I. Power

1. Traditional theories of power

1. Examples: Pluralism, power elite, Marxist, structural/institutional

* 1. def: capacity of minority group to shape society for desired ends.

3. nature of power

a. hierarchical

b. concentrated

c. coercive

4. assumptions

a. people with different and conflicting interests

b. people can identify interests

c. people can act individually and collectively

d. powerful control majority of people to achieve their interests

e. “1984”

i. hierarchical society “Big Brother” and “Inner Party”at top

ii. majority: Prols at bottom

iii. propaganda: Ministry of Truth, Ministry of Love, Ministry of Peace

iv. surveillance: cameras, Thought Police

v. “War is Peace: Freedom is Slavery; Ignorance is Strength”

B. Power and practice

1. goal

a. control government

b. control ideological institutions

c. eliminate dissent

2. means

a. ideology

i. ideas that justify or conceal power arrangements

ii. validate conventional wisdoms

b. propaganda

i. lies

ii. fear

c. force: police as internal security

d. example

C. Nazi Germany

1. strong centralized government

a. dictator= nation=sacred mission

i. power in concentrated

ii. Fuhrer, Duce, Caudillo

b. single political party

c. rituals, spectacles, symbols

2. centralized and highly concentrated economy

a. government controlled

b. large corporations

c. merging of economic and political goals

i. expansion, resources

ii. Nazis/Lebensraum

d. anti-labor

3. military: dominant and privileged institution

a. security from enemies: within and without

b. disproportionate share of resources

c. disproportionate influence on policy: military solutions

d. military values: obedience, respect for authority, courage, heroism: Italy “believe, obey, fight”

e. universal male conscription: service and sacrifice

f. takes a dominate place in cultural life: rituals, ceremonies, holidays (reinforces lying world)

4. mass media

a. centralized

b. concentrated

c. propaganda

i. fear

ii. scapegoating, demonization

iii. lying world

5. Legal and Criminal Justice system

a. internal security

b. “creating”, pursuing, and convicting enemies

of the state

c. severe penalties

6. Education

a. history as myth

b. reinforce the “lying world”

c. fascist values

7. Marriage and Family

a. nuclear family

b. women in domestic sphere

c. procreation is service to country

8. The People

a. Function of the nation

b. Life lived for the Nation: sacrifice to mission

c. Patriotism

d. Dissent: sacrilege

D. Power in the U.S. : Pluralism

1. Conventional theory (wisdom): characteristics

a. decentralized (people) not hierarchical

b. fluid, not concentrated

c. legitimate (consensual) not coercive

d. elections

2. Conventional theory: institutions

a. government: power is authorized

i. representative

ii. open and accountable

iii. checks and balances

vi. individual rights vs government

v. no class domination

b. press

i. free not government controlled

ii. guaranteed in First Amendment

iii. access to all ideas

E. Two other theories

1. Domhoff: class domination theory of power (power elite)

a. traditional

b. economic elite: corporate community and social elite

i. homogenous group with common interests

ii. possess and control economy

iii. use wealth to control political system

iv. shape institutions to their benefits

2. Chomsky: institutional or structural theory of power

1. institutions have power
2. governed by internal logic

c. dominant institution: corporation

d. corporation: internal logic is profit

e. goal: shape the world toward this end

F. Constellation of power

1. Economic power is the center from which power

radiates

a. Corporation is dominant institution

i. size

ii. concentration

iii. common interests: deregulation, privatization, tort reform

b. Controls political system

i. campaing financing

ii. lobbying

c. ideological institutions

i. (they are) the mass media

ii. education?

iii. think tanks

d. judicial/cj system

e. military-industrial-intelligence complex

E. Constellation of power: effects

1. concentrated economic power

a. undermines labor

b. corporate interests v individual needs, communities, common good

c. shape marketplace

2. political power

a. disenfranchises “the people”

b. enfranchises corporations and their interests

c. ignores vital needs of people

3. ideological institutions: social control

a. ideas

b. beliefs

1. desires
2. dreams

4. legal/cj system

5. military-industrial-intelligence complex