

[Mousnier, Volume, 8-9 speaks of how the historian must know the mentality of the group which is actually running the institutions if we are to know the society truly--or else we are just talking about the laws and regulations of the institutions]

True enough, but there has occurred in Western history, at least, a great difference in the policy-making character of the ruling group. In the infancy of institutions, the policy is made by the cooperation of the ruling group, and it varies as the ~~xxxx~~ mentality of that group varies--indeed, as the ideas of the leaders of that group change. But in modern industrialized and incorporated societies, the institutions have a stable policy and function which no amount of willful action by the administrators of those institutions can change--at least can change quickly, as in earlier times.

In fine, modern institutions are run by bureaucrats, not magistrates in the old sense. ~~Indeed~~ Indeed, the managers of ~~xxx~~ corporations & the civil servants today, who are the equivalent of the olden magistrates, are not really the ruling class, but the mignons of the owners of corporations and the ~~xxxxix~~ ~~xx~~ political administration. Change on the political side is possible, theoretically, but seldom done in fact, since the tie-in between economic interest and political office is so great that politics cannot injure business. Managers & civil servants are, of course, chosen amongst those who are committed to preserve & augment the wealth & function of the "office" they administer.