TYPES OF POLITICAL LEGITIMACY

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Annotation: the theme "Legitimacy of state power" refers to the concept of a government or governing authority having the rightful and justified authority to exercise power over a particular territory, population, and resources. It focuses on the question of whether a state possesses the moral and legal right to govern and make decisions on behalf of its citizens.
Key words: political legitimacy, types of legitimacy, traditional legitimacy, charismatic legitimacy, legal-rational legitimacy, performance or competence legitimacy.

In political science, legitimacy is the right and acceptance of an authority, usually a governing law or a regime. Whereas authority denotes a specific position in an established government, the term legitimacy denotes a system of government—wherein government denotes "sphere of influence". An authority viewed as legitimate often has the right and justification to exercise power. Political legitimacy is considered a basic condition for governing, without which a government will suffer legislative deadlock(s) and collapse. In political systems where this is not the case, unpopular regimes survive because they are considered legitimate by a small, influential elite. In Chinese political philosophy, since the historical period of the Zhou dynasty (1046–256 BC), the political legitimacy of a ruler and government was derived from the Mandate of Heaven, and unjust rulers who lost said mandate therefore lost the right to rule the people.

In moral philosophy, the term legitimacy is often positively interpreted as the normative status conferred by a governed people upon their governors' institutions, offices, and actions, based upon the belief that their government's actions are appropriate uses of power by a legally constituted government.

The Enlightenment-era British social John Locke (1632–1704) said that political legitimacy derives from popular explicit and implicit consent of the governed: "The argument of the [Second] Treatise is that the government is not legitimate unless it is carried on with the consent of the governed." The German political philosopher Dolf Sternberger said that "egitimacy is the foundation of such governmental power as is exercised, both with a consciousness on the government's part that it has a right to govern, and with some recognition by the governed of that right". The American political sociologist Seymour Martin Lipset said that legitimacy also "involves the capacity of a political system to engender and maintain the belief that existing political institutions are the most appropriate and proper ones for the society". The American political scientist Robert A. Dahl explained legitimacy as a reservoir: so long as the water is at a given level, political stability is maintained, if it falls below the required level, political legitimacy is endangered.

The theme "Legitimacy of state power" refers to the concept of a government or governing authority having the rightful and justified authority to exercise power over a particular territory, population, and resources. It focuses on the question of whether a state possesses the moral and legal right to govern and make decisions on behalf of its citizens.

  - Traditional Legitimacy: This type of legitimacy is based on long-established customs, traditions, and historical factors that validate the authority of the ruling government. Examples include monarchies and hereditary leadership.

- Charismatic Legitimacy: This legitimacy rests on the extraordinary personal qualities, charisma, and leadership abilities of an individual. Such leaders may inspire a strong sense of devotion or loyalty among their followers.

- Legal-Rational Legitimacy: This form of legitimacy is grounded in a set of established laws, constitutions, and institutional frameworks that provide a legal basis for the exercise of power.

There are several types or sources of legitimacy that can contribute to the legitimacy of state power:

1. Traditional Legitimacy: This legitimacy is derived from long-standing customs, traditions, and cultural beliefs. It is often associated with monarchies or hereditary leadership, where the rulers' authority is accepted based on historical precedent.

2. Legal-Rational Legitimacy: As mentioned earlier, this legitimacy is derived from the adherence to legal frameworks and rules. It is based on the belief that state power is legitimate when it operates within the boundaries of established laws and procedures.

3. Charismatic Legitimacy: This legitimacy is based on the personal qualities, charisma, or exceptional abilities of a leader. People may perceive certain individuals as having unique and exceptional qualities that make them worthy of holding power.

4. Performance or Competence Legitimacy: This type of legitimacy is based on the performance and effectiveness of a government in delivering services, maintaining order, and fulfilling the needs and expectations of its citizens. It emphasizes the idea that a government's legitimacy comes from its ability to efficiently and effectively govern and provide essential services such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, and security.

Performance or competence legitimacy is often associated with democratic systems, where the government's ability to successfully respond to the needs and desires of the citizens determines its legitimacy. In this context, citizens evaluate the government based on its track record, policies, and outcomes. If the government is perceived as competent, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the people, it is more likely to be considered legitimate.

However, the perception of performance or competence can vary among different groups, and what is considered as effective governance can be subjective. Competence legitimacy is often linked to concepts of accountability, transparency, and good governance.

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