Theories of Power

- The Pluralist Model - Interest Groups compete in a struggle for power.
- The Power Elite Model - power stems from the top down.
- The Autonomous State Model - power of the state feeds on itself.
- Feminist - men hold power in all institutions.

Democracy

Legitimacy

Rights Theory
Theory of Justice

Theory of Equality

Political Theory meaning and Approaches
Indian Political Thought

Dharma Shastra

Arthashastra

Buddhism
Indian Political Thought

- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
- Aurobindo Ghosh
- Mahatma Gandhi
- M N Roy
- Ambedkar
Theories Of Power

1. Liberal Theory
2. Marxist Theory
3. Elitist Theory
4. Pluralistic Theory
Theories Of Power

5. Feminist Theory
6. Gramscian Theory
7. Hannah Arendt Theory
8. Postmodern Focult Theory
Introduction (Power)

• Power is core concept of Political Theory,
• Political science is defined as the study of the shaping and sharing of power.
• The power is a core concept yet it remains contested concept.
Scholar have Studied Phenomena of Power from Various Perspectives
Steven Lukes has summarized different theories in the form of a three-dimensional view of power.
Dimensional view of Power

I Dimension

II Dimension

III Dimension
Dimensional view of Power

I Dimension
The right decision making means study of Institution shaping power.

II Dimension
Power as agenda setting Marxist theory it tells that agenda is said by economically dominant class

III Dimension
Power as thought control process Gramsci and Foucault
1. Liberal Theory
2. Marxist Theory
3. Elitist Theory
1. Liberal Theory of Power

- Liberal theories about power in a liberal state suggest that power lies with the people, and the government exercises delegated powers.
2. Marxist Theory of Power

- On the basis of “Base and Super Structural Model” Marx have true that class which controls economic structure controls the political structure and all other structures.
3. Elitist Theory of Power

• One of the oldest theories of power they divide population into two parts
  • i. Elites
  • ii. Masses
3. Elitist Theory of Power

- According to them power lies.

- With the elites they also believe that power should lie with Elite.
PHILOSOOPHERS

1. Plato
2. Aristotle
3. Machiavelli
1. Plato

- Power with man of gold
2. Aristotle-

- Some born to be master and some are born to be slave.
3. Machiavelli-

- Prince has to be fox and lion
Modern Theories

• Earlier theories where normative are suggesting that power should lie with elites.
1. Vilfredo Pareto
2. Gaetano Mosca
3. Robert Michel
4. C. Wright Mills
Scholars

• 1) Vilfredo Pareto
BOOK – “MIND AND SOCIETY”

- History of mankind is Graveyard of aristocracies. it means historical power has been with the elites”

- He has given the theory of circulation of elites.
The theory suggests that there is “No Trickle down effect of power”.

- Power circulates in the closed loop.
- It only shifts hands from the elite to the other.
According to Pareto,
There are two types of elites
sometimes power lies with foxes who
cannot rule alone and so they
incorporate lions.
Again power shifting in to the hands
of Lion And lions incorporate foxes.
According to Pareto, Democratic countries political parties are the elites and power lies leaders of political parties.
Scholars

• 2) Gaetano Mosca
BOOK- "THE RULING CLASS"

- He also divides the population in elites and masses.
- He also believed that political parties are the newelites
3) Robert Michel
BOOK- “POLITICAL PARTIES”


• He has analyse the internal functioning of the literal as well as socialist party.
BOOK- “POLITICAL PARTIES”

- He come to the conclusion that irrespective ideology
- Power always live with small section of Elite.
- Hence He suggest that oligarchy is the iron law.
• 4) C. Wright Mills
• He also analysed the reality of democracy in USA he concluded that the power in USA lies with power Elite,

• In USA the three sections from the power Elite.
In USA the three sections from the power Elite

1. Federal Politicians
2. Top Military Officials
3. Big Corporate Houses
According to C. Wright Mills, even the decision to drop nuclear bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was taken by power Elite.
• Masses have limited control over the decision making.
• Thus the theory of power Elite show oligarchy is the iron law.
• However he admits that USA was not always used by power Elite.
• Initially power was exercise by local politicians people associations States.

