

Sociology 621. Lecture 3. OULINE
September 14, 2011
The Critique of Capitalism

Leftover from last lecture

4.3 An ambiguity in the analysis: From profits to Capital accumulation

The Critique of Capitalism

1. Two grounds for criticism:

- Capitalism generates *harms* of various sorts.
- Capitalism generates *injustices*.

2. Four rubrics of critique: exploitation, domination, injustice, and irrationality.

3. The Inventory

Exploitation

1. *Capitalist class relations perpetuate eliminable forms of human suffering.*
2. *Capitalism blocks the universalization of conditions for expansive human flourishing.*

Domination

3. *Capitalism perpetuates eliminable deficits in individual freedom and autonomy.*
4. *Capitalism, in a world of nation states, fuels militarism and imperialism.*
5. *Capitalism limits democracy.*

Injustice

6. *Capitalism violates liberal egalitarian principles of social justice.*

Irrationality

7. *Capitalism is inefficient in certain crucial respects.*
8. *Capitalism is environmentally destructive.*
9. *Capitalism has a systematic bias towards consumerism.*
10. *Capitalist commodification threatens important broadly held values.*
11. *Capitalism corrodes community.*