

Concept of Power

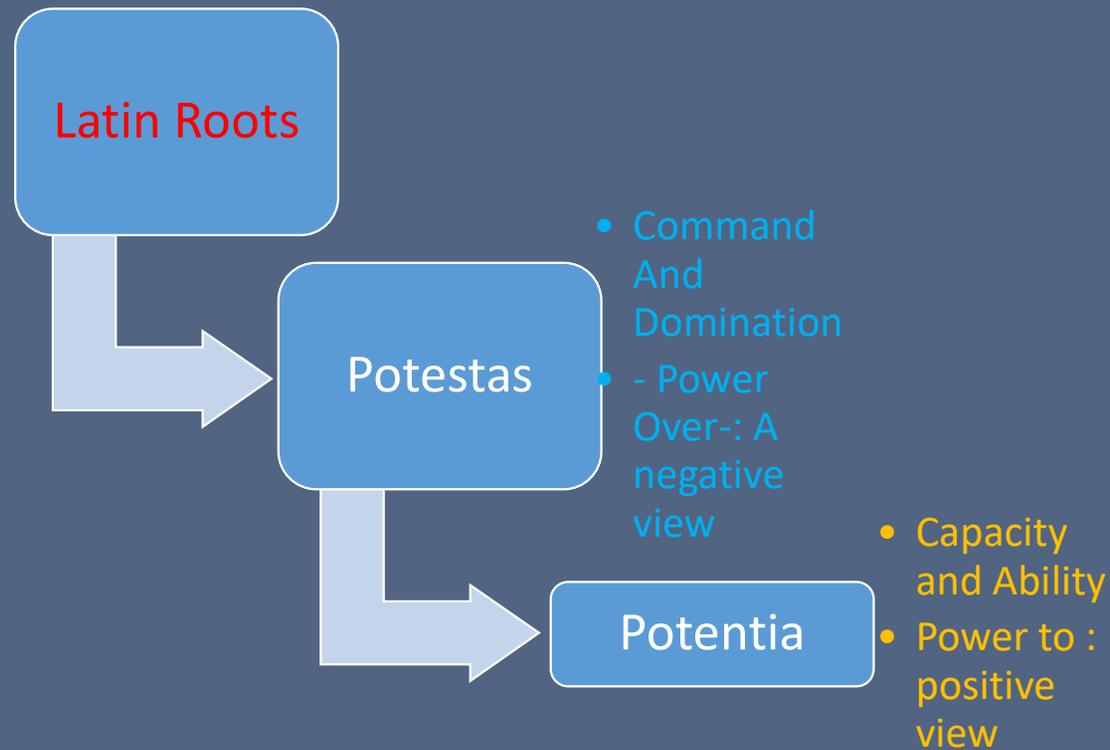
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Particulars

- **Meaning of Power**
- **Definitions of Power**
- **Structure of Power**
- **Importance of Power to a Modern State**
- **Features of Power**
- **Types of Power**

Concept of Power



In Political Science



Power in Traditional Term

- 1:- **Social and Political View**
- A) **Max Weber-**
 - Power is 'Probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out his or her will even against resistance'
- B) **Robert Dahl-**
 - Power is 'Relationship among actors in which one actor induces other actor in a way that they would otherwise not act '

- Scholars proposed a number of revision to this original view of power
- They highlighted the Multidimensional nature of power.

- Power = **the ability to make us do something.**
- Ex. If you have a hammer, you have the power to drive a nail.
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- If you have a gun, you have the power to kill someone.
- If you have an army, you have the power to attack another nation.

Introduction

- **Concept of Power, Authority and Legitimacy is closely associated with notion of State and inter- related.**
- **Without Legitimacy authority the state cannot exercise its power**
- **No state can work in the absence of power**
- **Harold Laswell says that Politics, “Who gets What, When, How”**
- **Politics is the resolution of conflict and distribution of power**

Meaning of Power

- The English word 'Power' derives from certain Latin and French Words which mean 'to be able'
- No agreement among scholars to define meaning of power because it is complex term---**James March**
- In general Power may be understood as the ability, strength or capacity to control others.
- It is an attribute of individuals which is exercised over other individuals.
- Power corrupts absolutely , absolute power corrupts absolutely

- Concept of power is perhaps the most basic concept in Political Science.
- Power is the ability of a Human being to influence someone.
- Power is the ABILITY to control and influence the behavior of others in our favor.

