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EXAMINATION BOOK

SOC 316 Eger M

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SUBJECT

Exam 1

CLASS

Sociology 316 - Theories

SECTION —

INSTRUCTOR

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Outline 8.1

Coordination: stable expectations of others behavior

Cooperation: working together for a common goal

Durkheim

shared meaning through religion → rituals (group unification)

→ diverse religions in US, but protected by 1st amendment

→ actions stem from values; rituals physical way of affirming beliefs

Marx

shared meaning through life experiences (what you know)

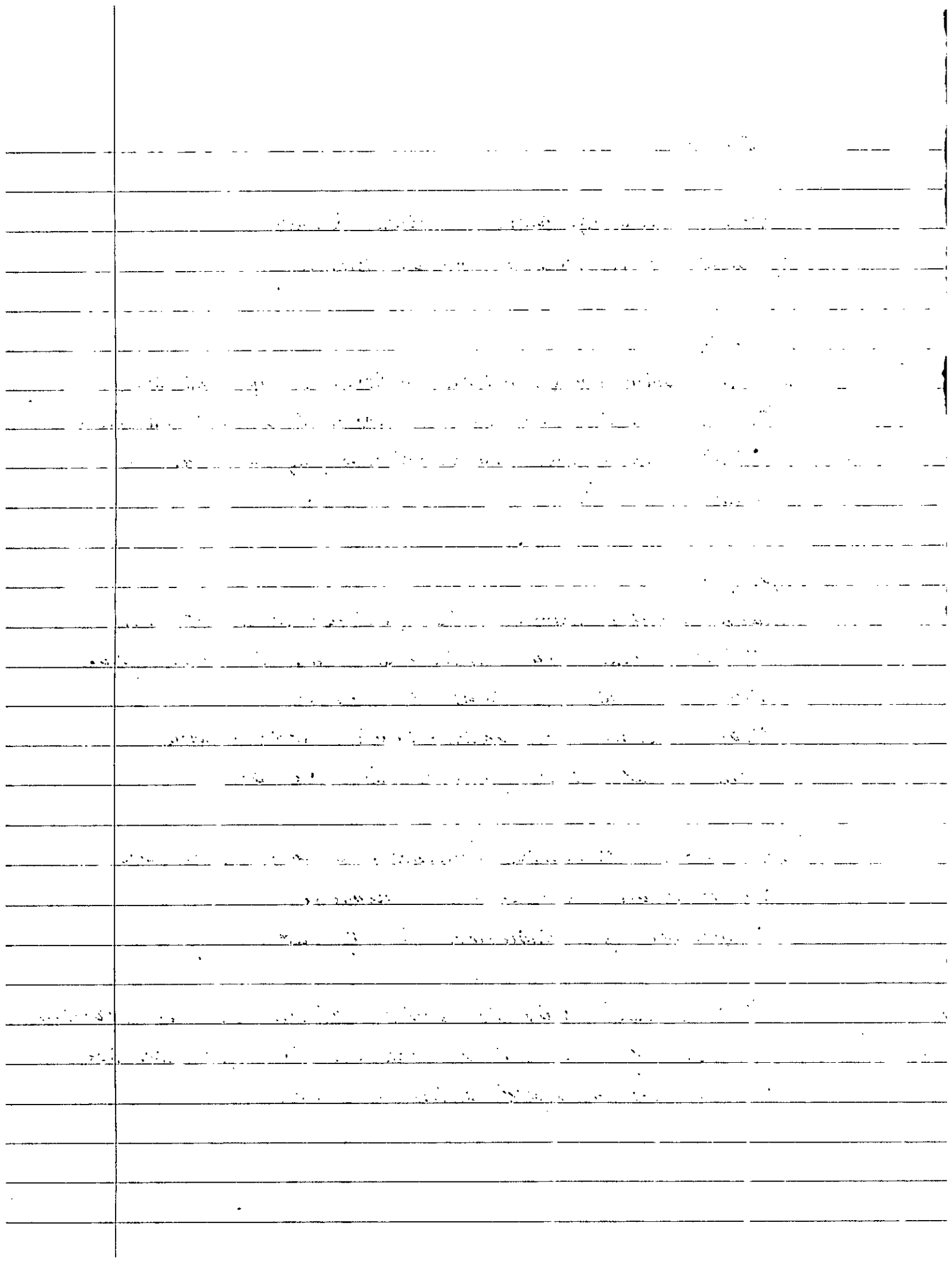
→ diverse social status; hierarchical scale in work place manifests different values in society

