

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)

a) Paradigms is the set of human's thought pattern that we believe it to be real and true. According to the movie *Agora*, the conflict of the movie can make us mainly considering paradigm into three opposite sites. Firstly, we will consider on the Hypatia's site, from the background that she's the philosopher and scientist, so she believe in things that can prove scientifically and have back up theory to explain. From this, the only thing that she believe is science. Secondly, we can look at the Romanian's site, they still believe in their old roman god and not ready to open up for the new believe because in their mind the old god is still true for them. Lastly, the other opposite is the Christian, they believe only in Jesus christ and the leader of them, everything that God's said or their leader said is the only truth in their believe. Since the 'believe pattern' create the 'action', so in the movie we can see many conflict that happened from different believe. In the first part of the movie, The science become acceptable among Philosophers in Alexandria, This believe can be true because it is become acceptable among the philosopher society. Also, the old roman god still believed among the philosophers. When the Christian came in, the old believe become challenged because in Christian they believe in another god, which prove that their old roman god is not real. From this situation, we can see that from different movie causing misunderstanding between those two sides and can cause big event in the society as the riots in the society. The development come when the leader of Alexandria announce that Christian will be a main believe in the society. After that, people in the society shift to become Christian and the old believe become disappeared from the society. Furthermore, when the Hypatia or the sciencetific come in and try to challenge that the Christians believe is not true causing another conflict between Hypatia and Christian. However, Christian is the major believe in the society, then minor believe that is not only Hypatia side, but also in Judaism's side, which have been a little mention in the movie, starting conflict between society. Inevitably, The minor believe become the loser and have to disappeared from the society. As we look in the present view, we can see that nowadays Roman or Rome turn to be part of Italy, which their mostly population is Christian. Moreover, Science become international This can shows that when the thing that we believe it to be real change, causing the change and development in society. As time pass by, The people thought changing and the society development change. So, to look at what is most people at that time believe can help us interpret and understand historical situation and society development better.

b) According to the Paradigms framework in Social sciences, we can interpreting the phenomena in the movie with these framework categories. From the first side that we consider is

Hypatia's side, who believe in Science and Philosophy. This paradigm can be seen as 'Positivism', that is the society can and should be studied scientifically. Which means that the reality out there that she believe to be true is driven by mechanism and provable measurement. From her believe, we can see in the movie that she is not hesitate to claim her opinion toward Christian what she believes to be true, that causing the tragedy from believe conflict at the end. Then, we can see 'Social constructivism' which claims that the truth is varying, socially construct and ever-changing notion. The social create reality by give the meaning to things that they believe. As we can see in many situation especially from the Christian. The more people believe in Jesus Christ, the more society claims this believe to be their reality. And at the end, the other believe against Christian become unreal and forcing to disappear eventually. Even it is still unprovable that god is exist, but from the meaning that the society believe, then this is become their reality. Apart from this, we can see of 'The Critical Paradigm' that posits that the social goal change in mind conduct the scientific investigation. The social sciences can never be truly objective and value free. From the situation that, at that time they still have a really high social gap. People need hope, sharing and freedom in the society, which can be seen as their social goal in mind. Then, the Christian came in and teach people to believe in God and everything that you asked for is possible. So, people become more hopeful and turn to become Christian because their ideal social in mind is hope and equality. Lastly, a little of 'Postmodern' have show in the movie, which posits that there is no truth and knowledgeable. From the scene that Hypatia try to claim her believe that she can not believe in things without asking. This, Hypatia shows that she always asking about her believe. Since the Postmodern try to deconstruct the believe, however, no one in the movie try to asking about what they are believing is good or not, is real or not real. So, as the time pass by, the believe become contaminated with the bias opinion, causing people to do the blindfold act and tragedy at the end.

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)

The development have been interpret differently in different society due to the historical background and common thought toward society goal among each country population. From the movie 'Where to invade next', it shows the different in development between US and European country that, even the core idea comes from the same place (America), but can interpret differently, and causing different effect for development. For example, in Finland, they really give important to

education by thinking that education is important to their society and related to society goal in mind. So, Finland try to improve and development their education for very long time. Undoubtedly, their education become the best in the world. Similarly, In Tunisia and Iceland, with their society women right awareness is high causing the development in their law and rights for women in the society. This, we can see that development comes from most people in the society have common belief and society goal, especially ruling group and want to make society goes in the way they believe. In my opinion, common definition 'development' comes from the change that causing society to be better place for everyone or become more closer to each country's society goal. The same as US and EU, with their social goal in mind is different, causing they focus in different aspect of society. In USAv is focusing on Technological development whil in EU focus on the welfare of people. There is no right or wrong development, but can causing differently effect to each society and people depend on their interpretation.

