

# Power, Politics, and Tau-Dominance

## *How Tau-Flow Asymmetry Produces and Sustains Political Authority*

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*Power is the capacity to redirect others' Tau-flow without their voluntary consent. Political authority is legitimised Tau-dominance: Tau-flow asymmetry that the network accepts as structurally necessary. The state is the Tau-network node that claims monopoly on legitimate Tau-flow redirection within a territory. Democracy is distributed Tau-flow accountability — the governed retain veto power over Tau-dominance.*

### Power as Tau-Flow Asymmetry

Every political system is, at base, a solution to the problem of Tau-flow asymmetry: who decides how collective Tau-flow is directed, and on what grounds? Authoritarian systems concentrate Tau-flow redirection capacity in a single node. Democratic systems distribute it across the network. The collapse of political systems — revolution, coup, state failure — is Tau-dominance crisis: the legitimised asymmetry is no longer accepted as structurally necessary by sufficient network nodes.

### Six Propositions · P-POW-1 to P-POW-6

#### P-POW-1

##### **Power as Tau-Flow Redirection Capacity**

Power is the capacity to redirect others' Tau-flow: to determine where their time, energy, and attention are directed. Hard power (coercion) redirects through threat. Soft power (persuasion) redirects through Tau-narrative appeal. Structural power redirects through Tau-network topology.

#### P-POW-2

##### **Legitimacy as Accepted Tau-Dominance**

Legitimacy is the collective acceptance of Tau-dominance as structurally necessary. Weber's three types (traditional, charismatic, rational-legal) are three modes of Tau-dominance acceptance. Legitimacy crisis is the withdrawal of this acceptance — the Tau-network no longer recognises the asymmetry as valid.

### **P-POW-3**

#### **The State as Tau-Dominance Monoplist**

The state claims monopoly on legitimate Tau-flow redirection (Weber's monopoly on violence) within a territorial Tau-field. Taxation is mandatory Tau-flow contribution. Law is the codified Tau-flow redirection protocol. State failure is Tau-dominance monopoly collapse — competing nodes contest Tau-flow control.

### **P-POW-4**

#### **Democracy as Distributed Tau-Accountability**

Democracy is Tau-flow accountability distributed across the network: the governed retain periodic veto power over Tau-dominance through electoral Tau-flow signals. Democratic erosion is the progressive removal of Tau-accountability mechanisms — the governed lose their veto over Tau-dominance.

### **P-POW-5**

#### **Propaganda as Tau-Narrative Capture**

Propaganda is the attempt to capture the collective Tau-narrative to naturalise and maintain Tau-dominance asymmetries. By controlling what Tau-patterns are available in the collective Tau-map, Tau-dominance becomes invisible — experienced as natural order rather than contingent asymmetry.

### **P-POW-6**

#### **Revolution as Tau-Network Topology Change**

Revolution is rapid reorganisation of Tau-network topology to redistribute Tau-flow redirection capacity. It requires Tau-dominance delegitimation (the old asymmetry is no longer accepted), Tau-field mobilisation (collective Tau-flow synchronises behind the new topology), and Tau-narrative replacement (new legitimating collective story).

## **Core Law**

### **P-POW-2 · Why Legitimacy Is Power's Essential Ingredient**

Raw Tau-flow redirection capacity (coercion) is costly to maintain and generates counter-Tau-flow (resistance). Legitimacy converts Tau-dominance into voluntary Tau-flow compliance — the governed redirect their own Tau-flow because they accept the asymmetry as valid. This is why every durable power structure invests heavily in Tau-narrative legitimation.