→ values stem from action; valuing society comes from what you produce, who you are

Both affect coordination/cooperation because those are both necessary for shared meaning

→ expectations & willingness to cooperate

→ no social order in society without shared meaning because if no set of common values, no incentive to cooperate or expect action of others



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Question 1

Two theorists that can explain the idea of shared meaning are Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx. Through the utilization of cooperation and coordination, shared meaning is possible.

24/50
Durkheim emphasizes shared meaning through the aspect of religious values. He classifies ^{objects} ~~beliefs~~ as either sacred or profane, and describing the act of performing rituals to bring a sense of shared meaning. Rituals are the physical actions that affirm our ~~mental~~ intangible beliefs/values. The act of performing rituals requires coordination (stable expectations) of how others will act; this unifies the group and focuses on a common understanding of values. Durkheim's theory concludes that values (shared meaning) are a product of action.

need context about collective effectiveness
Karl Marx describes shared meaning by our level of consciousness: what we produce is what we are. Marx bases his theory off of the physical world rather than social interactions. A person values society because of the common understanding that there are specific roles that must be filled in order to sustain life. An understanding of one's place leaves them as a content, efficient, productive member of society, who will produce, and cooperate to meet an end. Marx's theory concludes that values determine action.

① In analyzing the United States in regards to these two theories, both do a good job of justifying shared meaning through different approaches. To represent Durkheim, the first amendment can be used: freedom of speech and freedom of religion. As Americans, we are all part of the citizenship, and everything that it entails. We are bound by laws and regulations, understanding that trespassing these laws results in consequences. The first amendment guarantees a freedom of religion. Whether or not everyone in the United States agrees with it is irrelevant, because there is the common knowledge of the law. It is understood through coordination of behavior, that the law will be enacted and respected. While the content of the religion may vary, the function of the rituals do not; therefore we must honor them.

② Karl Marx can offer perspective onto the work aspect of America. In the hierarchical scale of a factory, there are different work levels: factory worker, supervisor, boss, factory owner. This scale represents the means of production for each actor, offering each a different perspective or set of values. Despite the class of worker, the work is recognized as legitimate because it is what sustains their way of life. Therefore, the worker values society and will cooperate to ensure that society yields their desires.

Since the United States is so diverse, shared
③ Marx expects conflict between classes

this is
little
different
from what
Marx says

meaning is essential for social order. More so, coordination is necessary, because placing a value on others behavior, or expectations of them, provides an incentive

