



MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA

Pluralism and Disagreement

Power, Authority, and
Legitimacy

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Authority and Legitimacy

- Authority and Legitimacy in Political Theory
- Authority and Legitimacy Social Science

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Political Theory

- Expertise v. Permission Authority
- Power, Permission, and Political Authority
- Sources of Political Authority

Expertise v. Permission

- uncommon knowledge of expert, his views carry a special kind epistemic weight
- rational oughts
- permission authority makes a rule
- moral oughts

Power and Authority

- states make commands, issue moral oughts
- power = the capacity of the state to gain your compliance
- authority = involves the moral ability to require obedience. States claim the monopoly on your obedience.
- de facto v. de iure authority

Sources of Political Authority

- Consent, Contract
- Consequentialism
- Fair Play

Consent, and Contract

- Actual
- Tacit
- Hypothetical

Consequentialism

- Contractarianism v. Consequentialism
- Advantages/Disadvantages:
 - Empirical Evidence?
 - Duty to Obey v. Duty to Comply

Fair Play

- Obedience and Reciprocity
- Society as a Cooperative Venture for Mutual Benefit
- Difficulties and Alternatives

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Social Science

- Law v. Social Science
- Against Max Weber
- Dimensions of Legitimacy
- Significance of Legitimacy

Law

- Power is legitimate... where its acquisition and exercise conform to established law
- Legitimacy = legal validity

Against Max Weber

- Legitimacy (Weber) = belief in legitimacy

Against Weber:

- (1) It misrepresents the relationship between legitimacy and people's beliefs.
- (2) It ignores those elements which are not really to do with beliefs at all.

Dimensions of Legitimacy

Power is legitimate to the extent that:

- (1) It conforms to established *rules* (X *illegitimacy*)
- (2) the rules can be *justified* by reference to beliefs shared by both dominant and subordinate (X *legitimacy deficit/weakness*)
- (3) there is evidence of *consent* by the subordinate to the particular power relation (X *delegitimation*).

Significance of Legitimacy

- **Subordinates**: moral grounds for cooperation and obedience, incentives and sanctions, legitimacy eroded and absent, cooperation, and performance, unnecessary legitimacy?, staff, and masses.
- **Powerful**: ideological work, legitimate power = limited power. Two kinds of limit (rules, and principles).

Sources

- Beetham, The Legitimation of Power
- Estlund, Democratic Authority
- Fabienne, Political Legitimacy
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- Rosanvallon, Democratic Legitimacy
- Simmons, Justification and Legitimacy
- Talisse, Engaging Political Philosophy
- Wendt, Authority