

would include uprisings, riots, strikes, etc. Violence of any kind is likely to significantly decrease the level of output, both due to the physical damage done as well as the resources spent in the process.

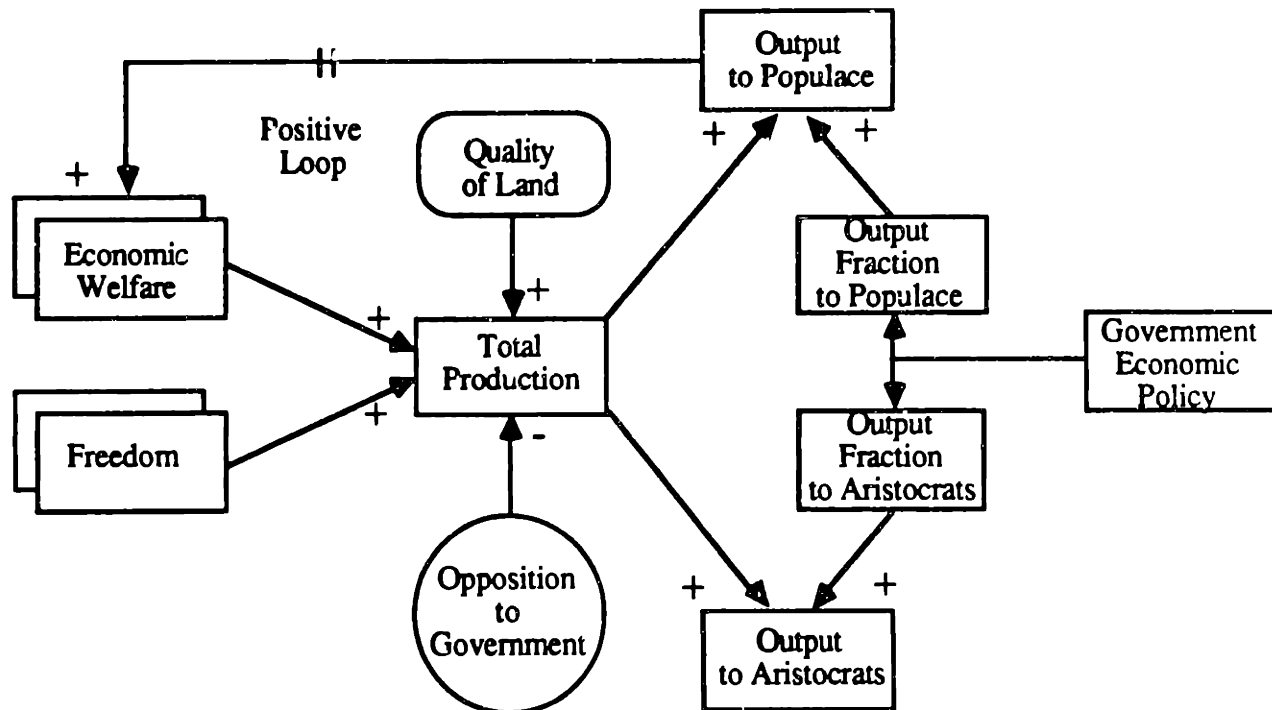


Figure 3.7: Factors Affecting Economic Productivity and Welfare

The total production of society is then apportioned according to government policy. The actual instruments by which governments have traditionally effected this redistribution vary, although the principal methods appear to have been taxation and rent paid to aristocratic landlords. It is perhaps a great simplification to assume that all of the power to accomplish this redistribution lies strictly with the government. However, when one considers the fact that many modern nations allow their government to decide how to spend more than 50% of their GNP, this simplification is not so unreasonable.

By multiplying the fraction of output allocated to the populace by total production, we arrive at the output dedicated to the populace. This in turn determines the Economic Welfare of the populace. However, even if the government decided to cut off all output to the populace instantaneously, it would still require a number of months before most of the population was deprived of food. Thus, there is a time delay between any change in output allocated to the populace and its effect on Economic Welfare.

It is interesting to note in Figure 3.7 the presence of a potentially destructive positive feedback loop. If productivity falls, this decreases the amount of output allocated to the populace. This causes a decline in the level of Economic welfare, which decreases productivity even further. The opposition to government policies which one would anticipate from such a course of events is likely to exacerbate the situation. Thus, when we consider the economic sector, the possibilities for instability and failure of the political system become much clearer.

3.5 Resistance and Rebellion

So far we have concentrated our efforts on the "normal" modes of response in a political system. Now we must consider the political actions which take place under extreme circumstances. We are concerned here with those conditions which prompt the populace to resist the authority of the government. David Bell (1973, 6) suggests a continuum of responses to authority, ranging from unquestioning acceptance to utter and violent rejection (see Figure 3.8). He points out an important distinction between resistance and protest.

"Resistance occurs as the result of a conscious decision not to obey authority. It is more extreme than protest, which aims at the change of a policy but does not reject the authority of the policy maker. In effect, as the protester explicitly displays his disagreement with a particular policy or person in authority, he tacitly registers his conviction that "the system" can correct its faults and remedy its abuses" (Bell 1973, 4)

As this passage suggests, the object of protest is likely to be incremental change under the present system. Resistance (in the model termed 'opposition') represents a rejection of the system, and if successful is likely to result in substantial political shifts.

