

single faction we can produce any one of the three imperfect modes of government which Machiavelli speaks of.

"...those who have written about republics declare that there are in them three kinds of governments, which they call principality, aristocracy, and democracy..." (*Ibid.*, 176)

With Popular Legislative Influence set to unity, aristocratic and executive desires become insignificant, and we have a pure democracy. Generally, however, this is not desirable:

"Let me say, therefore, that all the forms of government listed are defective. . . Thus, those who were prudent in establishing laws recognized this fact and, avoiding each of these forms in themselves, chose one that combined them all, judging such a government to be steadier and more stable, for when there is in a city-state a principality, an aristocracy, and a democracy, one form keeps watch over the other." (*Ibid.*, 181)

The logic of this statement is clear. By maintaining a mixed government, the political system avoids weighting the discontent of any one faction too heavily. This prevents the buildup of intolerable levels of social stress which would result in rebellion and chaos.

We can see from this model why Machiavelli was quick to say that laws favoring freedom were born of conflict between the classes. If the populace wants more freedom, and the aristocracy wishes to deprive the people of more freedom, then popular protest will be a positive quantity and aristocratic discontent, a negative quantity. Assuming equal weight is given to each faction and the level of freedom and welfare in society are high enough to allow effective protest, these two inputs will cancel out, preventing either from "exploiting" the other.

In reality, this analysis is made more difficult by the fact that the balance of legislative influence is not constant. The influence of the executive branch is very closely related to Executive Power--a measure of the executive's control over the government apparatus. Aristocratic Legislative Influence increases when the aristocracy becomes overly discontent with the state of affairs. The populace gains legislative influence through two mechanisms, one institutionalized, one irregular. High levels of protest may increase the strength and number of those representatives favoring the popular position. This represents an incremental adjustment. Violent opposition to the legislative branch can also increase popular influence. When this effect takes place, it results in drastic shifts of legislative influence.

3.3 The Role of the Executive

As has been mentioned above, the role of the executive is to implement those laws

mandated by the legislature. It is his task to merge the ideal with the real. The need for an executive branch to deal with issues requiring decisive action was recognized by the Romans:

"Of all Roman institutions, this one (allowing for the creation of the dictatorship) truly deserves to be considered and numbered among those which were the cause of the greatness of so strong an empire: for without such an institution cities find a solution to extraordinary problems only with difficulty. Since the operation of normal institutions in republics is slow (neither a council nor any magistrate can undertake anything alone; in many cases they must consult with one another and, in harmonizing their opinions, time is spent), their remedies are very dangerous when they have to provide solutions to a problem which can not wait. . . ." (*Ibid.*, 244)

As Machiavelli makes clear in the following passage, the role of the executive includes much more than simply carrying out instructions. In times of crisis, the laws may not be adequate--then it is the executive's duty to "bend" them.

"When a republic does not have such a procedure, it must either come to ruin by following its laws or ignore the laws in order to avoid ruin; yet in a republic it is not good for something to happen which requires action outside of the laws. While extraordinary measures may be beneficial at the moment, the example is nevertheless harmful, of if one forms the habit of breaking laws for a good reason, later on they can be broken for bad reasons under the same pretext of doing good." (*Ibid.*, 245)

By granting the executive official license to "bend" the laws, the state institutionalizes a process which is physically unavoidable, maintaining some control over it.

Unfortunately, an inevitable result of this practice is that government policies are biased by the desires of the executive. Executive decisions are made under uncertainty, thus there are two strong mechanisms to encourage this bias. First, when a choice has to be made between two marginal alternatives, the executive is likely to choose the one least objectionable to his psyche. As a result, his own value judgements come into play. Second, because there is no way to arrive at a rational decision for most complex issues without the incorporation of assumptions, there is no way for opponents to prove wrongdoing on the part of the executive, i.e. there is no check on his power.

