

On the Great Influence of Powerful Figures

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Abstract. Society should be divided into three classes: the supreme ruler, the commoner class, and the powerful figure class. The powerful figures refers to powerful and influential individuals or organizations, other than the supreme ruler, who possess substantial assets or have considerable political influence. The powerful figures include major officials of the central government, royal relatives, provincial and municipal local governments, warlords, nobility, prominent families, political parties, large capitalists, as well as other economic, religious, cultural, criminal organizations, and peasant rebel armies with considerable scale or influence, etc. The large bourgeoisie has become the most significant powerful figure in modern society. They can control public opinion and elections, or resort to coups and assassinations to seize power. Powerful figures are not the supreme ruler, but they are completely different from the majority of the common people in the ruled class. There are not many powerful figures in a country, but they had a significant impact on the construction and destruction of the country. It is social organizations that bring us the greatest benefits and the greatest harm. Therefore, those who can control social organizations can bring us the greatest benefits and the greatest harm. To eliminate separatist forces, the supreme ruler must strengthen the power of the central government and weaken that of local governments. Within the central government, to safeguard his own power, the supreme ruler must not only eliminate hereditary aristocrats but also restrict the power of government officials.

Keywords: Political Science; Powerful Figure; Bourgeoisie; Power; Local Separatism.

1. What is Powerful Figure?

We usually tend to divide the people in a society into the ruling class and the ruled class. However, this division conceals a very important issue, which is the role of powerful figures in society. Therefore, society should be divided into three classes: the supreme ruler, the commoner class, and the powerful figure class. The commoner class includes ordinary and loose groups of people, families, small and medium-sized enterprises and social organizations, excluding large-scale or influential enterprises and social organizations. The powerful figure class is the powerful stratum outside the highest ruler.

Definition: The powerful figures refers to powerful and influential individuals or organizations, other than the supreme ruler, who possess substantial assets or have considerable political influence.

The powerful figures include major officials of the central government, other than the supreme ruler, royal relatives, provincial and municipal local governments, warlords, nobility, prominent families, political parties, large capitalists, as well as other economic, religious, cultural, criminal organizations, and peasant rebel armies with considerable scale or influence, etc. In parliamentary democratic countries, the parliament and the head of state are the supreme rulers, and the parliamentarians are the powerful figures.

Before the Qin Dynasty China was always a feudal aristocratic society. Hereditary nobles had hereditary land and military privileges, forming separatist forces. After Shang Yang's Reforms, China began to abolish the feudal aristocratic system and implement the commandery-county system. However, many prominent families owned vast tracts of land and serfs and basically did not pay taxes to the government. Some prominent families established their own private armed forces on their own lands. Most of the state officials came from these people.

Local governments often possess the strength to oppose the central government. Instances of local governments overthrowing the central government are abundant throughout history. The large bourgeoisie is a type of powerful figure. Due to the unprecedented wealth created by capitalist society,

the large bourgeoisie has become the most significant powerful figure in modern society. As the large bourgeoisie can control public opinion and elections, they can overthrow the government through voting, so they won't resort to violent resistance against it easily. However, when the bourgeoisie cannot control the government through legal means, they may resort to coups and assassinations to seize power. Political parties, being organizations with substantial assets or significant political influence, are also powerful figures. Bourgeois political parties are controlled by capital and are tools of the capitalists. They often disregard the interests of the entire country and all the people.

2. The Great Influence of Powerful Figures

Powerful figures are not the supreme ruler, but they are completely different from the majority of the common people in the ruled class. There are not many powerful figures in a country, but they had a significant impact on the construction and destruction of the country. In contrast, the common people are scattered and numerous but had little influence. If commoners commit evil deeds, they will soon be punished. If commoners attempt to rebel, in most cases, the armies controlled by the supreme ruler and powerful figures have sufficient strength to suppress them.

Logically speaking, no matter how powerful the powerful figures were, they could not compare to the emperor. The emperor could order their execution with a single command. However, in reality, powerful figures often held real power, paying lip service while secretly opposing, forming cliques, engaging in factionalism, and even developing into criminal forces or separatist forces to overthrow the central government. At the same time, the emperor could not govern the country alone and had to rely on powerful figures. Whether in ordinary social governance or at critical historical junctures, powerful figures often make outstanding contributions.

Theorem: Powerful figures have both significant constructive and destructive impacts on a nation's development.

