

## **Power, Corruption and Crackdown**

The existence of money and power in a public organisation without "Proper Control" <sup>1</sup> makes it susceptible to misusing authority and corruption —whether such an organisation is national, like a government or international, like the UN.

Moral irresponsibility and legal unaccountability are the severe symptoms of Unwisdom that show themselves in immorality and corruption in Realpolitik.

When a public organisation recruits you and gives you immunity to prosecution (legal unaccountability), it is not a privilege for you.

Every human should be legally accountable and liable to prosecution, especially those with access to public facilities and power, which gives them the authority to crack down and corruption.

Unaccountability in the form of impunity is a poisoned cookie that will deform you and distort your character into an immoral or corrupt person.

Why is it so?

Here is its answer:

John Emerich Edward Dalberg, a British historian, more famously known as "Lord Acton", wrote a letter in 1887 to an archbishop of the Church of England in which he claimed:

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<sup>1</sup> "Proper Control" consists of Moral Self-control and lawful control. Without "Moral Self-control", exerting "Lawful Control" is impossible because "True Law" derives from Morality. No Morality means no "True Law". Thus, in the absence of "True Law", lawful control is meaningless.

*“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority.”*

This statement became classical and is still one of the most famous quotes among people and academic circles. But is this classic telling the truth?

Some academicians in different universities have tried to study the relationship between power and corruption. For instance, Swiss researchers set out to test such a connection at the University of Lausanne.

They found corruption of a leader depends on power and testosterone.

Testosterone is a hormone required for good health. Also, it has been linked with selfishness, anti-social behaviour and social dominance.

Ian Robertson, professor and founder of the Institute of Neuroscience at Trinity College Dublin, writes in his book "The Winner Effect" that power changes a person's behaviour and actions and the brain itself. This change is not just software. It is also hardware.

According to Professor Robertson, even a little power causes thinking to become more abstract, and the lack of power temporarily reduces the sharpness of the mind.

Then, "power" affects the mind, especially by changing the release of hormones.

"Power" causes the release of testosterone, and the release of testosterone increases the release of dopamine.

Dopamine is essential for important brain activities, mainly forebrain functions, planning, goal setting, goal attainment, and strategic thinking.

Dopamine also stimulates the reward system, located deep in the midbrain, the network responsible for our pleasurable feelings, the system that makes pay raises, compliments, and sex pleasurable.

Feeling "Power" and exerting it works as a very strong anti-anxiety and depression drug.

Heading a company or a large office or leading a country is very anxiety-provoking, "power" helps these people overcome anxiety.

Leaders must be able to withstand this paralyzing anxiety.

Because stress and anxiety have the opposite effect on "power", it reduces the brain's cognitive abilities and causes worry and pessimism, traits that are not useful for leadership.

But power makes people bold and goal-oriented. They see the forest and not the trees. "Power" makes them optimistic about achieving their goal despite all the doubts. So, they have no ears to hear critics because the questions and criticism destroy the mighty men's hope and generate doubt, increasing anxiety.

Finally, various researchers have concluded that human society needs a leader, but the leader is not immune to corruption.

Limiting power —via "Proper Control"— is essential to keep

away the threat of "power", which brings corruption in the form of absolute and permanent. Ordinary people will pay the price of this corruption.

It will be a delusion if you suppose an honest man in power could be free of corruption without equipment to Wise Knowledge which generates "True Goal-setting", genuine Self-confidence and Moral Self-control.

*"Honesty did not shield leaders from the corruptive effects of power interesting —we found that testosterone augmented the effects of power on corruption,"* says professor John Antonakis<sup>2</sup> in the minute twelfth of his video.<sup>3</sup>

He added:

*"The testosterone results are interesting from a scientific point of view; however, what is more important is to figure out governance mechanisms to check on leaders.*

*In our experiments, we showed that when leaders have power and are under cover of anonymity are more likely to be corrupt.*

*We did not model what would happen when there is a probability that the leaders will be caught.*

*We do not find any personality variables that shielded leaders from the corruptive effects of power."*

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<sup>2</sup> Professor John Antonakis was one of the academicians who launched the study of the relationship between power and corruption at the University of Lausanne. In a video on YouTube, he renders some information about their test.

<sup>3</sup> A video on the Université de Lausanne Youtube Channel, titled "*Leader corruption depends on power and testosterone.*"

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Going through academic studies and my own field experiences with power persuaded me that the recent controlling mechanism cannot prevent corruption and abuse of power.

According to academic research, I can summarise the topic of power and corruption in seven points:

1. "Power" causes stress and anxiety.
2. A powerful man's body for coping with stress and anxiety starts to release hormones which work as strong anti-anxiety and depression drugs.
3. "Power" affects the mind, especially by changing the release of hormones.
4. "Power" causes the release of testosterone, and the release of testosterone increases the release of dopamine.
5. Dopamine is essential for important brain activities.
6. Testosterone is a hormone required for good health. Also, it has been linked with selfishness, anti-social behaviour and social dominance.
7. Selfishness and anti-social behaviour cause corruption.

The human brain is a complicated electrochemical machinery and complies with physical chemistry's laws which cover equally honest and dishonest humans.

Thus, honesty cannot protect you from abusing power and

corruption because what makes you exposed to wrongdoings is stress and anxiety emanating from "power".