Definitions of Power

- A British political philosopher and a politician **Bertrand Russel** in his book “Power: A New Social Analysis” defined power “One’s ability to achieve goals”. i.e. he mainly focused upon Social power.
- **Herbert Goldhamer and Edward shills**, “Power is the ability to influence the behavior of others in accordance with one’s own intention ”
- American political scientist **David Easton** defines power as “Relationship in which one person or a group is able to determine the actions of another in the direction of the former’s own ends”

- American Political Scientist, **Robert Dahl** “Ability to shift the probability of outcomes”
- **Biersted**, ‘Power is Latent Force’
- **Hobbes**, Power is man’s ability to obtain some future apparent goods
- **Max Weber**, Power is the probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out his own will, despite resistances, regardless of the basis on which this probability rests.
- **Laswell and Kaplan** define power as Participation in the making of decisions

- At the outset
- Power is one's ability to achieve goals. Power is the capacity to influence the actions of others.
- Hence concept of Power is very significant in the Political Science.

Forms or Manifestation of Power

- Following are the forms of Power
- 1 Force
- 2 Influence
- 3 Authority
- 4 Control

- **1 Force:-**

- Force is the most Brutal Manifestation of Power.
- Dictionary meaning of Force is
- “make a way through or into by physical strength”

- Coercion, intimidation, Terrorization and Military Domination are different forms of force.

• 2 Influence:-

- Influence is least brutal but more Selfish form of Power.
- The power to shape policy or ensure favorable treatment from someone. Especially through status, contacts, or wealth is influence.

• 3. Authority:-

- Authority is the legitimation of power.
- The power or right to give orders, make decisions and enforce obedience.

- Authority is given by the People of the state.
- Most Commonly authority is exercised by the state over its population.

•4. Control :-

- Control is the power to influence or direct people's behavior or the course of events.
- It is exercised by the state in the form of rules, laws, acts and legislation.

