Transfer of Power

Janani Ramanathan

Associate Fellow, World Academy of Art and Science
Research Associate, Mother’s Service Society

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
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Ways in which society imposes authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Authority</th>
<th>Negative Authority</th>
<th>Positive Authority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Physical punishment, exile</td>
<td>Rights of inclusion, protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>Ostracism, subordinate status</td>
<td>Acceptance, prestige</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental</td>
<td>Indifference, scepticism</td>
<td>Recognition, respect</td>
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Transfer of Power

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.