

Institutions

An institution, such as an assembly or administrative body, is a complex of human actions that must be integrated and coordinated if a decision is to emerge.

At best, coordination tends to be imperfect, and, consequently, the objectives of action are rarely achieved in a direct way.

Political action, in other words, becomes indirect in character; between the word and the deed stands the distorting medium of institutions.

Sheldon Wolin, *Politics and Vision*