

Real Political Power

Political power is ideologically neutral. We owe it to our ideology to know how to win. No matter who uses political power, the nature of it stays the same. The political system works and we can get real political power within it if we remember the nature of politicians and embrace confrontational politics.

Politics is the adjudication of power, it's how we figure out who rules whom. Politics is not looking after the common good or serving our Lord and Savior. These may be reasons that we are involved in politics, but they do not define the system itself. Americans are blessed with the opportunity to settle their political disagreements without violence, unlike in other parts of the world where policy change comes from the barrel of a gun and losers of elections are killed or imprisoned. We have a brilliant system of checks and balances that distributes power to different levels, and the competition between them ensures no one branch becomes too powerful. While corruption exists, it is not so excessive that we cannot win for our side. The system works, and it is set up to answer the question of who gets to make the rules that everyone else lives under.

Within this system, power is forcing politicians to act the way we want or replacing them with someone else who will. Political power is not about compromises and making sure each party is happy. Real political power comes from confrontation rather than compromise. All politicians want is to get elected, get re-elected, and then get elected to higher office. Politicians are always going to give excuses on why they can't support a certain bill. They will try to appease you with access. *Access politics* is when politicians make you feel like you're being listened to, give you a seat at the table, and never perceive you as a threat. It's important to reject access because we don't want to be loved and manipulated by the political class, we want to be feared and respected. We know exactly how politicians will react to pressure and the excuses they will give. The correct answer is always to double down on confrontation. We must never trade power for access.

If politics is a predictable system and power within it is the ability to force politicians to vote the way we want, then the correct approach is confrontational politics. *Confrontational politics* means creating political pain and making politicians fear us more than they fear their party leadership. Unless we are politically feared, we will not be politically respected. This is the single concept that separates our grassroots activists from climbers that just want to work in the capitol, be on the news, or receive applause. Our objective is to make change, not to be well liked by the political class. If you want to make liberty win, you must embrace confrontational politics and pursue real political power.

Discussion Workshop Questions

1. What is something that we can appreciate about the American political system?
2. Why are you involved in politics?
3. What is one way that politicians or activists sell out in politics?
4. How can we remain confrontational towards the political class?
5. How can we make the establishment fear us politically?

Select a speaker from your group to summarize the discussion.