

1. Watch the movie 'Agora' (2009). A) Explain the difference in 'paradigms' according to the movie and its impacts on the society. B) Analyze the phenomena in the movie with some paradigm frameworks in social sciences. (10 points)

Answer : [A] According to the movie , Alexandria's society at that time was distinguished into two main groups. Firstly, the Christian , Christian people believe that there was only one god and everything was created by the god. Moreover , god is the one who decides the life of humans would be alive or dead. However , Christian cannot prove the fact about the god that he or she was exist or not. All the doctrines and beliefs were gathered and specified by humans from generation to generation via the books which credit all the events and phenomena related to the god. In the aspect of astronomy , Christian believes that the Earth is the center of the solar system and other planets are moving around Earth. Furthermore , the Earth does not rotate around itself. This belief of Christian still cannot be proved by them at that time. Because there was no philosophy and knowledge of them can explain the reason behind their trust. All these perspectives of Christian imply their social scientific paradigm which is critical paradigm. This paradigm operates from the perspective that scientific investigation should be conducted with the express goal of social change in mind. Secondly , the Pagan , is the group of people who hold religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions which is a religion other than one of the main world religions, specifically a non-Christian. They believe in compassion and veneration of multiple gods or goddesses. There are many gods within the Pagan movement, both male and female, who have different associations and embody the forces of nature, aspects of culture, and facets of human psychology. These deities are typically depicted in human form and are seen as having human faults. Therefore, they are not seen as perfect. Rather, they are venerated as being wise and powerful. Pagans feel that this understanding of the gods reflected the dynamics of life on Earth, allowing the expression of humor. Moreover , in scientific perspective , Pagan believes that the Earth rotates around itself and the sun at the same time but in different orbits which can be proved by the fact of summer and winter. It implies the social scientific paradigm of Pagan which is Positivism. This paradigm is guided by the principle of objectivity , knowability and deductive logic. Both different points of view in religion and science bring the Christian and Pagans into their breaking point. The movie choose the situation that there is one of Christian's leader who have the aggressive faith in Christian and God persuade all the Christian in Alexandria to eliminate the people who are non-Christian from their town. It is the fact of humanity that two opposite things cannot be each other for a long time and it will break out someday , especially sensitive things such as religion. This led to the situation in Alexandria becoming worse. People in Alexandria kill one another with the conflict of religion. A large number of people were killed. Architectures and books were destroyed and burned. These make the society of Alexandria turn into the dark age. When the riot happened , some people were killed. It means that labor has decreased. People cannot trade and work like before the situation. This brings the economy that time to the worst point. People may face poverty and the slow development turns society to disaster. Moreover , when the provable fact is not accepted

because of the thought about religion and faith of people. It slows down the improvement of knowledge and technology that is the only thing that can develop society into a better era. Furthermore, riot and war harm the education to be advanced. Valued knowledge and ideas were killed at the same time with life.

[B] In the movie, there is one situation that clearly indicates the critical paradigm of Christianity. It is the scene where the leaders of both sides challenge each other to walk on fire using the belief in God as a proof which belief is right and wrong. Christianity's leader who is strong, fast and young can finish walking through the fire into the other side of the pond without injury. On the other hand, Pagan's leader who is weak, slow and old was forced and pushed into the fire pond. He can cross to the other side but he was burned and injured. This makes people who see this event strongly believe in Christianity which the God protect Christianity's leader to be safe and ignore the reality that the physical between two men is not equal and the fact that Pagan's leader is forced without preparation to the fire. This situation becomes a good evidence of critical paradigm among Christianity in Alexandria.

2. Read Szirmai (2015) [chapter 1] and watch the movie 'Where to invade next' (2015).

A) Explain how the discourse of 'development' had been constructed differently in different societies and what the common definition of 'development' (in your own interpretation) should be. B) Explain which hypothesis [from the class] could explain best the determinant of development level in each society. C) Discuss do you believe that development is conceivable without economic growth? (10 points)

Answer: [A] The world of "development" is differently interpreted into many distinct aspects depending on the societies. It is not important that good things or cultures in one society will be good in another society. However, each community will have their own way to develop themselves for better improvement and get more and more welfare on their way. For example, in Italy, people believe that relaxation in the workplace and happiness of labor can increase productivity of the workforce. For instance, they have enough time of afternoon break per day that they are permitted to go back to their home and make some foods for their lunch with their family and then come back to work again. Moreover, they have around 35 days per year for holiday plus other 12 days of national holiday that they can travel to any place they want. Additionally, when they get married, they will have another 15 days for their honeymoon. That the company will pay all the fee for them and also if women workers get pregnant, she will have at least 5 months for taking care of her baby which company will normally pay her the full salary. There is one interesting culture that Italian company will pay the worker free one month salary per year. It means that they work 12 months a year and get paid 13 months per year. These will encourage them to be pleased and healthy to work for the company. We can see that Italian society highly focuses on individual happiness more than the focus on working time or company's profits. All these welfare and attention to their labor persuade the workers to bring

out all intentions and abilities while their work time. It makes Italian industry to become one of the most productive industrial countries in the world.

