

## Quiz 1

**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:

The Paradigm is the conceptual framework base on individual perspectives such framework has power to shape the reality and the truth of the social science. Which these framework shape the way of thinking by the particular set of assumption which are accepted by members in communities. There are numbers of social scientific paradigms existed in the preset era. However, there are four most common social scientific framework that are typically used which are used nowadays namely Positivism, Social Constructionism, The Critical Paradigm and Postmodernism.

The difference in paradigms illustrate the mindset of people which can divide them into community against each other due to unmatched mindset. Focusing on the most common social paradigm, the first one, Positivism. The concept of Positivism believes that the frameworks operates empirically and scientifically can study the social structure. Besides concept of the framework, there is also the believe that the realities exist out there is driven by the immutable law and mechanism. Secondly, Social Constructionism or Interpretivism, the framework states that social context and interaction frame the truth and realities while the Social Constructionist posits that the truth is varied by the social context. Hence, it would be ever-changing in notion. To be clarify, it basically means that we create realities by ourselves through social interaction. Thirdly, The Critical Paradigm is halfly against the Positivism such concept believe that the framework that social science cannot ever achieve truly objective and value-free. Moreover, this paradigm must operates under the perspective that scientific investigation should be conducted with the express goals in mind. Last but not least, the Postmodernism. It is the framework that argues all three paradigm above such Positivist claims that there are truly objective and knowable truth in social science while the Postmodernist believe that there are not. Furthermore, The Social Constructionist believes that the truth are created under the beholder eyes. However, the Postmodernist is against this paradigm as the the researcher of this study always stamp on their study by there point of view, their own truth and believes. Lastly in order to argue another paradigm, the Postmodernist questioned The Critical paradigm by asking that if the realities and truths are created by the powers and inequalities. Then, whose power and from where the inequality are taken for interpretation while whose truth and realities are considered.

Agora illustrates all four most common paradigms but emphasize on two paradigm which are Positivism and the social constructionism. Basically the movie,

“Agora“ is run in the 4th century A.D. in Greece where the country has possessed numerous mathematicians, philosopher and Bandits. At the point of time Agora had dramatical debates on the religious between Jew and Christian. At the time, freedom of thought had not yet free such that if any person think against their believe they were called as an evil. As an evil, they are tortured in many ways. This represents the social constructionism as people are told to believe according to the elder one says. However, there is a scene in the movie that the man in a black robe, Christian, would like to prove the real god by walking through the flame if he is not burn then his god, Jesus is only true god. The incident went through such Christian is burnt by the flame. In order to prove on the other side, they threw the Jew into the flame and he was burnt. Due to this incident, many people has change their mind through what the christian does in the public. Moreover, the event had also spreading by words from those who were in the incident which gradually shape the public mind. This situation implies the Social constructionist paradigm, as realities and truth that people believes are from social context and make them believe what other believe while those who does not believe in the same thing are not accepted by the other. From the movie, there is one of the main character named Hypatia, She is a scholar, daughter of the Bandits jew. The character has believe the different thing which is objected and truthful with the prove in order to believe which shows by her posits paradigm, the positivism.

According to the story line, it illustrates the power of different paradigm in the period, such the positivism or postmodernism might be the paradigm for this era, besides within the period according to the movie, the social constructionism has more effect and powerful as people believe more in social context more such that even though what is provable, some people choose to trust according to the society because they do not want to posit themselves as a black sheep in the society and be called as an evil. Therefore the paradigm that is the most effective in the movie is social constructionism, although the positivism and postmodernism is already exist. This paradigm has power enough to shape the history and impact of their activities might last long until today.

**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)**

**Ans:**

Where to invade next is the sarcastic documentary film that represent the exaggerate Ameicanship that American are so proud of them, Patriotic is great but with discrimination of other country is not. The movie is directed and narrated by the famous movie maker, Michael Moores. The story line of this film brings watcher to several country and illustrate the same things that one's country was performing worse than U.S.A., currently they are better than them. The narrator brings us to many country namely: Italy, France, Norway, Finland, Slovenia, Germany, Protugate, and etc. This brought several watchers to ask themselves why the situation in one country are such like in the present. Analysing deeper from what we see, the film would like to shows the development from that country by leader's attitude, mind-set, history and vision. Each country became in the position that millions of people praise or becoming the best in one thing is not just thing that can complete in one day and by oneself but it takes time, some habits takes hundred years to change. These attitude has to developed and it takes time.

