I. WHAT IS A THEORY OF HISTORY? WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR "HISTORY" TO BE AN OBJECT OF THEORY?

- 1. Negative answer: history as such is not a legitimate object of scientific theory
- 2. Positive answer: the overall trajectory of history can be explained
- 3. Contrast: historical materialism vs cosmology, evolutionary biology, individual organisms
- 4. Why Bother? Historical Materialism is, above all, a theory of the history of future.

II. THE GENERAL THEORY OF HISTORICAL MATERIALISM & THE SPECIAL THEORY OF CAPITALIST HISTORY

- 1. What precisely is the *explanandum* of the General Theory?
- 2. The core intuition of the General Theory

III. FUNCTIONAL EXPLANATIONS IN GENERAL

- 1. The basic logic of Cohen's Reconstruction of Historical Materialism
 - #1. The forces of production functionally explain the relations of production, and
 - #2. The relations of production functionally explain the superstructures.
- 2. The structure of functional explanations: review from earlier lecture
- 3. Functional vs intentional explanation (reprise)
- 4 Functional explanation & functional description
- 5 Functional explanations vs epiphenomal attributions

IV. Functional explanations in HM

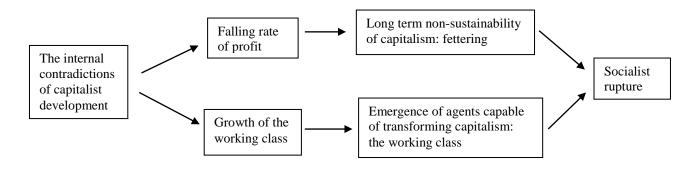
| | 1b. The economic structure of a society has the effect of furthering the development of the productive forces |
|----------|--|
| <u> </u> | 2b. The superstructure of a society is has the effect of contributing to the stability of the economic structure |

V. TECHNOLOGICAL DETERMINISM IN THE GENERAL THEORY OF HISTORY

- 1. Why the PF tend to develop
- 2. A functional Explanation for the emergence of classes.
- 3. A Functional Explanation for the Transformation of class structures.
- 4. The outcome of transformation
- 5. Five theses that summarize Cohen's argument
 - Compatibility Thesis
 - Development thesis
 - Contradiction thesis
 - Transformation Thesis
 - Optimality thesis

V. THE SPECIAL THEORY OF CAPITALIST HISTORY: THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED MORE IN LECTURE

The Traditional Marxist Theory of How Capitalist Contradictions → Socialism



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