Structure of Power

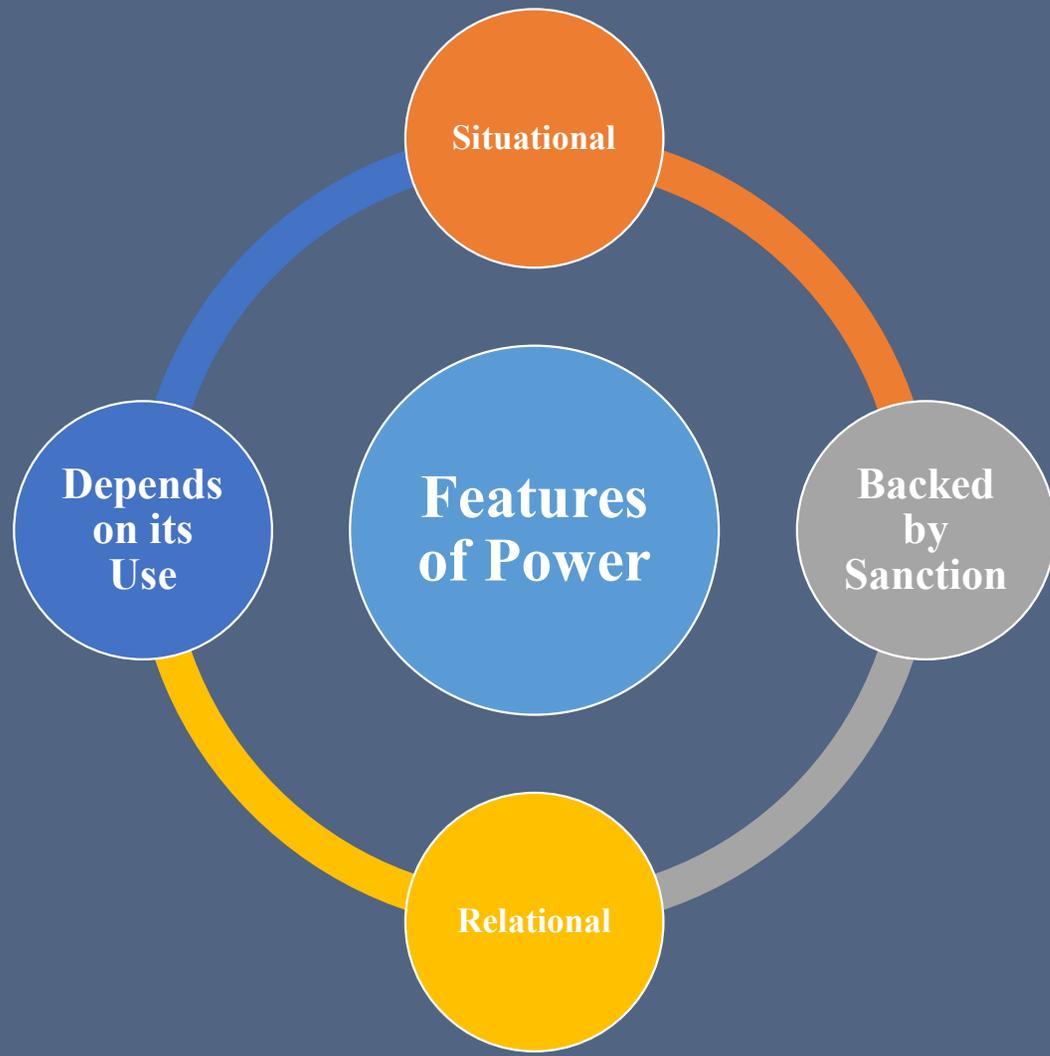
- Four theories of power
- 1 Theory of Class Dominance—Karl Marx
- 2 Elitist Theory----Pareto ‘The Mind and Society’
G.Mosca ‘The Rulling Class’
Robert Michel's ‘Political Parties’

- **Feminist Theory**----**Gender base divided society**

- **Pluralist Theory**----- **many centers of power**

Importance of Power to a Modern State

- **Independence to the State**
- **Enables the State to make Laws**
- **Protects the State**
- **Makes people obedient to the State**
- **Existence of State**
- **Protects customs of Traditions**



