

I. INTRODUCTION

1. BASE/SUPERSTRUCTURE

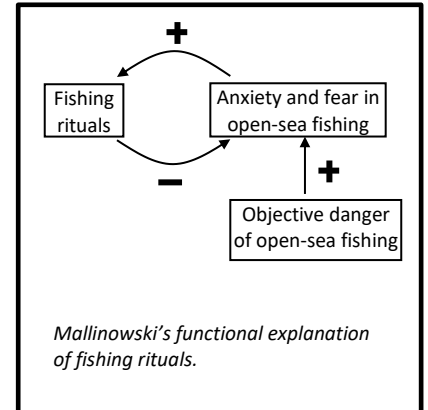
2. FUNCTIONAL EXPLANATIONS

- 2.1 The structure of functional explanations: a consequence of something explains its existence
- 2.2 functional vs intentional explanation
- 2.3 functional explanation & functional description

3. WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE SUPERSTRUCTURAL VIEW OF THE STATE?

4. MODIFYING THE FUNCTIONAL IMAGE OF THE STATE

- (1) State as arena of struggle → *contested* functionality.
- (2) State as part of a complex semi-coherent system → *contradictory* functionality.
- (3) The state as an historically specific structure: *contingent contradictory* functionality.



II. BASIC CONCEPTS FOR UNDERSTANDING POLITICS & THE STATE

1. POLITICS

- 1.1 Practice in general
- 1.2 General format of practice: raw materials/means-of-production/transformation/product
- 1.3 Three practices:
 - *Economic* practice: transforms nature (into use-values)
 - *Ideological* practice: transforms human lived experience (into subjectivity).
 - *Political* Practice = human social action that *transforms power relations*
- 1.4 Reproduction as Transformation.
- 1.5 *Type* of Practice vs *Aspect* of Practice.
- 1.6 Multiplicity of Types of Political Practice.

2. POLITICAL POWER

- 2.1 Power in General.
- 2.2 Instrumental & structural power.
- 2.3 Means & efficacy of Instruments of power.
- 2.4 Organizations as the "Means" of Politics.

3. DOMINATION

- 3.1 Power vs Domination as concepts.
- 3.2 The Multiple "faces" of power/domination.
 - A dominates B when A can get B to do something even over the objections of B: instrumental power
 - A dominates B when A can define the range of alternatives open to B
 - A dominates B when A is able to realize A's interests at the expense of B's interests
- 3.3 System-logic notions of power/domination
 - *Systemic power*: power over what game is to be played : revolutionary v counterrevolutionary politics;
 - *Organizational power*: power over the rules of the game: reformist v reactionary politics;
 - *Situational power*: power over plays within a given set of rules: liberal vs conservative politics.

4. THE STATE

- 4.1 The state = (1) *the most super-ordinate*, (2) *territorially centralized* (3) *institution of domination* = supreme institution of "ruling-making, rule-applying, rule-adjudicating, rule-enforcing and rule-defending" (Therborn)
- 4.2 Contrast with Weberian definitions and some Marxist definitions.
- 4.3 Variability in the degree of stateness.

5. STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY