

Executive Power

From a theoretical and historical perspective

Nowadays, the Executive is the most powerful branch *worldwide* – regardless of the kind of regime (democratic or not, liberal or not) we may consider. It would certainly be worth examining the reasons why this is so: these reasons are probably numerous and diverse. However, this is not the point I want to emphasize during this course: I rather intend to insist, on the one hand, on the gap we may observe between the initial concept of “executive power” and what it has become today, and on the other hand, on the impact such an evolution has had on the structure of the executive body.

That is why I will focus on the period when the concept of “executive” was invented, together with the principle of separation of powers (i.e. the XVIIIth century), before analyzing how it evolved along with the institutions that used it.

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