Most of powerful figures do not hold official positions and are considered commoners in terms of status, but they possessed vast personal wealth and prestige, and some even have private armed forces. Some powerful figures held official positions, and their influence on society had two aspects. On one hand, as officials, they exercised government authority. On the other hand, they exerted influence beyond their official duties, relying on their personal wealth, private armed forces, or prestige.

The main factors maintaining the operation of society and influencing social structure changes are the supreme ruler and the powerful figures. This is because they possess strong social organizations, can control numerous social resources, and have high behavioral efficiency. Throughout thousands of years of historical development, ordinary and loose groups of people have had little influence on social structure changes. They have always produced social wealth, carried out technological and cultural innovations or fought against each other under the control and command of others. This is because each of them can control very few social resources and have low behavioral efficiency. Those capable individuals can only make a difference after establishing social organizations. Before that, they can only rely on others, endure hardships and wait for their chance. Wen Yanbo, a minister of the Northern Song Dynasty, once said to Emperor Shenzong, "Your Majesty rules the country together with the scholar-officials, not with the common people."

During the process of technological progress, large enterprises can invest huge sums in research and development, while small businesses and ordinary people generally lack the ability to lead major projects. In the course of social revolution, powerful figures often assume leadership positions. For instance, the leaders of the American War of Independence were mostly large landowners, and Lu Junyi, the second-in-command of the peasant rebel army in Chinese novel "Water Margin" was also a major landowner. In various wars, not only are the roles of government officials irreplaceable, but also local powerful figures often play significant roles. For example, when ancient dynasties were in decline, they often relied on local gentry to lead their army into the capital to defend the emperors. During the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, wealthy individuals from Southeast Asia donated a large amount of property.

Lu Kewen, a famous self-media personality, summarized the problems Trump faced in his second term in office with seven words: corruption, deficit, public resentment, plutocracy, military warlords, social chaos, and foreign enemies. These are also the biggest problems every country and every dynasty has to deal with. [1] Lu Kewen's summary is simple and clear, but it doesn't distinguish which of these seven issues are the root causes and which are the manifestations. Among them, corruption, plutocracy, and military warlords all belong to the problems of powerful figures, and they are the root causes of other problems. The fundamental problem of the United States is that the powerful figures are leading the country astray. The inability of the American democratic system to overcome the powerful figures exposes the drawbacks of the democratic system. Deficit, public resentment, social chaos, and foreign enemies are all external manifestations. Only when the problem of powerful figures is solved can these problems be fundamentally resolved.

3. Where do the Worst People Come from?

There are many bad people in the world. To prevent the harm from bad people, we need to answer two questions: Where do bad people come from? Where do the worst bad people come from? The first question actually doesn't need an answer, because bad people come from every group of people, men and women, the elderly and the young, the beautiful and the ugly, the intelligent and the foolish, the healthy and the disabled, the rich and the poor, the military and civilians, leaders and the masses, believers and non-believers, followers of every religion, leaders at every level, every social stratum, every class, every identity, every background, every ethnic group, whether we know them or not, whether they are relatives or not, there are bad people in all groups of people. We need to be on guard against anyone.

The key lies in the second question: Where do the worst villains come from? That is, who are the people that could cause us the greatest harm? As mentioned in *Taijievolutionism*, human evolution is mainly the evolution of social organizations, and the efficiency of social organizations far exceeds that of individuals.[2] It is social organizations that bring us the greatest benefits and the greatest harm. Therefore, those who can control social organizations can bring us the greatest benefits and the greatest harm.

There are various types of social organizations: governments, armies, enterprises, schools, sports teams, etc. Among them, the ones that have the greatest impact on society are governments, armies and enterprises. The individuals who have the greatest influence on society are the supreme rulers, senior officials, military commanders and entrepreneurs. When these people do good deeds, they can bring great benefits to the common people; when they do bad things, they can cause great harm to the common people.

Western political theory places great emphasis on preventing the supreme ruler and military commanders from abusing their power to avoid dictatorship, but it pays less attention to guarding against the harm that senior officials and entrepreneurs can cause to society. Capitalists can be good or bad. The big bourgeoisie and the monopoly bourgeoisie can manipulate the government, making the Western democratic system no longer guarantee the people's right to be the masters of the country. Officials at all levels can be bought by the bourgeoisie, disregarding the people's lives and abandoning their duties. Officials can use all kinds of illegal and violent means to usurp power. Usurpers can be good or bad. Those who overthrow a bad government are good, while those who overthrow a good government are bad. From the perspective of the supreme ruler, all usurpers are traitors and must be guarded against.

