I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pivotal Contrast: “State in Capitalist Society” versus “a Capitalist State”: instrumentalist v structuralist approaches

2. Central question for which instrumentalist and structuralist approaches are answers: How do we explain the fact that the state broadly functions to serve the interests of the capitalist class and reproduce capitalism?
   - **Instrumentalist answer** = The state acts at the behest of capital.
   - **Structuralist critique** = The state acts on behalf of capital, but generally not at the behest of capital.

II. METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS (Claus Offe)

1. **THE MEANING OF CLASS CHARACTER**
   1.1. **Negative Selectivity:**
       The structure of the state is such that it makes certain state actions impossible and others improbable, i.e. it systematically imposes biases into the process of policy formation.

   1.2. **Nested Filter Mechanisms**
       (1) structural/constitutional properties: eg. public/private spheres; electoral institutions
       (2) ideological filters
       (3) process/procedures of policy formation, bargaining, etc.
       (4) repression

2. **HOW TO DEMONSTRATE CLASS BIAS:** the logic of explaining “nonevents”

3. **Methodological problem** = there is an infinity of things that do not happen.
   (1) Contingently excluded
   (2) “epochally” excluded

4. **Strategies for identifying systematically excluded possibilities & mechanisms:**
   (1). normative criteria
   (2). objective interests
   (3). empirical comparisons
   (4). voiced claims

5. **CRUCIAL METHODOLOGICAL SOLUTION** = the limits of possibility created by negative selections are observable under those special historical situations in which they are challenged and transformed.

III. WHAT MAKES THE CAPITALIST STATE A CAPITALIST STATE

1. **STATE APPARATUS & STATE POWER:**
   - **State apparatus** = the institutional structure through which state power is exercised.
   - **State power** = capacity of the state to produce effects in the world.

2. **ILLUSTRATION OF SOME CLASS ATTRIBUTES OF STATE APPARATUS**
   (1). The Selection of Tasks
   (2). Resource Acquisition
   (3). Transformation of tasks
   (4). Leadership

IV. THE PROBLEM OF THE “PATRIARCHAL” STATE

1. **Familialism** as an aspect of defining the “private” sphere;
2. **Professionalism** (full time careerism in hierarchal bureaucracies) as male form of administrative job organization;
3. **abstract universalism** in formal rationality of law as “male rationality” contrasted to experiential/affective rationality.