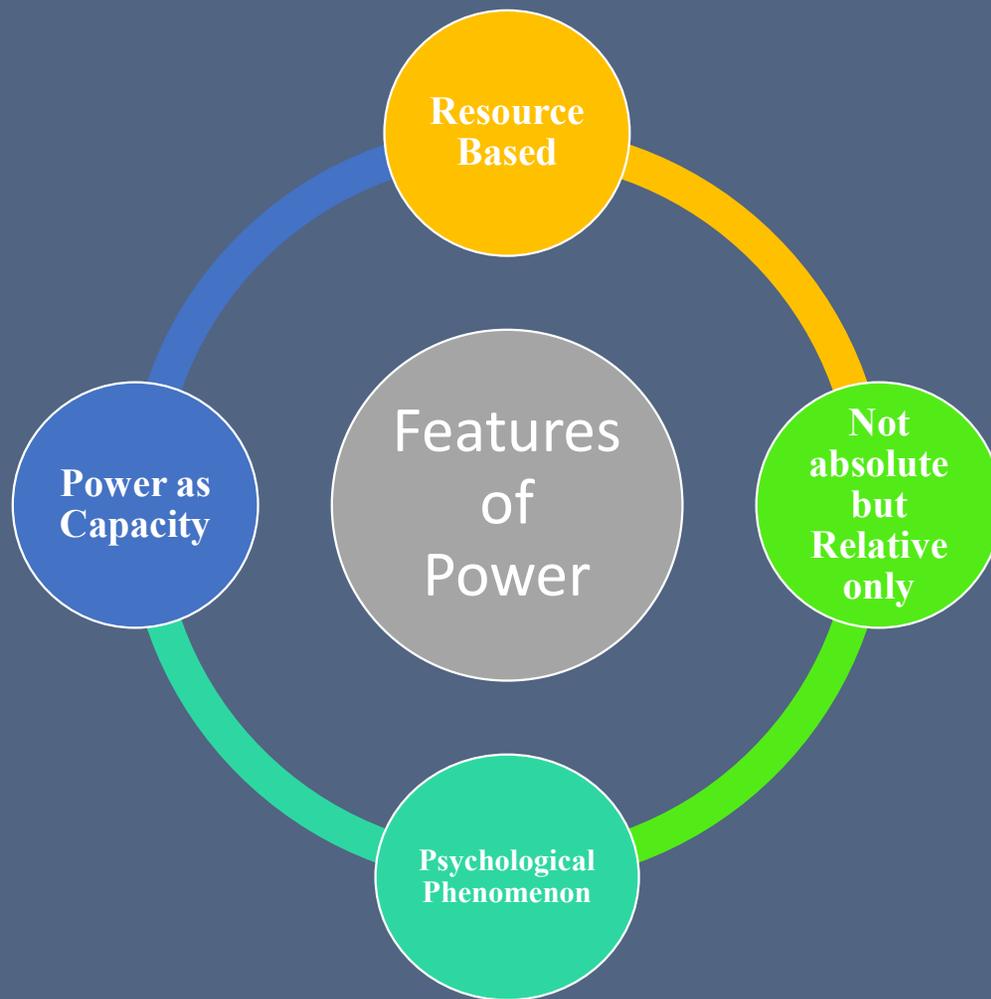
Situational

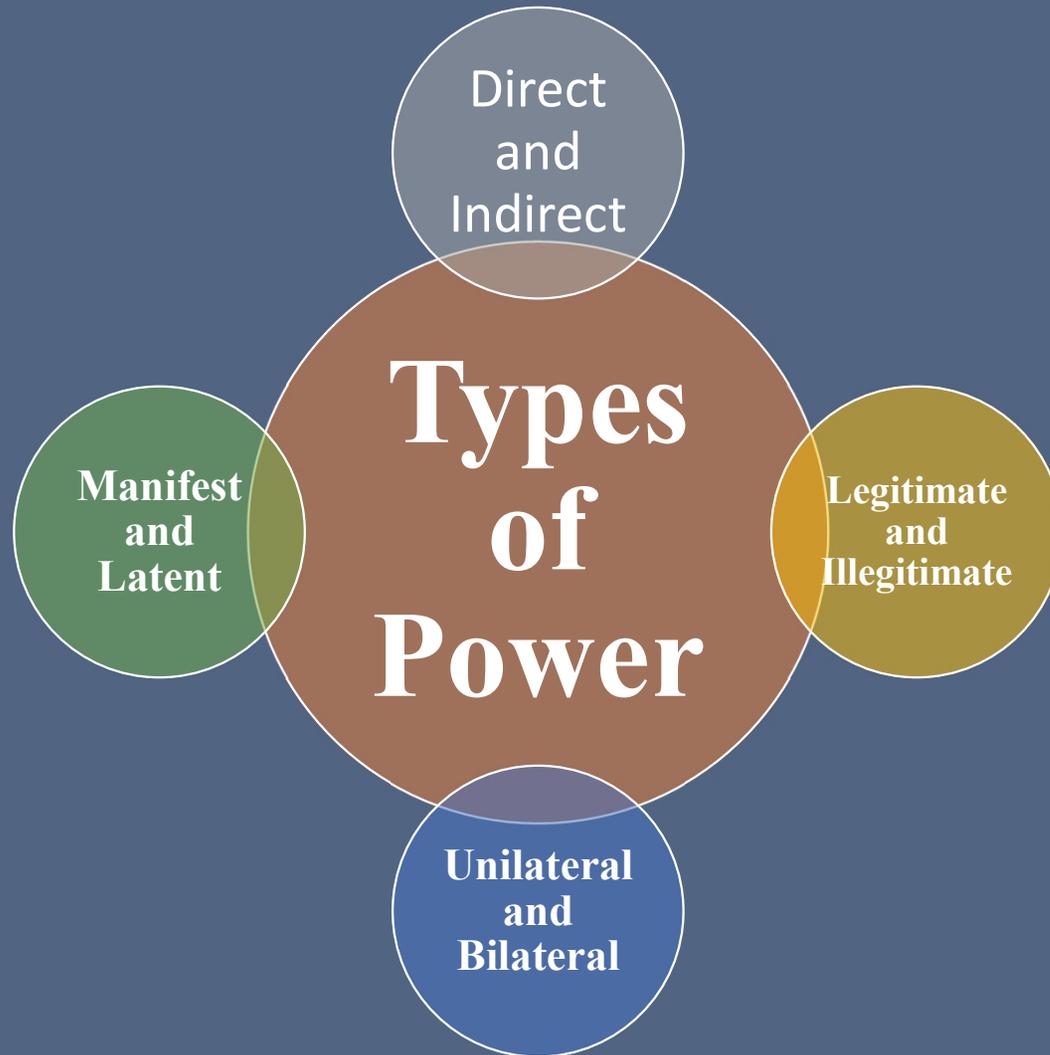
**Depends
on its
Use**

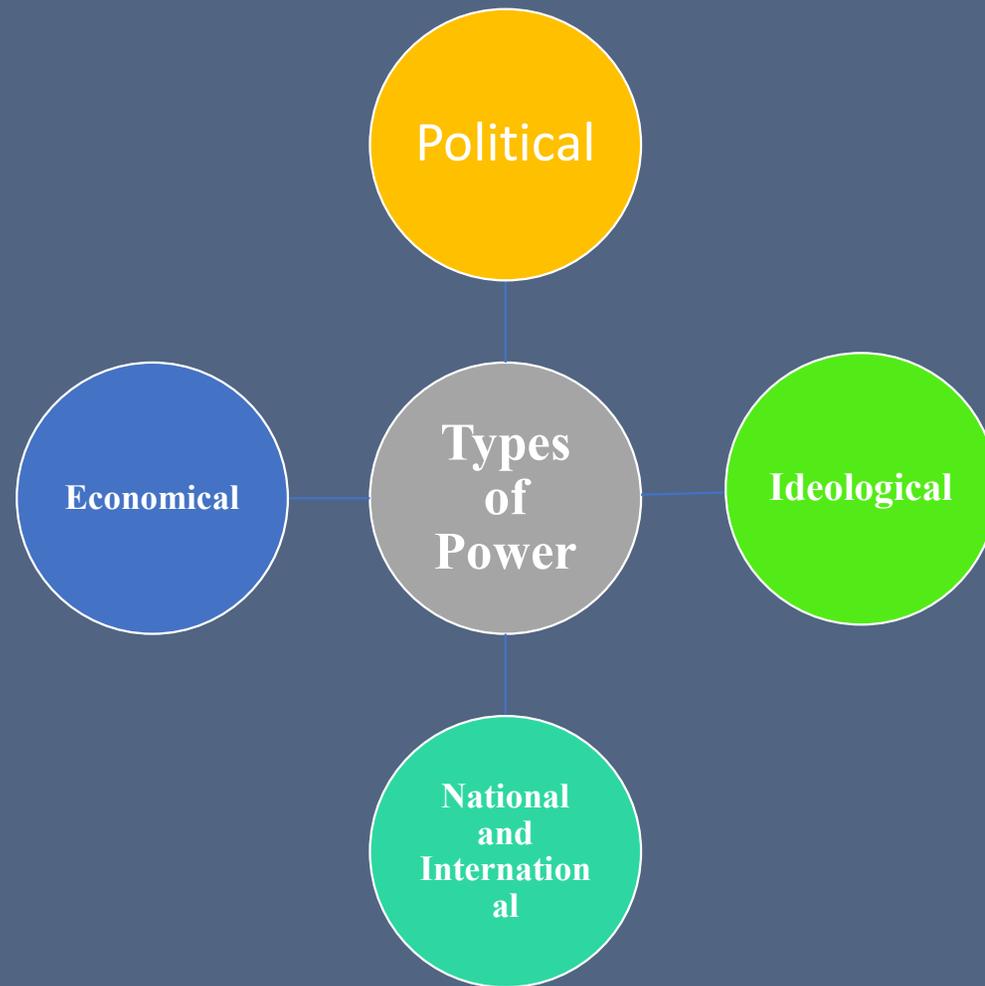
**Features
of Power**

**Backed
by
Sanction**

Relational







Features of Power

- According to **p. Robbins** Power is defined as the ability to influence and control anything that is of value of others
- 1 Power is the capacity **to impose your will upon others**
- 2 **Power is relational and interrelation**
- so used in relation to some individual ,association or nation .it cannot used in vacuum
- 3 **Power goes with situation and office**
- Government officers, retirement ...Vanish

- 4 Power is backed by threat of severe deprivations----- Capacity to punish
- 5 Power depends upon its use
- Who actually uses power For a president in India not powerful as compared to the president of USA most powerful
- 6 Power is concerned with external influence -Not influence the internal views of a person
- 7 Power is not something material
- It is a feeling based on fear of punishment

- 8 Opposite interest are must for the use of power
- You don't want to do. Example taxes
- 9 Power is always used for specific purpose
- Personal or social welfare, dictator
- 10 Power keeps on fluctuating With time and situation
- Prime minister... Change
- 11 Power backed by sanctions
- Police, jail ,court, army example are the symbol of the power of state

Other way explaining features

- 1 **Reciprocal relationships**
- As the power exist in a relationship between two or more individuals therefor the power relationship is mutual in any organisation.