4. Hereditary Capital

Currently, China operates under a socialist system where political power takes precedence over financial power, and capital is confined within the cage of political power. In contrast, in the US and Europe, financial power takes precedence over political power, with political power being confined

within the cage of capital. The state machinery (laws and military) in Western countries has become a tool for financial power to colonize the world. For any country to develop, it must impose strict restrictions and strikes against the big bourgeoisie, even at the cost of certain economic development. Never forget class struggle.

The extremely long tenure of private enterprise owners and the hereditary system within families are quite common. Behind the corporate governance structure of many enterprises lies family control and inheritance, which is a feudal remnant of private capital ownership. In state-owned enterprises, whether it's the top leader or the several leaders below, they all have term limits. Many people in China have always ridiculed the hereditary system in North Korea, but they fully support the largest hereditary system in the world today, that is, the hereditary system of capital.

In fact, the capital in the United States has grown so large through this system of hereditary property succession that it has come to control the country. Politicians with term limits simply cannot win the long-term game against the capital families. As a result, the power to issue currency is no longer in the hands of the so-called elected government. Capital has taken control of the United States, and the public power of the country is inevitably subject to the intervention and manipulation of the hereditary capital families. Trump once said, "Politicians are the dogs of the capitalists." This has led to a covert system of hereditary power. The deep state in the United States, which Trump railed against but could do nothing about, was thus formed. The hereditary system of capital is bound to lead to the hereditary system of actual power among the nobility. Political families in the United States and political clans in Japan are well-known. These political families and hereditary capital families have formed a sophisticated collaboration on and off the stage to ensure the actual control of the country by the capital wealth families. [3]

5. The Ways in Which Powerful Figures Maintain or Endanger the State

There are many ways in which powerful figures can either maintain or endanger the state.

First, they can produce, promote or overthrow the supreme ruler. There are three ways for a new ruler to come to power: the inheritance of the descendants of the supreme ruler, from among the powerful figures, or from among the common people. Zhu Yuanzhang and Zhuge Liang were originally commoners, while the family of Sun Jian were originally powerful figures. In the Philippines, all the presidents have come from a few major families. Under a democratic system, the supreme ruler is elected through democratic means. In a dictatorship, the supreme ruler is appointed by the previous supreme ruler, or is recommended by powerful figures, or seizes power through war or coup. Some powerful officials cultivate a large number of loyal followers and place them in many important departments, forming their own power networks and monopolizing the government's personnel appointment and removal rights. When their power reached a certain extent, they can either bypass the supreme ruler or stage a coup. Most of the coups in ancient China were initiated by military commanders, powerful officials, princes, or empresses' relatives who held military power. Some coups led to the change of dynasties, while others caused the decline of the country and civil wars. In the modern world, many countries have seen their elected governments overthrown by the military. To avoid being overthrown, those in power must control the military and be constantly vigilant against the occurrence of coups.

Second, ruling the common people. The supreme ruler must rely on officials at all levels to govern the country and rule the people. In regions or matters beyond the reach of the government, powerful figures became the actual rulers. In ancient Chinese society, the government had little control over society, and social governance largely relied on the gentry, who made significant positive contributions and negative hazards to society. In modern Western countries, capitalists donate a lot of money to society, and thus the bourgeoisie has made huge contributions to many social causes. However, these contributions are far less than the role of the government.

Third, creating division. For instance, the Rebellion of the Seven States in the Western Han Dynasty and the Rebellion of the Eight Princes in the Western Jin Dynasty. Almost all the enfeoffed

nobles hoped to break away from the central government and become independent. Throughout history, in every country and every dynasty, there have been various coups and rebellions. These coups and rebellions were the primary cause of political instability in every country. In modern states, once local provinces, states, cities, autonomous regions, etc. gain a bit of power, they may act self-centered and oppose the central government. The contradiction between unity and division has never ceased.

Fourth, amassing huge wealth, exploiting the common people and emptying the national treasury. The powerful figures can contribute to society, their process of getting rich can also drive the overall development of society. They can share some of the wealth with the poor and pay taxes to the state. However, once they become too powerful, they use various strong means to exploit the poor, leading to a serious gap between the rich and the poor. At the same time, they have powerful means to evade taxes and influence government decisions to enrich themselves at the expense of the country. The American bourgeoisie has always held the power to print money. Every president who wanted to take back this power was assassinated, resulting in the current insurmountable national debt of the United States.