Focusing on development topic, according to my perspective, development is the process of generating changes in many positive aspects such like the economy, environmental, social and etc. The main purpose of development is to bring up the level and quality of lives and create income or employment opportunities. Development plays an significant role in improving quality of life in numerous country. It has enough power to shape the attitude of the society, since usually childhood of kids are typically social constructed by parents until they reach the legal age. These childhood shaped and create attitude in the society which can be derived from the development process. Moreover, the incident that one country has faced, developed the attitude of people through history which distinguish themselves among societies. In other words, we can says that the uniqueness of each society are created through development process adapting to history that the country passed through.

The significant determinant of development in many society is sustainability to meets the present human needs without compromising the ability of future generation needs to meet with their own meet such as Italy, Slovenia, Finland, Germany that create sustainable work with increase literacy rate that aimed to push the economy forward. However, the determinant of development can distinguish into two type, economic

factors as determinant and non-economic factor. The economic factor as determinant includes natural and human resource while on the other hand refers to socio-political factor or even religion. Such that the hypothesis of development is mainly to increase the quality level of economy on one country and also the living standard.

Lastly, the topic to be discussed is that whether the development is conceivable without the economic growth. As an economic student, I would stand against this point of view. Personally, I trust that a great development plan will be advantage in at least one aspect of economic. For instance, if the government subsidies the study fee of every resident in the country, the development process is beneficial to the country in the future when these children are grow as they are invested in knowledge which one of them might become the person that uplifted the country to be the top tier one in some aspect. Else, these children could be using the knowledge in business and helps the economy. Economic is like a butterfly effect, no matter the thing you would like to invest is not related to economic but somehow the decision or incident that follows by your action would definitely affect the economic growth.

**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 labors 2) labor union and 3) technological development. (10 points)**

**Ans:**

Many successful decades that General motor(GM) passes through, the day of falling also reached them. Luckily, the labor is lucky enough to still have work such that there is a chinese firm that has taken over one of GM's factory in Ohio. The American Factory is the documentary film about the firm that has taken over this Factory, Fuyao Glass American company. The film also parallely implies the Capitalism and Marxism by the incident and point view of the employee in the company. Adam Smith is father of the modern economy world who support the capitalism, he found three laws of capitalism that uplift the economy which are the law of self interest, law of competition and law of supply and demand. On the other hand, there was Marxism by Karl Marx whose opinion was up against the capitalism by the Adam Smith. Marxism sees the capitalism as illness of the society. Such like the crisis that ever happened in the society are due to the capitalism. For instance, Tom Yum Kung crisis, Hamburger Crisis and etc. Furthermore, people does not work for they are passionate about but for the money. In addition, there are no more social struggle due to income inequality since there has less or even no competition exist.

Adam Smith is also known as the father of economics, what he has found in the past plays a significant role in modern economics theory that brought us the capitalism. He had stated that by self interest, people will push economy to rise their living standard while this brought to the second law, the competition. Along with the competition, where there is a profit occurs there will be competition which this will also push the economy more upward. Lastly, the law of supply and demand that explains the mechanism of what has happened in the the economy. According to the story of documentary, the General Motors of GM represents the product of capitalism that they are kicked out from the market as they cannot survive due to the other competitor and economy. Moreover, the employee cannot survive without money. Hence, when the chinese firm offers the work for them, they came back for work as they see better living standard rather than doing nothing. Looking into the labor union perspective with the capitalist's perspective, the labor union is not good for the firm. Being a employee may not affect the firm decision but numbers of them create bargaining power that affect the firm. Therefore, high level officer has to listen to them. While, labor cares about only themselves but the decision change by high level officer may negatively affect to the firm's result. In addition, digging deeper in the point of technology development, the capitalism typically assumed the labor force and capital technology as factor of production. Specialty in this manner would give the competitive advantage according to Adam Smith.

