

Quiz1

1. Agora(2009)

- a) Explain the difference in paradigms according to the movie and its impacts on society.
- b) Analyze the phenomena in the movie with some paradigm frameworks in social sciences.

According to the class, there are four paradigms that are the most common social scientific paradigms. Firstly, Positivism operates from the assumption that society can and should be studied empirically and scientifically. It is guided by the principle of objectivity, knowability and deductive logic. Secondly, Social Constructionism is the social context and interaction that frames our realities. They believe that the truth is a varying, socially constructed, and ever changing notion because people will create reality themselves through our interactions and their interpretations of those interactions. Thirdly, the Critical paradigm posits that social science can never be truly objective or value-free. It operates from the perspective that scientific investigation should be conducted with the express goal of social change in mind. Lastly, Postmodernism is focused on the historical and contextual embeddedness of scientific knowledge and scepticism towards certainty and grand explanations in social science, so there are no universally true explanations.

Before we look deeper into 'Agora', Hypatia is one of the main characters who is a philosopher and teacher at the platonic school. Next, Davus is a slave of Hypatia's father. The movie starts with conflict between a group of people who believed in Serapis and other Gods and a group of people who believe in Jesus. Social unrest begins when the Christians start affronting the status of the pagan gods, People who believed in these gods become angry and want to fight to squash Christians' rising power but in the ensuing battle, there are a large number of Christians causing them to lose and refuge in the library. The Christian siege of the library ends when an envoy of the Roman Emperor declares that the pagans are pardoned. however, the Christians shall be allowed to enter the library and do with it what they want. When they hear it, they try to save the crucial scrolls before the Christians take over the library and destroy them. In that situation, Davus changes his side and chooses to join the Christians forces in order to become free from the slave. After many years, many people become Christians including Orestes who love Hypatia but she prefers to devote herself to science. Hypatia continues to investigate the motions of the Sun, the Moon, the five wanderers and stars. She also investigates the heliocentric model of the solar system proposed by Aristarchus. She tries to use experiment by having an object dropped from the mast of a moving ship to show a possible motion of the Earth would not affect the motion, relative to Earth, of a falling object on Earth. Due to that period, the Christians and the Jews come into conflict, committing violent acts against each other. The leader of the Christians sees that Hypatia has influence over Orestes and stages a public ceremony intended to force Orestes to subjugate her. The way to help her is she needs to accept Christianity but she refuses. It leads to death. Before she dies, Hypatia makes a personal

discovery, theorizing that the Earth orbits around the Sun in an elliptic, not circular, orbit with the Sun at one of the foci. As these religious and political games are played, Hypatia retains her place of study. We can see that she continues to ask questions that are beyond any talk of scriptures or religions. For most of her life she has looked up at the stars confounded, as none of the primary explanations (Ptolemy, Hipparchus, etc.) for how the universe works have made sense. Over the years as the story unfolds, Hypatia grows closer and closer to discovering that the Earth revolves around the Sun, and not at a circular orbit, but an ellipse

From the movie, we can see that in the first period, there are two different groups that believe differently. It creates conflict between groups. One believes that their god is real and he will protect them causing disrespect in other beliefs. Stratification may be one of the reasons that slaves side their belief. We can see from the scene of Davus who is one of slaves. He does not have rights to do anything that he wants even though he is a smart guy. He needs to follow his owner and do everything that the owner orders. These show that the slaves do not have their power in this society and it is not wrong to have slaves. Moreover, the power of belief can make a large mob for creating a huge change in society. The end of this conflict is the group which has a large number of people win and receive more power to control. Many people need to accept this religion. The structure of the society has a little changed. When the time passed, it also created two groups of people: Jews and Christians. They have conflict among each other but it looks like the Christians have tried to get more power by using the word of god for making people to be under their power. Moreover, females have less power than males. We can see that women do not have the rights to government or management.

In that time, people did not have a lot of knowledge about the world, so there are a lot of doubts. But, When there is something that they do not know. They will leave it out because they believe that God created this earth and themselves. There is one scene where the argument about the earth is round or flat. Why don't people far from the top fall off the Earth? In that time, no one knows, only Gods know these things. From this sentence can show that the belief of people that trust God creates everything, so he also knows everything.

2. Szirmai(2005) & 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 should be.
- b) Explain which hypothesis could explain best the determinant of development level in each society.
- c) Discuss do you believe that development is conceivable without economic growth?

