I. Introduction: Social Construction of America

A. Primary Questions

I. Why is there so little real resistance to the increasing concentration of wealth and power in the U.S. and its consequences?

2. What is the function of media technology in the social construction of America?

B. text subtitles:

1. The Life and Death of American Resistance to Organized Wealth and Power.

2. The Rise of Corporate Power and the Disabling of Democracy

3. A Social History of Spin

C. Answer the questions: using theoretical tools of social constructionism

1. Main point: through interactions human beings create and recreate the social world in which they live, world becomes institutionalized (objectified) and people no longer recognize it as their creation (reification)

2. the reified social world then exercises power over human beings who fail to realize their capacity to collectively shape the world

3. “it is what it is”: inevitable, fated, destiny

D. Course

1. goal: dereify our social world, America

a. analyze how it was created and in whose interests

b. demythologize

i. separate myth from reality

ii. “lying world”

c. discover possibilities for change

2. focus

a. social construction of a myth and ideology

i. American Exceptionalism

ii. exception and exceptional

iii. “good” country

iv. Great

b. social construction of the American “capitalist” system

i. myth

creation

government as problem

ii. reality: state subsidized monopoly capitalism

c. social construction of American “democracy”

i. myth

ii. democracy for the few

d. social construction of unreality and its inhabitants

i. technology and the power to create reality

ii. technology and the avatar

e. collective power: myth vs history