Part One. The State & the working Class: The Democratic Capitalist State and Social Reproduction

1. The Puzzle

2. Electoral Politics: Przeworski’s Analysis

2.1 The Model:

2.2 The Nested Dilemmas of Social Democracy

1. Participation: whether to participate at all in bourgeois political institutions.
2. Alliances: whether to seek the cooperation and alliance of other classes.
3. Anti-capitalism: whether once in power to pursue revolutionary reforms or reforms which strengthen capitalism.

2.3 The first dilemma: marginalization vs co-optation

2.4 The second dilemma: pure working class party vs cross-class coalitional party

The “Gramsci Bounds”:

*upper bound* = the maximum vote a socialist party could obtain by consistently pursuing a vote-maximizing strategy
*lower bound* = the vote that obtained by pursuing a strategy which maximizes the purity of working class base.

2.5 Logic of Third Dilemma: strengthen capitalism & win next election vs pursue socialism & lose next election
Part Two. The State and Accumulation: functionality & contradiction

I. The Functionalist Logic of the Theory of the State

1. The class character of the state and functionality

2. Key problem for functionalist explanation = feedback processes. Three connected processes:
   - Political class struggle at pivotal conjunctures
   - Systemic pressures that reinforce or undermine state policy
   - Institutional learning and correction of mistakes

3. The Bourgeois Political Utopia

II. Problematic functionality: Four Types of contradictory functionality.

1. Legitimation vs. Accumulation = contradictions between state functions

2. Autonomy vs subordination: Contradictions within the accumulation function
   - 2.1 Thesis 1: the state must intervene to prevent capitalism from destroying itself economically.
   - 2.2 Thesis 2: the deeper the contradictions of accumulation, the more autonomy the state needs to contain them
   - 2.3 Thesis 3: The Frankenstein problem: To be able intervene effectively to protect capitalism the state needs to have a level of autonomy that also enables it damage capitalism
   - 2.4 Conclusion: The Contradiction Thesis = Various dynamics are set in motion which make it increasingly probable that the state will act dysfunctionally → a crisis of crisis management.

3. Contradictions in the administrative rationality of the state policy formation process
   - 3.1 Three logics of state decision-making
     - Bureaucratic procedures: rational-legal application of fixed rules
     - technical rationality: application of expertise to solve problems with fixed ends
     - democratic consensus: formation of interest consensus via democratic-participatory forms
   - 3.2 Pivotal dilemma:
     Bureaucratic mechanisms fail under conditions of complexity, but the alternatives are also unsatisfactory
     Result = contradictory articulation of decision-making logics and functional requirements of accumulation

4. Contradiction between Internationalization of Capital accumulation and territorially-bounded State