

EE466 Political Economics

QUIZ 1

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Agora (2009)

The story of Agora told about the ancient Roman culture in Alexandria of Egypt when Christianity started to light up in the city along with the anger of former believers. During the civil war between old belief and new belief of Christianity, Hipatia, the female astronomer, still got her knowledge and philosophy as her religion. She announced in front of the senate that she believed in philosophy that made both Christians and mavericks decried her as a witch. Finally, she was executed by the Christians who were called the holy warriors.

Between the conflicts of the three beliefs: Christainity, former gods, and philosophy, there were three different paradigms in Agora.

1. Positivism for Hipatia and her philosophy

Society can and should be studied empirically and scientifically. The paradigm is guided by the principles of objectivity, knowability, and deductive logic. As Hipatia's mind, she trusted in the facts of the world and astronomy. She always used her knowledge to advise the politicians to solve the city's problems. Hipatia also saw the world by which is the truth and could prove.

2. Critical Theory for the mavericks

For the critical paradigm, unlike positivism, what is real and true are historical or virtual realism shaped by outside forces and findings are based on values. The mavericks had their own religion as a legacy from their ancestors, Gods, that was from their ancient life

related to material subjectivity.

3. **Pragmatism** for the Christians

The real is constructed based on the world we live in and explanations that produce the best desired outcomes. Many Christians in Agora changed their religion due to political and situation to survive. Some had not too strong trust in Christianity. Moreover, some had their own thoughts to do something radical that they just thought that god would like them to do.

Where to Invade Next (2015)

This film is beneficial for the modern world, especially for the Americans. Filmmaker Michael Moore visits several countries to learn solutions how each country reaches their achievements. Some had their own ideas and their own way to develop their people and some took the visions from the United States, but the U.S. itself still does not have success.

Almost ten countries he invaded, he reminded himself and as well as the Americans that the thought they have for 500 years they are the greatest in the world is permanently wrong. The country has a mixed culture from several civilizations. It is true that they are the first group of people who originated many modern ideas and the rest of the world followed them, but the first country was not success as the others.

- (A) For the case, each country has its own development process. The long-term approach to development is different in the different parts of the world due to the factors of the accumulation of production factors, the efficiency with which these factors of production are being used, technological changes, external political and economic influences, historical factors, institutions and cultural differences. Since the mid eighteenth century, the economic growth is associated with the economic development of the Western countries like European and North American countries. It will be a reference to the developing ones. The history of modern economic growth is also associated with industrialization and a 'getting rid of farmers' process. This relationship between industrialization and economic growth cannot be applied indiscriminately to developing countries, but it serves as another reference.
- (B) The common definition of development in my interpretation should be the process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced. In terms of economics, development can refer to economic growth or growth of national income per capita, structural change, poverty reduction, social welfare, modernization, freedom and sustainability. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is the representative of the plans and goals for development in the twentieth century. It is a further elaboration of the social indicators approach and the broad concepts of development. They have been seen relating to most countries' development and aid policies following the United Nations' perspective.

(C) Development is not conceivable without economic growth. From a Malthusian movement, it refers that continued economic growth will disturb the balance of nature and will lead to ecological catastrophes, the highlighted examples are environmental pollution, global warming and climate change. Stanley Diamond, an American poet and anthropologist, pointed out the concept of civilization that has always involved with violence and conquest with respect to less-civilized people. Wherever civilizing is happened, wars begin. Development is strongly influenced by dominant cultures and powers of that period and is formulated by people in elite countries. Who in traditional tribal societies have to contact with modern goods that spread widely. Normally, people in less-civilized parts of the world would demand for improvement in their standards of living and production, but only people in the richest countries can afford benefits from economic growth. Traditional self-sufficient societies would be faced problems that modern technologies raised population because contacting to the others outside led to technologies. Nowadays, many societies strive for socio-economic development. For the example from *Where to Invade Next*, many countries with less civilized than the United States took the ideas from this powerful nation to civilize themselves as well.

