I. American “Dystopia”1950s?

1. Economy

1. Corporations

a. larger and larger

b. more powerful

2. Disempowering labor unions: Taft-Hartley Act

3. White collar workers: men in “grey flannel suits”

4. Poverty: *The Other America*

B. Political System

1. Increasing size of government

2. Elimination of third parties

3. Consensus between two parties

a. domestic: government subsidized capitalism

b. foreign: American Empire

4. Cold war: elimination of dissent

C. Permanent War economy

1. Military industrial complex

a. military

b. DOD

c. weapons contractors

2. Annual subsidies

3. Technology and progress: weapons of mass destruction

D. Social System

1. “Separate but equal”

2. de jure segregation

E. Culture

1. Literature: “The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit,” “The Death of A Salesman,” “The Crucible”

2. Film: “Rebel Without a Cause” “The Day the Earth Stood Still”

3. Music: Rock and Roll

4. Counter-culture: Beat Generation

F. Who Rules America? Theory of *Power Elite*

1. Triangle of Power

a. institutional areas or orders

i. political order

ii. economic order

iii. military order

b. historically

c. present characteristics of each order

i. larger

ii. centralized

iii. increased technology

iv. increased power

v. more integrated

d. 1950s military dominates triangle

i.military most essential org

ii.military leaders influence domestic and foreign policies

iii. determine distribution of resources: permanent war economy

iv. control population

culture of fear

control public discourse: patriotism vs dissent

e. family, education, religion, media are subordinate

i. all are shape shaped by power elite

ii. media: legitimates power elite

2. Power elite

a. command positions

i. political leaders: president, high level officials

ii. corporate leaders: CEOs and directors of large corporations

iii. highest level military leaders

iv. interlocking and overlapping

b. elite: cohesive w/ common world view

i. common economic interests: what’s good for GM. . .

ii. shared policy goals

iii. shared foreign policy goals: “American Interests”

iv. shared world view

c. make “trunk decisions”

i. major foreign policy and domestic decisions

ii. decisions frame debates and possibilities

iii. “public” debate functions within these “frames”

3. means of governance: manipulation

a. interests of elite conflict with the people

b. elite need to

i. politically: manufacture consent

ii. culturally: manufacture consumers

c. institutions of manipulation

i. education

ii. media

(dis) inform

distract

iii. public intellectuals

d. consequences

i. alienated, apathetic and uninformed citizenry

ii. preoccupied with consumption

iii. morally insensible