Besides the capitalist aspect by Adam Smith, the Marxism stands against the theory for centuries. Karl Marx, the founder of Marxism paradigm had stated that there is a better paradigm in order to improve the economy and social structure which is Marxism. This paradigm implies lesser in social struggle as the money is not the reason for what they are working for but its passion. Else, he also describe the capitalism that its has unsafetyness along with the economic unstability which causes rising in unemployment due to speciality skill required for specific works. These are the reason why Karl Marx had offended the capitalism. In order to analyse on the given context, the division of labor in Marxism is not important as on the other side. While the labor union is specialize. So that the labor could receive the same threatening of equality and technology development is also important in order to become the leader of economy.

In my perspective, the film represent the capitalism through the chinese firm and implies that no matter how long you would leave the capitalism, you cannot leave it forever. Since, money is the most important means for the living, in order to live a great live or do the thing that you are passionate about you has to have money at first. How would you live against the globally system. I do not see it as great paradigm there are also drawback but it is the best thing that we could have for our lives.

**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)**

Ans:

The documentary movie, "Paradoxocracy" tells the story about the political problems and the governing regime of Thailand from before 2475 B.E until 2540 B.E. with the topics regarding democracy, marxist or communism, Thai democracy movement by university students and Thai monarchy system. To clarify about the governing system, Marxism is the governing system that treat everyone equally and believe that ruling by on party will be better for the economy, furthermore in country's overview as well. However, the opposition party at the time believed in the real democracy is different from at the time, before 2475. At the time Thailand was ruling by the absolute monarchy system such that the King has the absolute power to control everything in the country. While, other country such as France, England and etc. were successfully revolutionized their ruling system, or else in the process of revolutionary. Which the message that the director would like to refers from the movie is that the power in hand can shape people mind varies times to times such like Field Marshal Plaek Pibulsonggram(jompol por) that had changed his mind during the time that he owned the prime minister power. Such incident represents paradox on mind and actions.

Begins with the basic history of governing regime in Thailand, before 2475 B.E., Thailand was ruling with the absolute monarchy that the king has the absolute power in order to control the country which the main character that change Thai ruling history was Ph.D. Pridi Phanomyong who was one of the member of people's party that would like to change the ruling system in Thailand. By 2475 B.E., Ph.D. Prini Phanomyong and members of people's party had coup the king rama XII i order to change the governing system from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy as numerous country that had revolutionized before Thailand had shown the rapid growth of economic and technology. This governing regime did not cancel out the all the power of king, yet it does creates numerous chaotic event with gradually improvement of Thai economy. After that there are several event such as 14th october, 6th october that student went up as a mob stands for the right in their believe of democracy. Until late incident that the partylist system has been brought in Thailand that leads to more corruption in Thai political.

The ideology of Marxist is that capitalism is ill, the system increases the margin of inequality in the society such that rich people are getting richer while the poor are still poor or even poorer due to lack of chances. This system of modern work also is also alienated as people cannot work for what they are passionate for but to work for

money to better living. Furthermore, the Capitalism is unstable such crisis like Hamburger crisis, Tom Yum Kung crisis and etc. were generated due to the capitalism that money is everything, money can leads to power and money can leads to better living. This system also creates unemployment in society because people wanted to make money in the same field such that there are excess worker in the market and unemployment has risen. On the other hand, Marxist states that socialism maximize growth of economic more than capitalism as the regime has faster decision and less process in order to work something. In addition, the regime create lesser gap of distribution of income inequality as the everyone are treat with almost the same income which in Marxist, this is the better regime to rule the country. In Thai history, once Ph.D. Pridi Phanomyong was called to be Marxist as well.

In my perspective, Marxist framework has been in Thai economy development since the king Rama VII period which actually seems like it is better than what it used to be, however Marxist always create inequality in power which does not balance the justice even though the people are getting threat equally. This generated the class struggle that relates to the governing power. Besides the Marxism, the capitalism is opposition party that stand against this mindset such that the capitalism believes that letting people run the economy self parallel their passion along with competition will be more effective to grow economy, however it has the class struggle related to the income equality such that there is a wider income gap by the competition in the market.