

using coercion to back the extraction of profits from debtors, Graeber argues, is „to force the debtors themselves to bureaucratize ever-increasing dimensions of their own lives, which have to be managed as if they were themselves a tiny corporation measuring inputs and outputs and constantly struggling to balance its accounts“ (Graeber 2015: 24). In a pretty different context but a very similar application, this practice can be observed with the German unemployment benefit system, where beneficiaries are exposed to excessive amounts of paperwork and face severe sanctions when non-compliant to regulations. Furthermore, Graeber mentions how transnational administrative institutions like the UN together with the Bretton Woods institutions get to formulate and develop policies in large parts of the Global South as a consequence of the existing debt system (ibid. 30-31). Some of these aspects shall be explored later in the writing when examining refugee camps (see e.g. Hyndman 2000).

THE „OMINOUS AND SINISTER WORLD OF TOTAL ADMINISTRATION“ – CRITICAL THEORY

„Of all the modern entrepreneurs of escape, Walt Disney must rank among the greatest. His Disneyland epitomizes the bureaucratization of myth in a place where fairytales are animated by the spirit of rational organization“ (Greisman & Ritzer 1981: 46).

Derived from Marxist thought, Critical Theory is a school innately tracing all forms of domination back to the prevailing mode of production (Greisman & Ritzer 1981: 39). From this perspective the economic system engenders a standardization and rationalization that, imposed on all other realms of society, serve as an unrestricted control mechanism. The consequence is a domination termed „total administration“ by representatives of Critical Theory (ibid.). In the scenario of a total administration „[...] that which still appears to be ‚outside‘ owes its extraterritoriality more to toleration or