I. Democracy for the Few

A. How to create a “democracy for the few?”

1. Establish a system of governance that appears to be a democracy, but

serves the few.

2. Means: structure the system

A. In the beginning

1. American Revolution

a. Economic revolution

b. Articles of Confederation

c. Shay’s Rebellion

d. Who should rule?

2. U.S. Constitution

a. centralized power

b. Senate

c. Electoral College

d Voting Qualifications

e. Winner take all voting

f. Gerrymandering

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/03/01/this-is-the-best-explanation-of-gerrymandering-you-will-ever-see/>

G. Ratification

i. Great Writ

ii. Bill of Rights

H. New “persons” and their rights

i. money =s free speech

ii. limits on money= violation of First Amendment

3. Gilded Age: a plutocracy or aristocracy?

4. Progressive Age

a. social unrest

b. ‘political reform as state subsidy to capitalism’

“In the first decades of the twentieth century, enlightened business leaders joined with progressive reformers to rebalance American capitalism – thereby rescuing it from the savage inequalities and corruption of the Gilded Age.”

c. appease the Great Beast, and then feed it-consumers not citizens

d. democratic realism: manufacturing consent

5. Purging socialism

a. First Red Scare

i. Russian Revolution,

ii.1919

iii. fear and threat

b. Great Depression, reform as subsidy again

c. unions: success as failure

d. Second Red Scare: Cold War

e. realization of American Exceptionalism

B. Vicious Cycle of Wealth and Power: Democracy for the Few

1. America’s democratic institutions

a. Electoral process: represent our interests

b. Legislative process: public policy

c. Judicial system: guarantees our rights

d. Free press: no government control of ideas and opinions

2. Power Networks

a. candidate selection process: candidate that represents interests of the few

b. special interest process: influence legislation

c. policy planning process: develop public policy and legislation in interests of upper class

d. opinion shaping process: manufacture consent of public

3. Candidate selection process

a. campaign financing

b. Who contributes?

c. Super PACs, 501c4s

4. Special Interest Process

a. lobbying

b. who lobbies? How many?

c. $3+ billion

5. Policy Planning Process

a. Goal: formulate and articulate long term policy goals to benefit of class interests

b. Foundations and think tanks

i. American Enterprise Institute

ii. Cato Institute

iii. Heritage Foundation

c. Policy-discussion groups

i. Committee for Economic Development

ii. Business Roundtable

iii. Council on Foreign Relation

6. Opinion Shaping Process

a. goal: shape public opinion in order to guarantee the success of policies that they favor

b. manufacturing consent

c. control ideological institutions

i. education

ii. corporate media

d. Free Press and democracy

i. function of journalism in democracy

ii. Espionage and Sedition Acts

e. Corporate journalism and democracy

7. Goals

a. lower taxes on rich and corporations

b. deregulation

c. subsidies

i. energy

ii. pharmaceutical

iii. financial

iv. military-industrial-surveillance

d. privatization: education, prisons, military, social security

e. global trade agreements

8. a through d are not in our interests, how is our consent manufactured

1. Create more jobs

b.

c.

i.

ii.

iii.

iv

d.

e.

9. How have things changed?

1. social security, medicate
2. privatization of education
3. deregulation
4. war
5. immigration, Islam, the Wall, nuclear weapons
6. culture of violence