



# Transfer of Power

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Toward a Trans-disciplinary Science of Society

# Authority and Conformity

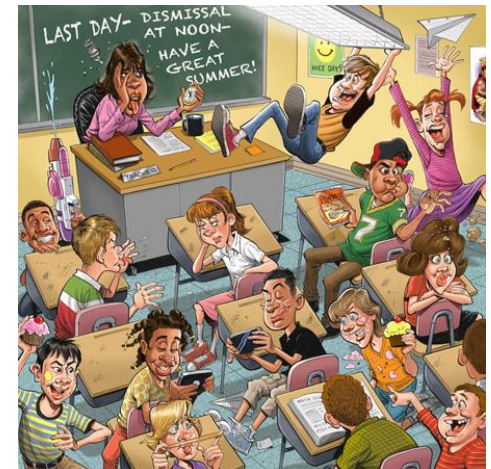
Society creates hierarchies as it evolves

Hierarchies are needed for the smooth functioning of society

Society has always demanded, or at least encouraged conformity

Security and stability of the collective are possible when there is subordination and obedience among its members

Conformity is not only a demand of the collective but also an urge of the individual



## Role of authority in social development

Society needs authority over its members to survive

Societies cannot exist without some authority over its members

The power of society derives from the willingness of its members to conform and accept its authority

Society compels us all to adhere to a minimum standards

As society develops, it raises the standard required of its members



## Ways in which society imposes authority

<b>Type of Authority</b>	<b>Negative Authority</b>	<b>Positive Authority</b>
<b>Physical</b>	Physical punishment, exile	Rights of inclusion, protection
<b>Emotional</b>	Ostracism, subordinate status	Acceptance, prestige
<b>Mental</b>	Indifference, scepticism	Recognition, respect

# Conformity in the individual

Society exercises an invisible but powerful strength over everyone

Individuals are eager to conform to this authority

'We are half ruined by conformity; but we should be wholly ruined without it' - Charles Warner

Social conformity ensures the survival and growth of its members

Conformity in society defines the ordinary person



## Role of Conformity

Authority is necessary when our own values are substandard. Conformity is the lower part of self discipline. It is necessary to raise the bottom level of society

Conformity is necessary not only to those with substandard values

We cannot live in a society without rules, we need for them for our survival

When we conform to society, we get more access to this power

Discipline and conformity help us accomplish far more than we can accomplish alone



## Beyond a point, rigid conformity stifles growth

○ Society honors its living conformists and its dead troublemakers

Conformists lend stability to society. Conformity has its place

There are limits to growth made possible by conformists and their conformity

When conformity is taken too far, they stifle growth beyond a point

Society caters to the average, just as a teacher caters to the average student

There are some who are not satisfied with average growth and

accomplishment, those who do not need the security or support of society.

These are fully developed, strong individuals who do not depend on society to lead them, but who can lead society instead.

Their story begins with stepping out of conformity.