- Influencing others and to be influenced by others are the two way interactions, which exist in organizational relationship.
- Thus it is not always true that only managers or top management has the power in any organisation.

- 2 Dependency relationships

- One of the important traits of power is dependency.
- Greater the dependency on an individual greater will be the power of the individual

- 3 Power is certain

- Power is certain, as certain people have certain power in some certain situations.
- It is not possible to use power every time by every individual

- 4 Unequal distribution
- As a different people have different experience knowledge, skills, education, hierarchy authorities therefore the distribution of power among the organizational members is not equal .
- it is a quite possible that different people have different power to influence others
- 5 People differ in terms of values
- Different individuals have different advantages and applications of power due to their varied value systems.
- In some researchers it is found that the power motives of an individual greatly determine the amount of power which can be exercised by them.

- 6 Resistance to change

- Any alteration in the distribution of power will be opposed by the people who possess the power.
- The individuals will be opposing the sharing of power with the other members of the organisation what to acquire higher power and then becomes successful in achieving it.

- 7 Power losers Attempt to form coalition
- Power losers try to make a group when their attempts to acquire higher power individually fail.
- These people tend to lose the chances to create personal power base in order to gain the Power by becoming the power holder although this is a risky, costly and difficult thing to do.

- 8 Power can Expand or Contract

- The increase or decrease in the amount of power is depend on the individual who is in the capacity of using power.
- As an individuals gains the higher position in the hierarchy, is legitimate power associated with his designation also increases in the same fashion.
- This power can be reduced when this individual is transferred from one department to the other.

Types of Power

- **Direct and indirect power**
- When a person or a group of persons use power against others. it is called direct power ,while a person or group of persons authorized others to use of power or uses through subordinate .it is called indirect power.
- Money and muscle power which may be legal or illegal.
- In indirect power one party controls the other not directly but indirectly by limited agenda of their interaction to is convenience and suitability
- President and prime minister

- **Manifest power and latent power**
- The power which can be exercised openly and clearly is called manifest power for example military power includes manpower and armaments
- The power which cannot be exercised openly or clearly is called latent power for example media power such as a press, TV radio etc

- **Centralized and Decentralized power**

- When the power has been concentrated with a one authority it is called centralized power in unitary governments are examples of centralized power. For example UK Japan Norway Sweden Denmark etc
- When the power is a distributed and decentralized it is called the decentralized power, in India and USA power is Decentralized in different states.

