

Quiz 1

1. The idea of paradigm shift conveys human interaction with each other and the nature in producing human knowledge. In social science, this concept is highly abstract because there are numerous things that humans interact with daily and in history. Essentially, the idea of history produces human knowledge in modern-day, and in most cases, it leads to the conflict between individuals. This is a prominent aspect in the movie *Agora*, a film that presents a conflict and division of classes of the society, leading to violent uprising.

One of the most prominent conflicts shown in the film is a religious conflict, accompanied by the “building of the bridges between the city”, which segregates the rich and the poor. The film underlines how slavery is normalized in the city of Alexandria, illustrated by Davos not being regarded as a human being. Several conflicts in the film lead to the characters going out there to search for his way, presenting us the idea of discovery of new knowledge and expression of social unity. This is facilitated by Hypatia’s usage of mathematical explanation and an astronomical approach towards teaching her students about the subject of equality. Through this, she uses examples like $A+B=C$, saying that if two things are added to produce the third thing, then all the things in this equation must be equal.

However, the film suggests an inaccuracy in the historical context as it shows that civilization came to an end in the fourth century, simply because Christianity came to play an important role in society. The truth is it did not, but rather started to become widespread as India and China were engaged in the scientific methods of production and explanation of the existence of things. On the other hand, while the film is inaccurate historically, it allows us to gain insight into the reality of science and its involvement in humans’ life. For example, the Ptolemaic paradigm states that the Earth is at the center of the universe. In the film, Hypatia has shown us that this needs to be disregarded and argued for a more accurate explanation. Simply, Hypatia invites the audience to know how to refute the falsification of the theory proposed by the ancient philosophers or scientists.

The mentioned evidence suggests that paradigm shift is the central theme conveyed in the film *Agora*, which invites the audience to gain more insight into how humans interact with each other or convey human relationships throughout the history. This is because the paradigm model in social science does not happen only in one era but throughout the historical period, in which humans gain knowledge through interpersonal interaction,

conflicts, self-discovery, and most importantly, learning to doubt what is being said in the past, which can be false.

2. The discourse of development has been discussed, both directly and indirectly, in the film *Where to Invade Next*, which showcases a problem acquired by each country that is deemed developed. Several aspects of development besides economic are exhibited through the investigation in the pattern of governance, population, and society, and the distinctions among these parties are explained through visual presentation. This includes the development in the aspects of economics, education, and the justice system.

Firstly, the economic development in terms of job promotion and the labor force awarding is shown prominently in Italy, where people are allowed to have extra holidays in a year. The Italian government believes this method of awarding the labor will eliminate the inefficient workers because it deems that working for extra long hours can exhaust the workers. On the other hand, knowing that they will receive the extra holidays at the end of the year will increase their productivity as well as efficiency (people usually are motivated to work more once they know there is an award waiting for them). Furthermore, instead of compensating the workers for the extra-long hours of working with extra salary, the government allowing the workers to have extra days of vacation can promote the family bonding, which, it believes, will strengthen the family institution.

Secondly, the development in terms of education is illustrated in Finland, where it is believed to have one of the best education systems in the world because it allows freedom for the students, reduces stress, and cares for students' well-being. Firstly, students can experience educational freedom due to the unlimited choice of subjects they are bound to choose. This is accompanied by the open-ended projects they can choose to work on based on their genuine interest, which, not only enhances their sense of creativity but also allows them to discover themselves. Furthermore, as a result of being given freedom, students can learn to be independent, for instance, the kindergarten students are unaccompanied by the teachers on their ways to the cafeteria. This allows them to enhance their self-learning skills, which, when being exercise at the lower grade, it can be more effective. Lastly, the government cares for the students' well-being by providing financial aid for those who cannot afford education. This means that Finland sees education as one of the most significant aspects of development and believes everyone should be entitled to an education regardless of their financial background and affordability.

Thirdly, the development of the justice system can maintain social stability and ensures that the incarcerated ones are well-behaved and return to the society mentally and physically prepared. This is illustrated by Norway, which is known for the country with one of the nicest prisons in the world. While other countries aim at punishing those who have wronged, Norway does believe in the second chance and has invested in this human project, establishing a rehabilitating prison. In prison, the convicted are provided with effective prisoners skills for employment. In this way, rather the prisoners feel guilty about their action, they tend to look in the other way and recounts what life is to them and how they can improve them once they are released. Norway's prison has a policy that allows prisoners to work outside 18 months before the term of their release. This allows them to experience the transition between life in prison and the outside world as smoothly as possible so that once they are released they do not experience cultural shock, whatsoever.

I believe development does not only involve the increase in the living standard of the population, but also the overall social well-being, in which human rights are guaranteed for everyone. Economic development is indeed one of the main driving forces that ensure the collateral results of development, but society should acquire equality in every aspect, both human rights and income equality. For example, Saudi Arabia is one of the richest countries in the world but human development is very low because women are not given an equal right to men, restricting their freedom. Another example is Hong Kong, a port country that mostly collects taxes and financial capital in the world. While the country is ranked one of the richest countries in the world, most of the population still lives below the poverty line, while the majority of them cannot afford a proper and decent housing due to the excessively high price of the housing. Most of the land assets are owned by the government and are not easily leased to the population, thereby making housing even more affordable. From these examples, it is clear that development cannot only account for the economic growth and development, but it has to involve "sustainability" and "human development", for example, freedom and housing, which is underlined by the UDHR.

