One face of power is participation in decision making, in resolution of political issues. The second face is the capability, primarily through manipulation of the prevailing mobilization of bias, to keep grievances about the current allocation of values from becoming political issues. The Social Sciences Citation Index® (SSCI®) indicates that this paper has been cited over 170 times since 1966.

Peter Bachrach
Department of Political Science
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19122
and
Morton Baratz
26745 New Hampshire Avenue
Brookville, MD 20833

February 2, 1982

"The joint effort that led to 'Two faces of power' and beyond began inauspiciously. Although each of us had read a substantial portion of the relevant literature and had added something to it, each was only semiliterate in the other's primary discipline; one was more interested in what 'ought to be' and the other in what 'is,' and each was inclined to defend stubbornly his positivist or normative predilections. Moreover, unlike so many other scholarly collaborators who join for the explicit purpose of producing published research, we formed our federation primarily to teach ourselves as well as our students. In other words, our initial objective copied that self-described by Robert A. Dahl and Charles E. Lindblom1 at the start of their collaboration in the late-1940s: we aim to teach one another enough about our respective disciplines so that either could thereafter teach the course alone.

"In the process of teaching the course the second time we decided to try to put on paper what we had learned in the classroom. In no period before or since that time has either of us experienced such intellectual excitement, such joy of discovery. Prod-}

...