

I. INTRODUCTION

1. BASE/SUPERSTRUCTURE: REVIEW

2. FUNCTIONAL EXPLANATIONS: REVIEW

- 2.1 The structure of functional explanations
- 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
- 1.2 Political Practice = *human social action that transforms social interactions into social relations*.
economic practice which transforms nature (into use-values) and
ideological practice which transforms human lived experience (into subjectivity).
- 1.3 Reproduction as Transformation.
- 1.4 *Type* of Practice vs *Aspect* of Practice.
- 1.5 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* = the
- 4.2 Contrast with Weberian definitions and some Marxist definitions.
- 4.3 Variability in the degree of stateness.

5. STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY