I. American “Utopia”1950s?

1. Economy

1. corporations: large and larger

2. white collar workers

3. disempowering of labor unions

4. discovery of poverty

B. Political System

1. increasing size of government

2. elimination of third parties

3. consensus between two parties

a. domestic

b. foreign

4. Permanent War economy

a. cold war

b. rise of military industrial complex

i. military

ii. DOD

iii. weapons contractors

C. Cultural level

1. Literature: “The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit”

2. Film: “Rebel Without a Cause”

3. Music: Rock and Roll

4. Literature and Poetry: “Howl” and “On the Road”

5. Counter-culture: Beat Generation

II. C. Wright Mills

A. “White Collar”

1. Influence

a. Weber and bureaucracy

1. Marx and alienation

2. Problem: Increasing size of institutions

a. government and private

b. increasing rationalization

c. increasing bureaucratization

3. Nature of work

a. white collar

1. increasing division of labor

c. increasing specialization

d. jobs

i. routine

ii. rule governed

iii. less authority

iv. less autonomy

v. eternal

e. success: conformity

i. appearance

ii. behavior

iii. ideas

iv. social interactions

v. following rules

4. Consequences: White Collar and Alienation

a. behavior

b. thought

c. emotions

d. "in-corporation" of the human spirit

C. “Power Elite”

1. Power: Traditional idea

a. Weber

b. def: capacity of person or group to realize desired i

interests even against the resistance of others (Weber)

c. power in society = institutional power

i. economic

ii. political

iii. ideological

iv. legal

v. military

2. C. Wright Mills: Three types of power

a. force

b. authority

c. manipulation

3. U.S. and power

a. contra structural functionalism

1. power by authority

2. achieved through consensus

3. pluralistic theory of power

a. political system is neutral

b. individuals and groups compete

within system

c. demands compromise

d. power is not concentrated or

centralized

e. no one group wins all the time

f. veto power

g. free press

b. power through manipulation

i. interests of the people conflict w/

ii. large corporations, political elite, and

emerging military industrial complex

iii. need of legitimation therefore

manipulation

c. society governed by elite triumvirate: power elite

i. three areas: interwoven and integrated

i. political system

ii. economy

iii. military

iv. historically

v. presently: permanent war economy

d. elite: cohesive w/ common world view

i. common economic interests

ii. common world view

iii. common policy goals

e. command positions

i. president, high level cabinet officials

ii. corporate owners and directors

iii. military leaders

f. make “trunk decisions”

i. major foreign policy and domestic decisions

ii. decisions frame debates and possibilities

g. other institutions shaped by power elite

i. education

ii. media

uninformed

detached spectator

iii. public intellectuals

h. power and individual

i. alienated

ii. apathetic

iii. moral insensibility

iv. authoritarian personalities

v. loss of freedom and reason