

UT Global Focus on Knowledge 2006:
Formation of Society — History of Man's Symbiosis

On the Ecology of Power and Freedom

Lecture One: The Mutually Regulated
Relationship of Power and Freedom

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Introduction

Society is created by and composed of humans. Society as such is thus influenced and transformed in no small way by how humans comprehend and understand society.

A certain intellectual posture is required—one which constantly revisits the basics, reconsidering and scrutinizing what understanding is about to be communicated through different types of human recognition.

Today's Lecture

- Scheme 1 ; Power vs. Freedom
 - Power = Compulsion + Force
 - Freedom from External Influence and Coercion
 - Systematization / Internalization of Power and Loss of Freedom
- The Scheme 2 : A Mutual Relationship between Power and Freedom
 - Statements that are Self-Assertions of a Group as Power
 - Active Participation for a Common Goal as Freedom
 - Loss of “Positive Liberty” - Denial of Freedom by Freedom?
- Mutually Regulated Relationship of Power and Freedom
 - Limits to Scheme 1
 - Limits to Scheme 2
 - Towards Adoption of Scheme 1 with Scheme 2 as Point of Departure

1.1 Power = Compulsion + Force

- A power relationship exists when a person (A) intentionally exercises his influence on another person (B) to do something (X).
- Relation between the actors (A and B) : Zero-Sum Game.
- Intent and Responsibility: Questions the act of regulating the freedom of others.
- What is influence? Is it persuasion, indulgence, deprivation, etc?

Max Weber (1864-1920)



photo: http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%94%BB%E5%83%8F:Max_Weber.jpg

Karl Marx (1818-83)

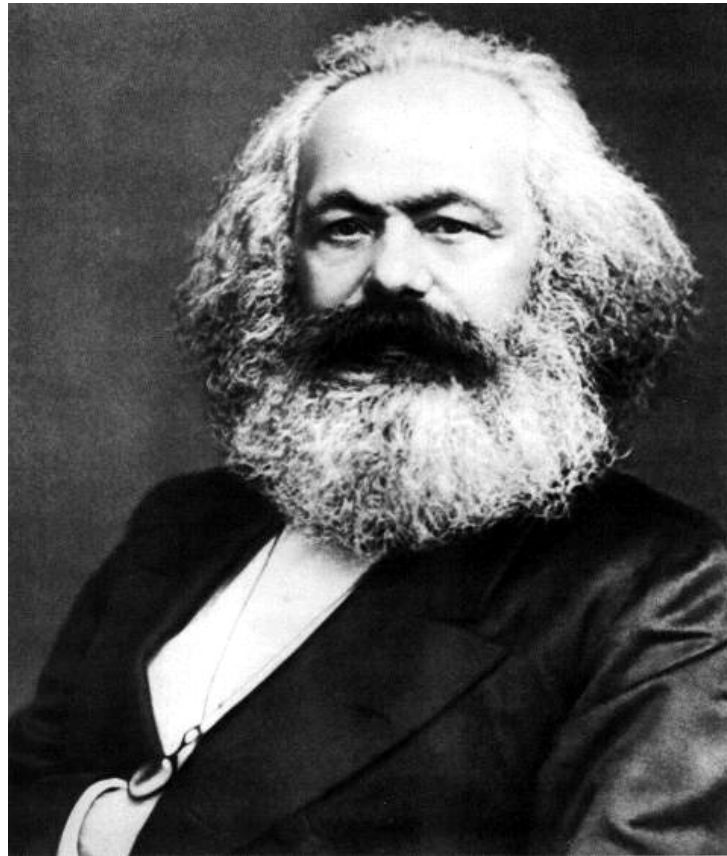


photo: http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%94%BB%E5%83%8F:Karl_Marx.jpg

1.2 Freedom from External Influence and Coercion

- The protection of “negative liberty” and the tradition of liberalism.
- Longing for a powerless condition
→ Market Capitalism? Anarchism?

Friedrich Von Hayek (1899-1992)