However, development cannot happen without economic growth. Take, for example, the provision of decent and equal education, like the one suggested by Norway. It is conceivable that Norway should be praised for making education accessible to all the income classes but, at the same time, its government is facing a financial burden, in which taxes are collected more from the rich and less of the poor. This again creates income inequality between income classes and, as a result, the class struggle will have to be fought for a longer period. This example shows that we live in a world where money matters to every aspect of

society. The government needs tax to fund their expenditure and this comes in the form of income, import, or Vat. The collection of these taxes can only happen if there is a flow in income in the country, which occurs mostly as a result of foreign investment. Foreign investment again can only happen if the foreign investors deem a particular country is worthy of investment, which is accounted for by observing the trend of economic growth. From this fact, it can be said that economic development can only happen if there is economic growth in the country simply because of money matters to every aspect of social development.

3. American Factory follows the idea of Karl Marx's concept of socialism and communism, in which the idea of division of labor, labor union, and technological innovation play a vital role in the American industry. It essentially believes that wealth should be distributed to everyone equally and that the rich should be taxed more than they are. Furthermore, the film emphasizes the idea of equal opportunity of access to healthcare by the workers and the others.

In terms of division of labor, while Adam Smith focuses on the increase in the productivity of the labor after being specialized in their tasks, Karl Marx emphasizes the value of the commodity being directly dependent on the number of hours spent on producing such a commodity. Furthermore, Marx includes the term "social division of labor" in his theory to determine the nation's economic development, which relies on how divided the sectors of each economy is. For example, commercial and industrial sectors should be strictly separated from the agricultural sector to ensure human progress.

In terms of the labor union, the film suggests that the factory tends to reduce the wages to the minimum level to ensure that the sale suffices the cost, which is agreed by the theory of labor union suggest by Smith but not by Marx. To Marx, the labor union is necessary for maintaining the wages level by the workers because it allows them to negotiate more effectively and collectively. The film has, however, acquired Adam Smith's theory in controlling the workers in the factory by using the anti-union strategy, and thus, rather than allowing the workers to strike for wages, the factory owners can solve the problem peacefully.

In terms of technological changes, Smith and Marx agree with them being one of the most prominent factors in influencing economic growth. Replacing labor with machinery essentially reduces the number of hours required for the workers in the manufacturing plants and increases productivity as well as the efficiency of the production.

4. The essence of Marxist theory is the concept of Marxist historical development, which states that the existence of classes and private ownership is the main reason why people are struggling to socially elevate their economic classes. This essentially goes against the idea of capitalism, where capitalist owns the factors of production and the rest of the population is subject to being in the labor force to accompany production for the profits of the capitalists. To eliminate such a class struggle, Marx suggests the society of private ownership to be replaced by co-operative ownership where everyone has equal access to the natural resources, which are rather owned by a single entity and authority like the government. Though it is difficult to imagine how this method can be feasible in Thai society, if being done in the right way, Marxism can improve tremendously the social well-being of Thai citizens.

Thailand's social classes exist mainly through the acquiring of capital by the wealthy business elites in the capital city of Bangkok. It is not wrong, however, that Thailand has undergone the process of reviving the economy after the Cold War, but its central focus was only on the metropolitan area. This leaves the countryside behind and the economy in each province started to decline. The allowance of business elites to accumulate more economic resources and consolidate their power in the metropolitan areas restrict the economic opportunity of the poorer individuals, who did not acquire capital. Historically, this act was also to benefit the political parties in fueling their campaign, thereby assimilating economics and politics, which should be focused individually. Throughout the 1990s to 2000s, economic development was politicized and many political campaigns were engaged only because they deal with the political future of the political parties rather than acknowledging the hardship of the population. This kind of regime persisted throughout the 2000s, a period is known for the greatest political scandals like the Shinawatra family committing fraud and embezzlement to facilitate its political campaign and increase its family wealth.

Having acknowledged these scandals, it was clear that democracy is no longer a peaceful and logical solution for improving poverty in Thailand. This is consistent with Adam Smith's theory of self-interest, which conveys that every individual act according to their self-interest to maximize their own needs. To Karl Marx, capitalism is essentially the evil of the society because it simply exploits the people for the more superior individuals' self-interest and, at the same time, corrupts their human rights.

However, has Marxism been applied in Thai society, it would not effectively solve the idea of class struggle. It would be valid to say that everyone will be equal because no one is

an owner of anything more superior than the others but this will certainly create the income struggle. This is because no one receives greater income than the other, making people lose their motivation to work in the industry. Moreover, people will not be able to articulate their voice in the country regarding what should be done in the society.