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Q4(a)**Elaborate major sociological theories of power. How does power shape political process in modern societies?**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · Sociology GS 1 · 20 marks · Politics and Society

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Politics and Society: Sociological theories of power; Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups, and political parties; Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology; Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round.

Max Weber (Economy and Society)

Conceptualized power (Macht) as the chance of a man or a number of men to realize their own will in a communal action even against the resistance of others.

Karl Marx (The Communist Manifesto)

Posited that political power, properly so called, is merely the organized power of one class for oppressing another.

Michel Foucault (Discipline and Punish)

Argued that power is not merely held by an individual or state, but is dispersed throughout society and tied inextricably to knowledge.

Robert Dahl (Who Governs?)

Advanced the pluralist theory of power, demonstrating how decision-making authority is fragmented across multiple competing interest groups in New Haven.

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