According to where to invade next, we can see that Italian workers have a lot of quotas on vacations and still receive money as normal salary. The companies in Italy still get profits. Italian believe that they have to take vacations to relieve their stress. The stress is one of the factors that create sickness. The average life expectancy of Italian is the top average in the world. They also have a long lunch break for 2 hours. All of these will make workers more productive on the works because there is no conflict between the profits of the company and the well being of workers. It is important to have a good environment in the workplace. People can be happy working. In France, society concerns children's education and their diets. Children have time for lunch to learn how to eat and practice manners on the table. They also learn the way to treat and share to others. Paying tax in France will offer basic service, free healthcare, daycare, paid sick leave, prescriptions, and nursing care. This shows that France has good state welfare that creates the quality of people's life. Moreover, they also have good sex education. There is a low rate of teen pregnancy. In Finland, people are concerned about education. Students should not have homework because they need to have time for being children and be happy. They will learn from their own interests from communicating with others and doing some activities. They try to make their children think by themselves and are brave to speak about their own ideas. In Germany, the time of work and time for rest are separate. Employers cannot order the work on employee's weekend. In Portugal, the drugs are legal. They are concerned about human dignity and all the laws have to be based on respecting and following that principle. In Norway, there are good prison systems, they just control only freedom to go outside but prisoners can do some things that they want inside that area. Tunisia and Iceland will focus on women rights. Women have the right to vote or be president. They say that they have a large vision of their society to create the better society.

According to Szirmai, The difference in development between countries or societies has many variations: levels of per capita, demographic characteristics, natural resources and geography, structure of production, economic regime, differences in colonial experiences, difference in precolonial history, economic dynamism, and regional characteristics.

The development can refer to economic growth or the growth of national income per capita. People will try to improve their countries for poor countries to become richer countries. It is clear that economic development refers to growth accompanied by the qualitative changes in the structure of the production and employment referred to structural change(Kuznet,1966). The developing economies will create the increase in the share of the dynamic sectors including

software service and the decrease of the share of agriculture in national output and employment. Moreover, the development should create a decrease in poverty and malnutrition, and should decrease income inequality while it improves employment situation. The growth can be achieved through rapid and sustained large-scale poverty reduction. The ultimate sources of growth and development refer to more fundamental factors such as geographic conditions, institutional characteristics, culturally defined attitudes, historical developments, political conditions, class and power relationships, demographic trends and historical shocks.

The development should also make people more happy or satisfied. The way that will be known by looking at social indicators: life expectancy, literacy, level of education, infant mortality, availability of telephones, computer connections, hospital beds, licensed doctors, availability of calories and so forth. The broad concept of development involves a change of the entire society in the direction of the modernisation ideals: rationality, planning for development, increases in production per capita and production per worker, improvements in the standard of living, declines in social and economic inequality, more efficient institutions and attitudes, consolidation of the national state and national integration, national independence, political democratisation, and increased social discipline.

The development can refer to an integrated process of expansion of substantive freedoms. Economic growth, technological advance and political change are judged to help the expansion of human freedoms such as freedom from poverty, access to healthcare and premature mortality. In the modern day, Our society has concerns about the environment because there are many problems such as global warming, climate change, the disappearance of rain forests and pollution of air and water. People will try to introduce sustainable development which is development that does not diminish the life chance of the future generations.

From my perspective, development is not conceivable without economic growth because we will have a low income and weak human resource base such as lack of education, health, nutrition, and literacy. Besides, it is hard to develop physical infrastructure if we have less money. We need more income to improve technology and society. Developing countries that are weakly developed are a lack of national integration and insufficient guarantees for human rights. Moreover the military plays a disproportionately large role in politics. It becomes harder to develop the country.

3. American Factory(2019)

- a) Explain the debates between Adam Smith and Karl Marx portrayed in the movie regarding these concepts of 1) division of labours 2) labour union and 3) technological development.

Before we look at the movie, Smith and Marx concerned similar effects of certain capitalist processes on society which are the effects of division of labour. But Smith works on the free market that brings it into our modern consciousness. He also tells the story of the production of the factory describing the way to make production more efficient which is if you have one person more specialise in making a small part of the production, it is better than trying to make a whole thing by one person. This will maximise output and receive wage growth. And then Marx developed the concept to have two complementary but distinct aspects; the social division of labour and the technical division of labour. It will help increase industrial processes growth. But, the division of labour can have significant negative impacts on the well-being of those within this society.