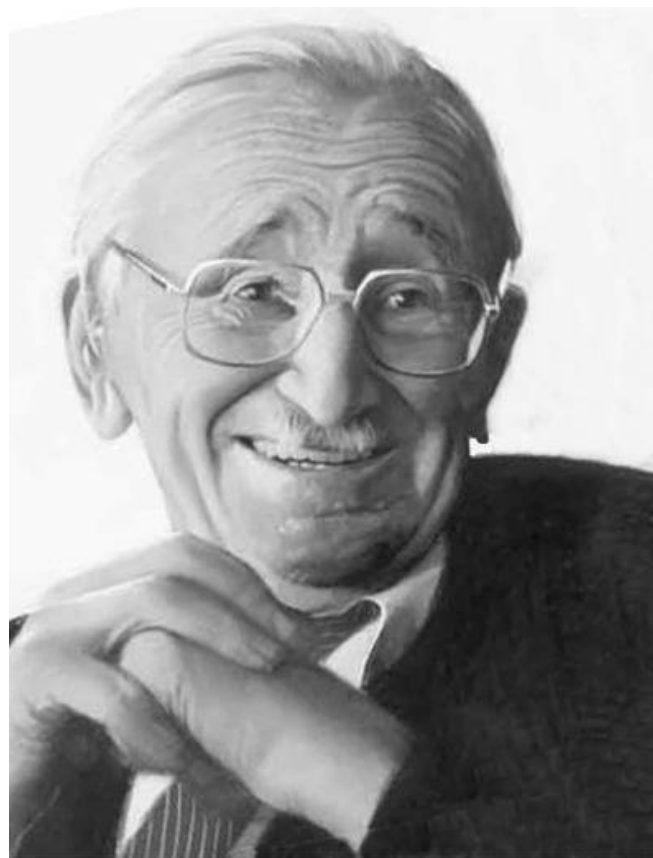


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1.3 Systemization / Internalization of Power and Loss of Freedom

- Awareness of exercise of power.
- Does freedom really exist?

Michel Foucault (1926-84)



photo: http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E7%94%BB%E5%83%8F:Michel_foucault.jpg

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2.1 Statements that are Collections of Self-assertions as Power

- If you achieve a common goal by means of coexistence and cooperation: Plus-sum Game.
- Limits to “freedom from...”.
- An absolute distinction between power and compulsion.

Hannah Arendt (1906-75)



photo: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hannah_Arendt_by_Fred_Stein_2.jpeg

2.2 Active Participation for a Common Goal as Freedom

- There is freedom in self-assertion.
- “freedom to ...” = “positive liberty”
- Intoxication with danger in associating with power.
→ Nationalism? Fascism?

Isaiah Berlin (1909-97)

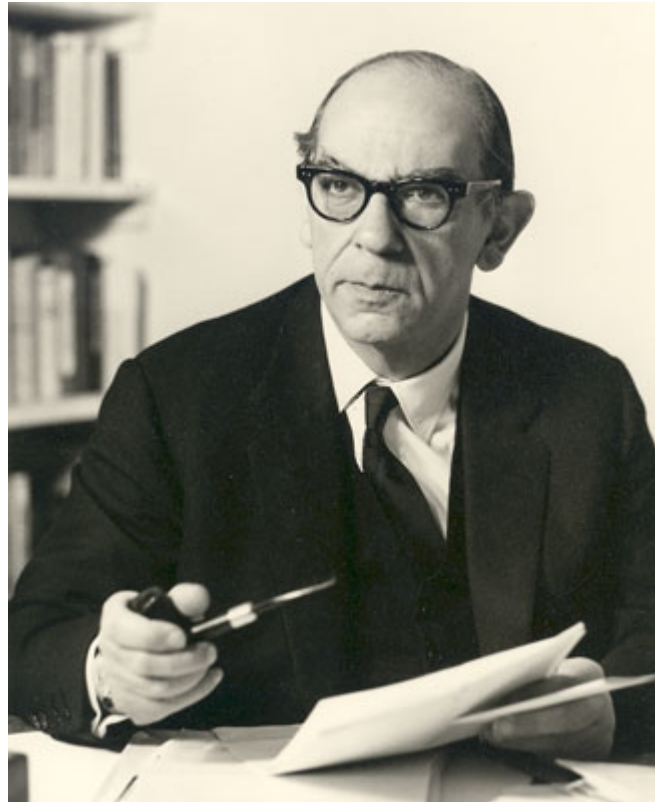


photo: <http://berlin.wolf.ox.ac.uk/>

2.3 Loss of “Positive” Freedom - Denial of Freedom by Freedom?

- Synchrony and Oppression.
- Affirmation of limitlessness of power.

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3.1 Limits to Scheme 1

- Too much dependence on coercion and force.
- Neglect of power's capability to achieve a common goal.

3.2 Limits to Scheme 2

- Overemphasis of mutually cooperative.
- Tend to underestimate how tense the relationship of freedom and power is human relationships.
- Underestimation of tense relationship between freedom and power.

3.3 Towards Adoption of Scheme 1 with Scheme 2 as Point of Departure

- Need for a theory on power that encompasses viewpoints of the two facets of freedom, where humans can regulate and limit the exercise of power while maintaining the capability to achieve collective goals.