

Class Analysis and Historical Change Prelim Examination
January, 1996

Morning Examination:

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

Part I.

Question 1. Pick five 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 principle shortcoming of their analysis?

Poulantzas	the relative autonomy of the state
Gramsci	war of position/war of manoeuvre
Luckas	class consciousness
Lenin	dictatorship of the proletariat
Burawoy	factory regime
Habermas	domination free communication
Roemer	exploitation

Part II. Answer one question:

Question 2.

At the core of many debates in the Marxist tradition and between Marxists and non-Marxist radical theorists is the problem of why the working class in developed capitalist countries has not embraced revolutionary socialist ideals. Write an essay in which you review the major alternative views of this question. You need not restrict your answer to explicitly Marxist or even radical theorists.

Question 3.

Radical social theory since Marx has focussed a lot of attention on how forms of symbolic expression are both conduits of and bases for power. Write an essay in which you pick one of the following four theorists and one of your own choosing other than Marx (you can choose a second person from the list below) and analyze their treatment of these issues. Include the concerns listed below in your essay.

Gramsci, Bourdieu, Foucault, Horkheimer and Adorno

- a) How does each theorist you chose treat forms of symbolic expression as conduits and bases of power? What would "power" be for each, and what kinds of power matter most?
- b) How do your theorists' treatments of the power in symbolic expression compare and contrast with that in Marx's writings?
- c) In light of important features of late capitalist (or advanced industrial) societies of the West, which theory has treated the symbolic conduits and bases of power most effectively--one of the two you chose, or Marx, or some combination thereof? Support your claim.

Please remember to name and treat the specific concepts that the theorists advance for dealing with these issues.

Question 4

There has been considerable discussion recently of state autonomy, state strength, and state capacity in studies of economic and social development in non-core economies. What is meant by the concepts of autonomy, strength, and capacity in this context? To what extent are the concepts distinct, and to what extent do they overlap? Discuss with clear reference to empirical materials and cases. You may find it useful to distinguish between dependency or world-system, Marxian, and other approaches.