

Society



Society needs rules – conflicts are inevitable as various groups pursue self-interests

- need for **government** to arbitrate – “the machinery”
- **politics** is the various interests attempting to move decisions in their direction

In order to carry out the decisions, government needs power.

- force
- coercion
- persuasion – through influence
- authority – followed because they are **believed** to be right
 - traditional
 - natural
 - moral
 - legal
 - charisma

Power alone tends to lead to its own negation (revolt!) if the society does not like the decisions. There must be **legitimacy** – the acceptance by society of the government’s right to hold power.

- traditional acceptance of leaders
- legal acceptance – the right to lead is based on the law
- followership – people tend to follow “leaders”

Governments are constantly striving for legitimacy so that society will follow. This is a struggle for all leaders. Most governments use all of the legitimacy areas.

With modern states, there comes a question of **sovereignty** – to be discussed later.