• However civil war in USA increasing role of USA in world politics has resulted into the emergence of power Elite.
Who Are Power Elites?

• In every society is there are some key institution Prison Holding Corporation Indies key Institutions are called as power Elite.

• For Example- In India the leaders of different caste and religious associations are Polar elites.

• Pakistan army is called Deep State.
4. Pluralist Theory Of Power

• Scholar - Robert Dahl
  • He has challenged C Wright Mills, “view on democracy in America”.
  • It is wrong to suggest that USA is oligarchy.
4. Pluralist Theory Of Power

• Scholar- Robert Dahl
  • It is wrong to suggest that people do not exercise power in USA.
  • It is true that the decision to throw atomic bombs was taken by Elite but they are not regular decision.
4. Pluralist Theory Of Power

- Scholar: Robert Dahl
  - They are unique situations in regular day to day of affairs. Association of the people are in a position to protect the interest of members.
  - Thus power is not concentrate in hands of few Elite but fairly distributed among various associations and interest group.
Robert Dahl suggest that USA is Polygarchy
Question

• What Is Polyarchy?
• Democracy is ideal where Polyarchy is practical.
• Polyarchy represent approximate democracy.
• It represent the maximum possible democracy in practical sense.
• If democracy is a government of all polygrachy is where power lives with many
According to Robert Dahl, practically people as individuals cannot exercise power but when they become apart of association or interest group they exercise is sufficient power.
• Note- Polyarchy means where pressure groups and interest group play very important role.
• Pressure groups play strongest role in USA. In USA lobbying is legal.
Robert Dahl letter on modified his looks and accepted that all groups do not enjoy equal power.
“Deformed Polyarchy”

- Oligarchy in USA is tilted towards the corporate classes, thus in comparison to other groups greater influence lies with corporate classes.
- Thus neo pluralist argument comes near to Marxist argument.
Question

- Difference In Marxist And Neo Pluralist?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marxist</th>
<th>v/s</th>
<th>Neo Pluralist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• According to Marxist in capitalist society is like USA power lines with corporate classes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Neo Pluralist also accept that oligarchy title however marxist economically dominant class tries to control all elements of superstructure for nuclear least they into control only economic policies.
5. Feminist Theory of Power
(Refer Ideology Topic)

• Feminist describe nature of society as patriarchal.

• Patriarchy give preference to male over other sex.
• Even state is an Institution of patriarchy
5. Feminist Theory of Power

(Refer Ideology Topic)

- Feminist believe that “Prisonal is political”
- There is a power relation dominance violence within the family also.
- Family is the first Institution of patriarchy.
6. Gramsci's Theory of Power

• Concept of Hegemony.
• He describes two types of power
  • 1. Domination
  • 2. Hegemony
7. Hannah Arendt's Theory of Power

- (Refer- Political Thought)
- Power lies with people acting in.
8. Postmodernist Theory of Power

- Introduction
  - Foucault's theory can be considered as postmodernist post structuralist theory of power.
  - Foucault Theory of power is also called as sociological and pluralistic view of power.
8. Postmodernist Theory of Power

- Introduction
  - He keeps the focus of analysis from Institutions to the multiple ways in which society exercises power,
  - His theory of power is also known as micro view of power in order to understand Foucault's theory of all we have to which concept like given follow-
1. Discourse
2. Disciplinary Power
3. Govern Mentality
4. Bio Power
Foucault's methodology for analysis of common is called by Foucault Archeology and geneology.
1. DISCIPLINE AND PUNISH THE BIRTH OF PRISON

- History of Power can be understood from his works like (Discipline and Punish the Birth of Prison) published in 1979.
2. THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY

- The History of Sexuality Published in 1980
Two prominent statements of Foucault about power are:

1. Power Is Everywhere
2. Knowledge Is Power
1. Power Is Everywhere

Power is present throughout the societies like “network of blood capillaries”

