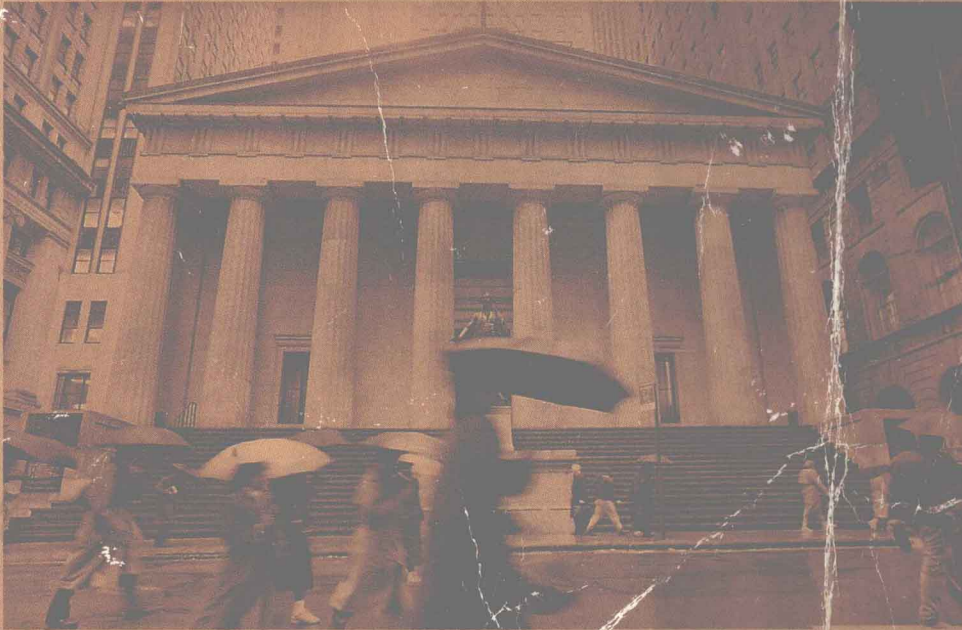


# **POWER AND SOCIETY**



An Introduction to the Social Sciences  
EIGHTH EDITION

**THOMAS R. DYE**

# **POWER AND SOCIETY**

## **An Introduction to the Social Sciences**

**Eighth Edition**

**THOMAS R. DYE**

**McKenzie Professor of Government  
Florida State University**

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# 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	international relations

Each of these 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 arouse student interest in the social sciences as well as to help students 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	Sigmund Freud	John Locke
Ruth Benedict	B. F. Skinner	Martin Luther King, Jr.
Karl Marx	Adam Smith	
C. Wright Mills	John M. Keynes	

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

- An Experiment in Crime Fighting
- Using the *Statistical Abstract*
- Authority and Obedience: The “Shocking” Experiments
- Diagnosing Mental Illness
- Achieving Economic Stability
- Watergate and the Limits of Presidential Power
- Vietnam: A Political History
- The Rise and Fall of Communism in Russia
- Senior Power
- The Death Penalty and the Constitution
- The Insanity Defense
- American Military Power: “Desert Storm”

In addition, illustrative *focuses* throughout the text help maintain student interest. Topics include:

- The Vocabulary of Social Science
- Explaining Presidential Approval Ratings
- Social Science Looks at Sex in America
- Women in the Work Force: Changing American Culture
- How Men and Women View Their Relations Today
- Sociobiology: It’s All in Your Genes
- Telltale Behavior of Twins
- Evolutionary Psychology: The Mating Game
- Drug Therapies
- The Concentration of Corporate Power
- Rating the Presidents
- Media Power—The Presidential Debates
- Reconstruction and African-American History
- How to Tell if You’re Liberal or Conservative
- A Declaration of Women’s Rights, 1848
- Who Are the Poor?
- Getting High
- Urban Stress
- It’s a Real Crime!

A fourth special feature is the *cross-national perspective* 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 Populations
- Religious Beliefs
- Beliefs About Equality and Opportunity
- Global Inequalities
- Suicide
- GNP and Standards of Living
- The Multinationals' Worldwide Economic Power
- The Role of Government
- Capitalism and Socialism in the World
- The Earnings Gap
- Income of the Poor in Advanced Democracies
- Worldwide Urbanization
- Murder and Homicide

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

A fifth special feature is *controversies in social science*, designed to stimulate student interest in social science, inspire classroom discussion, and warn students that the social sciences deal with many controversial topics that remain largely unresolved:

- Can the Social Sciences Be Scientific?
- Cultural Relativity and Female Circumcision
- The Bell Curve*
- A Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution?
- Direct versus Representative Democracy
- Should We Limit the Terms of Congress Members?
- Charles Beard and the Economic Interests of the Founders
- Affirmative Action and the Constitution
- Do Welfare Programs Cause Poverty?
- Should Drugs Be Legalized?
- Who Really Runs This Town?
- When Should the United States Use Military Force?

