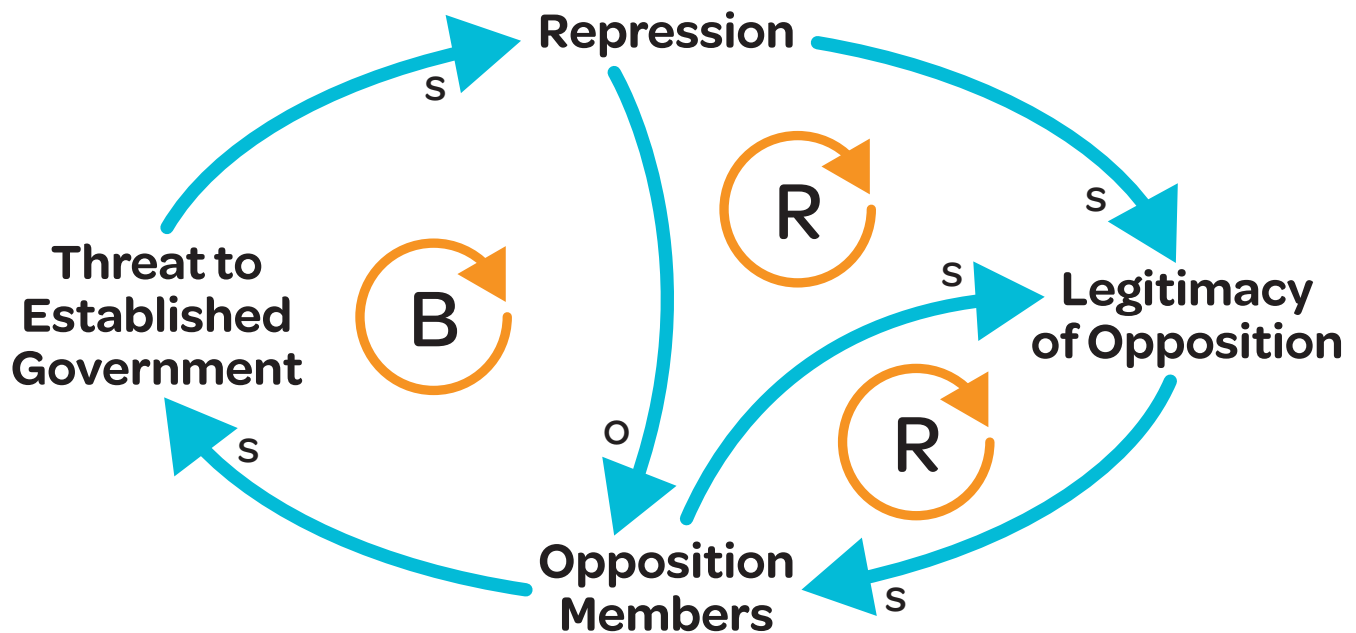


Repression and Revolution

When official policies are perceived as repressive and members of the oppressed group join together to act defiantly



Description

In a repression and revolution scenario, what is perceived as unjust policies from the established power can eventually lead to a revolution. First, those in power implement policies. Some see the policies as unjust and take action that is seen as a threat by those in power, leading to additional repressive policies. The additional repressive policies lend legitimacy to the opposition members, increasing their numbers. If the spiral continues, it can result in revolution.

Examples

- Fictional, current, or historical revolution
- Organizational unrest, e.g., a labor strike

Ways out

Breaking the cycle depends on the point of view of those involved. Some would see a revolution as a way to break out of an oppressive situation. Those initially in power can potentially break out of the cycle by reconsidering and changing the policies that are perceived as oppressive.

As a tool for prevention

Groups in power can use this archetype to anticipate the effect their actions could have on an opposing group's position. As with the escalation archetype, it is important to examine the perspective of the other party in order to predict reactions to proposed actions.

Questions to ask

- Are policies being implemented that are seen as unjust or oppressive by one group or another?
- Is that group taking action against those policies?
- As the group takes action, are additional oppressive policies being implemented, leading to legitimacy of the oppressed group?