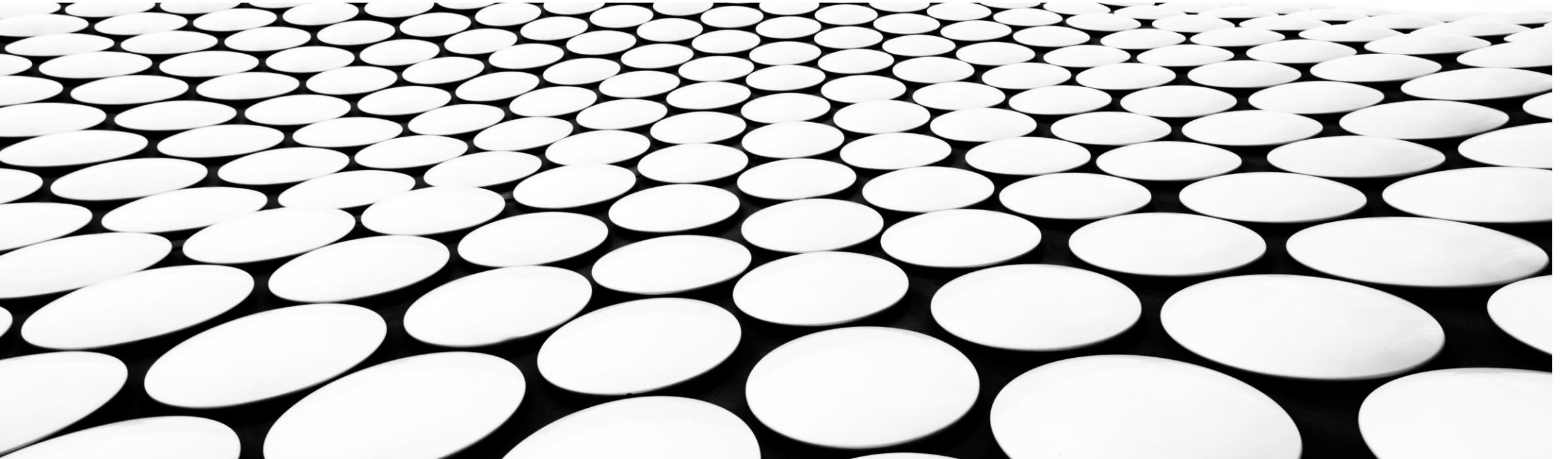

ELITES & THE RULING CLASS

SEM-III, CC-5, TOPIC 2.3





WHO ARE THE ELITES

- ❑ Latin word 'Elegene' which means 'selection by choice'.
- ❑ Meaning of 'Elegene' in English is leadership.
- ❑ "Elites are the power holders of the body politic; the holders of a high position in a given society": Lasswell
- ❑ "Elite is an organized minority obeying a single impulse which holds domination over the unorganized majority": Mosca



WHO ARE THE ELITES

- ❑ “Elite consists of those successful persons who rise to top in every occupation and stratum of society; **there is an elite of lawyers, an elite of mechanics and even an elite of thieves**”: Pareto
- ❑ “ Few persons who are able to **control the apathetic, indolent, and slavish people who are susceptible to flattering and obsequious in the presence of strength**” : Michells

TYPES OF ELITES

- Φ Political
- Φ Administrative
- Φ Religious
- Φ Economic
- Φ Intellectual
- Φ Traditional

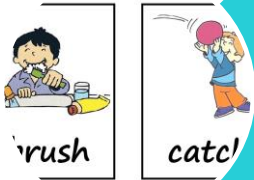


CIRCULATION OF ELITES: VILFREDO PARETO (PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH)

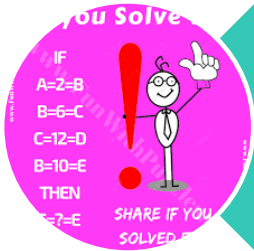


- Inequality inherent within society
- Differences in basic abilities
- Elites are persons with highest qualities
- Governing elites & non-governing elites

CIRCULATION OF ELITES: VILFREDO PARETO (PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH)



Actions : Logical & Non-logical



Logical: Means-End Compatibility:



Non-Logical : No such compatibility

- Derivations : justifications
- Residues : manifestation of sentiments or instincts

CIRCULATION OF ELITES: VILFREDO PARETO (PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH)



Residue of
Combination



Residue of
persistence of
preservation



Residue of
expressiveness



Residue of
sociability



Residue of
Integrity



Residue of sex



CIRCULATION OF ELITES: VILFREDO PARETO (PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH)