"The resistor rejects the equation of legality with justice and finds in his personal conscience or in some external standard justification for his antinomian (literally "against the law") behavior." (Bell 1973, 6)

Within this vein, the model distinguishes two responses to authority: protest and opposition. The protester seeks to lessen discontent by changing the law by which the government operates. This is the negative feedback loop illustrated in Figure 2.1. A person engaged in opposition to the government seeks to lessen discontent by changing the political structure--with violence if necessary. This mode of behavior drastically changes the mechanics of politics.

Figure 3.8 illustrates the major changes which take place when the revolutionary sector of the model is activated. There are two new negative feedback loops added, representing the

tendency of the population to seize control of both the legislative and executive branches. These loops will tend to minimize discontent, thus contributing to stability. There are also two positive (destabilizing) feedback loops added. One is due to the escalating effects of turmoil. Excessive change overloads the cognitive capacity and institutional flexibility of society, causing less rational behavior. Once the Pandora's Box of political chaos is opened, it becomes difficult to

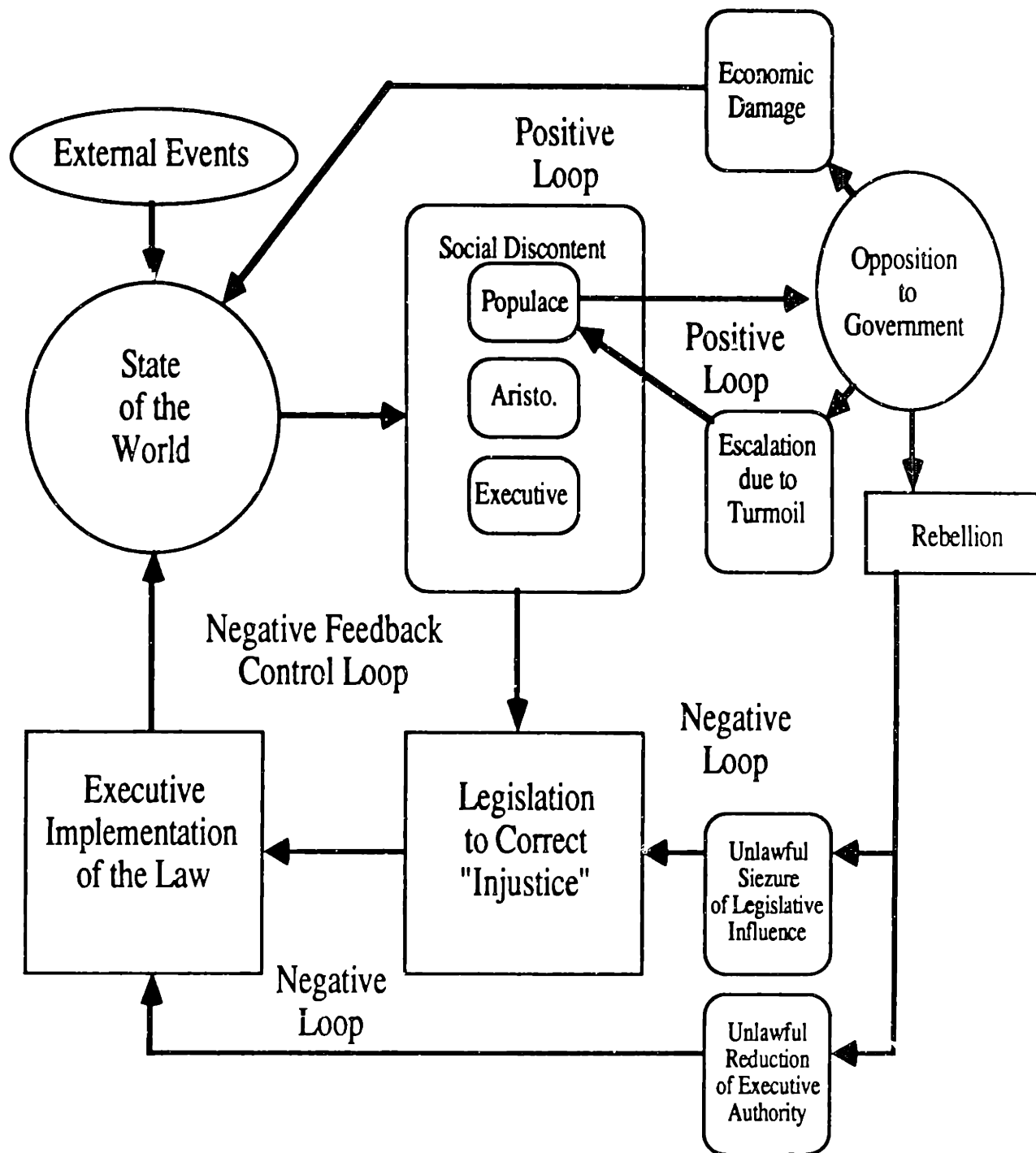


Figure 3.8: Overview of Political System with Resistance to Government Added