I. Social Construction of American Capitalism

A. Myth

1. model for world

2. infinite possibilities

B. Reality

1. state subsidized monopoly capitalism

a. public money to private wealth

i. direct subsidies

ii. indirect subsidies

b. privatization/deregulation

2. not infinite

a. inequality in wealth and income

b. upward mobility

c. vital needs

II. Four Phases in Construction of American Capitalism

A. Primitive Accumulation to Civil War

1. Dispossess indigenous peoples of their land

a. justification

b. legitimation

i. terra nullius

ii. private property

c. land grants that created landed aristocracy

2. “Remove” people

a. Andrew Jackson and the war against the Seminole

b. Indian Removal

c. Indian Wars

3. Exploit resources cultivated by indigenous

a. animals

b. forests

c. land

4. create labor force: forced and slave

a. indentured servants

i. industrialization in England

ii. Acts of Enclosure

iii. Poor Laws

b. slave labor

B. Post-civil War to Depression: Industrialization

1. Second Dispossession: small farmers and also native Americans again

a. small farmers debt and foreclosure

b. native Americans: Dawes Act

c. consequences

i. workforce for newly emerging industrial economy

ii. native Americans to poorer and poorer reserves

2. Railroads (Manifest Destiny as technology)

a. driving force in industrialization

i. national system for transportation of goods

ii. other industries: mining, iron, timber

b. government subsized

i. land grants and loans from government

ii. military and Second Indian Wars

iii. relaxed immigration policies: immigrant labor force

3. Industrialization

a. national markets

b. urbanization

c. monopolies and robber barons

d. wage labor

4. Oops1

a. Great Depression

b. WWII

C. Post WWII to 1970s: “Great Prosperity”

1. The world after WWII

2. The US after WWII

3. State subsidized capitalism

a. direct transfer of manufacturing infrastructure

b. subsidize modern industry

i. computer

ii. electronics

iii. aerospace

iv. communications

v. automobile/trucks/airlines

vi. nuclear: Atoms for Peace

c. subsidizing the American Dream “Suburbia”

i. FHA and VA home loans

ii. infrastructure: highways

iii. schools

iv. middle class jobs

d. Suburbia and the “Other”

i. redlining

ii. segration

iii. urban ghetto

4. Welfare Capitalism

5. Prosperity and the Natural World

D. Late 1970s to Present: State Subsidized Monopoly Capitalism

1. Concentration of ownership^

2. Shared monopolies

3. Power elite

a. military-industrial-surveillance complex

b. financial complex

c. hi-tec

d. corporate media

4. political system subordinate to power elite

5. forces at work

a. policy of containment: Backlash

b. Globalization: Changing the rules

c. economic crisis

i. oil embargo

ii. stagflation

iii. deindustrialization

e. economic elite develop strategies in reaction to 60s

i. create constituency from segment of population hurt most by

economic problems: scapegoats

ii. create ideological infrastructure: think tanks, foundations

iii. control media

iv. transform education

f. Milton Friedman: Free Market Theory