

Sweet Peach Revolution Notes: Episode 3 and Episode 3.5

Episode 3: Coercion

Source List:

COERCE (Definition, Merriam-Webster) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coercing>
1) to compel an act or choice, 2) to achieve by force or threat, 3) to restrain or dominate by force

COERCION (Wikipedia Entry) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coercion>

COERCION (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy article)

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/coercion/> I cannot recommend this source enough. Especially interesting are the roots and uses of the term, esp. Aquinas, Hobbes, and SUPER importantly Locke and Mill. There are some other perspectives, such as Nozick, that seem compelling- I just have less experience with these other thinkers. The section "Coercive Offers?" relates quite a lot to the concept of quid-pro-quo, and the concept of imbalanced power dynamics in offers, exchanges, etc, that we talked about in this episode. There is some debate as to whether or not offers (or threats of removed offers) can be considered coercive- it's super interesting. The Sections "The Wrongfulness of Coercion" and "Coercion and Freedom" are also worth reading through.

CORRUPTION IS LEGAL IN AMERICA (RepresentUs Animation, Youtube, 2015)

https://youtu.be/5tu32CCA_Ig Regarding Lobbying and Money Interests in the USA. Proolly a little biased, so take it for what it's worth. But it is clear, short, and digestible. It's especially important because it examines how lobbying affects creation and adoption of laws, or, how certain interests can legally exercise coercion over other citizens, in our society. Money simply is power within the current legal-political system in the US. It relies on the study posted below:

TESTING THEORIES OF AMERICAN POLITICS: ELITES, INTEREST GROUPS, AND AVERAGE CITIZENS. (Martin Gilens, Benjamin Page, Princeton University)

https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/mgilens/files/gilens_and_page_2014_-testing_the_ories_of_american_politics.doc.pdf This is the primary source for the above listed video by RepresentUs. It studies law adoption and preference vs. financial influence and asks questions such as "*Who governs? Who really rules? To what extent is the broad body of U.S. citizens sovereign, semisovereign, or largely powerless?*" It reports to test "*contrasting theoretical predictions against each other within a single statistical model.*"

TERROR (Definition, Merriam-Webster) <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/terror>
Political Definition: "*violence or the threat of violence used as a weapon of intimidation or coercion*"

TERRORISM (Definition, Oxford Lexico) <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/terrorism> "*The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.*"

Episode 3.5: Cercion- Community QA

Source List:

Banana Republics:

BANANA LAND: BLOOD, BULLETS 7 POISON (Documentary by Glaser, Lopez, Farrel, Shiller, Thomas, 2014) Available here: <https://vimeo.com/129550053> or <https://youtu.be/MoRmtQht8-E>

THE BANANA REPUBLICS (Animation, Sam O’Nella Academy, Youtube 2017) Available here: <https://youtu.be/QgydTdThoeA> It’s cheeky, a little abrasive, but it’s a concise presentation of pretty good information regarding the history of Central and South American Banana Republics.

Anti-Pipeline Protests:

'Protesters as terrorists': growing number of states turn anti-pipeline activism into a crime
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/08/wave-of-new-laws-aim-to-stifle-anti-pipeline-protests-activists-say>

PIPELINE OPPONENTS STRIKE BACK AGAINST ANTI-PROTEST LAWS

<https://theintercept.com/2019/05/23/pipeline-protest-laws-louisiana-south-dakota/>

Pipeline Protest Laws Spark First Amendment Concerns

<https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2019-06-06/pipeline-protest-laws-spark-first-amendment-concerns>

Power Dynamics and Abuse of Power:

LEVIATHAN (Thomas Hobbes, 1651) - Prolly look for an English version. Regarding rule by a single person, and how that might not be completely terrible if it is done in a way that is consensual for the people being ruled.

THE PRINCE (Niccolò Machiavelli, 1532) - This work is something really interesting to me- it seems like a justification of abuse of power by the state or single ruler, but many people offer this as a critique, or a more bold description of how ethics are relative to certain positions. What is meant by this, is that actions taken by a ruler may be considered ethical to them, but unethical to the people. In essence, it explains how it is the case, and why it is the case, that rulers are abusive of power.

Law Enforcement and the US Legal System:

DON'T TALK TO THE POLICE (Regent University School of Law, Available on Youtube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-7o9xYp7eE> - This examines the role law enforcement plays in our society, especially regarding prosecution, interviews and confessions, from the perspective of a defense lawyer and an investigator.