I. INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR “HISTORY” TO BE AN OBJECT OF THEORY?

1. Negative answer: history as such is not a legitimate object of scientific theory
2. Positive answer: the overall trajectory of history can be explained
3. Contrast: historical materialism vs cosmology, evolutionary biology, individual organisms
4. Why Bother?

II. THE GENERAL THEORY OF HISTORICAL MATERIALISM & THE SPECIAL THEORY OF CAPITALIST HISTORY

1. What precisely is the explandum of the General Theory?
   
   preclass society → precapitalist class society → capitalist society → post-capitalist nonclass society

2. The core intuition of the General Theory

III. FUNCTIONAL EXPLANATIONS

1. The basic logic of Cohen’s Reconstruction
2. The structure of functional explanations: A consequence of something helps to explain its existence.
3. functional vs intentional explanation
4. functional explanation & functional description
5. Functional explanations vs epiphenomenal attributions
6. Functional explanations in HM

| 1a. the level of development of the productive forces in a society explains the nature of its economic structure. | 1b. The economic structure of a society has the effect of furthering the development of the productive forces |
| 2a. The economic structure explains the nature of its superstructure. | 2b. The superstructure of a society is has the effect of contributing to the stability of the economic structure |

IV. TECHNOLOGICAL DETERMINISM IN THE GENERAL THEORY OF HISTORY

1. Why the PF tend to develop
2. A functional Explanation for the emergence of classes.
3. A Functional Explanation for the Transformation of class structures.
4. The outcome of transformation
5. Five theses
   5. Optimality thesis.

V. THE SPECIAL THEORY OF CAPITALIST HISTORY