B. Constellation of Power

1. Large corporations dominate constellation

a. socially constructed phenomenon

b. created by judicial and legal decisions

i. eternal

ii. no limit to size

iii. virtual location

iv. shape shifting

v. “persons” under the law EXCEPT

vi. single legal obligation

c. dominance

i. size

ii. concentration

iii. shared monopolies

iv. interlocking directorates

v. control other institutions

vi. protection through international agreements

d. goals:

i. maximize profit

ii. privatization

iii. deregulation

iv. control other institutions

e. justification Neoclassical free market theory

2. large corporations dominate economic system

a. own the means of production

b. control labor

c. control market supply and demand

d. control communities

3. control the political system (“power networks)

a. campaign financing

b. lobbying

c. regulatory appointments (revolving door)

d. success

i. wealthfare

ii. deregulation

iii. privatization

iv. “bailouts”

4. judicial/legal system

5. control education

a. institution of social control through socialization

i. norms

ii. values

b. gatekeeper: knowledge and ideas

c. reinforce Americanism

d. emphasis: technocratic thinking, not critical thinking

6. corporate owned and controlled mass media

a. create an unreality

b. create compliant subjectivities

c. social control: time spent

7. religion

8. military-industrial complex (1984)

(military-industrial-intelligence-security complex)

a. allocation of resources

b. weapons contractors

c. security contractors (2003/3,512; 2006/116,000)

c. “empire of bases”/ benefits of war

d. privatization

e. NSA

7. Police

Supplemental Notes: not on exam

. Power Arrangements in U.S.: Constellation of Power

1. Unique

a. traditional instruments and forms of power

i. economic

ii. political

iii. ideological

iv. coercive

b. new instrument of power

i. image

ii. deployed by mass media

c. power of the image

i. creates “unreality”

ii. creates “subjectivities” to live in “unreality”

iii. does not appear to be an instrument of power

2. Constellation of Power

a. traditional instruments

b. image

c. Modern Cave

B. Traditional Theories of Power: Pluralist, Power Elite, State

1. Pluralist

a. power

i. fluid, not concentrated

ii. decentralized

iii. power is legitimate (consensus)

iv. no one person or group

v. compromise

b. public has power

i. electoral process

ii. interest groups to shape public opinion

iii. lobby

c. institutions are neutral

d. conventional wisdom: US

i. representative political system

transparency, accountability

parties

elections

ii. competitive economy

iii. open educational system

iv. free press

2. Power Elite (C. Wright Mills)

a. society governed by elite triumvirate

b. hold command positions

i. political system: president, high level cabinet officials

ii. economy: corporate owners and directors

iii. military: leaders

c. cohesive= common outlook

d. make “trunk decisions”

i. major foreign policy and domestic decisions

ii. decisions frame debates and possibilities

e. other institutions shaped historically by power elite

i. education

ii. media

3. State autonomy theory

a. government is predominant power

b. “state”

c. monopoly on the use of force

d. defense

e. regulation and taxation

f. power over corporations

C. Two other theories

1. Domhoff: class domination theory

a. economic elite (corporate community) has power in U.S.

i. core composition: managers and owners of large corporations

ii. combined economic and social class

iii. cohesive community

common economic interests

common social experiences

social interactions

b. evidence

i. who rules?

ii. who wins?

iii. who benefits?

c. how: control political system through power networks

i. special-interest process: lobbyists, trade associations

ii. policy-planning process: foundations, think tanks

iii. candidate selection process: campaign financing

iv. opinion-shaping process: PR firms, media

2. Institutional or structural theory of power (Chomsky)

a. power is impersonal, embedded in institutions

1. institutions are governed by internal logic

c. agency constrained by logic of institutions

d. dominant institution: corporation

e. internal logic of corporation: maximize return on investment for shareholders.

f. creates a system of power relationships: constellation of power