

**EE 466 Political Economy of Development/
EE563 Selected Topics in Development Economics 3**

S/2019

Quiz I (20%)

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)
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)
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)
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)

****Not more than 10 pages of an A4 word document. Title your file name as
'yourID.pdf': 60xxxxxxx.pdf**

****Deadline: Before 11pm of Sunday 19th, July 2020. Via the EE466/EE563
course moodle.**

Sources:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X4FgizmYF7BYdZFLkITw4Q4kZtWSgOZk?usp=sharing>

Agora <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1z2mtj>

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3aw75u>

Paradoxocracy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LH3oBN7XKUY>

American Factory [Netflix] <https://www.netflix.com/th-en/title/81090071>

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)

Hypatia in the movie *Agora* is a woman who stands true for the truth and sacrificed even life. What is Hypatia trying to spread the idea is "Science" which is extremely different from other schools in those days which focuses on teaching about miracles, sacrifice or mysterious things that cannot be proven which is a supernatural thing that she completely rejected. Hypatia was a positivism as shown in the framework that must be empirical and scientific.

Hypatia is the inventor of the water distiller, water level meter and a star position meter which is related to the earth and the sun, which is an important symbol of science and can be proven. But these knowledges cause problems due to the rapid expansion of Christianity which in the past science was not accepted. So Hypatia is the one who stands to challenge the church. She was seen as a heretic by the social constructionism, especially during the year 412 BCE.

Whether the person who killed her was a religious fanatic or a person who obeyed the authority orders. What is definitely the truth is that Hypatia is a victim of different beliefs. And when looking back Hypatia is one of the greatest and the most remarkable women in history. She is a woman who has risen to study until having knowledge. Women who became a teacher with many pupils. In the age of "Patriarchy". Women who dare to stand true beliefs in what is now accepted as science.

Hypatia always emphasizes that any myth or miracle story must be taught clearly that it is only a story or imagination. She firmly determined that bringing transcendent stories into real matters is the worst subject in academia. Therefore, Hypatia always tries to teach that people should not be limited by their unbelievable beliefs.

"We should be reserved the right to think, even if the wrong idea is better than not thinking."

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) Development means "improvement in country's economic and social conditions". It refers to improvements in way of managing an area's natural and human resources. In order to create wealth and improve people's lives. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen.

Other investments in people that contribute to the economic prosperity of society include youth programs and services, post-secondary education, job creation, promotion of healthy, active living and safe and secure communities

To reduce poverty, we need to take a social development approach and invest in our people. By investing in people, we can reduce poverty. We need to go beyond looking at government to find ways to develop our most valuable resources, our people. We need to share responsibility with community organizations, businesses, universities and municipalities in the task of improving the well-being of people and preventing and reducing poverty.

b) In my opinion, the hypothesis could explain best the determinant of development level in each society is Cultural Hegemony from Antonio Gramsci which is the idea that the dominant ideology of society. The hypothesis express that the ruling class dominate and control the cultural of each society including belief, perception, value, and traditional. So that the worldview of the ruling class they have established is an accepted cultural norm and an ideology that has a reasonable and universal influence on each society.

c) I believe that development is not conceivable without economic growth, they are related in the long-term development. Szirmai chapter 1 express that development means of increasing economic welfare, reduction poverty, improved health and education, and increased political and social freedom. To reach each development goal, they might construct a sustainability path to make people can survive with a consistent wealth in the long-term which economic system must be grow beside to support the prosperity of the 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 labors 2) labor union and 3) technological development. (10 points)

From the documentary film, '*American Factory*', the concept of division of labors reflect Adam Smith debate that the division of labor are in the free market. Fuyao Glass America eliminate the problem labor and hire the effective labor to work in the company, according to the concept of competitiveness of labor market will lead to the economic prosperity.

For the concept of labor union from *American Factory* documentary film, the concept is reflected by Karl Marx debate told that the capitalism is the most effective method to exploit labors to reach the maximum benefit to the capitalist. From the documentary, there is a part that the labor insisted the labor union to take an action for them to not be exploited. But Cao, CEO of Fuyao Glass America, did not consent to the claim and inform new labor leader to eliminate the problem workers and substitute with machines. The labors claim also portray Adam Smith debate that the capitalist collect all surplus from labor's work and invest for the higher profit to himself regardless of how the labor being.

The concept of technological development displayed from *American Factory* documentary film that Fuyao Glass America generate surplus profit and then invest in machinery production instead of improve labor being. As Karl Marx debate said that the capitalist is the only division that gain benefit regardless labor being and invest that surplus money on machine that is never tired and never complain. Capitalist only find the way to minimize the cost by decrease labor wage to increase their own benefit although labors are the force that generate machine and also generate profit to the company.

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)

The story of *Paradoxocracy* separate into 3 main parts. First was B.E.2475-2490, when Thai democracy was established. B.E.2516-2519, the period of that Thai citizens fought for their democracy. B.E.2540-2549, the period when democracy met capitalism.

While Marxist framework express that the society that contain a capitalism economy are not a true democracy because the more money means the more authority. Marx felt that capitalism creates an unfair between capitalists and the laborers whose work they exploit for their own gain. In turn, this exploitation leads the workers to view their employment as nothing more than a means of survival. Since the worker has little personal stake in the process of production, Marx believed he would become alienated from it and resentful toward the business owner and his own humanity.

Thai democracy history was contrast to Marxist framework that only capitalist and military who had an authority in the democracy society. In B.E.2475, attempts to protect the democracy of citizens may be another reason that makes military stronger. Because they have to use military wings protect them. In the other side of citizen victory during 14 October tragedy, it may push the right groups together. All of these set us question, will the democratic constitution be the source of monopolization and inequality in authority.

Reference:

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Daniel Little, The Scientific Marx, University of Minnesota Press (1986) , trade paperback, 244 pages, ISBN 0-8166-1505-5
(Marx's work considered as science)

Francis Wheen, Karl Marx, Fourth Estate (1999) , ISBN 1-85702-637-3 (biography of Marx)