For this reason companies would not be affected from giving the workers much welfare because it rewards from the good quality of outcomes that can give the company larger and larger profit. For Italy, the definition of development may mean that higher productivity does not need to hurt their workers but happiness of work and relationships among workers and an important sense of humanity can create better improvements to their society.

In my point of view, development means the process that creates positive change progress and economic growth. Its purpose is to increase productivity and also levels of quality of people which relate to creation of local regional income and opportunities for employment without creating a bad impact to the resource of the environment.

[B] The development tries to give positive impacts and create additional income to the hold society. One important point that can measure how successful development or not is the question of whether everyone in society gains the benefits from it? The measurement of economic inequality can answer the question by using Lorenz curve. It is a graphical representation of the distribution of income and wealth for representing inequality of the wealth distribution. It indicates the cumulative share of people from lowest to highest income compared with cumulative share of income earned by using line of equality [45 degree line] as an indicator of hypothesis. The nearer Lorenz curve with the line of equality, the higher equality in society. It works together with the Gini coefficient which measures the inequality among values of frequency distribution such as level of income. A Gini coefficient of zero expresses perfect equality. For example, everyone has the same level of income. Both measurements imply the same important factor. It is income which is related to the positive impact of development to society which generates more income. Hence, the level of equality can indicate successful development. The lower inequality, the higher development level in that particular society. In other words, development provides everyone in the community the same or better standard of living, even the income which will be a motivating factor for people to improve themselves to be better and create something new for their society and country.

[C] In my opinion, I agree with the context that development is conceivable without the economic growth. For simplicity, we should know the meaning of development which is the process that creates positive change, progress and also economic growth and economic growth that is an increase in the amount of goods or services produced by population per head in the given period of time. From both definitions, it shows the relationship between development and economic growth. It implies that every increase of development should bring up economic growth. However, I think there are some developments that can generate positive change and raise up the level of people's quality of life quality and also encourage the opportunities of work. For example, state welfare is one of the most important ways of increasing the development in each country. To bring people out from the poverty trap, the government should provide freedom that people enjoy. Freedom is achieved through a good standard of living, education

and healthcare facilities. If these three essential things can be made to a high standard, people will get more chances to leave poverty. Moreover, living standards are another necessary factor that can increase the convenience in the lives of the people. The state may assist in increasing the quality of life by improving the infrastructure and the public goods in the economy without having to depend on the growth of the economy which means per head production does not need to be increased but the quality of life is higher. Personally, I think that this is good enough to be the development of society.

3. Watch the documentary film, 'American Factory' (2019). Explain the debates between Adam Smith and Karl Marx portrayed in the movie regarding these concepts of 1) division of labor 2) labor union and 3) technological development. (10 points)

1) According to Smith's concept of division of labor, he saw that the division of labor creates the productiveness to grow in capitalist industries. He said that division of labor and differentiation of skills will increase productivity in the workplace. Smith gives the example of one worker producing a pin of the whole process from the first step until the last step can produce less pin than the overall pin from the workers who work only their specialized step as a component of the process of producing a pin. From the documentary of American factory, this concept of Smith is applied in the Fuyao factory that workers act like a component of all steps of producing glass. This makes the workers to be a specialized worker of those small jobs which they work again and again. Therefore, it will improve them to be more productive. Also the outputs will be high enough to reach the daily target of Fuyao company. This looks to be a grateful new to the business. Karl Marx agrees with it. However, Karl argues that division of labor will create alienation. When workers are specialized in their job, in the aspect of capitalism, companies want to use the highest power of workers without the thought of humanity. For instance, Fuyao workers in China work 12 hours per day compared to American workers which work only 8 hours per day. Moreover, Karl claims that division of labor results in the worker becoming less skilled. He means that workers can do only the job they used to do and will not improve themselves for additional skill. It may turn workers to be unskilled in the case that they are fired and have to find new jobs. Karl thinks that division of labor will only the employer who gains the leverage and division of labor should be controlled by social mechanisms.

2) Adam Smith thinks that it is actually productivity improvements, not labor unions, that have improved labor rewards. People used to earn less money because productivity was low. People were paid on the basis of the value of their input into the production process. When each worker contributed little, they were paid low. As technology and production methods improved, so did the value of each worker's input and wage increase accordingly.