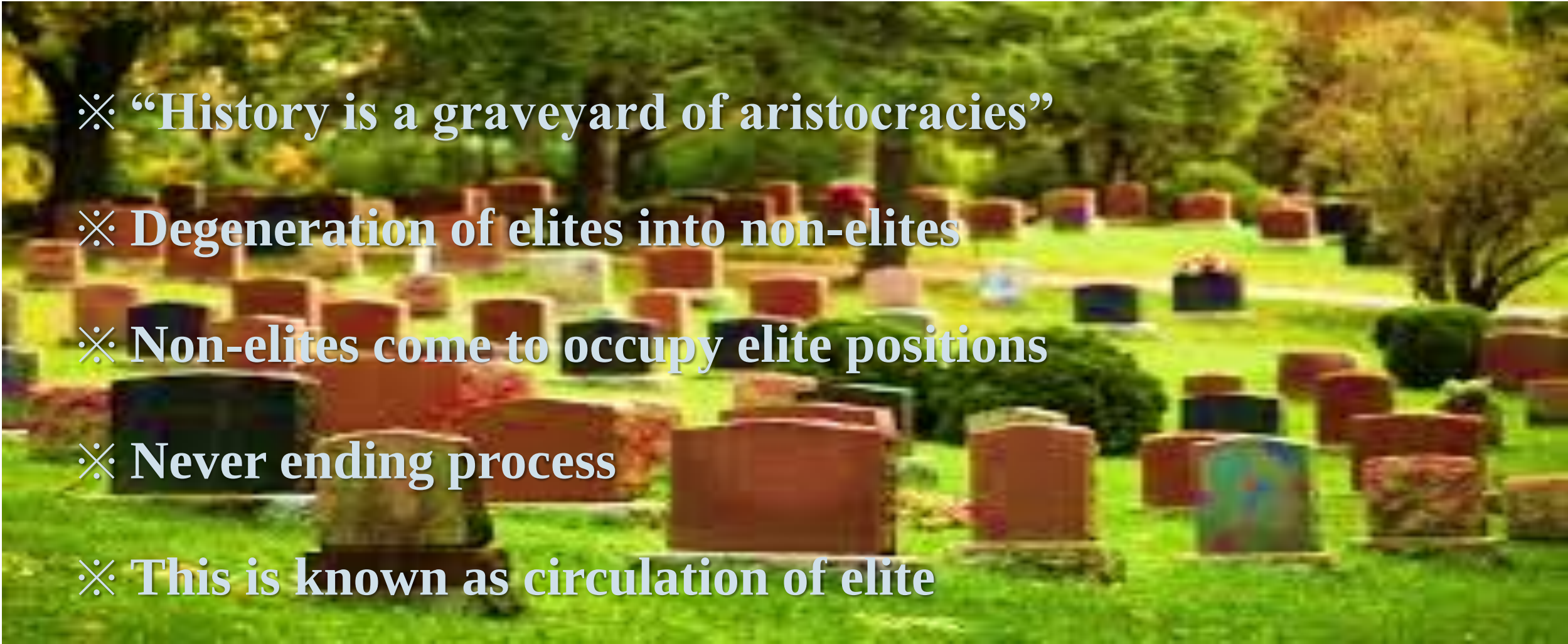
Instinct for
combination:
Innovation

: Foxes : Cunning
and Cleverness

Persistence
of aggregate:
Consolidation

: Lions:
conservative,
tradition-loving,
rely on force rather
than cunning

CIRCULATION OF ELITES: VILFREDO PARETO (PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH)

A photograph of a cemetery with numerous tombstones of various shapes and sizes, mostly reddish-brown, scattered across a green lawn. In the background, there are lush green trees. The image serves as a visual metaphor for the concept of a 'graveyard of aristocracies' mentioned in the text.

※ “History is a graveyard of aristocracies”

