
1. What is power?
2. What is the power elite (in the U.S. context)?
3. How does that power come about?
4. What does the study of less-than-elite groups suggest about our understandings of power, democracy, etc., and about us as researchers?
5. What are middle-level politics in the US, and what power does the individual have in that context?
6. What does Mills think about checks and balances in the US political system?
7. Does the US have a “shadow government” in Mills’ view?
8. What is the situation, and the power of the public in the US?
9. What are the necessary elements of the political structure of the modern democratic state?


1. What are Wolf’s four modes of power, and which one in particular does he seem to emphasize?
2. Why should we need to specify different kinds of power? Do you think the discussion of power is deepened or extended by this specification?
3. How is the control of labour and capital political and not economic?
4. Looking at the works of Steward, Gluckman, and Adams, summarize in one sentence what Wolf thinks the major contribution of each one has been to the study of the operation of power.
5. Organization and signification: why are these important foci for Wolf? How does he think they should be understood?