

### MAX WEBER

**ESSAY:** The three types of legitimate rule  
1958

**THEORY:** legitimate order and authority stems from "different aspects of a single phenomenon -- the forms that underlie all instances of ordered human interaction"

### HERBERT SPENCER

interpreted Weber's theory

### SOURCES OF LEGITIMACY

#### MAX WEBER

Societies cyclically govern themselves using the three types of governmental legitimacy

#### MATTEI DOGAN

Weber's types of political legitimacy proposes that they are conceptually insufficient to comprehend the complex relationships that constitute a legitimate political system in the twenty-first century

traditional authority and charismatic authority are obsolete as forms of contemporary government

rational-legal authority exists in so many permutations that no longer allow it to be limited as a type of legitimate authority

### 2 FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS OF ORDER

represent polar principles of social organization

#### NORMS

serve as the guiding principles and shared expectations within a society

contribute to the establishment and maintenance of order in social interactions

### AUTHORITY

### AUTHORITY

refer to an individual's expertise in a particular topic of interest

in the political sense therefore, means that a certain political entity has the right to use and exercise its power over a specific group or society

a key element in maintaining order within human interactions

The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience

### POWER

ability or capacity to influence, control, or direct the behavior of others or the course of events

### 3 TYPES OF AUTHORITY (WEBER)

#### TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

right to rule is inherited and passed down through generations

#### CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY

Relies on the personal and affectual devotion of followers to a charismatic leader

#### LEGAL-RATIONAL AUTHORITY

Empowered by a formalistic belief in the content of the law (legal) or natural law (rationality)

### 3 TYPES OF AUTHORITY (BLAU)

#### TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Undynamic

#### CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY

Personal

#### LEGAL-RATIONAL AUTHORITY

Rational

### LEGITIMIZATION

the popular acceptance of an authority, usually a governing law or a regime

**AUTHORITY** - specific position in an established government

**LEGITIMACY** - a system of government

the normative status conferred by a governed people upon their governors' institutions, offices

government's actions are appropriate uses of power by a legally constituted government

### 3 TYPES OF LEGITIMACY

#### TRADITIONAL LEGITIMACY

derives from societal customs and habits that emphasize the history of the authority of tradition

#### CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY

derives from the ideas and personal charisma of the leader

weak political and administrative institutions

if the charismatic leader has a successor, a government derived from charismatic legitimacy might continue

#### RATIONAL-LEGAL LEGITIMACY

derives from a system of institutional procedure, where government institutions establish and enforce law and order in the public interest

Uses public trust

### FORMS OF LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT

#### COMMUNISM

legitimacy derives from having won a civil war, a revolution, or from having won an election

In the early twentieth century, Communist parties based the arguments supporting the legitimacy of their rule and government upon the scientific nature of **Marxism**

#### CONSTITUTIONALISM



### FORMS OF LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT

(cont)

modern political concept of constitutionalism establishes the law as supreme over the private will, by integrating nationalism, democracy, and limited government

Legitimate because of popular belief and justification of abiding by the law codified in the constitution

### DEMOCRACY

legitimacy derives from the popular perception that the elected government abides by democratic principles in governing, and thus is legally accountable to its people

### FASCISM

legitimacy upon the arguments of traditional authority

Led by a dictator, controls the lives of people and forbids oppression

### MONARCHY

Legitimized through divine right and/or popular acceptance that the monarch is the rightful leader

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By **Erich Toliongco**  
[cheatography.com/erich-toliongco/](https://cheatography.com/erich-toliongco/)

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Page 2 of 2.

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