

## Sociology 924 Agenda issues from Interrogations #4, Week 5. 10/2/2002

### 1. The logic of the coalition-dilemma.

- What is the precise mechanism of this dilemma? How does it work? In what *precise* sense does a vote maximizing strategy reduce support of socialist parties by core workers? And aren't there countervailing forces – like bandwagon effects (Landy Sanchez) Would the argument fall apart if the working class was 50% of the population? (Christine Overdeest)
- *Definition of "working class"*. Przeworski defines the core constituency of the SD party as factory manual workers. Does it matter for the coalition dilemma whether this is called "the working class" or a "fraction" of the working class? (Matt Vidal)
- *Working class "interests."* What precisely does Przeworski mean when he says SDPs try to appeal to "working class interests?" How is this related to identities? (Amy Lang) Why should we believe that the best way to appeal to workers is to appeal only to class interests qua class interests? (Landy Sanchez)
- *Manual/White collar division*. (Landy Sanchez, Matt Dimick, Robyn Autry, Matt Nichter) What is the real mechanism that makes the appeal to white collar workers a "dilemma" – why does this undermine support by manual labor? Why does expanding the policy space to include policies relevant to white collars undermine support by blue collar workers? Why does appeal to "universal interests" undermine class character of parties? Why cannot the contradictions of capitalism provide a basis for a broader coalition.
- *Populism*. Why cannot various non-core working class groups – marginalized, unemployed, poor self-employed – become part of an anticapitalist coalition without diluting the class politics of the coalition? Isn't this what Populism sometimes is like? (Cesar Rodriguez)
- *Universalism & coalition formation*. Why cannot the glue of a universalist coalition be *social justice* rather than material interests? Wouldn't this provide a basis for escaping the dilemma? (Shamus Khan)
- *Class & nonclass identities*. Do these necessarily compete with each other? Can class and non-class identities complement or mutually support each other? (Bradley Brewster, Landy Sanchez)
- Can the dilemma be overcome through clever organization design? (Bradley Brewster) To what extent is the dilemma a consequence of the *theories* held by Party Leaders? If they knew what we know now, would things have been different? (Teresa Melgar)

**2. Time-horizon dilemmas.** Is the dilemma of working for short-term gain vs long-term transformation inherent? (Bradley Brewster) Does the specific formulation of a "discount rate" parameter matter for Prz's models? (Shamus Khan)

**3. Social Order Interests.** Przeworski poses the trade offs and dilemmas as a) across different kinds of class interests (worker/middle), and b) between class and particularistic nonclass interests (ethnicity, etc.). But what about "social order interests" – interests in having a stable social order instead of chaos? How does this figure in the character of the state and interests organized around it? (Bradley Brewster)

**4. Hegemony & consent.** What precisely is hegemony in Prz's analysis? Should hegemony be identified with an outcome – material concessions – or a process? (Matt Vidal) Is Przeworski right in treating hegemony strictly as a problem of the material bases of consent, or does hegemony involve specifically ideological/cultural components as well? (Keedon Kwon, Cesar Rodriguez) What precisely does Prz mean when he talks about "consent to capitalism"? If workers struggle for minimal improvement because this is all that is possible, is this "consent"? (Teresa Melgar)

### 5. The policy dilemma.

- Isn't the policy dilemma also shared by right wing parties – they absorb "socialist" programs to expand their base and thus move to the center? (Sun Jing)
- does the "third way" represent a modern version of the socialist dilemma? (Sun Jing)

**6. Militancy theses.** Prz argues that in the long run non-militants will be better off than moderate militants, and that also in the long run the rate of profit declines under moderate militancy. Is this a solid prediction? Does this prediction rest on the claim that militancy itself is costless? (Pablo Mitnick) Doesn't this undermine the idea of stable Social Democracy rooted in moderate militancy? (James Benson)

**7. Socialist Party Strategies.** To what extent are the strategic dilemmas a result of the theories in the heads of socialist party leaders? If they knew what we know now, would the dilemmas have been different? (Teresa Melgar) What about the complicity of socialists in WWI and in crushing of communists – how does this figure in the logic of class compromise? (Matt Nichter)