This subject puts forward a few questions:

1. Are power-takers condemned to fall into stress and anxiety?
2. Where is the origin of stress and anxiety?
3. How can the power-takers dodge stress and anxiety and thus avoid corruption?

Any ignorance —either scientific ignorance or Unwisdomness— causes uncertainty and unsureness.

Planning, goal setting, goal attainment, and strategic thinking are among the tasks of a leader who must run a country. Such mind activities demand knowledge about abstract concepts or Wise Knowledge.

A wise leader is equipped with the "Right Knowledge", which makes him ready to deal with any question without losing his mind and falling into stress and anxiety.

We learned above:

*"Wise Coupling" actuates "Human-level conscious revising" or full function of Homeostasis, which causes sui-criticus and alius-criticus that provide Wise Knowledge which makes a wise man able to foresee the barriers and forecast predicaments —"Advanced Situation".*

To be a wise human and achieve the "Advanced Situation" causes True Self-confidence, where stress and anxiety cannot soar demands for the releasing extraordinary testosterone and dopamine as drugs.

A wise leader's forebrain needs a standard level of dopamine for its regular function, but not as much as an unwise leader's forebrain demands.

When an unwise man takes government power, his ignorance causes stress and anxiety paralysing his forebrain.

More dopamine helps the unwise leader to come out of stress and anxiety and achieve self-confidence, which is necessary for decision-making and leading a country.

Meanwhile, a wise leader's self-confidence derives from his Wise Knowledge. The unwise statesman's self-confidence is false and originates from unusual dopamine that works as a drug which cuts his relationship with "Reality".

The self-confidence of a wise leader is similar to a competent and experienced pilot of a commercial airline who leads a plane with a few hundred passengers without uneasiness.

Knowledge and Experience construct together "Competence",<sup>4</sup> which generates true self-confidence in a skilled pilot or a wise politician. Both can fulfil their tasks without stress and anxiety because they know how to appropriately lead a plane and a country when everything is normal. Simultaneously they are mentally ready to deal with unexpected situations without losing their nerves.

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<sup>4</sup> Thus, "competence" is a combination of Knowledge and Experience.

For being a pilot, there is a pilot training school where you can learn theoretically and practically to achieve your goal. Such a training school works well because any skilled pilot you know passed it.

But there is no school for being a wise politician. So, you never have a chance to achieve true self-confidence, which is necessary for a power-taker to fulfil his task correctly without stress and anxiety.

When you enter politics as an honest man without Wise Knowledge, your self-interest sooner or later will take the place of the "Common Good" as you supposed you could manage.

Whereas "Common Good" could be defined by Wisdom, for an unwise politician, it is meaningless as "Justice" is.

Without Wisdom, you will be a selfish politician under testosterone and dopamine's impact.

Your selfishness makes you blind and deaf to see and hear Reality because facing Reality provokes stress and imposes anxiety upon you.

A Real Politician escapes from Reality and dislikes seeing or hearing about it. "Fear of Questioning" is a protective reaction for a power-taker because he can hold his false self-confidence.

Any question causes an unwise leader remembers his ignorance, shake his fragile fake self-assurance and regenerate unpleasant stress and anxiety.

So, ignoring a wise question is the best reaction to protect the politician's mind from stress and anxiety when

somebody asks a wise question. Besides silence, Realpolitik's other protective reactions are threats and crack down (jailing or killing).

The using silence, threats or crackdown depends on the politician's character and how far he has gone deeper into selfishness or how the political system or public opinion allows such retaliations.

Among subsets of Realpolitik's reaction to reasonable questions, "silence" is a shared trait of all the subsets.

Exerting threats, jailing, and killing depends on time and place.

When you enter Realpolitik without Wisdom, even with benevolence, you are condemned to violate others' rights by staying silent. More severe reactions await the questioners if you lose your honesty and fall into the selfishness trap.

Power permits you to ignore questions and, instead, answer them. You stay silent and presume it is enough.

As a powerful man, you will be astonished if the questioner persists in his questions and demands reasonable answers.

Your power causes you to justify your silence, and the subsequent reactions appear in your mind:

*How does he dare to ask me continuously and intrude on my business?*

*I graciously responded to him with my silence, but he didn't*

*understand and allowed himself to disturb me by repeating his questions. So it is necessary to teach him a lesson and make him know that I have power, can, and have the right to use it. He disturbed me, and now I destroy him—tit for tat.*

So, as a powerful man, your selfishness legitimises using power to make silent the questioners either by threats or suppression.

Powerful men love "silence" and hate those who disturb the silence. For this reasons, they allow themselves to restore the silence by silencing questioners.

Thus, in philosophy, judgment, and politics, silence is the beginning of your suppression as an ordinary citizen or a journalist.

Of course, if you want to use your right to ask questions—and remind those in power that they are morally responsible and legally accountable—you must await the consequences of questioning.

You should know the alleged law renders powerful men "impunity", nullifies your right to ask questions and causes them to remain silent.

A wise man must be scared entirely of powerful men's silence because it is a dangerous act which, per se, is oppression and a prelude to suppression.

Making the systemists forced legally break their silence is the end of soft suppression which often leads to brutal crackdowns like jailing and killing.

Breaking the silence of the systemists —especially politicians— in order to be accountable is the beginning of the end of the Real System.