

Legitimacy

Political Science

What makes the exercise of power acceptable rather than merely effective.

Sources and erosion.

Common sources

Free and fair elections

Constitutional and lawful process

Effective and impartial performance

Historical or traditional acceptance

Procedural fairness in decisions

Erodes when

Rules are applied unequally

Corruption becomes visible

Institutions fail to deliver basic functions

Losers are excluded from any future chance

Educational reference. Losers' consent is the crucial test: a system holds when those who lost expect a fair future chance.