

Sources of Power

There are many sources of power. These are some of them:

Formal Authority. The power that derives from a formal position within a structure that confers certain decision-making prerogatives. Example, the power of a police officer, an elected official, a CEO, a parent, or a schoolteacher.

Expert / Information Power. The power that derives from having expertise in a particular area or information about a particular matter.

Associational Power (Or Referent Power). The power that derives from association with other people who have power.

Resource Power. The power that derives from the control over procedures and protocols, how goods and services are distributed, and how monetary resources are apportioned.

Sanction Power. The power that derives from the ability or (perceived ability) to inflict harm or to interfere with a person's ability to realize his or her interests.

Nuisance Power. The power that derives from the ability to cause discomfort to a party, falling short of the ability to apply direct sanctions.

Habitual Power. The power of the status quo that rests on the premise that it is normally easier to maintain a particular arrangement or course of action than it is to make a change.

Moral Power. The power that comes with an appeal to widely held values; related to this is the power that results from the conviction that you are right.

Spiritual Power. The power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

Personal Power. The power that derives from a variety of personal attributes that magnify other sources of power, including self-assurance, the ability to articulate one's thoughts and understand one's situation, one's determination and endurance, and so on.

Social Power. The combination of formal power, association power, resource power, procedural power, sanction power, and habitual power. Social power combined with prejudice of any kind creates oppression.

Institutional Power. Social power applied to the policies, procedures, and practices of an organization. It can be positive or negative.

Systemic Power. The combined effect of the power of institutions and governments with significant monetary resources which have lasting influence on people and the course of history.