2. Knowledge Is Power

Power is everywhere
1. Power lies with state or sovereign. Example King

2. Application of Power top to bottom

3. Nature of Power - coercive
Foucault's View

1. Power is everywhere river flowing throughout society in form of discourses.
Foucault's View

2. Application of power multidirectional.
3. Power is not necessarily coercive but also productive.
Foucault calls conventional view as jurisdico legal view of power or juridico discursive model.
Foucault's perspective

- Power lies with the sovereign is “macro view of power” Foucault gives micro view of power.
- If we limit our understanding of power to macro view we will not be able to understand the infinite ways in which power is being exercised.
Foucault's perspective

- Thus power is not interested by single institution power flows through out the society in the form of discourses.
Question

• What Is Discourses?
Idea of discourse is based on the view that “Knowledge Is Power”

Discourse is a particular way of defining reality it is institutionalized way of speaking and writing about the reality.
• It determines the limit of what can be said and thought discourses construct the world in which we live.

• It is wrong to believe that king is sovereign King exercises power and norms in exercise power on the king.
• King himself is the product of discourse.
• Discourses have shape and different that entity of the king in snake the size of power is not just uni-directional.
• It is multi directional that's Power is everywhere it comes from and goes everywhere.
• Power is not necessarily coercive.

• Power is productive it produces reality, it produces identity it makes men or useful member of society productive view of power.
According to Foucault, Prison are not just the sides of exercising power they are also the “Vehicle of Power”. They embody power or discourses power is not commodity for a position.
• Power operates in everyday life even at all times at all sides even at the most intimate parts of body, power operates in social institutions in a routine form.

• Power is in general the matrix of relations all are Trapped In The greed of power.
• Power is a strategy.
• Power is a technique. Whenever there is a “power there is always the scope of resistance”.

• The very existence of the possibility of resistance shows the presence of power.
• Power is not just enacted but possession.
• Power constitutes agents rather than being deployed by agent.
1. There is no fix source

2. Power comes from everywhere it flows throughout society in the form of discourses.

3. Power is productive
4. Power is strategy or technique
5. Power is embodied
6. Individual are vehicles of power
7. Whenever there is power there is force.
Foucault has especially focused on the disciplinary power, we are living in the “Disciplinary Society”.

Discipline is a type of power with exercise on the subject gives the sense of belonging of will being subject believe that Power is when “exercise in his own interest”.
• Foucault show how the system of exercise of power was coercive in ancient times, later on it was realized that the system of “torture generates resentment against the state or society, so the system of punishment has been changed now.
He has studied other disciplinary institution like schools and Asylum.

Discipline helps in the creation of body of citizens who can control their body and mind and can be utilised as the productive member of the society.
He has also mentioned that discourses and the process of the formulation of discourses like discourse develop in three stages.
Stages of process of the formulation of discourses

1) Hierarchical Observation
2) Judgement of Normality
3) Examination
1) Hierarchical Observation

• It is the ability of those who are in charge to exercise surveillance or gaze.
2) Judgement of Normality

- Ability to determine who is normal and who is abnormal punish those who violates the law in 3 dimension shown below-
3 Dimensions

1. Time dimension
   Those who come late

2. In terms of activity
   Punish those who are not attentive

3. Behavior
   If Person does not behave properly.
3) Examination

- It is the application of observation and judgment of normality.
- Foucault has explain the nature of disciplinary society through the concept of panopticon, it is a design of Prison purpose by Bentham.
3) Examination

- Bentham was involved in Prison reforms
- He propose a semi circular design to keep watch on the prisoners
- Instead of keeping Prisoners in sales business can be allowed to roam freely inside the prison.
3) Examination

- However to ensure that Prisoners live in discipline they are made conscious that they are being watched similarly the society in which we live like a panopticon.
3) Examination

- We are always sure that somebody is watching us hence we keep our body and mind is control.

- Foucault used the term bio power to explain phenomena.
3) Examination

• In latter works he started using the term government mentality to show how States develop govern mentality among citizens to be able to govern the large section of population governmentality is at you through homogenisation disciplines and discourses.
Thus Foucault has given a very unconventional understanding of the Dynamics of power.