I. Class Domination Theory

A. Who Rules America?

1. upper class

a. power to realize goals with little opposition from other groups

b.. upper class is both an economic class and social class

i.social class: interpersonal social interactions and shared membership in organizations

ii. economic class: same individuals own and control income producing wealth

2. power is institutionalized in two organizational networks: economy and political system-DOMINATION

3. Proof: power indicators

a. Who benefits? Measure: wealth and income

b. Who governs? Measure: who holds powerful positions

c. Who wins? Measure: who initiates, modifies, or vetoes policy initiatives

B. What are the consequences in U.S.

1. greater and greater power to upper class

2. social resources disproportionately to upper class

3. decline in vital needs of rest of society

4. institutionalization means power relations remain invisible and

unchallenged

C. Compositions of upper class

1. social class

a. people with common social background

b. education

c. social clubs

d. social psychology of upper class

2. economic class

a. own or control forces of production

b. shared economic interests

D. Class domination" institutionalization of economic power

1. Corporate community

1. large for profit corporations +owners, high level management

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pin8fbdGV9Y&list=PLB3A3B6087444D958>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SuUzmqBewg&list=PLB3A3B6087444D958>

b. “corporate community today”

i. concentration

ii. shared monopolies

iii. shared ownership

iv. boards of directors

` 2. economic power

a. power to shape economy

i. goods and services

ii. division of labor

b. control over labor

i. automation

ii. deskilling

iii. hire, fire, and move jobs and production

c. power over communities (“race to the bottom”)

i. invest when and where they want

ii. disinvest: capital flight

3. limits of economic power

a. possibility of government intervention

b. possibility of “the people”

E. Class Domination and the political system

1.. Power Networks

a. candidate selection process: candidate that represents interests of upper class

b. special interest process: influence decision making

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

d. opinion shaping process: manufacture consent of public

2. Candidate selection process or voting

a. campaign financing

b. who contributes?

c. who governs?

3. Special Interest Process or legislation

a. lobbying

b. who lobbies? How many?

i. industries

ii. trade groups

iii. front groups

c. $3+ billion

4. Policy Planning Process

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

b. Foundations,

c. think tanks

i. American Enterprise Institute

ii. Cato Institute

iii. Heritage Foundation

d. Policy-discussion groups

i. Committee for Economic Development

ii. Business Roundtable

iii. Council on Foreign Relation

5. Opinion Shaping Process

a. goal: manufacture consent in order to guarantee the success of policies that they favor

b. education, media, marketing and pr, churches