②

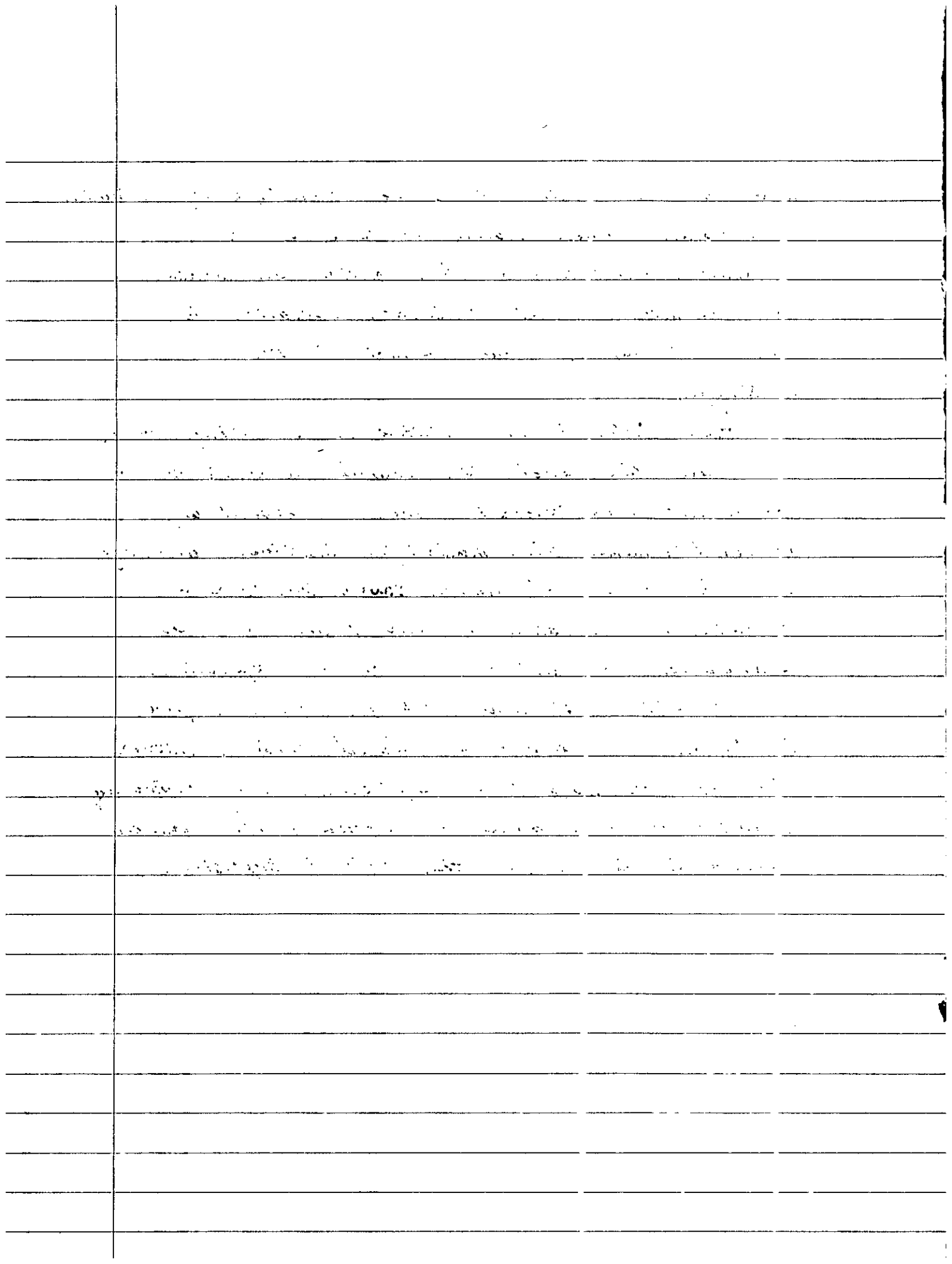
for cooperation. Without coordination, cooperation is unlikely to happen because benefit is not maximized.

Social Order is not possible in a society where there are discrepancies over shared meaning. Levels of coordination and cooperation must be present, as they go hand-in-hand with maximizing individual gain. If there is no set of common values, then there is a

①

virtually no expectations of others; lack of basic foundation undermines the act of cooperation.

Overall, Marx and Durkheim are both able to explain the relevance of shared meaning. Through different lenses, aspects of cooperation and coordinating behavior are both found as necessary for common ^{vice versa} meaning: without the two social order is impossible.



