

**CLASS ANALYSIS AND HISTORICAL CHANGE
WRITTEN PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

January 1997

MORNING EXAMINATION

Answer Question 1 in Part I and one question from Part II.

Part I.

Question 1. Theories/concepts: Pick four (4) of the following theorists and discuss their central contribution to the indicated concept. Be sure to be precise in your description. What do you consider to be the principal shortcoming of their analysis?

Poulantzas	the relative autonomy of the state
Gramsci	hegemony
Lukacs	class consciousness
Burawoy	factory regime
Habermas	domination-free communication
Roemer	exploitation
Przeworski	class compromise
Marcuse	critical theory

[Note: because we are asking you to write on four of these concepts we know that you cannot be comprehensive in your answers to any of them. We want these answers to be to the point, dealing with the central conceptual contributions, rather than with side issues.]

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Part II. Answer one question: (Question 2 or Question 3 below).

Question 2. What substantive claims about the behavior of actual states can be derived from Marxist theories of the capitalist state? How do such claims differ from those advanced by “state-centered” approaches, and which are better supported by the results of empirical research? In your answer, be sure to discuss at least two variants of Marxist theory, and to examine the findings of specific empirical studies.

Question 3. There are different interpretations of Karl Marx’s writings, and diverse “Marxisms” today. Over the last few decades, several important “schools” of Marxism have arisen (e.g., Hegelian, structural, cultural, analytical). Choose any two of these (or other significant) schools of Marxism. Compare and contrast the interpretations of Marx that are offered by the two schools. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of both interpretations, and argue for your own preference between the two.