Employers hire the workers to produce goods and services to make profit for a company. They have to pay reasonable wages that attract the worker and compete with other employees. It is real that union can help to higher the wage for labor or increase benefits to them. One the other hand , it will limit the number of employment and the opportunities of work compared with non-union. That we can see clearly that Fuyao American workers vote NO for a labor union because it will lead to the chance of being fired and unemployment. However , Karl argues that union will be an essential think for the worker. He said that union is the solution to retort the capitalist. Because when capitalism continuously orders the specialized workers , workload will be too much that labor can handle and in the long term capitalist may not treat the worker well enough. Therefore , the labor union will be the best solution of equality , fairness and humanity in Karl's mind. In the documentary , some workers are fired from the Fuyao American because they get injured and cannot go to work without telling the company their need to break their job for recovering their pain. Moreover , some laborers do not need to stop working even though they get injured or sick because they do not want their salary to be cut from theri break.

3) When people become more specialized in their jobs , they will try to find a way to do it faster and faster and learn how to increase their productivity. For example , in the past , peasants used buffalo to help them doing their work but after the technological machine came. The innovation of tractor plays an important role in farming. Buffalo is replaced by technology and laid out. However , in the perspective of a capitalist , it increases productivity and outcomes because the tractor is faster and has a better quality of work than buffalo.

This concept is in the end of the documentary that almost all the process of producing glass of Fuyao company using robot and machine. Fuyao layout larger than hundred of workers and replaced them with arm machines which can work better and faster than them. A small number of workers who are hired in Fuyao are used to working a lot of things though it is not hard work but they need to work more because they must work equally to what the company pays for them. This is the reason why Karl does not agree with replacing workers by technology. Because it will lead the disaster to the people that will be replaced and unemployed. Only the capitalist who gains the advantage from technology but the larger drawback will occur to society.

4. Read Baker and Phongpaichit (2014) [chapter 6-9] and watch a Thai documentary movie: 'Paradoxocracy' (2013). Write a short synthetic essay how applicable the framework of 'Marxist historical development' [keyword: class struggle] could be in the context of Thai modern history. Draw a conceptual timeline if necessary. (10 points)

Answer: Today , Thailand is a modern capitalism democracy instead of the Sakdina system of the past. However , this democracy has its price . More than a hundred people were sacrificed for it. These changes have not taken place simply because of the wise foresight of the ruler. The hunger for democracy of Thai people and dictators brings the situation into the worst circumstance.

At first , the Sakdina system was deformed into a centralised capitalist state , under the rule of absolute monarchy. The monarchy struggled against the old nobles and local Sakdina rulers. The peasantry tried to avoid forced labour and rejected to work as new capitalist wage workers for low wages. Extra wage labourers have to be imported from China. Chinese workers were forming unions and struggling to improve their conditions. Finally, a combination of the 1932 economic crisis, and general political discontent among whole layers of society, led to the revolution which brought down the absolute monarchy. Many forms of Constitutional rule followed, mainly dominated by periods of military dictatorship.

After the domination of the military , a large number of people were suffered from using of dictator power in the wrong way and the sign of corruption and unreasonable action of military power causing trouble and also upsetting Thai population for ineffective country's management of that military government which leded by General Thanom Kittikachorn.

People tried to empower and start the revolution by gathering against the government under the leadership of the group of educated students around Thammasat University.

The successful 14th October 1973 mass rebellion against the military dictatorship in Bangkok, the Thai ruling class to its foundations. It was the first time that the people of Thailand had actually started a revolution from the bottom. It was not planned and those that took part had only been about the need for democracy, but the Thai ruling class could not shoot enough demonstrators to protect their regime. In fact the shooting just made people even more angry. It was not just a student riot to demand a democratic constitution. It involved thousands of ordinary working class people and occurred on the peak of a rising wave of workers' strikes. Success in displacing the military dictatorship bred increased confidence. Workers, farmers and students began to fight for more than just democracy. They wanted social justice and the end of long-held privileges. Some wanted an end to exploitation and capitalism itself. In response, the Thai ruling class, together with most of the middle class against workers, students and peasant activists. They installed a new dictatorship on the 6th October 1976 over the mutilated bodies of those struggling for freedom.

The form of class struggle between citizens and rulers in Thailand over 20 years has shown that the working class and new generation are the main force to be figured with. At one time , one side had a higher hand but another time the situation had been reversed or the compromise were reached. The struggle takes place continuously and will never be resolved until the struggle for socialism has been successful.