Outline 8.2

nuclear summit

→ 47 countries

↳ limit uranium resources as less accessible to terrorists; also ~~also~~ make nuclear energy more effective

Hobbes

- leviathan makes a central authority necessary

→ use of punishment (fear) encourages others to cooperate

→ "war of all against all" → competition for power/security

→ freedom is given up for protection/security of leviathan

→ US is leviathan in this case

Weber

- bureaucratic system (rational legal)

→ legitimacy through our laws

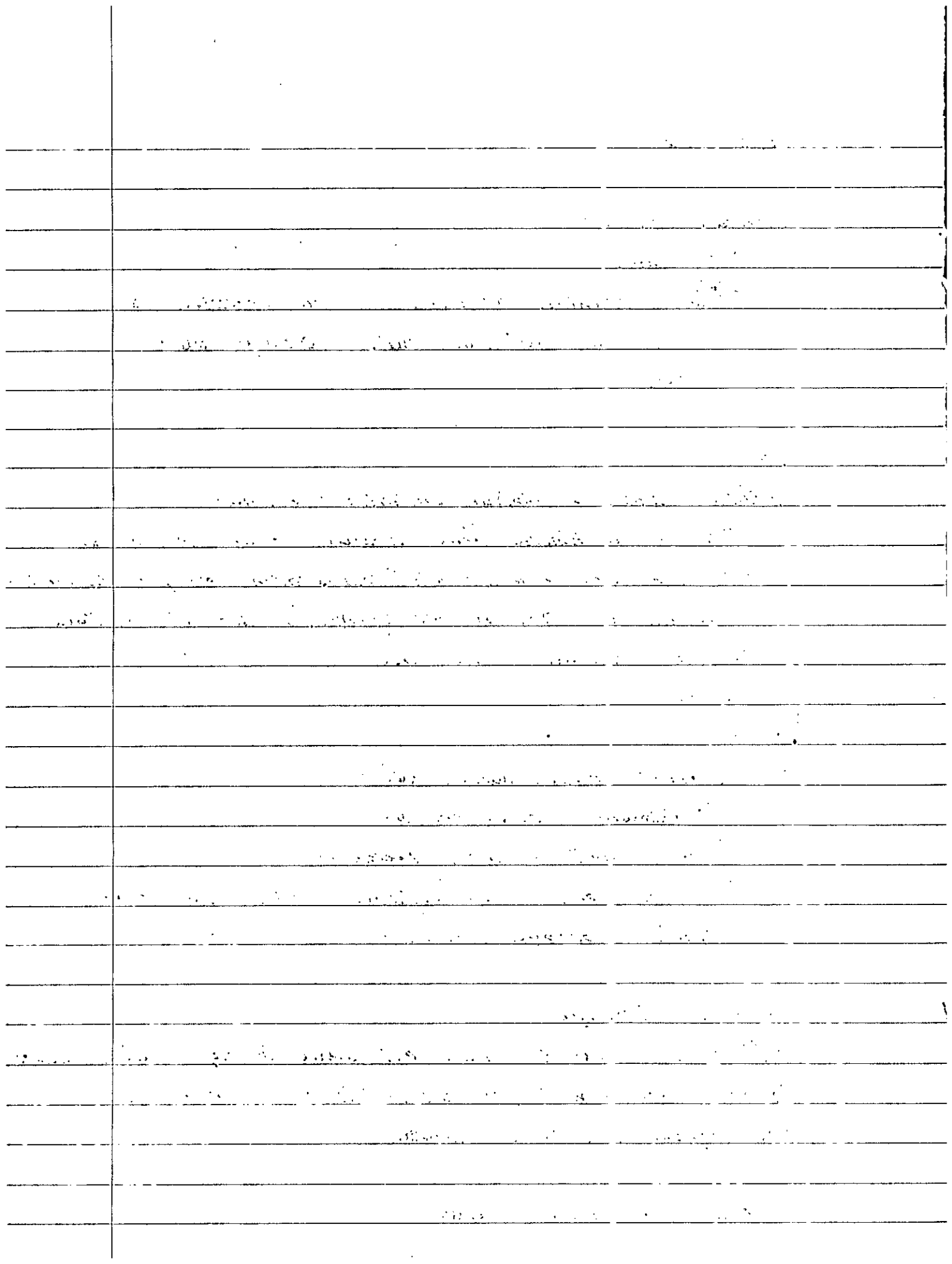
→ some level of trust necessary

→ US is seen as a legitimate society by others which encourages cooperation

Prisoners Dilemma

- US & other countries must all agree to stop building nukes in order for benefit (cooperation) → if one country does not cooperate, then lose-lose situation

