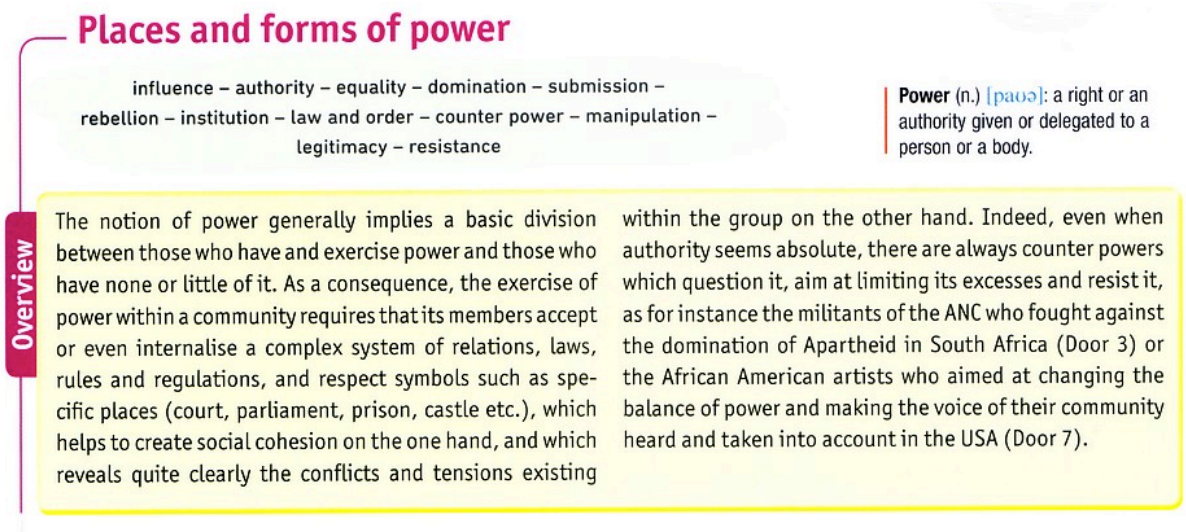
Power : Types & Sites

General Definition



Places and forms of power

influence – authority – equality – domination – submission – rebellion – institution – law and order – counter power – manipulation – legitimacy – resistance

Power (n.) [paʊə]: a right or an authority given or delegated to a person or a body.

Overview

The notion of power generally implies a basic division between those who have and exercise power and those who have none or little of it. As a consequence, the exercise of power within a community requires that its members accept or even internalise a complex system of relations, laws, rules and regulations, and respect symbols such as specific places (court, parliament, prison, castle etc.), which helps to create social cohesion on the one hand, and which reveals quite clearly the conflicts and tensions existing within the group on the other hand. Indeed, even when authority seems absolute, there are always counter powers which question it, aim at limiting its excesses and resist it, as for instance the militants of the ANC who fought against the domination of Apartheid in South Africa (Door 3) or the African American artists who aimed at changing the balance of power and making the voice of their community heard and taken into account in the USA (Door 7).

Your Definition :

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Quote(s) about this notion

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