PART TWO: TRANSNATIONAL POWER AND POLITICS

COLONIALISM AND WORLD CAPITALISM: An Introduction to World-Systems Analysis

“What difference it would make to our understanding if we looked at the world as a whole, a totality, a system, instead of as a sum of self-contained societies and cultures; if we understood better how this totality developed over time; if we took seriously the admonition to think of human aggregates as ‘inextricably involved with other aggregates, near and far, in weblike, netlike, connections’.”—Eric Wolf, Europe and the People without History
From Modernization Theory...

W.W. Rostow

Stages of development

The “problem” of “tradition”
...to Critiques of Modernization Theory

1. Dependency Theory:
   --Raul Prebisch, ECLA
   --unequal trade, net capital loss
   --foreign investment in natural resource extraction
   --dependence on manufactured imports

2. Andre Gunder Frank:
   --development of underdevelopment
   --capitalism and imperialism
   --against EUROCENTRIC analyses
   --metropolis-satellite
Capitalism and Underdevelopment, cont’d

Walter Rodney

Amin:
Maldevelopment: Anatomy of a Global Failure
Accumulation on a World Scale
Imperialism and Unequal Development
Critiques of Modernization Theory
Critiques of Modernization Theory

3. World-Systems Analysis

--net drain of capital away from the periphery and towards the core

--critique of STATE-CENTRIC analyses

--critique of Marxist emphases on production in defining capitalism

--defining feature of global capitalism is the circulation of commodities + the commodification of everything
axial division of labour

CORE

Periphery
Basic premises of World-Systems Analysis:

1) ceaseless accumulation of capital
2) division of labor along center-periphery lines
3) boundary correspondence between the capitalist world-economy and the interstate system
4) origins lie in the sixteenth century
5) began largely in Europe, expanded via a series of incorporations
6) Particular states have experienced periods of hegemony
7) States, ethnic groups, and households possess only a "nonprimordial character"
8) Racism & sexism = fundamental organizing & disciplining principles
9) Antisystemic movements arise to challenge or transform the system
LONG WAVES

Cyclical Rhythms

“B” phase

“A” phase

Secular Trends
Culture and the World-System:

→ Liberalism, the geoculture of the world-system
→ Culture: universalizing & particularizing
→ Culture as the ideological battleground of the modern world-system

Revolutions and Anti-Systemic Movements:

→ “World revolutions”, 1848, 1968-89
→ Old vs. new anti-systemic movements
→ Problem of capturing state power
→ 1968, rebellion against the old left; disillusion with the state; “the forgotten peoples”