



THE CRAFT OF POWER – PART 1 OF 2

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Overview

Specific methods for uprooting hidden agendas in opponents and determining secret motivations are listed here. Precise tactics that revolutionaries use to co-opt governments and nations are described in detail. Those circling on the outskirts of power, the kingmakers, the subterraneans, and the opportunists, are also discussed. No stone is left unturned – the business world, academic world, political world, philosophical world, and military world are all analyzed in this compendium of power. This book describes the most unscrupulous tactics that the most ambitious power players vying for domination will employ in the future... and have employed in the past!

“Power is the universal solvent of human relations.”

1. The Nature of Power

Power is the intentional influence over the beliefs, emotions, and behaviors of others. Avoid overgeneralizing when it comes to power, for even God the omnipotent limited his power by giving humans free will. Perfect equality is impossible, and an individual’s relative power has, on average, decreased throughout history. For example, a slave owner in Rome had power over 100,000 people, while today a NYC mayor only controls a small piece of 75,000 jobs.

2. Minidemocracies

The government only remains in charge through its ability to gain voluntary submission from its citizens. Man has allowed himself to be ruled by a number of mini-democracies, from delegating his connection with God to the churches, to delegating his livelihood to corporations or unions, to delegating his education to school. (Click [here](#) for our summary of *Becoming a Barbarian* which discusses breaking free from this.)

3. Executives and Persons of Power

Everyone exercises power, from policemen to parents. While the average person usually does not demand more than they have, for those brave souls seeking real power, retaining control is their top priority. This may

even occur at the expense of their organization. In fact, large organizations will often tolerate the presence of the ruthlessly ambitious, as they can be healthy for its long-term growth (assuming they act within the rules).

4. Theories on Power

- **Plato** (*circa 500 B.C.*), a lover of knowledge, believed “power” was a necessary component of “good”, and knowledge was the main ingredient.
- **Aristotle** (*circa 500 B.C.*) believed power was a source of change and could be used for good.
- **Niccolò Machiavelli** (*circa 1500 A.D.*) believed that people have a responsibility to gain power. He believed you can never fully separate ethics from politics, as man’s depravity is implicit in his decisions, so don’t bother trying. From Machiavelli, we learned that for a Prince aiming for political power, it’s far better to be feared than loved.
- **Martin Luther** (*circa 1500 A.D.*) believed people have a responsibility to wield power wisely, and the state’s power was ordained by God to punish malevolent evil-doers and protect good citizens.
- **Friedrich Nietzsche** (*circa 1880 A.D.*) believed that the *Will to Power* was reality’s deepest instinct, that the universe was comprised of waves of power and influence crashing into one another at its deepest layer. That beneath the concept of matter & energy, beneath even life’s instinct to survive, was just a sea of powerful forces vying for supremacy.

5. Justifications

Acts of power always have plenty of justification behind them spewing from someone’s mouth. The ambitious tend to have a sense of smug self-righteousness. Justifications for seizing power include:

- **Presumption:** They assume that *their* type of enlightenment, or *their* message, is the only path to wisdom, so *they* must clearly be in charge.
- **Self-Centeredness:** They assume that what they value is clearly best (e.g. Plato loved knowledge, so said knowledge = power = good).

