

# The Political Economy of Destructive Power

Mehrdad Vahabi

*Laboratoire d'Economie Dionysien (LED),  
Department of Economics and Management,  
University of Paris VIII, France*

NEW HORIZONS IN INSTITUTIONAL AND EVOLUTIONARY  
ECONOMICS

Edward Elgar

Cheltenham, UK • Northampton, MA, USA

# Contents

<i>List of figures and tables</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiv
1 Three types of power	1
Introduction	1
Definitions of creative, destructive and moral power	2
The separation of the three types of power as a historical process	10
The embeddedness of the three types of power	19
Conclusion	38
2 The meaning of destructive power	40
Introduction	40
Destructive power and moralist theory	41
Exogenous and endogenous destructive powers	44
Individual and social self-destructive behaviour	47
Destructive power and conflict theory	49
Destructive power and political violence	57
Destructive power and voice versus exit paradigm	88
Conclusion	96
3 The social nature of destructive power	98
Introduction	98
Destructive power and social order	101
Destructive power and the enforcement of rules	123
Destructive power and the change of rules	131
Destructive power and communication	142
Destructive power: public or private good	155
Conclusion	159
4 The value of destructive power	160
Introduction	160
The specificity of the value of destructive power compared to creative power	161
Two different functions of destructive power	164

The value of destructive power in its appiopriative function	167
The value of destructive power in its rule-producing function	184
Conclusion	200
5 Sources of destructive power	201
Introduction	201
Economic determinism and primacy of creative power	202
Technology of destruction	204
Commercialization and industrialization of destructive power	208
Internal cohesion or <i>assabiya</i>	219
Legitimacy and social alliances	222
Organization	224
Entrepreneurship	227
Conclusion	229
<i>Notes</i>	231
<i>Bibliography</i>	253
<i>Index</i>	270