American Factory (2019)

This documentary film included the story of one *Chinese car glass company*, **Fuyao**, which had the strategy to expand its branch into the capitalist country as the United States of America. The American branch is called 'Fuyao Glass America' located in Dayton, Ohio, where there is the third largest manufacturing workforce in the U.S. behind California and Texas in terms of gross domestic product.

Since the Chinese company came into the U.S. with Chinese labors, it started to takeover a factory from the former General Motors that was closed before and unemployed Ohioians which most of them were former workers from General Motors. The CEO for Fuyao, Cao Dewang, wanted to make the Chinese company to be an American company. He tried to adapt American culture to attract and guarantee American investors for the company's future growth.

China as the representative country of **Marxism** by Karl Marx and the U.S. as the representative country of **Capitalism** by Adam Smith:

1. **Division of Labors:**

Under capitalism, workers are forced to sell their labor to the capitalists. They worked to get more money. In the other hand, marxist labors have division to work in return for their high salary.

2. **Labor Union:**

There had the conflict between Chinese workers who used to be with Marxism and American workers who are capitalists demanded for American labor union. After the factory continued operating for two years, Americans forced unsafety, unstable profits, and the unionization from politicizing employees. This increased the conflict between cultural norms and customs between Chinese and American employees.

At the same time, unions are an imperfect and incomplete vehicle for the working class to achieve one of Marxist theory's central goals: overthrowing capitalism.

Unions by their very existence affirm and reinforce capitalist class society. As organizations which primarily negotiate wages, benefits, and working conditions with employers, unions only exist in relation to capitalists.

3. Technological Developments:

After the conflict situation, the company unemployed many employees who have a view on getting unionization. The fewer labors made its operation less productive and slower. Fuyao started to introduce AI machines with the strategy of automation meaning standardization. More workers are subsequently unemployed and so on. The former view of an American factory was likely failed because of these two contrast Capitalism and Marxism.

Paradoxocracy (2013)

Marxism is a method of socio-economic development that uses historical materialism to understand class relations and social conflict to view social transformation. Originally, the method was built in the 19th century by German philosophers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. From the industrial revolution and World War II, the diversity of ethnic people spread widely all around the world. Technologies for transportation were improved and people went to other countries easier. Thai students also received that chance. Some groups went to France for education and got through the view of democracy in Paris. They wanted to change Thailand by this thought from the original absolute monarchy by contacting to Thai army in Thailand. We surely know them as 'People's Party'.

As well as Thailand, the world in that period focused on the view of communism to prevent their society by the leading of the United States of America. Thailand had invaded by this ideology from China also, but because of the strong power of capitalism by the U.S. in Thailand, communism was failed and was not acceptable. It was a big problem for the People's Party with the leader Pridi Banomyong since they launched their first rules for Thai people, 'The 6 Principles of People's Party', with the first said about equality in the society. And on June 24, 1932, the first achievement came to the People's Party. They successfully coup the power from King Rama VII and seized his power to be under the law.

Pridi launched several plans to control the country, including Thai economic system. What he created unhelpfully spread wider in the gap between rich and poor people. People in higher class made development to fall down. Pridi's plans were similar to the thoughts of communism with no consent, even though he was not a communist.

The view of 'the right' is often seen in this country from the past until now. But Marxism and Communism are not acceptable in Thai society. They would appear in a process of developing several times.

Surprisingly, in 1958, the government led by Sarit Thanarat from the communist party came ruling the country. People were not be able to comment or ask something controversial from the government. But some groups of people reminded that they had the right from the 2475 Constitution and woke again for a revolution led by eleven

universities' students. We realized that Marxism and communism cannot live in Thailand sustainably.

Finally, without these right views' acceptance, Thailand always denies them but sometimes uses them as a factor in a developing process. Even if many countries agree with Marxism and communism, but there are the rest of the world with no interest in.