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 eighth edition of *Power and Society* strives to make this popular text even more “teachable” by adding a number of stimulative and provocative *focuses* and *case studies*, together with its *masters of social thought* and *cross-national perspectives*, as well as the new feature *controversies in social science*—all of which provide timeliness, relevance, interest, and perspective to each chapter topic. Rather than evade or dilute “hot topics”—for example, genetics versus environmental influences on behavior, power and gender, sex-

ual harassment, mental illness, the neglect of African-American and Native American history, affirmative action, violence in American history, abortion, drug legalization, the death penalty—it focuses on controversy as a means of developing student interest and appreciation for the social sciences. The eighth edition continues to resist the lamentable tendency in introductory texts to “dummy” material for undergraduate students and shows that social science research and scholarship is relevant to our current societal problems. Among the new topics introduced in the eighth edition:

Cultural Relativity and Female Circumcision  
 Power and Political Systems  
*The Bell Curve*  
 Nurture and Human Development  
 Drug Therapies  
 Direct versus Representative Democracy  
 Rating the Presidents  
 How to Tell If You’re Liberal or Conservative  
 Immigration to America  
 The Insanity Defense  
 It’s a Real Crime!  
 Getting High  
 When Should the United States Use Military Force?

This edition continues the book’s traditional focus on the condition of women and minorities in American society, with specific discussions of “Power and Gender,” “Women in the Work Force: Changing American Culture,” “Reconstruction and African-American History,” “Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Power of Protest,” “Hispanic Power,” and “Gender Inequality: Culture or Biology?”

An instructor’s manual filled with lecture ideas and test questions is available.

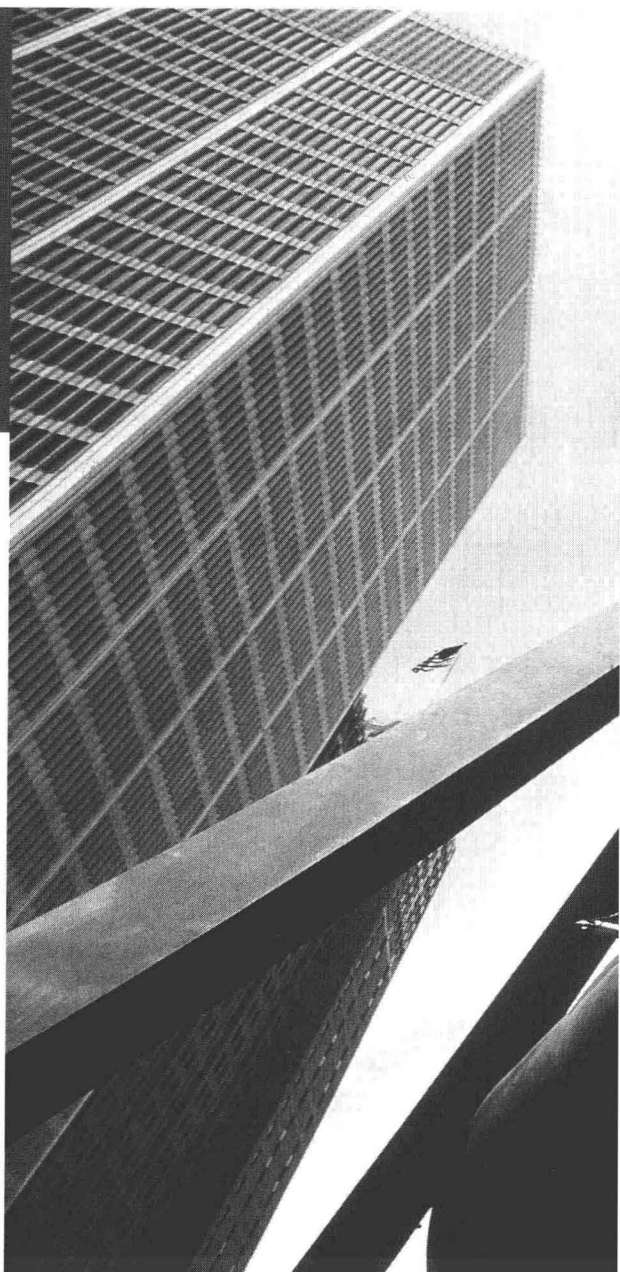
Students may purchase the study guide that provides multiple choice, true-false, completion, and essay questions to lead them through independent study of the text.

Many thanks to those who provided guidance on this and past editions: Charles Cotter, Florida State University; Paul George, Miami Dade Community College; Francis Moran, Jersey City College; Alex Velez, St. Mary’s University; Brett Benson, Lewis-Clark State College; Howard Lucky, Prairie State College; and Fred Dauser, Talladega College.



# The Nature and Study of Power

**PART ONE**





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**1** he purpose of this book is to introduce you to the social sciences. Because power in society is a theme that pervades each of the social sciences, as well as the problems they study, we have chosen this theme as the focal point for our presentation. Part 1 is designed to familiarize you with the notion of power, with the nature of each of the social sciences, and with the scientific methods they employ. You will find that Chapter 1 reflects the structure of the entire text. Like the book as a whole, its first part focuses on the nature of power, its second part on the individual social sciences and the particular ways in which they contribute to our understanding of power, and its third and final part on the problems with which the social sciences are concerned. Chapter 2 is devoted to a discussion of the methods used in social science research—how social scientists gather data, how they endeavor to employ scientific and experimental methods of research, and the special problems they encounter in doing so.



