

## EE466 Quiz1

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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.

A.) It's about religious paradigm. In the movie, there are two religions; monotheism (Christianity) vs polytheism. It has many impacts on the society for example the Christians claimed that polytheists are dissenters and challenged them to do the dangerous proof that the other side's gods exist which actually failed make more people go worshipping Christianity which lately leading to the war. Additional, Christians tried to conquer the town over the polytheists so the war had begun leading to the massive massacre. People died a lot, knowledges were burnt these are results from the war. To conclude, the difference between religions in this movie causes these impacts less population, less knowledge (as you can see that Cyril claimed the Bible told them that "men have more power than women" and they believe)

B.) The paradigm framework is about solar system. At first they believed that the World is the center of the space, everything orbits around the World but they still have the question with that knowledge from the past because they found out about the size of the sun that differently showed to us. So they tried to find the answer for this. Then Hypatia (philosopher) found out that why the sun has different sizes using the theory about circle and olive shape (I don't exactly remember the name :D). To summary, these are the proof that the Earth is not flat, not the center of the system and the Earth doesn't orbit in exact circular shape.

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)

A.) The discourse of development had been constructed differently in different societies because they have unfamiliar culture. Based on their unique cultures or critical thinking skills, the gotten principles to improve the society also have unique way of each country as I will demonstrate in B. The development in my opinion is that to have the better performance no matter it is a bad or good development if the overall performance is good, it's called development. ( but I prefer the good one)

B.) In Italy, they don't focus on how to be richer, but they focus at working with smile environment as in the movie "where to invade next" the Italian workers told that they can stop working for 2 months per year which they're still get paid. Unlike America, Italy has the national holidays, town holidays, and holidays to take care of children etc. which their bosses feel this is fair for their workers because they claimed that stress is the cause of decease therefore, statistically, there is the research told hat Italian has the highest average age among other countries. Despite of more holidays of Italy than America, Both are still in the top 15 most effective countries chart. So you can see that Italy and America see differently but they are still developing overtime. Next is France, their focus is on children. At school, teachers taught about manners on the table and the diet or meal they could get in one day. The comparison between the poorest school of France and the moderate level of American school is easy to conclude (France wins). All of these happened because the taxes govt. used differently. The used taxes that affect to American is only basic services whereas French get basic services, free healthcare, free college, daycare, paid sick leave, paid maternity leave, 4 weeks paid vacation, prescriptions, nursing care, great schools, bullet trains, and huge funds for arts. Americans can get all of these as well but they have to pay for this which doesn't come from the taxes. You can see that France does focus on children to grow up well as the long term development of people plan. Lastly, Finland's education is the best of the world. The ministry told that there's no homework because students need to have their hobbies they are interested in. They studied 20 hours a week including break time. They believe that brain to the rest time; the more usage the less effective. In addition, it's illegal to collect college funds so there's no private school. Rich family, therefore, need to support the school and children from rich families have to learn with the poor ones so they will understand the life of others and this will reduce the gap of class.

C.) No, in my opinion, it's hard to agree with that. As you can see in (B), all of those is possible when the taxes is used so to develop well, the taxes are need so the economic need to growth and remain stable.

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)

While Adam Smith viewed the division of labors as a positive fountainhead of production's skyrocket of industrial capitalist markets for example the differentiation of skills with increased productivity, Karl Marx merely agreed that division of labor is the prioritized part of capitalism but he had no idea how favorable this process is in social terms or he couldn't find that how positive it can give for instance at Fuyao, although they managed to have all Chinese leaders and claimed to cooperate easily, they also used them to control workers not to vote yes for union labor. The union labor somewhat is good for economics terms but not in social terms. The reason that it is good for economics terms of Fuyao is that they can order their workers directly without any permissions from middle man for example they ordered one worker in the movie to stay in the heated room for many hours that exceeded the limit of human causing harm surely to him, and female worker who had the accident during the work that she never faced before all of these negative things would never happen if the union labor intervene some steps because labor union focuses on labor safety etc. which is bad for economics terms of firms because it reduces the quantity of products naturally because less time for work, no health risk allowed. Lastly, the technology development is good for economics and bad for social terms because technology will increase productivity with set and familiar quality. On the other hand, it is the worst dream of labor because when the technologies take place, some workers might be fired.

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. (10 points)

Historical materialism, also known as the materialist conception of history, is a methodology used by some communist and Marxist historiographers that focuses on human societies and their development through history, arguing that history is the result of material conditions rather than ideals. This was first articulated by Karl Marx (1818–1883) as the "materialist conception of history". It is principally a theory of history which asserts that the material conditions of a society's mode of production or in Marxist terms, the union of a society's productive forces and relations of production, fundamentally determine society's organization and development. Historical materialism is an example of Marx and Engels' scientific socialism, attempting to show that socialism and communism are scientific necessities rather than philosophical ideals. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical\\_materialism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_materialism))

The forms of class conflict include direct violence, such as wars for resources and cheap labor, assassinations or revolution; indirect violence, such as deaths from poverty and starvation, illness and unsafe working conditions. Economic coercion, such as the threat of unemployment or the withdrawal of investment capital; or ideologically, by way of political literature. Additionally, political forms of class warfare are: legal and illegal lobbying, and bribery of legislators. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class\\_conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class_conflict))

From the definition above by Wikipedia, it is a meaning of historical development. Nowadays, there're lots of Thai people seeking and interested in Thai modern history. Therefore, this essay is going to depict the ways of mentioned framework on the Thai modern history that how it can be applicable.

From the quote "Historical materialism is an example of Marx and Engels' scientific socialism, attempting to show that socialism and communism are scientific necessities rather than philosophical ideals", this drove the "rights" off in the past. So this can have the problems against liberals who seek in justice and fairness. This can monitor the familiar past. That many people who seek for fairness in Prayuth epoch that cut off some common rights secretly from people. Plus, with the class struggle, many rich families who do not have any impact on their living routine are mostly indifferent to the demonstration for change. Unlike poor ones, they could die from starvation and poverty at any time which is related to the meaning of class struggle. When you're weaker than others, you carry more impact.

In my opinion, I think this framework can make people realize the lesson from the past and be aware of or make a plan for future of their own lives.