

Define “political power”.

Political power is when a person or party has enough backing or charisma to sway votes in their favor, and force someone to do something they don't want to do, or pass laws that are good for them.

Under what circumstances should a government be permitted to use its power to force a citizen to do what the government wants the citizen to do, even if it's against the will of the individual citizen?

Apart from defending a country, I can't think of any times this would be applicable.

1. If I should change things for the better for the three men, they would have an advantage over the other masons, artisans and beggars, and the other people would be resentful. Also, maybe they should try to change the way they work before going to the king.
2. The king in the story went a slightly different way than me, but I still think my point holds.
3. Yes, everyone should be subject to the same code of honor. (Example: Napoleon Bonaparte abused his power and conquered other countries with his citizens for no reason other than to expand the borders of France, then turned into a tyrannical dictator.)
4. I agree with this statement, that when given a good bit of power, (ie: the President of the US) most people are good and serve their time well. But when they have absolute power (like the sun king of France) they do tend to abuse it.
5. Does their request differ? If the group lobbying has almost no rights (as in the African Americans and Martin Luther King), and request more rights and better lives, then it is very different, but if they just want an unfair advantage, it isn't. The price of not obeying the law is fines or imprisonment.
6. If they've worked very hard, then they deserve special privileges. These should be earned, not given. The people who didn't work hard enough might grumble, but they have no real point if they argue.
7. If I felt that I was worthy of that privilege, then I would be angry. But if it was granted to the people who worked the hardest and I knew I hadn't worked as hard, I would accept it. I might feel a little grumpy towards the giver and the recipient, but that would go away quickly.
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9. The Artisan might make slightly lower-quality items and sell them for less and less until he found a point where people would buy. The Mason could advertise himself or learn other skills, so he could make something while the house market was slow. The Beggar, depending on how lame he was, could learn a skill and sell his own wares.
10. Yes, I do agree with Richard Maybury, and I think you can find that, throughout history, people have used a combination of threats and bribes to change things to be better for them, through political power. (For Example: Richard Nixon and his party used threats and other dirty tricks to win an election.)