- **Legitimate and illegitimate power**
- Legitimate power accrues through law and illegitimate power is occurred by force or violence and it is against the laws.
- Constitution or accepted customs or acts sanction some rights to the public and if they act according to the rules at regulations the power is considered as legitimate power
- illegitimate power can only be acquired by force, Aggression and violence. The people obey legitimate power and revolt against ill legitimate power as they will not tolerate them

- **Unilateral and bilateral power**

- If one person uses his power on another, whereas the other person cannot use his own that person who uses the power on him, then the power is called unilateral power.
- When both sides use power for each other it is called bilateral power. For example parties of a sale deed, mortgage and lease are examples for bilateral power.

- **Political power**

- The power of a political coercion and political authority is referred to as a political power.
- Political power is based on the principle of power of force or muscle power may be legal or illegal.
- Political power is exercised over the citizens as agents of government using force or the immediate threat of it learning citizens with no real choice about their behavior .
- In fact law is nothing but the set of rules according to which the coercive physical power will be exercised by the state.
- In Marxist analysis political power is basically a derivative of economic power and does not stand its own.
- Political power may be classified into formal political power and informal political power. Formal political power that research in the executive legislature and the judiciary and informal Power research in political parties, pressure groups ,lobbies, associations etc

- **Economic power**

- The control over the wheels of the majority is exercised not only by compulsion of law and order physical coercive means, but also a more subtle manner with economic power.
- The holder of economic power can influence submission of other by offering rewards or denying them.
- We can suppress political power if you have economic power.
- Example in India reach have the powerful authority maybe violate the laws some of the banker of C Vijay Mallya.
- Economic power transfer into political power through ideological power.
- Economic power triumph or political power Karl Marks also believe in the dialectical unity of economic and political power

- **Ideological power**

- Apart from political economic power there is another form of exercising power known as ideological power.
- Marxist thinkers were the first to point out the reality of this form of power and pointed out that it is a subtle power.
- Ideological power is the process through which the value, symbols, traditions, attitude of the masses are learned and moved by minority of leaders in such a manner as to get their loyalty.
- For example political leader used their ideological power through in speech. Liberal writers Weber, Pye, Verba focused on religion, culture history and literature as the base of the ideological power
- Without ideological power we cannot enter into politics

- **Reward power**

- This is the type of power that is created when a person offer Srivastava his or her followers for completing tasks.
- An executive could be if an employee hits her sales goal, she will win a price or receive recognition at the company meeting.
- Reward power needs followers to believe they will be rewarded

- **Coercive power**
- It is the opposite of reward power.
- When a person possesses this type of power they will impose a penalty, if their followers do not act as required.
- An executive could be if an employee does not make his sales goals he will have to work every Saturday for the rest of the month.
- Coercive power needs followers to believe they will be punished.

- **Social power**

- It is based upon informal community opinion ,family position,honour, prestige and patterns of consumption and lifestyles.
- Weber placed special emphasis on the importance of social power. When often takes priority over economic interest
- Contemporary sociologist have also given importance to social status so much so that they sometimes same to have under estimated the importance of political power.

- **Military power**

- It involves the use of physical coercion. Warfare has always played a major role in politics.
- Modern mass military systems developed into bureaucratic organizations and significantly change the nature of organizing and fighting wars. According to groups in society base their power purely on force or military might

Types of Power

1 Formal Power is very Traditional in Nature.

It uses brute force, military dominance and terror activities to establish its control, formal power use HARD Power to spread its influence.

2. Informal and Semi Formal are Modern Forms of Power and use SOFT Power and Civil Methods of influences.

Soft Power

- It is the ability to attract and co-opt rather than coerce (Hard power)
- Soft power is the ability to shape the preferences of others through appeal and attractions.
- A defining feature of soft power is that it is non-coercive.
- The currency of soft power is culture, political values and foreign policies.
- In short it is least Cruel and Most recent form of Power.

Hard Power

- Hard power is the use of military and economic means to influence the behavior or interests of other political bodies.
- This form of political power is often aggressive and is most immediately effective when imposed by one political body upon another of lesser military and or economic power.
- Hard power concentrates with soft power which comes from diplomacy, culture and history.
- Despites of its brutal nature Power is very Important.