

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.