Figure 3.6 illustrates the model's representation of executive action. Government policy is determined by averaging the law and executive desires, where executive desires are weighted by Executive Power. Executive Power reflects the amount of influence the executive has over the rest of the government and ranges from 0 to 1. If Executive Power=0 then the law is implemented exactly as written, with no executive input. If Executive Power=1 then the executive is a dictator, having complete control over government policy. As depicted in Figure 3.3, the Government Policy Concerning Freedom impacts directly on Freedom after a time delay

to account for institutional inertia. The effect of the Government Economic Policy is more complex. Here, government policy affects the distribution of economic output. Economic Welfare is then determined by multiplying total production by the output fraction allocated to the populace, after accounting for the slight time delay involved.

3.4 Economic Considerations

Government regulation of civil liberties within the society is relatively straightforward. It is just a matter of having the power to force the populace to obey. Regulation of the economy is more complex. Freedom involves only human interactions, economics requires interaction with nature as well; plentiful harvests cannot be legislated.

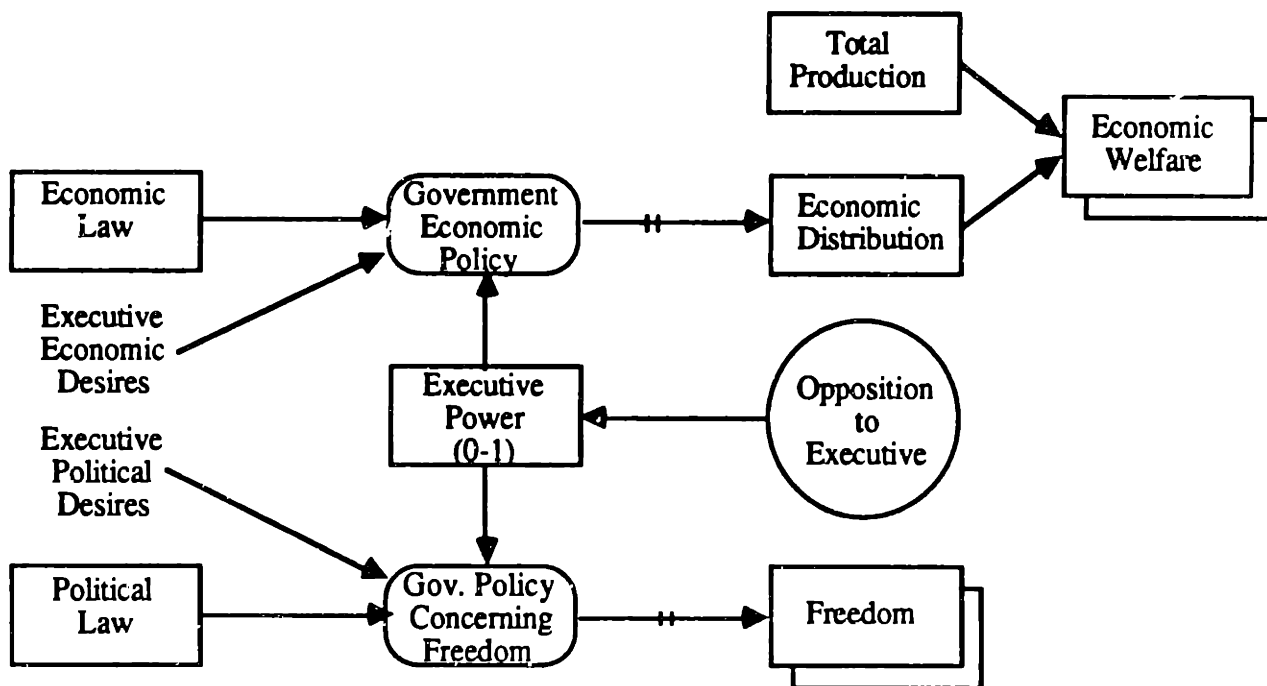


Figure 3.6 Executive Influence

In Figure 3.7 we see that productivity is affected by a number of different variables. Low quality land can decrease the yield simply by making it harder to farm. Freedom and Economic Welfare also affect the productivity of the populace. Low levels of freedom destroy morale and prevent innovation, leading to stagnation in the extreme case. When Economic Welfare is low, there are likely to be few incentives to work harder, and the health of the populace will decline, decreasing its effectiveness. In the extreme case, the population simply starves to death. The final significant influence on productivity is the amount of opposition to the government. This