I. Systemic Power

A. Components of Systemic Power

1. Economic power

2. Political power

3. Ideological power

4. Legal

5. Force: police and military

B. Goals of Systemic Power

1. Maintain system

2. Universalize system

a. universalizing extreme inequality

i. individual inequality in wealth is a global phenomenon

ii. fewer and fewer corporations are larger and larger and

dominant the global economy

b. universalizing global control

i. global institutions: World Trade Organization, IMF, World Bank

ii. Global Trade Agreements

iii. SAP, Austerity measures dominant nation-state policies

c. universalizing corporate control, corporatizing

i. every institution should be a corporation or modeled after

ii. education, prisons

d. universalizing authoritarianism and militarism

i. police state

ii. militarization as social control

ii. permanent war

e. universalizing ideological control

i. global control of ideas, especially neoliberalism

ii. Citizens of the democratic societies should undertake a course of intellectual self-defense to protect themselves from manipulation and control, to lay the basis for meaningful democracy.

f. universalizing Western Ways of Knowing

i. McDonalization of the World

ii. eliminate other cultures and tradition except as commodities for tourists

g. universalizing transspecies extinction and destruction of nature

i. climate change

ii. species extinction

iii. war and the environment

h. universalizing “corporatized democracies”

i. democracy for the few

ii. Citizens United

iii. $400 million

i. universalizing existential threats to all life

i. all of the above

ii. and nuclear war

j. universalizing alienation

i. mental illness

ii. anger

iii. Erich Fromm

3. Create systemic conditions to guarantee interests: profit over people

4. Eliminate resistance: domestic and foreign

C. Systemic Power in the U.S.

1. Large corporations dominate constellation + an entrenched upper class

a. socially constructed phenomenon

b. governed by an institutional logic and legal decision

c. U.S. economy

i. size

ii. concentration

iii. shared monopolies

d. goals:

i. control over other institutions

ii. maximize profit

e. interests

i. lower taxes

ii. privatization

iii. deregulation

iv. expansion

v. wealthfare

2. Control economic system

a. labor

b. means of production

c. markets

d. communities

3. Control the political system

a. campaign financing

b. lobbying

c. regulatory appointments (revolving door)

d. benefit

i. wealthfare

ii. deregulation

iii. privatization

iv. “bailouts”

4. own mass media

a. corporate owned

b. advertising sponsored

c. concentration of ownership

d. benefit: power to frame social discourse

i. controls information

ii. controls ideas

iii. experts

e. benefit: advertising or “the ad and the ego”

i. subjectivity is constructed

ii. compliant subjects who experience domination as freedom

iii. branding children and the triumph of consumerism

iv. “I buy therefore I am”

5. education

a. underfunding

b. gatekeeping: knowledge and class

c. devaluing knowledge and intelligence

d. social construction of ignorance and passivity

6. judicial/criminal justice system

a. judges

i. campaign financing

ii. lobbying

iii. appointments

b. laws

c. two cj systems

7. military-industrial complex

(military-industrial-intelligence-security complex)

a. resources

b. weapons contractors

c. security contractors (2003/3,512; 2006/116,000)

c. “empire of bases”/ benefits of war

d. . privatization

e. surveillance state