

Techniques of Dictatorship used to Maintain Control

The purpose of using the Techniques of Dictatorships is to achieve any or all of the following:

- create **unity** behind the goals of the government
- create **support** for the policies of the government
- **centralize** authority into the hands of the leader

It is important to identify the purpose and methods of dictatorship, because if used in a democratic society, these are considered illiberal actions. That is, they violate individual rights and freedoms enjoyed in a liberal society.

1. Indoctrination

The control of **information** that is exposed to the citizens, as well as the use of **propaganda** and the delivery of **one sided information** to the citizens. Controlling what the people see, read, and hear.

Purpose; to create a **like minded society** that believes in and supports the goals and ideals of the Party/government.

- *He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future.* - Adolf Hitler
- *If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.* - Adolf Hitler
- *It is the State which educates its citizens in civic virtue, gives them a consciousness of their mission and welds them into unity.* - Benito Mussolini

Methods: What needs to be controlled by the government?

- Internet
- Media – in all its forms, radio, television, newspapers, magazines
- Education – teachers, curriculum, textbooks & history
- The free flow of people – entering and leaving the country.
- Mail must be censored.
- Telecommunications – wire tapping, listening devices
- Religion
- Youth organizations are established.
- Creation of the cult of personality.

Methods/Examples are not exhaustive, but rather there to provide insight into how this technique can be implemented in a society.

2. Controlled Participation

Giving the **illusion** that the citizen are participating in government and that they can have **influence**. However, this participation is controlled such that it does not affect or limit the policies or goals of the Party/government.

Purpose: to give the people a sense of **belonging** and ownership, we participate, we can “**buy into**” the policies. Gives a **sense** of **democratic** responsibility.

It is enough that the people know there was an election. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything. - Joseph Stalin

Methods: How do they control participation in society?

- People are free to join the party.
- Rigged elections – results are falsified, ballot boxes can be stuffed or the voting is non-secret ballot.
- Elections, but all candidates either came from the same party, or approved by the leader.
- Tokenism – true elections are held for political bodies that have no real power = token power.

3. Direction of Popular Discontent

Directing the people's dissatisfaction **away** from the government and onto another source is called **Scapegoating**. Directing the people's attention away from their **problems** and onto a distraction. Usually the source of the problems may be a **result** of government policy, **action** or lack of action. This cannot be tolerated.

Purpose: This allows the people to maintain their support for the Party/government/leader, because they did not cause the problems. They were caused by someone or something else.

The art of leadership... consists in consolidating the attention of the people against a single adversary and taking care that nothing will split up that attention. - Adolph Hitler

Method: Political Parties, previous governments, outside forces or segments of society become the scapegoat – someone to blame for problems in society. To do this, propaganda is often used by the government.

4. Use of Force

The **elimination (killing/silencing)** of all opposition. The use of terror and **violence** to create fear.

Purpose: All those who oppose the government will either be eliminated, removed, or scared into silence

Death is the solution to all problems. No man - no problem. - Joseph Stalin

Methods: How do they use force?

- The terror must be real.
 - Camp system – a place to hold or send dissidents.
 - Instruments of terror – a group that would run the camps and carry out the acts of terror.
 - Secret Police
 - Informants
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It was the extensive use of these techniques that represented the greatest **violation** of civil and human **rights**.

Dictatorships are not just a **rejection of liberalism**, but they violate these very principles.