According to the class material, the hypothesis that can be adapt to each country development level is the 'Sustainable development' - the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (WCED, 1987). By this hypothesis, the society try to focus only on economic growth, lead to Millenium development goals (2000-2015) and then Sustainable development goals (2015-2030). From this, we can say that, nowadays, many countries giving meaning of development not only in economics growth, but have to look over their environment and social community. Same as the movie want to tell us that, we cannot competition in development only in economic growth like USA, but have to give important to our community and environment as well.

In my opinion, development is 'hardly' concievable without economic growth. For example, in the case of 'Developed country' and 'Developing country'. The low standard of living of the mass of the population in developing countries is singled out as the key issue in development. From Szirmai, It is states that the different in income between poor and rich countries, most authors reached the conclusion that, especially in the poorest countries, growth of productive capacity is a prerequisite for development, while development involves more than just growth. As the country have less income, they tend to focus on growth because they feel that present levels of poverty, misery and injustice are simply unacceptable. From this, These countries tend to fix the poverty problem first by linked this aim to the development policies, and neglect the long term economics and social development e.g. environment, people welfare. By focusing only in fighting against poverty and economics growth, it can be seen as Short term focusing development. Contradictory, in rich country, they can stop focusing on economics growth and shift to give important to social development by improving welfare of people, environment because they have enough income to deal with the cost of

these development. We can say that the developed countries have enough economic growth to deal with the long term development.

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)

According to the movie 'American Factory', we can see many debate between perspective of Adam Smith and Karl Marx, or in other word is Capitalism and Communism. Nowadays, we live in the Capitalism society, the 'Fuyao Company' is represent the capitalism in the aspect of the employer. Firstly, we will look at the '*Division of Labour*' that have portrayed in this movie. In 'The wealth of nations' by Adam Smith, he posits that the wealth is generated in the stream of goods and services, means that the wealth come from trade activity not accumulation. The Division of Labour have interpreting as labour specialisation - generate enormous increase in output, which have seen labour and capital accumulation only as one of factor the production capacity. He also claims that with cooperation between specialisation of each labour will resulted in increase in output and reduce in cost, which later create surplus and reinvestment to make the trading quality become better and better. In nowadays globalisation, unsurprisingly that even Fuyao Company is a Chinese company, but with specialisation (in producing mirror) and lower cost of production, making it to be purchasing and trading in USA. Also, Fuyao factory use the concept of cooperation in their factory by separating work of the employees and cooperation to increase their output as much as possible with less time of production. The new US employee have been trained from Chinese employee enough or until they specialise in their role. Then the trading or cooperation happen, Smith said that the exchange in trading system started from each party proposes and accepts the bargain entirely in their own self-interest and not with the other side's welfare in mind automatically, or we called it 'Invisible hand'. Everyone will be rewarded because of trading. Similarity, the labour force will not accept the working contract or the wage that factory offer if they see it as unbenefit for them.

Contradictory, Marx claim that this specialisation make labour working in things that they don't want to because of money, that comes from the surplus they have been produced for their employer. The more who have capital, the more power they have. So, people become slave under the capitalism, in other word, they cannot live without job. The employee become build up their wealth through their worker by keeping up their amount of value their worker create or the employee 'exchange-value' (wage) is lower than 'use-value' (value that they create to company) causing surplus

(profit). The increasing in Division of labour has several effect. Firstly, the higher competition among worker causing the wage fall and tend to be the lowest as possible level compatible with keeping an adequate supply workers alive. According to the movie, we can see that the employee in the factory have been exploited by lower wage with higher working hour. The Fuyao factory try to be produce as much as possible for making profit by trained employee to do their work more than their limit and not concerning about their quality of life. Then the 'Labour Union' came in, they try to call to power of labour back from employee by protesting about issues that will benefit for the employee in the Fuyao factory e.g. better wage, quality of work place, working hour, security. From the Marx perspective, It can be seen as when people aware how much they have been exploited, then it create a movement. However, as we have seen in the movie, most employees reject this opportunity to have better quality of life by joining the labour union and continue working in Fuyao factory with the same environment and wage because they want money to live their life and don't want to be unemployed. Even when they have to be fired, they have nothing but join the working class again by finding other job. Also, even the wage is increasing, it is means that you will become a better slaves under Capitalism and surrender to be exploited by employer. In other way, employer try to extract as much as possible from the employees. So, we can see that when the 'Circuit of capital' is ongoing process and causing higher and higher surplus value or profit for employers, however, employees still have the same low wage as before with higher income gap. People are triggered to consume more, 'Technological development' can be seen as the reinvestment from excess surplus in capitalism perspective. From the good flow of trade and profit that Fuyao can generated from exchange, they can reinvest in technology to do a better quality in trading goods. Adam said that the future income of company's wealth is depends upon this capital accumulation. With better Technology, Fuyao can produce goods with more specialisation (technology) and need less worker (who are now less specialisation) and can generate more flow trading from this production. So, the worker can do nothing but surrender that the one who have enough specialise can be survive in this factory.

