

*Work
Process
explains*

New York University - Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

PRINCIPLES OF POLITICAL POWER
Government G53.3016

The Codexes of Bibliography in Political Science and Public Policy (Volumes I to III, IV to X forthcoming) list hundreds of works under the index heading of power. In this field as in all others, the major reason for requiring the reading of any single work is because we need a conversation piece, that is, a book that we have all read and therefore use as a point of reference and departure in discussion. Our conversation piece is H.D. Lasswell and Abraham Kaplan's POWER AND SOCIETY. The only examination for the course will be given at our third meeting when, during the first half-hour of the class, your grasp of the book will be tested in writing.

Other reading for the course will be chosen by yourself to suit your needs. These needs will arise as you complete a term paper on how politico-social power is achieved in a certain country. More specifically, the title will be "A comparison of the conventional and legal techniques with the unconventional and extralegal techniques of achieving power, as used by strato-crats, taxocrats, plutocrats, larger agrocraats, party politicians, and tutors (intelligentsia) in country "X" since World War II." In this study, you would normally be concerned with some definition of the size and traits of each aggregate, with their distinctive uses of doctrines, domination, propaganda and promotion, economic measures, and force; the effects of all these in the total engagement of power; and the distinctive traits that each aggregate lends to the final "policy mix." It is not recommended that you begin your paper with any theoretical exposition of power or society. Where there is an abundance of material on a given point (as on the U.S.S.R., for example), cite the consensus of experts and do not belabor it. The more schematic your paper, given that it is complete, the better.

The fourth meeting of the class will be given over to a thirty-minute oral report of a student on his single country, and a discussion of his results. Two weeks later, his paper should be complete and in the hands of the instructor. We shall continue this method throughout. The last paper will be presented on May 15 and is due about May 28.

Students are welcome to phone the instructor at 777-5214 for a personal appointment.

Alfred DeFuria
January 23, 1969