

UT Academic Overview Lecture 2006:

Formation of Society

History of Man's Symbiosis

# On The Ecology of Power and Freedom

Lecture 2:

Political Power and  
Institutionalization

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# 1.1 The Uneven Distribution of Power

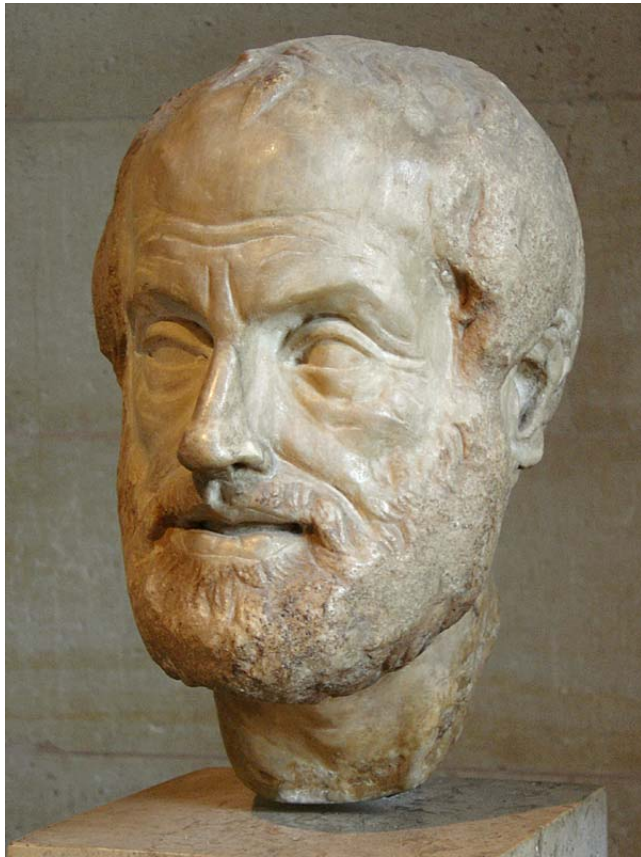
- As in the society of humans, wherever there is a relationship of mutual coexistence, power always exists (contrary to the existence of freedom).
  - As found in:  
family, village, association, enterprise, college, army, nation, market, international organization etc.

# 1.2 Distinctions Within Power

- Quantitative Distinction and Qualitative Distinction
- Three Modes of Rule
  - Master Mode
  - King Mode
  - Statesman Mode
- The Importance of Qualitative Distinction to Politics

# Aristotle

(384-322 B.C.)



“Some people think that the qualifications of a statesman, king, householder, and master are the same, and that they differ, not in kind, but only in the number of their subjects...But all this is a mistake...” (translated by Benjamin Jowett)

*Politics* Book 1 Chapter 1 by Aristotle

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Aristoteles\\_Louvre.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Aristoteles_Louvre.jpg)

# 1.3 The Discovery of Political Power and the Birth of Politics

- Political community (*polis*) vs. autocracy, monarchy
- Rule (materialization of freedom) by *nomos* (law, institution) vs. rule by fear (chain-reaction of terror)
- Based on *nomos*, an autonomous reign that is implemented by a multiple number of liberals (political community).
- Political power can be considered as the power of the *polis*. (This is power of the public and its privatization is a sign of corruption).

# 2.1 Power and Its Limitations

- In the hands of those in power, the temptation of power means the maximization of their freedom.
- There is a hunger for power to maintain power (competition of power pursuers).
- Limitations are placed by education (e.g. Confucianism), tradition and religion and similar systems.

## 2.2 Power and System

- **The foundation of power is the system.**  
(In this case, you need a system to have power.)
- **The foundation of a system is power.**  
(Here it is power that creates the system.)
- The above is a recurring cycle.

## 2.3 Two Faces of Political Power

- It is normal that political power requires systematization. This is to ensure the influence of multiple players.
- In abnormal situations such as defeat and revolution, it is political power that bears the responsibility of institutionalization. All systems begin only because there is power.
- Ever since Machiavelli, the issue posed is; Can political power be completely systematized?
- There is power to stipulate a constitution.

And there is power that exists because there is a constitution.



# Niccolo · Machiavelli (1468-1527)



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Machiavelli.jpg>

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# 3.1 Power that Abides by the Rules of a Nation (constitution)

- Reproduction of a “good old” political system
- Law-abiding rule where justice prevails (concept of law-abiding community)
- Existence of sanctions to illegal acts and the right to dispute

## 3.2 Restraining Balance in Systems to Prevent Power from Getting Out of Hand

- History of political freedom and debates over political organizations vs. executive organizations of the government.
- Balance between varied political players: theory of mixture of political systems.
- Impact of the theory of separation of powers: the influence of Montesquieu, US

Constitution

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# Charles de Montesquieu (1689-1755)



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Montesquieu\\_1.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Montesquieu_1.png)

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# 3.3 How Far Can Political Power Be Institutionalized?

- How stable is the environment surrounding political power?
- How far can political power control the environment on its own?
- What will come of political power if a massive environmental change occurs?
- Is the institutionalization of political power an end in it self?