

POWER AND SOCIETY

An Introduction to the Social Sciences Sixth Edition

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Thomas R. Dye

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An Introduction to the Social Sciences

6TH
EDITION

Thomas R. Dye

Florida State University
McKenzie Professor of Government
and Public Policy

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In memory of James C. "Jeff" Dye

Preface

Power and Society: An Introduction to the Social Sciences is designed as a basic text for an introductory, interdisciplinary social science course. It is written specifically for first- and second-year students at community colleges and at four-year colleges and universities that offer a basic studies program.

Power and Society introduces students to central concepts in

anthropology	psychology
sociology	political science
economics	history

But more important, the text focuses these disciplinary perspectives on a central integrative theme—the nature and uses of power in society. In this way, students are made aware of the interdependence of the social sciences. Compartmentalization is avoided, and students are shown how each social science discipline contributes to an understanding of power.

Power and Society also introduces students to some of the central challenges facing American society:

ideological conflict	crime and violence
racism and sexism	urban affairs
poverty and powerlessness	defense and arms control

Each of these national challenges is approached from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, with *power* as the integrating concept.

Power has been defined as the capacity to modify the conduct of individuals through the real or threatened use of rewards and punishments. Doubtless there are other central concepts or ideas in the social sciences that might be employed to develop an integrated framework for an introduction to social science. But certainly *power* is a universal phenomenon that is reflected in virtually all forms of human interaction. Power is intimately related to many other key concepts and ideas in the social sciences—personality, behavior, aggression, role, class, mobility, wealth, income distribution, markets, culture, ideology, change, authority, oligarchy, the elite. Power is also a universal instrument in approaching the various crises that afflict human beings and their societies—racism, sexism, poverty, violence, crime, urban decay, and ideological and international conflict.

Several special features are designed to help the student understand the meaning of various concepts. The first such feature is the identification of specific masters of social thought and the clear, concise presentation of their central contributions to social science. Specific attention is given to the contributions of

Bertrand Russell	B. F. Skinner
Ruth Benedict	John Locke
Karl Marx	Charles Beard
Adam Smith	Frederick Jackson Turner
John M. Keynes	Martin Luther King, Jr.
Sigmund Freud	

The second special feature is the presentation of timely, relevant case studies in each chapter to illustrate important concepts. Topics include:

Explaining Presidential Approval Ratings
Women in the Work Force: Changing American Culture
Sociobiology: It's All in Your Genes
The Power Elite
Authority and Obedience: The "Shocking" Experiments
Watergate and the Limits of Presidential Power
Political Power and the Mass Media
Reconstruction and Black History
Vietnam: A Political History
The Rise and Fall of Communism in the Soviet Union
Affirmative Action or Reverse Discrimination?
Wilder of Virginia: Putting Race to Rest
Senior Power
The Death Penalty
Community Power Structures
American Military Power: "Desert Storm"

In addition, illustrative boxes throughout the text help maintain student interest, with brief discussion on such topics as

Are Social Mores in America Changing?
Religious Beliefs in America
The Incest Taboo

Telltale Behavior of Twins
The "Comparable Worth" Controversy
The CEOs: Who's at the Top
The "Best" and "Worst" Presidents
Americans: Liberal or Conservative?

A third special feature is the cross-national perspectives provided on important aspects of life in the United States. As this book introduces students to the social sciences with principal reference to the American experience, discussions in each chapter endeavor to place this experience in a global context.

Thus, "Cross-National Perspective" sections include:

World Population
Global Inequalities
Suicide
GNP and Standards of Living
Capitalism and Socialism in the World
The Rise and Fall of Communism
Women in the Labor Force
Murder and Homicide
Worldwide Urbanization
Tax Burdens

as well as anthropological observations on power among Polar Eskimos, power among Crow Indians, and power in the Aztec Empire.

Another important special feature is the running study guide provided in the wide page margins throughout the text. The study guide defines key vocabulary items and outlines central arguments, keeping pace with the student's progress through the text.

The sixth edition of *Power and Society* continues to resist the lamentable tendency in introductory college textbooks to "dummy" material for undergraduate students. It "smartens" material in every chapter, introducing more social science research studies to describe and explain human behavior, as well as providing cross-national perspectives on the American experience. Chapter 2, "Social Sciences and the Scientific Method," describes scientific research designs and experimental, survey, case-study, and aggregate-data analysis. It discusses the difficulties in applying scientific research designs to human behavior and provides illustrative case studies: "An Experiment in Crime Fighting" and "Explaining Presidential Approval Ratings." It also encourages students to evaluate survey results for themselves and to use the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* and other common sources of social science data for their own investigations. The new feature of the sixth edition, its effort to bring cross-national perspectives to the American experience, places an additional challenge on students. The sixth edition continues the book's tradition of focusing on the conditions of minorities and women in American society. In addition to its material on such topics as "Reconstruction and Black History," "Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Power of Protest," "Hispanic Power," "Women in the Labor Force," and "The 'Comparable Worth' Controversy," it adds new material on "Wilder of Virginia: Putting Race to Rest."

I am particularly grateful for the many constructive comments and criticisms made at various stages of this work. Assistance in preparing the sixth edition was provided by Thom Amnotte, Eastern Maine Technical College; John DeBrizzi, Jersey City State College; James L. Gibson, University of Houston; Harry Holloway, University of Oklahoma; John D. Molloy, Michigan State University.

Thomas R. Dye

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Dye has served as President of the Southern Political Science Association, President of the Policy Studies Organization, and Secretary of the American Political Science Association. He is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi and is listed in most major biographical directories, including *Who's Who in America*.

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