established. The authority governing a compulsory association claims to be valid for anyone who satisfies certain distinct criteria: such as birth, residence, or the use of certain facilities. It is irrelevant whether the individual concerned personally assumed the obligation—as in the case of a voluntary association—nor is it even of importance whether he participated in the creation of the authority. Such authorities are therefore considered to be imposed, in the best meaning of the word. Specifically, a compulsory association can be a corporate group whose limits are defined territorially.

3. The contrast between compulsory and voluntary associations is purely relative. The rules of a voluntary association may affect the interests of non-members and they may indeed be forced to recognize the validity of these rules, either through usurpation, or through the exercise of naked power, or through a process of legal promulgation (e.g., the laws governing market securities).

4. It need hardly be emphasized that the terms voluntary and compulsory association are not meant to cover conceptually every conceivable type of corporate group. They are, as a matter of fact, only polarizations; thus, in the religious sphere the corresponding types are “sect” and “church.”

(Paragraph 16)

THE CONCEPTS OF POWER AND DOMINATION

By power is meant that opportunity existing within a social relationship which permits one to carry out one’s own will even against resistance and regardless of the basis on which this opportunity rests.

By domination is meant the opportunity to have a command of a given specified content obeyed by a given group of persons. By “discipline” will be meant the opportunity to obtain prompt, and automatic obedience in a predictable form from a given group of persons because of their practiced orientation toward a command.

1. The concept of power is sociologically amorphous. Every conceivable quality of a person and every conceivable combination of circumstances may put someone in a situation where he can demand compliance with his will. The sociological concept of domination consequently must be more precise and can only mean the probability that a command will be obeyed.

2. The concept of “discipline” includes the “practiced nature” of uncritical and unresisting mass obedience.

The fact of the matter is that domination depends only on the actual presence of one person successfully issuing commands to another; it does not necessarily imply either the existence of an administrative staff or, for that matter, of a corporate group. Usually, however, it is associated with at least one of these. To the extent that the members of a corporate group are subject to the legitimate exercise of such domination it will be called “corporate domination.”
1. The head of a household dominates without an administrative staff. A Bedouin chief who receives tribute from caravans, persons, and shipments of goods which pass through his mountain fastness dominates all those changing and indeterminate individuals who, without being associated with each other, happen to have stumbled into a particular situation. He is able to do this by virtue of his loyal retainers, who act, if the occasion demands it, as his administrative staff in enforcing his will. Theoretically, such domination would be conceivable also by one person alone without the help of any administrative staff.

2. If a corporate group possesses an administrative staff, it is always to a certain extent engaged in corporate domination. But the concept is relative. Normally corporate domination is at the same time also an administrative organization. The nature of a corporate group is determined by a variety of factors: the manner in which the administration is carried out, the character of personnel, the objects over which it exercises control, and the extent of effective jurisdiction of its domination. The first two factors in particular are dependent in the highest degree on the way in which authority is legitimized.

[Paragraph 17]

TYPES OF POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS CORPORATE GROUPS

Corporate domination will be called "political" if, and insofar as, its existence and the validity of its laws within a defined territorial area are guaranteed by an administrative staff through the continuous application and the threat of force. A compulsory political association with a continuous organization will be called a "state" if, and insofar as, its administrative staff successfully claims the monopolization of the legitimate use of physical force in the enforcement of its authority. Social behavior, especially of a corporate group, will be politically oriented, if, and insofar as, its purpose is to influence the leadership of a corporate political group either toward the appropriation, expropriation, allocation, or reallocation of governing powers.

Corporate domination will be called "hierocratic," if, and insofar as, it employs, in order to safeguard its authority, "psychic-coercion" by means of the granting or withholding of religious benefits ("hierocratic coercion"). A compulsory hierocratic association with a continuous organization will be known as a "church," if, and insofar as, its administrative staff claims a monopoly of the legitimate use of hierocratic coercion.

1. It is understood that the use of physical force is neither the only nor even the normal method of administration of political corporate groups. It means, rather, that their leaders have used all conceivable means to achieve their goals. But the threat of