



Social Order & Geopolitics

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Post-Institutional Politics

Political Order After the Erosion of Explanatory Authority

Post-institutional politics does not describe the disappearance of institutions.

It describes a condition in which institutions persist formally while losing monopoly over explanation.

In such a condition, governance continues. Meaning fragments.

The Decoupling of Authority

In post-institutional environments, procedural authority and interpretive authority separate.

Institutions retain:

Legal power

Regulatory reach

Administrative continuity

They lose:

Narrative centrality

Explanatory dominance

Assumed legitimacy

Authority becomes conditional rather than presumed.

Fragmented Legitimacy

Legitimacy no longer functions as a shared baseline.

It becomes:

Segment-based

Conditional

Temporally unstable

Different constituencies operate under different interpretive frameworks. Political disagreement shifts from policy content to reality-definition itself.

Conflict becomes epistemic before it becomes legislative.

The Shift in Political Competition

In post-institutional conditions, electoral competition changes character.

Campaigns revolve less around programmatic detail and more around:

Interpretive clarity

Moral framing

Causal attribution

The decisive question becomes:

Who defines what is happening?

Policy becomes secondary to narrative coherence.

Stability Without Settlement

Post-institutional politics does not necessarily produce immediate instability.

Systems may appear calm.

Markets may function.

Administrative order may persist.

What changes is settlement.

Political consensus ceases to regenerate naturally. Each cycle reopens foundational disputes.

The system operates. It does not consolidate.

The Strategic Variable

The strategic variable in post-institutional politics is not ideological dominance.

It is restoration of explanatory authority.

Where institutions regain interpretive coherence, fragmentation stabilizes.

Where they do not, alternative explanatory orders multiply.

Fragmentation becomes durable.

Conclusion: A Transitional Condition

Post-institutional politics is not a collapse scenario.

It is a transitional condition in which authority, legitimacy, and meaning no longer align automatically.

Institutions remain.

Belief becomes negotiated.

The structural risk is not immediate breakdown.

It is prolonged interpretive fragmentation.