6. Guard Against Powerful Figures and Corruption

To eliminate separatist forces, the supreme ruler must strengthen the power of the central government and weaken that of local governments. In particular, the central government must firmly hold the power in aspects such as military affairs, economy, personnel management, and foreign affairs.

Within the central government, to safeguard his own power, the supreme ruler must not only eliminate hereditary aristocrats but also restrict the power of government officials. Through legal systems and various strategies, the supreme ruler aims to have government officials supervise and check each other. Each department is clearly defined in terms of its responsibilities to prevent any department or powerful minister from amassing excessive power. Both the central and local governments need to establish supervisory and inspection institutions to strictly monitor officials at all levels, preventing rebellion, overstepping of authority, lawbreaking, dereliction of duty, disorderly governance, and corruption.

Control over the military also requires the dispersion of power. Not only should the military be decentralized to prevent a single general from commanding too many troops, but also the powers related to personnel appointments, logistics, training, and military planning should be separated from military command.

The struggle between emperors and powerful ministers in ancient China ran through the entire history of China. Due to the hereditary nature of the throne, it was easy for incompetent or weak emperors to emerge, leading to the decline of imperial power and the rise of the empress dowager, relatives by marriage, or powerful ministers to take control. Once the emperor regained power, he would then purge the powerful ministers.

Corruption among government officials is an inevitable problem for every country's government. The greater the government's power, the more prone it is to corruption. However, social progress cannot do without a large government. Reagan once said, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." This statement is incorrect. No matter how big the problems of the government are, we must rely on the government to solve social problems. No individual or social organization can replace the government.

Bureaucratic corruption was detrimental to the state power, the emperor and the common people. On the issue of opposing bureaucratic corruption, the interests of the emperor and the common people were consistent. The emperor had an efficient way to deal with bureaucratic and other powerful forces, which was to use the lower ranks to check the upper ranks. The emperor relied on lower-level officials, common people or eunuchs, giving them power to restrain higher-level officials and powerful forces.

In ancient China, the successful candidates in the imperial examination system were personally approved by the emperor and were called "the emperor's students". Then, these people were appointed as officials to manage various departments. The imperial examination system was equivalent to an act of enfeoffment, allowing the candidates to rise from the bottom of society to become the elite. All their promising futures were bestowed by the emperor, who was regarded as extremely benevolent. They were all deeply grateful and loyal to the emperor. By taking over the power of the original nobility, they enabled the centralized system of the unified China to be ultimately established. The imperial examination system and the centralized system made Chinese civilization thrive for over a thousand years. While Europe was struggling in the dark Middle Ages, the Chinese people were living a peaceful and prosperous life.

7. Striking at the Big Bourgeoisie

In modern capitalist countries, monopolistic financial groups are often the greatest threat to the central power. Anti-monopoly laws are legal means to deal with monopolistic financial groups, but they still need to be complemented by other measures. American Jewish capital holds many high-quality assets around the world. Now that the US government has a serious deficit and its treasury bonds cannot be sold, could Jewish capital contribute some money to buy the treasury bonds? Impossible. This is the consequence of enriching the people and store wealth among them.

When the financial system collapsed in the Kuomintang-controlled areas before the liberation of China, it was said that Chen Bulei once told Chiang Kai-shek: "Now the country is in danger. Please, Chairman Chiang, Minister Chen, Minister Song, and Minister Kong, contribute some money." Chiang Kai-shek slapped the table and said, "Just say you want to overthrow the four big families." Chen Bulei dared not speak anymore and died of depression a few days later. The Kuomintang suffered a crushing defeat due to the financial collapse, soaring prices, and the people's suffering.

Putin's purging of domestic tycoons was effective, but many of the methods he used were illegal and conspiratorial. Later, others followed his example and killed his close associates. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the transformation of industry and commerce was carried out, and the bourgeoisie was completely eradicated in a short time. Although this approach was overly radical, it pointed out the direction for the government's struggle against the big bourgeoisie.

In the 1990s, central tax revenue was insufficient, and local tax revenue accounted for the majority. Tax reform was thus inevitable, with 60% of the additional revenue going to the central government. When it was first implemented, there was significant resistance as local governments were powerful and not in harmony with the central government. Premier Zhu Rongji worked province by province, using both kindness and authority, and finally successfully completed the reform. This reform was of great significance to China's infrastructure development and military industry development.

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