

Question 1.

A) Explain the difference in 'paradigms' according to the movie and its impacts on the society.

The movie 'Agora' represents the difference in paradigms of each character and the paradigm shift shaped by the dominant ideology in the setting of Roman empire. At the beginning of the movie, Hypathia, female philosopher and teacher of the Platonic school along with her students represent the positivism where objects exist and everyone can prove it in the same way using natural laws and scientific method. Positivism creates a learning environment of the society. Knowledge is what is important and luxury. Only the higher class can access education. It is a privilege to study and has academic debate whereas physical action is the work of the lower class like slaves.

Hypathia's father, Theon, also shows postmodernism paradigm by disagreeing with his colleague about the marriage decision of Hypathia deconstructing the belief that women would only has value by marrying a man and have counterargument with social constructionism in the idea of freedom and love.

On the other hand, the Christianization of the Roman empire create social constructionism paradigm in the society arising from the debate and magic show in the city center between Christain and the old religion. The two parties show the difference in their belief of gods and the law of nature conveying that the truth is dynamic depending on the perceived in the eyes of the beholder. After that, Christianity caused a paradigm shift from social constructionism to critical paradigm where the common ground of truth is what is prescribed in the Bible by which we cannot prove and should not question. What is stated in the Bible is the only thing that decided what is morally right and what is morally wrong. Therefore, Christians have the same belief and work toward the same goals that is to declare wars on non-believers and christianize the society.

Later in the movie, after christianity has taken over the empire and there is a war between Jewish and Christians. Cyril as the leader of the christian saw Hypathia disbelieve in Christainity and her influence in the society especially in her former students that play an important role in the city as a threat so he used the Bible to accuse Hypathia as a witch and should be hunted down. This event raised the question in the Bible that her student tried to help her out of this by deconstructing those beliefs but ended up being accused as a non-believer and the Bible cannot be questioned.

Hypathia continually shows her positivism by proving the theory of the heliocentrism which objects to the religion belief and choosing to be a non-believer in Christianity.

B) Analyze the phenomena in the movie with some paradigm frameworks in social sciences.

At the beginning of the movie, the Roman empire was still in its prosperity before it was going to collapse. The hierarchy system and inequality as seen in the class struggle of the slave and poverty in the church. Lower class have no access to

education and other welfare. This alienation causes Christianity with the concept of love and sharing then seems to be their hope for a better quality of life. Therefore they choose to completely believe in Christianity and destroy the old religion with rancor.

Christianity as the community then uses the Bible as the common ground of belief and abuse that belief to control the mind of the believer by accusing non-believer and other groups of people as unorthodox. This also leads to alienation between christian and others creating fear in the society and convincing more people to join the christian community for power and rightful place in the society.

As the power has been overly abused, some may come into sense and question what is believed to be truth leading to the deconstruction of the ontology as in post modernism and the understanding of the dynamics of truth as in social constructionism.

Question 2.

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.

The movie 'Where to invade next' has shown many aspects of development that are contrary to American culture. In the European, there are many importances of the development aspects as in the quality of life shown in food, paid holidays and free quality education while also creating efficiency also with the transparency in the use of tax and how they value the quality of life and their happiness more than the nation as in military expenses. It also shows the difference in the opportunity as the government welfare allows the children to be able to dream as they have a freedom to and can achieve that. It shows how they value the liveliness of the people and the workers. How they allow them to study the history and learn from the past. The importance of human dignity and freedom also with equality in society.

In my own interpretation, I see development as freedom since the value is subjective but freedom is the thing that allows people to do what they want as what they value the most. The developed society should be where the people have the freedom to do and to act with dignity as long as it does not violate other people's rights.

B) Explain which hypothesis [from the class] could explain best the determinant of development level in each society.

Economic development has an objective to increase the well-being and economic capabilities of people. To assess the relative efficiency of development, international criteria must be used. There are several indexes that can be used to measure relative efficiency. Human Development Index (HDI) can offer a broad proxy on some of the key issues of human development consisting of long and healthy life by measuring life expectancy at birth, knowledge obtained from adult literacy, enrolment rates in primary, secondary and tertiary education and standard of living from adjusted per capita income. In other development issues, such as poverty and inequality there are many measurements. To measure poverty, there are many index such as Headcount Ratio that is fraction of people with income under poverty line to population,

Poverty Gap Ratio which is ratio of poverty gap to national income, Income Gap Ratio illustrate total shortfall of the poor from the poverty line and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) concerning 3 dimensions of poverty which are health, education and living standards. In order to evaluate the distribution of income, we need to consider inequality which can be measured by a Gini coefficient that is the ratio of the area of inequality to the total area of the line of equality ranges from 0 to 1. The larger the coefficient, the greater the inequality. To look forward to the next generation, we can use Intergenerational mobility to measure the changes in relative economic or social status such as income and highest education achievement.

C) Discuss do you believe that development is conceivable without economic growth?

In my opinion economic development is crucial for sustainable development which is the concept of development that concerns the future generation and the uses of resources with responsibility in the production and consumption process. In order to achieve 3 concepts of sustainable developments that are the concept of development, the concept of needs and the concept of future generation, 3 key elements that are Social, Environment and Economic must be in consideration and develop altogether.

Economic growth is one of the indicators of economic development. However, I think that development can also be conceived without economic growth but with other indicators of economic growth.

Question 3.

1) division of labors

According to 'American factory' it shows the division of labour as in Adam Smith that it will help increase productivity but there is a difference in the working culture between Chinese and American workers. Chinese workers are more disciplined and dedicated to work that they are responsible to but American workers will be more about their rights and freedom. These create alienation between workers with the difference in efficiency.

2) labor union

United worker union would protect the rights of labour with their unsafe working conditions and unfair treatment but also would lead to decrease in cost efficiency. Labour relationship institutes also claim that the labour union will intervene in the communication between Chinese employers and American labor as well as cut off the connection and slow the process down.

3) technological development

Technological development transitions the firm from labour intensive to capital intensive causing firms to hire less labour and use more machines. Technological development increases productivity and production capacity.

Question 4.

The paradoxocracy arises with the change of the administration. Beforehand, absolute monarchy with fascism and hierarchy causing the class struggle. Class struggle together with the class consciousness from the world's development generate an antithesis which conflicts with the ruling class and the created synthesis as the revolution for democracy from led by the people's party. However the outbreak of monarchy has been disrupted by the World War 2 that degenerate itself and create the paradoxocracy of the military dictatorship, monarchy and liberty.