

The difference in the tradition of exercising power between Europe and Asia, with particular emphasis on Russia.

System of exercising power is extremely important as it allows for a less or more efficient running of the society. Systems of law and governance provides a sense of stability and awareness, that in the time of advanced technology and human relations, a person experiencing a minor or major crisis will not be left alone. It is because of that particular subject that a person can focus their attention more on their spiritual and intellectual development and familial connections. Such problems as threat of fire, crime or even a simple illness end up being pushed, partially, into the background, as citizenship of nearly any nation gives a sense of stability and ability to rely on functioning and developed procedures, making it so that every citizen knows where to reach out for help in a situation that would otherwise overwhelm them.

Eventhough the system differs between countries, it successfully fulfils its role in majority of situations. Such institutions as: The police, the army, the border force, the healthcare services and even the governmental institutions responsible for roads and bridges delegate fundamental but serious societal risks into the hands of trained individuals appointed by those in power.

The society functions through the system of territorial division and the authority responsible for its smooth operations.

Society has developed from a rule of sedentry, family focused system, where everyone had relies on themselves, into a complex legal and bureaucratic system that exists in every country.

The fundamental aspect of the subject remains that eventhough the system exists in every country, its origin varies.

The history and tradition of authority in Europe originates in antiquity, when the Roman Empire conquered nearly all of Europe, introducing their tested management system to its territories. It was the ancient Romans that comprehended how important the system of developing roads, mail or fire services is, and to this day the saying 'All roads lead to Rome' exists in many european countries. In this case, it is important to understand, that the politheistic religious culture of the Roman Empire underwent a major change in the 4th century C.E., introducing Christianity as the national religion.¹ Following this, the Roman Empire grew weaker and as the institution of a singular country – deteriorated, but in its place, a new church system, that moved away from a dynastical authority toward the rule of written laws and regulations, caused such a change that even at the stage of building individual national identity in Europe, the rule of law became crucial. '*The rule of law was most deeply institutionalized in Western Europe, due to the role of the Roman Catholic church*'.² The newly-converted into Christianity countries of Central and East Europe adopted Christian rules, elevating the written law to a status of something nearly sacred.³

Of course it did not cause the position of a monarch to disappear. Feudalism emerged, preserving a hierarchical division of power exercised by nobility. However, both the monarch and their subjects, were bound by the written law. As a result a written set of rules became the ultimate authority and sacred foundation of order in Europe.

Does this mean, that the system of authority could only exist in Christian countries? No. The Chinese civilisation serves as the perfect contrast, as the Christianity did not gain such a foothold there. The system of managing the country still came to be and grew, with minor differences, that could be overlooked today if not because of the extraordinary example of Russia. A vast country,

1 Simon Hornblower, Edward Togo Salmon, „The Christian Church”, *Ancient Rome*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2025, <<https://www.britannica.com/place/ancient-Rome/The-Christian-church>> [Accessed 10th of July 2025].

2 Francis Fukuyama, *Political Order And Political Decay*, available at <https://moodle.uwtsd.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/1057519/mod_resource/content/1/Fukuyama-%20Political%20Order%20and%20Political%20Decay-%20Introduction%201-14.pdf> [Accessed 10th of July 2025].

3 Francis Fukuyama, *Political Order And Political Decay*.

reaching from Europe all the way to the end of Asia, gathered an enormous amount of culture from Europe. It is important, that at a certain stage, the Russian aristocracy knew French language better than they knew their own.⁴ Russian, of course, does not consist only of Moscow or Saint Petersburg, but also of vast territories in Asia, where another system took root, the chances of it changing anytime soon are very slim.

It is important to take into account, that China, whose culture was never based on Christianity, built its system of authority on the idea of sacredness of the ruler. It was the monarch that was the law, it was also the people chosen by him to manage various regions, that retained the right to create law. Law, as a governing instrument, was of course necessary everywhere. What set Europe apart, was the elevation of written law to the status of the highest authority. In contrast, in many parts of Asia, law was synonymous with the will of the ruler.

It was the influence of these two civilisations - The Roman Empire and China, that became the foundation for the society's understanding of what Law is.

Russia, being in 90% Asian, in terms of territory, could not resist the influence of Chinese traditions. As a result, a country that for a European 'typically' ends at the Ural Mountains – beyond which lie vast, unfamiliar lands, it is those 90% that shape the mindset and societal expectations of what the Law and Authority are.

In European territories laws such as: freedom of press, freedom of gathering, freedom of speech are vastly based in the years of tradition. In the Asian countries, and Russia, the situation is different.

Initially, the power was held by the Tsar. Over time, despite the change towards democratic system during the President Boris Yeltsin's era, democracy has effectively disappeared, and for many years, even though formally the country has a president, one person remains, serving as a dictator of sorts. Such a situation would be unthinkable in European countries, yet, due to centuries old traditions, this is widely accepted and considered natural, in Russia.

Does this mean, that in Russia the system does not exist? Of course not. The roads are still being developed, the *militsiya* keeps order, the hospitals exist. This or another system has to exist in the current age. The society of the countries where centuries old tradition associated the law with the will of the monarch led to some discomforts being accepted.

Is it appropriate to openly point out which system is better or worse? It remains as a subjective opinion, as a society brought up in the spirit of its tradition will naturally reject the idea of accepting a different tradition, and the national identity and pride will ensure that the majority will defend that the tradition they were brought up in is simply better, more efficient, sometimes even more comfortable.

4 The Guardian, Various, *Nooks And Crannies*, N.A. <<https://www.theguardian.com/notesandqueries/query/0,-199583,00.html>> [Accessed 10th of July 2025].

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