

MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA

Pluralism and Disagreement

Power, Authority, and Legitimacy

Jiří Baroš



Authority and Legitimacy in Political Theory

Authority and Legitimacy Social Science





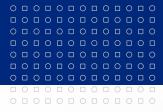
Authority and Legitimacy in Political Theory

Authority and Legitimacy in Social Science



Political Theory

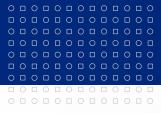
- Expertise v. Permission Authority
- Power, Permission, and Political Authority
- Sources of Political Authority



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

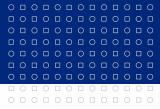
- Consent, Contract
- Consequentialism
- Fair Play



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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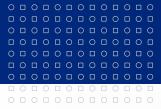




Authority and Legitimacy in Political Theory

Authority and Legitimacy in Social Science





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

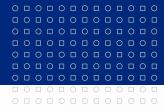


Against Max Weber

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

- <u>Subordinates</u>: moral grounds for cooperation and obedience, incentives and sanctions, legitimacy eroded and absent, cooperation, and performance, unnecessary legitimacy?, staff, and masses.
- <u>Powerful</u>: 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
- Lukes, Power: A Radical View
- Rosanvallon, Democratic Legitimacy
- Simmons, Justification and Legitimacy
- Talisse, Engaging Political Philosophy
- Wendt, Authority