social class (material wealth, Position).
2. Resources (material items such as money, property, food).
3. Personal or group charisma.
4. Social influence of tradition.

In everyday situations, people use a variety of power tactics to push or prompt others into particular action.

Some of these tactics include bullying, collaboration, complaining, criticizing, demanding, disengaging, evading, humor, inspiring, manipulating, negotiating, socializing and supplicating.

Definitions

- According to Herbert Goldhamer and Edward Shils power is the ability to influence the behavior of others in accordance with the one's own ends.
- Hans Morgenthau defines politics as a struggle for power.
- Lasswell and Kaplan define power as participation in making of decisions.
- According to David Easton power is a relationship in which one person or a group is able to determine the actions of another in the direction of former's own end.