I. INTRODUCTION

1. BASE/SUPERSTRUCTURE

2. FUNCTIONAL EXPLANATIONS
   2.1 The structure of functional explanations: a consequence of something explains its existence
   2.2 functional vs intentional explanation
   2.3 functional explanation & functional description

3. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE SUPERSTRUCTURAL VIEW OF THE STATE?

4. MODIFYING THE FUNCTIONAL IMAGE OF THE STATE
   (1) State as arena of struggle → contested functionality.
   (2) State as part of a complex incoherent system → contradictory functionality.
   (3) The state as an historically specific structure: contingent contradictory functionality.

II. BASIC CONCEPTS FOR UNDERSTANDING POLITICS & THE STATE

1. POLITICS
   1.1 Practice in general
   1.2 General format of practice: raw materials/means-of-production/transformation/product
   1.3 Political Practice = human social action that transforms social interactions into social relations.
      - Economic practice: transforms nature (into use-values)
      - Ideological practice: transforms human lived experience (into subjectivity).
   1.4 Reproduction as Transformation.
   1.5 Type of Practice vs Aspect of Practice.
   1.6 Multiplicity of Types of Political Practice.

2. POLITICAL POWER
   2.1 Power in General.
   2.2 Instrumental & structural power.
   2.3 Means & efficacy of Instruments of power.
   2.4 Organizations as the “Means” of Politics.

3. DOMINATION
   3.1 Power vs Domination as concepts.
   3.2 The Multiple “faces” of power/domination.
      - A dominates B when A can get B to do something even over the objections of B: instrumental power
      - A dominates B when A can define the range of alternatives open to B
      - A dominates B when A is able to realize A’s interests at the expense of B’s interests
   3.3 System-logic notions of power/domination
      - Systemic power: power over what game is to be played: revolutionary v counterrevolutionary politics;
      - Organizational power: power over the rules of the game: reformist v reactionary politics;
      - Situational power: power over plays within a given set of rules: liberal vs conservative politics.

4. THE STATE
   4.1 General definition: The state = (1) the most super-ordinate, (2) territorially centralized (3) institution of domination
   4.2 Contrast with Weberian definitions and some Marxist definitions.
   4.3 Variability in the degree of stateness.

5. STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY
III. THE PROBLEM OF THE CAPITALIST STATE

1. INTRODUCTION

- **Pivotal Contrast:** “State in Capitalist Society” v. “a Capitalist State” – instrumentalist v. structuralist approaches
- **Central question for both instrumentalists and structuralists:** How do we explain the fact that the state broadly functions to serve the interests of the capitalist class and reproduce capitalism?
- Instrumentalist v. structuralist answers

2. METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES (Claus Offe)

2.1. THE MEANING OF “CLASS CHARACTER”

- Negative Selectivity
- **Nested Filter Mechanisms**
  - structural/constitutional properties
  - ideological filters
  - process/procedures of policy formation, bargaining, etc.
  - repression

2.2. How to demonstrate class bias: the logic of explaining “nonevents”

2.3. Methodological problem = there is an infinity of things that do not happen.

- Contingently excluded nonevents
- “Epochally” excluded nonevents

2.4. Strategies for identifying systematically excluded possibilities

- normative criteria
- objective interests
- empirical comparisons
- voiced claims
- crisis and failure of limits

3. WHAT MAKES THE CAPITALIST STATE A CAPITALIST STATE? (Göran Therborn)

3.1. State Apparatus & State Power

- Weak and Strong versions of the class selectivity of state apparatuses thesis.

3.2. Illustration of some class attributes

- The Selection of Tasks
- Resource Acquisition
- Transformation of tasks
- Leadership

IV. THE PROBLEM OF THE “PATRIARCHAL” STATE

1. SOME POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR PATRIARCHAL FORM

- Privatized Familialism
- Professionalism
- Abstract universalism in formal rationality of the law

2. PRIVATIZED FAMILIALISM: TWO CONCEPTS OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE DEMARCATION