Our Social World Condensed 4th edition

Learning Objectives

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Chapter 12**

12.1 Describe the sociological definition of power.

**Video Link:** [Power and Resistance - Perception of Power](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRmM1xJzpvQ)

*This video addresses the topic of power and perception and the different ways of viewing them.*

1. Do political positions imply power?
2. Is resistance a form of power in itself?

**Audio Link:** [Living Without (2011)](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/446/living-without-2011)

*This audio emphasizes the concept of power through the viewpoint of people who have given up certain things they love.*

1. Why do certain objects, such as a pacifier, have such power over humans?
2. Was it baseball or something else that had power over Bobby Morris?

**Web Resource:** [Power](http://sociology.about.com/od/P_Index/g/Power.htm)

*This source provides many different sociological concepts of power.*

1. How does Parsons view power differently than Weber and Marx?
2. Explain the most common sociological definition of power.

12.2 Discuss the importance of power and privilege in societies.

**Video Link:** [Money on the Mind](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuqGrz-Y_Lc)

*This video addresses the behavior of drivers of different types of cars based on the perception of wealth.*

1. Are more privileged people more likely to break the rule? Why or why not?
2. Is privilege real or imagine, earned or given?

**Audio Link:** [Who Do You Think You Are?](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/368/who-do-you-think-you-are)

*This audio portrays the characteristics of privilege and how people behave when they have it.*

1. Why do some people feel as though they do not have to obey the rules that others must obey?
2. Is it possible for the privileged to understand the oppressed point of view?

**Web Resource:** [Why it's important to think about privilege - and why it's hard](https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/why-its-important-to-think-about-privilege-and-why/)

*This source provides insight into the world of privilege and lack of resources.*

1. What does the author mean by “power imbalances that I am a part of?”
2. How does this author explain or define privilege?

12.3 Compare the key points of the pluralist and elite theories of power.

**Video Link:** [Classical Elite Theory](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXJolFP5rN0)

*This video addresses the concept of elite theory and its effect within society.*

1. How does this video describe oligarchy?
2. What are the two main types of elite theory and what are their key differences?

**Audio Link:** [Americans in China](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/467/americans-in-china)

*This audio details the American experience in China.*

1. Based on how Americans are treated in China, do you think they are viewed as dissimilar to the Chinese?
2. Do you believe the Chinese treatment of Americans is disempowering?

**Web Resource:** [Theories of Power – Alternative Theoretical Views](http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/theory/alternative_theories.html)

*This source helps to explain in detail the various theories that explain power structures, particularly in the United States.*

1. How does this source explain the concept of pluralism?
2. Do you think the United States fits more into a state autonomy theory or elite theory? Explain your answer.

12.4 Explain why some people participate in political systems and others do not.

**Video Link:** [Using social media to create a more participatory political system](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMIUIvIuxSI)

*This video explains CitizenBridge which is a Democracy 2.0 platform designed to facilitate a two-way conversation between citizens and their elected officials.*

1. Why does an organization such as CitizenBridge need to exist in order to get people more involved in politics?
2. Why is there such a lack of trust with the general population regarding politics?

**Audio Link:** [Take the Money and Run for Office](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/461/take-the-money-and-run-for-office)

*This audio addresses the issue of money and politics.*

1. Do most people in the general populace have access to the fundraising that takes place in politics?
2. Does the process of fundraising run the risk of causing people to decide to not be involved in the political process?

**Web Resource:** [Participating in Government](http://www.ushistory.org/gov/4d.asp)

*This source details the ways in which people may be active in the political process.*

1. Explain two ways in which people may become involved in the political process.
2. What are the four social and economic characteristics that are strongly associated with high levels of political participation?

12.5 Describe the major types of governmental systems in operation today.

**Video Link:** [Political Systems](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu1-JPLYTA8)

*This video helps to explain the creation of political systems and their impact on a nation and its people.*

1. What did John Locke believe about the job of the government?
2. What are the components of a democratic government?

**Audio Link:** [Continental Breakup](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/455/continental-breakup)

*This audio focuses on the European debt crisis and its potential worldwide effects.*

1. Why was the Euro created?
2. What major world event caused the Euro to become more necessary?

**Web Resource:** [What Are the Different Types of Governments?](http://www.livescience.com/33027-what-are-the-different-types-of-governments.html)

*This source provides details about many different types of governments throughout the world.*

1. Explain in detail two different types of governments.
2. Which type of government(s) listed on this source is most like the United States and why?

12.6 Provide examples of the threats political systems can face from internal and external groups vying for power.

**Video Link:** [Homeland Security in Israel - Module I - Terrorism Threats and the Legal Environment](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPVY4xp17HU)

*This video on Homeland Security in Israel focuses on the threat environment and the legal and political realities within which Israeli counterterrorism and homeland security policies operate.*

1. Explain the two types of terror threats Israel has faced in recent years.
2. Provide an example of an actual mega-terrorist attack that occurred in Israel.

**Audio Link:** [What Kind of Country](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/459/what-kind-of-country)

*This audio highlights the financial threats to local and state governments across the United States and the effects this is having on how government runs.*

1. Which is more costly to society, more police or more highway fatalities?
2. Which is more costly to society, more police or more crime?

**Web Resource:** [Political Threats to Global Prosperity](http://www.charleslipson.com/speechtopics/Political-Threats-to-Global-Prosperity.htm)

*This source focuses on the details of political threats to global prosperity.*

1. What are the three components of the coalition of the political threat to global prosperity?
2. How have advanced economies, with political foundations of global prosperity, continued to prosper?