→ circle of guns example



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Question 2

The Nuclear Summit provides an ample opportunity for countries to exhibit and exercise ~~their~~ their power over one another. An arms race is ~~the~~ a prime example of the Prisoner's Dilemma because it shows the advantages of cooperating and disadvantages of betrayal. By citing two theorists and their conceptions of power and authority, I will break down the Nuclear Summit.

24/25
Hobbes explains the need for a central authority figure to bring end to chaos. His views of human nature/behavior are pessimistic, saying that ~~people~~ individuals will only act on account of their best interests. Individuals all strive for power and security, and will go to any lengths to obtain it. Since everyone is self-interested, there needs to be an authority due to the lack of cooperation that will occur. This authority, or Leviathan instills a constant fear through the use of punishment to coerce individuals into cooperation. In light of this theory, in regards to the role of the United States in this summit, the United States is viewed as the Leviathan. As the summit was orchestrated, ideas of giving up power quickly emerged, ~~as requested~~ requested on behalf of the U.S. Basically, if countries did not decrease supplies of available uranium (potentially dangerous if in hands of terrorist group), then there would be consequences, encouraged

It has central authority just as a basis for
Why the United States but enforced by all. The United States was clearly the dominate figure in these negotiations, and as a result would be considered the Leviathan by Hobbes.

✓ Weber moves away from the idea of one central authority figure, and encourages a bureaucratic system based on legitimacy. The leader of the government is deemed as fully capable, deserving and qualified of their position. As such, there is the rational legal belief that the leader will act on behalf of the people's best interests. The

✓ United States is viewed as a legitimate system by other nations. This legitimacy produces cooperation through a sense of trust. The bureaucratic system will function on best interest. Other countries in attendance of the Summit understood the rigid structure of our government, the process of politics, and the overall legitimacy of the cause.

✓ Both theorists tackle a different incentive for cooperation: fear and punishment versus legitimization. Both are equally effective in predicting the actions of others, which, as a result solidify a shared meaning. → not emphasized by other of these theorists

The Prisoners Dilemma can be used to illustrate the net gain or loss of a given situation. In this case, the harboring of nuclear

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Chemicals, production, or illegal use of these substances leads to a need for cooperation. If all countries during the summit agree to halt all use of nuclear substances, it is a positive sum game. However, if one country chooses not to, there is absolutely no benefit at all: all countries will still have the access to nuclear materials. Same situation as if no one

chooses to cooperate because then everyone is still in possession of weapons. This is based on the idea that humans are all rational egoists, acting only on their behalf. Why would one country forfeit

power and security at the risk of the other countries maintaining theirs? The answer is simply that this would not happen: making the case

for legitimacy and a Leviathan. Cooperation, in terms of the Prisoner's Dilemma is the only way for unanimous benefit across the board.

A general example of this could be illustrated by a group of five men holding rifles. One man says they should all put down the rifles on the count of three; but what guarantee is there that everyone will give up their power? Rational egoists all want power, and will therefore not cooperate unless there is use of punishment or belief in legitimacy. Unless everyone cooperates, it is a lose-lose situation. In a situation of "war of ~~Tatoo and Ticker~~ all against all,"

need a
little more
about original
game setup

there is no incentive to cooperate in the absence
of a leviathan. Man will stay true to rational
egoism and stay consistent in the hunt for power.

Overall, Hobbes and Weber illustrate the
need for some form of control and incentive to
cooperate. Without incentives, there is no reason for man
to risk a loss of power and security.



Sus·tain·able

1: capable of being sustained

2a: of, relating to, or being a method of harvesting or using a resource
so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged

2b: of, or relating to, a lifestyle involving the use of sustainable methods

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