

Political Sociology:

1. Political sociology:

Political sociology is the sociological analysis of politics, the state, and power. Both formal politics (laws, elections) and informal power (ideologies, social movements) are of concern. Its main themes are: who holds power? , how is power maintained? , how do people resist or challenge power?

2. Classical theories of power:

a. Max Weber –Types of Authority:

✚ **Traditional Authority:** based on traditions and established methods.

✚ **Charismatic Authority:** based on a leader's personal attributes.

✚ **Legal-Rational Authority:** based on laws and rules.

b. Karl Marx –Power and Class: control over the economic base, or the means of production, is what gives one power. The ruling class is served by the state. Class conflict is reflected in politics. The fundamental essence of exploration is concealed by ideology.

c. Emile Durkheim –The state as social integration: the state upholds social relationships as a moral force. The collective consciousness is reflected in politics.

3. Modern Theories of Power:

➤ **Pluralist theory:** many groups share power (e.g., interest groups, unions).

Politics is a contest.

- **Elite Theory (C. Wright Mills):** major institutions (business, military, and politics) are dominated by a small elite. Ordinary people don't have much power.
- **Foucault –Power and Knowledge:** power is not limited to institutions; it exists everywhere. Norms, speech, and knowledge are how power operates.

4. Key concepts in political sociology:

