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Q1(d)

Tools of legitimization of the State.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · PSIR GS 1 · 10 marks · Political Theory

Political Theory: meaning and approaches.

Core demand of the question

- **Comment on the following in about 150 words:** Tools of legitimization of the State. (10 marks)

Revision summary

Legitimation makes obedience look rightful, not only forced.

Weber listed tradition, charisma, and legal-rational authority.

Easton treats support as a system input; **Gramsci** adds consent in civil society.

Elections, Model Code, Kesavananda review, and welfare are Indian tools.

Emergency showed the cost when coercion replaces those tools.

Introduction

Legitimation is how a state gets obedience to look rightful. **Max Weber** named types of legitimate domination. Later theory added ideology, welfare, and ritual as working tools.

Body**Classic tools**

- **Weber:** tradition, charisma, and legal-rational office. A constitution, a court, and a cadre of officials are legal-rational tools.
- **David Easton:** support is an input. Diffuse support is a reservoir of legitimacy; specific support follows outputs.
- **Antonio Gramsci:** hegemony in civil society makes rule seem common sense, which is cheaper than the police.
- **Marx** treated law, nation, and religion as veils over class power, which is a critical map of the same tools.

Working inventory

- Elections, the **Election Commission's** Model Code, and judicial review after **Kesavananda Bharati** (1973) are legal-rational spectacles of consent and limit.
- Welfare transfers, reservations, and patriotic ritual are material and symbolic tools.
- Emergency memory (1975-77) shows that tools can fail when coercion outruns consent.
- **Foucault** adds that discipline in school and clinic also normalises the state before a ballot is cast.

Flow diagram

Legitimation tools -> Weber three types
Legitimation tools -> Easton support
Legitimation tools -> Gramsci hegemony
Legitimation tools -> Elections courts welfare

Conclusion

Tools of legitimation are tradition, charisma, legal-rational office, hegemony, welfare, and ritual. **Weber**, **Easton**, and **Gramsci** name the main files. A state that only commands, without these tools, rules by fear and not for long as a constitutional order.

Facts & figures

Weber

Legitimate domination rests on tradition, charisma, or legal-rational belief in office and statute.

Easton

A Systems Analysis of Political Life treats diffuse and specific support as conditions of persistence.

Gramsci

Hegemony is leadership through consent in civil society, a tool beside coercion.

Kesavananda, 1973

Basic-structure review is itself a legal-rational tool that can legitimate limitation of Parliament.