

## POWER NOTES

### WEEK ONE

#### What is Power?

**Power:** the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behaviour of others or the course of events

Three key interpersonal dimensions of a power relationship:

1. Exercise of power
2. Deference
3. Resistance

Power has structural dimensions:

- Economic – ownership of the means of production
- Political – the state
- Ideological – the media
- Spatial – territory/border control

Consider: *to what extent is a person willing to direct/defer/resist power?*

Power is historically & contextually contingent – changes through time/place

**Modernity:** movement characterised by faith in applying human reason to bring process. Associated with:

- Secularization, scientism, individualism (Bentham), rationalism, capitalism and nationalism

**Foucault's panopticon** – transformation in the penal system from physical punishment to psychological punishment & self-surveillance

**Bentham's** obsession with the individual led to labelling himself as an 'uber powerful individual' who would improve society

**NOT ALL SECTIONS INCLUDED IN SAMPLE**

### WEEK TWO

#### Capitalism (Marx)

Power is manifested through capitalism (wealth and class).

#### Karl Marx

- Profession: philosopher, economist, sociologist & journalist
- Context/focus of writing: the collapse of Feudalism & rise of Capitalism
- Marginalized for radical ideas

#### Marx's Historical Materialism

## 1. The primary of the social

Utilitarian thinkers like Bentham attribute the success of capitalism to successful individuals. However, Marx says productivity is impossible without human beings entering into collaborative relations.

### NOT ALL SECTIONS INCLUDED IN SAMPLE

#### Paul E. Willis, 1977 – ‘Learning to Labour: How working-class kids get working class jobs’

- Challenged the assumption that more power = a better life (poor students were happy, despite less power)
- Concept of ‘lads’ – class distinction in schools
  - Lads had power, but in private schools they are socially estranged
- Poverty culture – view of Weber’s stratification
  - Working class lads to become working class men
- Partial development of class consciousness (learn to rebel in school, which they would taking into their working lives)

### WEEK THREE

#### Defining **Nationalism**

- **Nation:** a group of people who share a common territory and state
- **Nationality:** the form of identification associated with the ethnic group and the nation
- **Nationalism:** the form of political mobilisation associated w/ the nation

#### Types of Nationalism

- **Civil nationalism:** the form of nationalism in which the state derives political legitimacy from the active participation of its citizenry, from the degree to which it represents the ‘will of the people’
- **Ethnic nationalism:** the form of political mobilisation associated with a group of people who share a common descent, language & culture and who also share a common territory and state