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Political Science 102

21 October, 2018

Reader Response 2

Power is an ability to influence an event or outcome that allows the agent to achieve an objective and/or to influence another agent to act in a manner in which the second agent, on its own, would not choose to act. The five types of power include violent, nonviolent, persuasion, manipulation, and economic power. Violent power is a physical power that uses violence as a method of control or gain. Nonviolent power is also a physical power that doesn’t involve violence. Examples include strikes, unions, and boycotts to gain control over a superior force. A nonphysical power is that we call persuasion which is the power to gain someone else’s support through reasoning, logic, or money. There is also manipulation which is tricking or making someone do something that they wouldn’t normally do. Lastly there is economic power, the greatest power of them all, which is used to gain anything one desires, monetarily speaking. Economic power can be used as a social control between the rich and the poor. What I mean by social control is that the rich can determine the social norms and expectations of society. The rich have already create a society that is majority of the so called poor all while making them work in efforts to making the rich richer.

The basic definitions of politics and power I need to know are: capitalism, free market, socialism, communism, classic liberals, liberal-conservative, traditional conservatives, modern liberalism, expansive liberty, interventionist government, surplus value, class, alienation, social democrats, ethics, socialist intent. Capitalism is the idea of people who have a lot of money, property, etc., and uses those things to produce even more money. The Free Market is an economic market or system in which prices are based on competition among private businesses and not controlled by a government. Socialism is the idea or system that all members of society or the community share in the work and the products. Socialists’ ethics is the hope that true socialists will enjoy work and will voluntarily share the product of their labor with the whole community. Their intent is a moral goal that must exist for a system to be true socialist. This goal is to free people from material need, allowing them to develop and refine themselves as human beings.  Communism is an idea or system that is based on the ownership of all productive property by the community as a whole. Classic liberals are those who ideologies are based on the works of John Locke and Adam Smith. Liberal conservatives are those who favor small governments and thriving capitalism. Traditional conservatives are those who favor traditional morality over individual liberty. Modern liberalism is liberalism that emphasizes interventionist government and expansive liberty. Expansive liberalism is an objective sought by the interventionist government, or government that takes a role in regulating economic and social interactions. Surplus value is extracted value of workers' labor power as a surplus above and beyond what is returned to the workers in the form of wages or profit. Yet the existence of profit is testimony to the fact that the workers have created a value in excess of that paid to them in wages. For Marx, class denoted one's function within the entire structure of capitalist society and not necessarily how much income one has. The capitalist class or bourgeoisie owned and controlled the means of production while the proletariat only owns their labor power as direct producers, hence, ‘the working classes.’ Alienation is of letting someone join a specific nation as a converted citizen. Social democrats are those who support peaceful, legal efforts to work toward socialism, and believe in multiparty competition and civil liberties.

The political economic forms of power are physical and nonphysical. Physical power is used to gain control using force or coercion while non-physical forms are through means such as manipulation, persuasion, or economic means. The part that interests me of the different forms of power are all the non-physical types of power. The non-physical types of power all include bribery and money incentives. This really shows the huge part that money and economics play in the part of power. Money is used to buy things, control things, and get things. Money is used to gain control, which helps increase power. The more money, one can begin to do physical types of power. More money entices more weapons, which leads to more wars and battles.

Multinational Corporations use their exchange/economic power to control poorer countries and peoples. They do this by giving the poor a tiny portion of their money in exchange for their dirty work. By doing the dirty work, these multinational corporations make a tremendous amount of profit at the small price of these poorer countries. An example is Wal-Mart using Chinese labor to manufacture all their products. They pay these countries a small amount and sell it to make a huge profit in the US. By understanding their wealth relative to another country’s economy, they can determine where their money is most valuable, and use that to invest their own company. Also, by providing the majority of the jobs in the nation, they control the countries’ economy. For example, in a hypothetical situation, that the US no longer allowed China to manufacture US products, many people would lose their jobs and their economy would begin a steady decline.

Corporatocracy is coined that naming due to its explicit definition. Corporatocracy is a society or system that is governed or controlled by corporations. What this means is that a multinational and huge conglomerate corporations have become so powerfully economically, that they now just run all of politics. An example of this would be if McDonalds made all legislation and ran the United States because of its powerful influence to get whatever they want. By having the money, companies provide jobs, which rule the lives of all the employees. As an employee, their job is to make the company more money by saying or doing whatever the company says. This creates a huge control over social norms of working forty hours a week and paying for entertainment of the same companies. An economic hitman is someone who goes around the globe cheating many countries out of trillions of dollars. They create fraudulent financial records, they rig elections, and they extort others. This type of criminal act can seriously do a lot of damage on many economies. People steal from the World Bank, which is one of the world’s most dangerous crimes.

A U.S. Marine Corps General, a Revolutionary and a U.S. Economic Hitman all share in common a thing about imperialism. Imperialism is the gaining of political and economic control. A general goes to war to fight for control of other nations, Revolutionaries fight to gain control of their own just worlds, and Hitman’s fight to harm other countries economically, so the multimedia corporations can exercise more control of the damaged countries.