

TOPIC: POWER, GOVERNMENT, & AUTHORITY

- ◆ Max Weber distinguished between power and authority.
- ◆ **Power:** Ability to exercise one's will, even in the face of _____.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How do governments gain authority?
- How does inequality influence government?

- ◆ **Authority:** Power that is perceived as _____ (rather than coercive).

Traditional

Authority comes from respect for well-_____ cultural patterns & lineage.



Charismatic

Authority comes from an leader's exceptional _____ qualities.



Rational-Legal

Authority comes from laws & rules; resides in the _____, not the person.



- ◆ When leaders use violence to maintain power, it undermines their authority.

- ◆ **Politics:** Social processes that _____ power.

- **Government:** Formal institutions through which political power is exercised.

EXAMPLE

In one or two sentences, explain the difference between power and authority.

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PRACTICE

Which statement most accurately distinguishes between government and politics?

- a) *Politics* describes an *institution*, whereas *government* describes a social *process*.
- b) *Politics* refers to *traditional authority*, whereas *government* refers to *rational-legal authority*.
- c) *Politics* describes a social *process*, whereas *government* describes an *institution*.
- d) *Politics* and *government* are essentially interchangeable terms in sociology.

PRACTICE

Which of the following statements are true regarding traditional authority?

- a) Traditional authority is less common in societies as technology increases.
- b) Traditional authority is based on the exceptional characteristics of a leader.
- c) Traditional authority is sometimes called bureaucratic authority.
- d) Traditional authority is based on coercion.