

OUTLINE Lecture 17. Sociology 621. October 29, 2013
The State and Accumulation: functionality & contradiction

I. The Functionalist Logic of the Theory of the State

1. The class character of the state and functionality
2. Key problem for functionalist explanation = feedback processes. Three connected processes:
 - *Political class struggle at pivotal conjunctures*
 - *Systemic pressures that reinforce or undermine state policy*
 - *Institutional learning and correction of mistakes*
3. The Bourgeois Political Utopia

II. Problematic functionality: Four Types of contradictory functionality.

1. Legitimation vs. Accumulation = contradictions *between* state functions
2. Autonomy vs subordination: Contradictions *within* the accumulation function
 - 2.1 *Thesis 1*: the state must intervene to prevent capitalism from destroying itself economically.
 - 2.2 *Thesis 2*: the deeper the contradictions of accumulation, the more autonomy the state needs to contain them
 - 2.3 *Thesis 3*: The Frankenstein problem: To be able intervene effectively to protect capitalism the state needs to have a level of autonomy that also enables it damage capitalism
 - 2.4 Conclusion: *The Contradiction Thesis* = Various dynamics are set in motion which make it increasingly probable that the state will act dysfunctionally → *a crisis of crisis management*.
3. Contradictions in the *administrative rationality* of the state policy formation process
 - 3.1 Three logics of state decision-making
 - *Bureaucratic procedures*: rational-legal application of fixed rules
 - *technical rationality*: application of expertise to solve problems
 - *democratic consensus*: formation of interest consensus via democratic-participatory forms
 - 3.2 Pivotal dilemma:

Bureaucratic mechanism fail under conditions of complexity, but the alternatives are also unsatisfactory
Result = contradictory articulation of *decision-making logic* and *functional requirements* of accumulation
4. Contradiction between Internationalization of Capital accumulation and territorially-bounded State