

Capitalist stateand the politics of class

Winthrop Publishers - The FBI: The political police of the US capitalist class

The Capitalist State

- The notion of a capitalist state draws upon Marxist theory.
- According to the Marxist theory, the state is developed out of class struggle. Therefore, the state is a way of economic organization, and an instrument for the oppression of the working class by the capitalist/bourgeoisie.
- Every state is a form of class dictatorship whether it is bourgeoisie or proletariat dictatorship.
- The state reflects the class divisions in a society, and the modern state is a manifestation of a capitalist society.

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Politics of Capitalism, Political Science, WCAS, 2021 Winter: Class Descriptions

We submit that some white workers holding onto racist ideas is proof that this ruling class tool is in good working order. But, as J M Keynes once said, in the long run we are all dead: the world system will have to endure many convulsions and crises, some possibly fatal, before its arrival at a global political reorganisation can be completed.

Ellen Meiksins Wood, The Separation of the Economic and the Political in Capitalism, NLR I/127, May

These objections do not however make the instrumentalist model fully irrelevant. Yet the might of the state continues to be seen as important not merely by bureaucrats and generals, but also by those who manage the capitals that are based within it. It also provides one structure, among others, within which national, state and local power blocs can organize the resolution of their own contradictions and produce a unified political strategy.

State capitalism

If the development of productive capital, and to a lesser extent commodity capital, is entangled with the development of the geographic state, then so is the development of capitalism as a whole—even if in the form of money capital capitalism seems to have no need for the state.

Marxian Theory of State: Intro, Definition, Classes and Evaluation

We thus believe that a mass-based, democratic, ruptural strategy, grounded in a more sophisticated theorization of the contemporary capitalist state, is the most realistic way to think about the transition to socialism. We are back to yet another kind of tautology. Successfully undertaking these tasks of working class formation and state transformation requires developing a socialist party as a crucial mechanism.

Socialist Strategy and the Capitalist Democratic State

However, material and political concessions within capitalism can be won on the terrain of the state that enhance both the quality of life and expand the political capacities of the working classes.

Capitalism, the State and Crises

The state, in all cases and in all epochs, is an instrument of the ruling class this is an oversimplification of the whole issue. Capitalists have control of key resources in society, namely wealth.

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