※ Degeneration of elites into non-elites

※ Non-elites come to occupy elite positions

※ Never ending process

※ This is known as circulation of elite

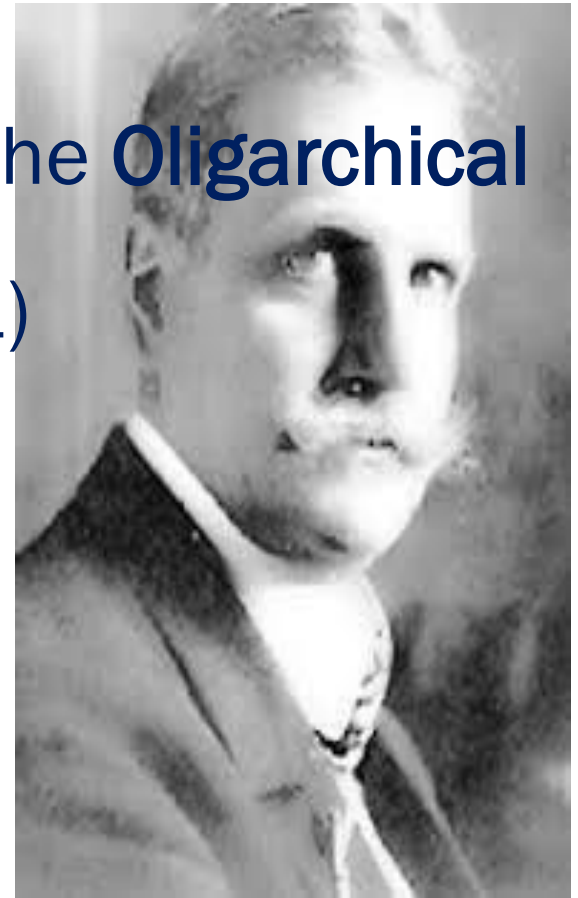
GAETANO MOSCA: ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH (1858-1941)

- ❖ 'The Ruling Class'
- ❖ Ruling class and the ruled class
- ❖ Political Class: minority but organised
- ❖ Conspiratorial group
- ❖ Use of Political Formula



ROBERTO MICHELS (ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH) (1876-1936)

- ❑ ‘Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the **Oligarchical** Tendencies of Modern Democracy’ (1911)
- ❑ Organisation & Leadership
- ❑ Iron Law of Oligarchy
- ❑ “who says organisation says oligarchy”



C. WRIGHT MILLS (1916-1962)

STRUCTURAL APPROACH

- The Power Elite (1956)
- Focus on American Society
- decline of politics as genuine and public debate of alternative decisions
- The power elite is composed of political, economic, and military men,
- Rejection of the phrase :‘Ruling class’
- ‘Class’ economic term; ‘rule’ a political one.
- The power elite is not an aristocracy,
- They derive in substantial proportions from the upper classes,
- similarities of social origin, religious affiliation, nativity, and education



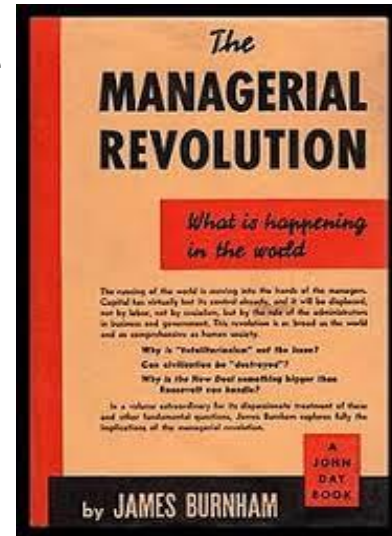
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY C. WRIGHT MILLS ESTATE



JAMES BURNHAM (1905-1987) MANAGERIAL REVOLUTION

❑ A society is defined by its elite: key to understanding all society.

- ❑ Emergence of a new kind of planned, centralized society in Western Europe
- ❑ The rulers of this new society: 'managers'.
- ❑ Business executives, technicians, bureaucrats and soldiers,
- ❑ Elimination of the old capitalist class, crushing of the working class,
- ❑ All power and economic privilege remain in their own hands.
- ❑ Hierarchical society, with an aristocracy of talent at the top and a mass of semi-slaves at the bottom.



ELITE IN INDIAN SOCIETY

- ✓ Intellectual elite
- ✓ Administrative elite
- ✓ Political elite
- ✓ Managerial elite
- ✓ Business elite
- ✓ Rural elite
- ✓ Scheduled & backward class elite
- ✓ Religious elite

ROBERT DAHL (1915-2014)

POLYARCHY: A CRITIQUE OF ELITIST THEORY

- ¥ According to Dahl political power in the United States is pluralistic.
- ¥ *Who Governs?: Democracy and Power in an American City* (1961), a study of power dynamics
- ¥ *Polyarchy*: American politics and other political systems that are open, inclusive, and competitive
- ¥ Distinction between an ideal system of democracy and institutional arrangements that approximate this ideal.
- ¥ Constitute a form of minority rule,
- ¥ Democratized systems limit the power of elites through regular and free elections.

ROBERT DAHL (1915-2014)

POLYARCHY: A CRITIQUE OF ELITIST THEORY

- α Three of the major tenets of the pluralist school are
 - (1) resources and hence potential power are widely scattered throughout society;
 - (2) at least some resources are available to nearly everyone; and
 - (3) at any time the amount of potential power exceeds the amount of actual power.
- α No one is all-powerful unless proven so through empirical observation.
- α An individual or group that is influential in one realm may be weak in another.