

## MYSTIFICATION

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### 1. Definition of Mystification

- *MYSTIFICATION* = Distortions of perceptions of reality that mask/obscure that reality.
- Illustration: Mystification of nature

### 2. Social Examples of mystification

- *Individualistic explanations of individual acts.*
- *Partial structural explanations of structural effects.*

### 3. Fetishism

- *“fetishism” as a general idea*
- *commodity fetishism*
- *capital fetishism*
- *market fetishism*

### 4. Mystification and Reality: mystifications are not hallucinations

### 5. Mystification of the Actual and the Possible

- critical issue = naturalizing socially constructed institutions: TINA as mystification
- implication = *The social production of functioning alternatives is one of the basic ways of struggling against the mystification of the existing society as the only possible society.*

### 6. Functionalist Thinking in the Theory of Mystification

- Problem: why should masking distortions of reality also be optimal for social reproduction?
- Mystification distorts subjectivity of bourgeoisie as well as the working class
- Central question should be: *what processes obstruct demystification*

### 7. Ideological Apparatuses & struggle

### 8. Mystification and Socialism/Communism