America Factory looks inside Fuyao Glass America, a Chinese automotive glass manufacturer that took over a former General Motors plant in their hometown of Dayton, Ohio. The movie follows workers and show management in this factory. They focus on the central conflicts to the company's Chinese roots which are cultural differences and incompatibility. They also depicts the change of globalization and workers' attempts to find their stability across national and cultural lines

From the first part of the movie, it focuses on both chinese workers and american workers to make a good investment in America. We can see the way that people work and the system that they use inside the factory. Each person has a duty to do their own part. They do not need to do the whole part by themselves, so it will make them specialise in their part that will make them more productive than make a whole thing by themselves only, but it also causes a lot of pressure on them as well. Moverover, there are different cultures and races that lead to different opinions and perspectives on the working place. For instance, a scene of American workers visiting a factory in China to see the way of chinese workers work. We see that chinese workers need to work six days per week. They prefer to work more to get more money than receive the weekends because they need to think about their family and their expenditures while Americans have opposite thinking. They want their weekends and holidays to relax and do the things that they want. This will make the chinese put down the Americans as not willing to work as hard as the chinese people and they also consider themselves to be superior to American workers in this regard. Besides, language is one of the factors that make it harder for both American workers and Chinese workers to cooperate with each other. When they want to do something, they do not talk to each other and just order but do not ask the other american workers whether they can afford it or not. This will make more pressure and negative impact on their emotion causing the gap between two native workers.

If we look at the union labour, we can see that Fuyao is a multinational company operating an overseas plant and trying to down an union effect. Without a union, workers will face increased risk of injury, even death. It appears to be the site of multiple safety violations and pays its employees significantly lower wages than its predecessor. For example, workers at general motors that had a union contract can make over \$29 per hour and they never have any injury or if have it is only small one, but when they come to work at Fuyao company, they can make only \$12.68 and get a lot of injury at Fuyao. The company has less concern for their workers. One more example is people are being exposed to dangerous levels of heat inside the factory. For all the case that we can see the dramatic shift in incomes, cultures, and the hostility of management towards their workers show a reflection of the monopsony that Fuyao holds in the industry because it is a large employer take over an industry in a small town, so they have monopsony power to control meaning that it can control some set of wages to achieve more profits.

In almost the last part of the movie, the change of technology is occurring. The world is changing and it creates the technological improvements that can create higher productivity. When the technology becomes advanced and costs less money than hiring workers, the employer will invest and buy more machines and engines to replace workers' positions. The reason that the employer wants to buy more technology is he creates more products while he can spend less money, so it creates more profits to the company. This leads to unemployment in the society because people will not have jobs. It is clear that the number of population each year is continually increasing, so it will increase the rate of unemployment. People will have a hard time finding jobs while there are many burdens to take care of. For example, if they have children, they have the expense of education and raising their children. They also have household expenditures that need to be paid every month. There is a high cost of living. Technological improvements have both positive and negative impacts on our society. In the future, people will need to think seriously about the stability of their life because it is hard for them to live in the modern society. They need to fight with robots

4. Baker and Phongpaichit(2014) and Paradoxocracy(2013)

- a) Write a short synthetic essay how applicable the framework of Marxist historical development could be in the context of Thai modern history. Draw a conceptual timeline if necessary

Marxist historical development is the way to aim for human freedom. They need to try to satisfy their needs and develop their human capacities.. The task of revolution is the way to understand the situation in the current to know the stage in the dialectical progress to liberation. History will encourage the movement. Marx theory is trying to eliminate a class struggle.

Since June 24, 1932 until now, Thailand's government system continually operates under the framework of democracy. It has been modified in the essences to be related with historical development, culture, traditions, and Thai situation to the point that forms a different meaning of democracy that people can accept in the form of Thai nature.

According to Paradoxocracy, It started with the paradoxical nature of the 1932 revolution. It replaced the absolute monarchy with democracy though it paved the way for Thailand's military to hold power. It just like Marxist that class struggle intensifies as the thesis development and class consciousness rises as struggle intensifies. The system of the absolute monarchy allows the middle class to change the system to democracy by Phidi, the leader of the group talking to King Rama VII to accept and change the system. It was followed by subsequent coups and counter-coups, the 1947 coup d'etat, the Oct 14, 1973 which is the conflict between a gaggle of individuals and university students around a democracy monument to protest against Thanom's military government. This caused the new government and constitution, the decades of dictatorship, the student uprisings, the Oct 6, 1976, massacre, the Thaksin Shinawatra government's rule from 2001 to coup d'etat that expelled him in 2006, the money politics and the complication of visible and invisible forces. After that it also has many conflicts in Thai politics such as the PAD's provocations, the nullification of the 2006 election, the 2006 coup, the 2007 military constitution, the disqualification of Prime Minister Samak, the dissolutions of TRT and the PPP, the UDD riots, the redshirt protests, and the 2010 massacre. The factors that create the conflict are people who have power and government does not concern the voice of people. Thai system has been troubled with many conflicts. All these things also relate to the Marxist theory that focus on social position and the relationship of production and labour. Every conflict shows the way the people struggle in the society through the system that controls them and does not get the right to create something better for their life, so people want their own property right.