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)

Firstly, we have to understand the 'Marxist historical development'. Marx address that the aim of the world history is 'human freedom'. Capitalism society making human stuck in the endlessly neediness. They are unable to organize the world so as to satisfy their needs and develop their human capacities, which make them become unfree. The revolutionary theory try to understand in what way the present situation is a stage in **the dialectical progress** to liberation. Then, it will possible to create

movement to end the present stage, to the new age of freedom. The contradiction between thesis and antithesis create change or revolution that will causing synthesis (new era). Marx also separate society into two element 'Economic base' and 'Superstructure' - productive forces and relation of production, the base govern the suprastructure. The unconsciously change superstructure is the causing from change in economic. The three-stage process comes from: productive forces (thing that they used to produce) determine relation of production, which in turn determine the suprastructure. Suprastructure lead to further development of productive forces and relation of production. Economics change make change in other area of society. the productive force are fundamental. As time pass by, Thailand have be create many revolution that causing from this aim of freedom. Before, Thailand have been governed under 'Absolute Monarchy' system for long time. Under the system, there is conflict between the ruling elite (thesis) and people (antithesis). Even the ruling elite have smaller group but they have power to control over suprastructure and exploitive wealth transfer from productive class to ruling class. The people have been exploited by ruling elite and can't control suprastructure by their own. At that time, the aftermath of the war create the great economic disruption and political turmoil (Economic base), which lead to the political revolution in many country (Suprastructure). Also in Thailand, the poor economic causing 'Class struggle' for both ruling class and productive class (people) at that time. The class struggle consciousness rising among productive class, revolution occurs from the majority of exploited take action. This lead to the revolution of 'People's party (คณะราษฎร)' in 1932 with aim to lead Thailand to 'Civil state' or 'Synthesis'. Revolution is the product of proper conditions for change, and a conscious productive class moved to action by intense conflict with ruling class. So, After this revolution, the 'Constitutional monarchy' begin and the end of 'Absolute monarchy'. The People's party that is a combination between military and civil officer, or Productive class, become ruling party. This change to democracy system lead to the new mode of production and economic relation reshape in the interest of ruling elite. In the movie 'Paradoxocracy' we can say that this revolution is the beginning of 'Democracy' and 'Military dictatorship' in Thailand. As we say that Thailand is governed under democracy system, however, when the democracy ideology among people degenerated from many conflict. So, the ruling party use 'military' to protect the revolution. This make the military gaining more power in political system, causing 'Paradox' among the governing system in Thailand. Then, the second conflict happen. At that time, the economics in Thailand is booming, give an opportunity for government to easily rent seeking and corruption. The productive class (antisis) have been exploited from low wage and undetectable activities of (thesis) from long period of 'Military dictatorship' for 15 years. In other word, they gain more awareness about the class struggle. Causing the revolution 'the popular uprising of 14 October 1973' that leaded by university student union that aim to reestablish democratic constitutional. With majority of people joined in the revolution, after that Thailand turn to be better democracy (synthesis).

However, not every revolution occurs will be successful. For the ‘Thammasat University massacre’ or ‘6 October event’, the conflict happened from the protest against the return of former military dictator Thanom Kittikachorn to Thailand from Singapore. Regardless of how ripe conditions may be, revolution will never occur unless the majority of the exploited take action. But not in this 6 October event that college student can’t gathering the people as much as previous event. Causing the old system (thesis) can control the event to get rid of the conflict and ending with tragedy, with failed revolution. During 1997-2006, Thailand turn to almost full democracy with good economic. However, the constitution 1997 have weakness that allow everyone to be prime minister thorough party list. So, we can start seeing conflict about business and political. With better economic allow government to do rent-seeking activity easier and corruption. From this, in my opinion, the problem is that the business growth of some group of people combined with the scrutiny of laws and the governing system give the opportunity for political party to buy power and corruption as they wish. In the *Baker and Phongpaichit (2014)*, have mentioned that Thailand ‘Strong state’ or ‘Military dictator’ become created to fight with ‘ghost’ that doesn’t exist, and ‘Civil state’ or ‘Democracy’ have been devastated to maintain the power of privilege elites. Each political culture tends to create a tradition regarding the nation state. In Thailand, the strong state tradition coincides with the nation state. It has probably had an influence until now. Because it used to be a large principle of the state for a long time until deeply buried in the culture. And it is still available for politicians in the future to revive and use it, if they want to.