

Outline Lecture 15. Sociology 621. March 9, 2017
What makes the capitalist state a *capitalist* state?

1. INTRODUCTION

- **Pivotal Contrast:** “State in Capitalist Society” v. “a *Capitalist State*” – instrumentalist v. structuralist approaches
- **Central question for both instrumentalists and structuralists:** *How do we explain the fact that the state broadly functions to serve the interests of the capitalist class and reproduce capitalism?*
- Instrumentalist v. structuralist answers: acting *at the behest* vs *on behalf* of capital.

2. METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES (Claus Offe)

2.1. THE MEANING OF “CLASS CHARACTER”

Negative Selectivity

Nested Filter Mechanisms

- structural/constitutional properties
- ideological filters
- process/procedures of policy formation, bargaining, etc.
- repression

2.2. How to demonstrate class bias: the logic of explaining “nonevents”

2.3. Methodological problem = there is an infinity of things that do not happen.

- Contingently excluded nonevents
- “Epochally” excluded nonevents

2.4. Strategies for identifying systematically excluded possibilities

- *normative criteria*
- *objective interests*
- *empirical comparisons*
- *voiced claims*
- *crisis and failure of limits*

3. WHAT MAKES THE CAPITALIST STATE A CAPITALIST STATE? (Göran Therborn)

3.1. State Apparatus & State Power

- Weak and Strong versions of the class selectivity of state apparatuses thesis.

3.2. Illustration of some class attributes

- The Selection of Tasks: public/private demarcation
- Resource Acquisition – variability of tax constraint, especially because of working class solidarity
- Transformation of tasks – the problem of bureaucratic insulation
- Leadership – mechanisms of recruitment of state directorate

IV. THE PROBLEM OF THE “PATRIARCHAL” STATE

1. SOME POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR PATRIARCHAL FORM

- Privatized familialism
- Professionalism & competitive careerism
- Abstract universalism in formal rationality of the law

2. PRIVATIZED FAMILIALISM: TWO DIMENSIONS OF THE PUBLIC/PRIVATE DEMARCATION –

- Capitalism dimension: private property
- Patriarchal dimension: private sphere of the family outside of state regulation