

Media and church as symbolic institutions



NATIONAL RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY

Ilya Kiriya
Ph.D.

Professor Dept. of Media HSE



Sets of institutions

Form of power	Resources	Institutions
Economic	Material and financial resources	Economic institutions
Political	Political power (legitimized violence)	Political institutions (State)
Coercive	Military and physical forces	Coercion institutions (army, police)
Symbolic	Means of communications	Cultural institutions (church, school, media)

Binary oppositions

- ❖ Economic and political power are developing in parallel
- ❖ Coercive and symbolic power could replace one other. In primitive societies where coercive power dominated symbolical apparatus are less developed and vice versa: in modern states the consent is cultivated by symbolical institutions (Bourdieu, Gramsci, Gripsrud, Althusser)

Economic

Political

Coercive

Symbolic

Institutional changes in period of Modernity



- ❖ Economic power: passing of feudal agrarian production toward capitalist forms of exchange. Attached to the land labor forces has been unable to ensure the growth of production.
- ❖ Political power: passage toward national state has a double logics
 - ❖ Military logics: concentrate huge national army based on national spirit
 - ❖ Economic logics: concentrate huge resources and building centralized administrative system in order to withdraw more economic resources for the state and the army (Tilly).
- ❖ Coercive power: less independent and more and more subordinated to political power.
- ❖ Symbolical power: Church loosing monopoly on political power and coercive power. Symbolical power of Church is decreasing due to more secular education and interest to sciences.

Changes and its communication implication

Institutional changes

Communicational changes

Economic power

Passing of forced labor, market relations, commerce, capitalist production (investment into production)

Paid for information accompanying process of taking decisions. Exchange of news.

Political power

Centralization of political power and national states. Legislative system, withdrawal of political power from the Church

Mass book market, literature on local language forming identity of national states, documents and administration, exchange of political information.

Rational power, separated from the property: public accountability in some degree. Information about political processes.

Changes and its communicative implications

Institutional changes

Communication changes

Coercive power

Subordination to the politics, separation of political activity and military activity, creation of regular armies.

Regular army needs informational organization of recruitment and acceptance. Big states need a coordination of information work inside military troops. Information work with population of taken territories.

Symbolic power

Firstly after growing up of national states it passes to the Church. Than – progressively replaced by sciences and education.

Control of education and book commerce by University and Church corporations. Printing revolution: diffusion of heresies and schisms and scientific literature.

Politics: evolution of book as political tool

- ❖ Main book of Middle Age – the Bible. Regulation of access to the education (completely under control of the Church).
- ❖ The control of book circulation within huge Church-based corporations – Universities. Scriptoria:
 - Monopoly and restricted access
 - Ability to regulate the content
 - Ability to consolidate the content in order to struggle against heresies.
 - Control of resources.
- ❖ Privilege-based access



Print revolution

- ❖ Deficiency in controlling huge amount of books after the printing revolution. The presses has been able to cover more needs.
- ❖ Huge amount of production stimulated declericalization of books. Bible translation into local languages. Role of printed book in diffusion of Reformation ideas. Printed books in protestant lands contributed to structure religious coalitions under control of local authorities (Eizenstein). Mass publishing stimulated splits.
- ❖ Two main structural transformations:
 - Commodification of knowledge (book became a commercial good).
 - Diffusion of books on local languages has been a driver for national state development and basis for local identities.

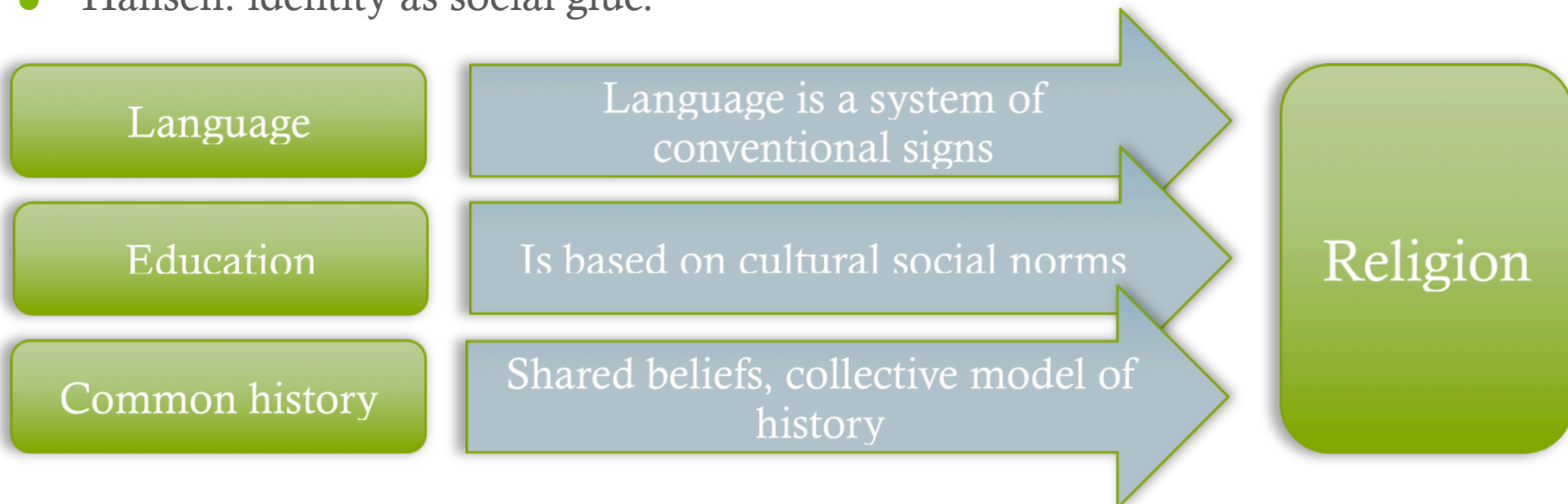


Symbolic power

- ❖ Comes from political: the Church controlled the book sector via creation of corporations in decentralized heterogeneous states (Germany).
- ❖ After printing revolution symbolic power is realized through the censorship apparatus (firstly – religious censorship, than – secular one). Subordination of printing media to political manipulation. Accompanying creation of national states in Europe. The Church in this period is loosing its monopoly for symbolic power.
- ❖ In XVII century in the period of Enlightenment the number of books and the demand for books (including inside administrations) leads to the huge growth and inability to ensure the censorship:
 - Censorship is replaced by the formal control of syndics (corporate church control is destroyed)
 - Flourishing of different illegal forms of book distribution.

Ties between church and media in new times

- ◆ Culture is often perceived like tool of standardization of values and everyday life.
- ◆ Cultural studies perceived the culture as a basis of collectively produced social senses. Very divergent culture (plural culture of Raymond Williams)
- ◆ Hansen: identity as social glue.



Modern conflict

- ◆ As media amplifies the identity by using language and making share common cultural norms it is permanently based on religious norms, traditions and cultural codes.
- ◆ Since the religion is a part of cultural identity which is most widely spread out due to the direct involvement of publics – the religion is constantly taking the part of media and vice versa.

Identity communication



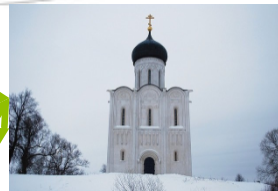
History



Religion



Language



Church



University



Media



Public

