

A Thousand Plateaus 13: Apparatus of Capture

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SA = state apparatus
AC = apparatus of capture
WM = war machine
DT = deterritorialization
RT = reterritorialization
SV = surplus value
FE = form of expression
WW/BH = white wall/black hole

- Proposition X: The State and Its Poles (424-27)
Proposition XI: Which comes first? (427-37)
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- I. Proposition X: The State and Its Poles (424-27)
- A. Dumézil: two poles of sovereignty (capture/contract); exteriority of war
1. Curious rhythm of the SA
 - a. Magician-emperor: one-eyed: signs that capture
 - b. Priest-jurist-king: one-armed: laws and tools
 2. Relation of SA and WM
 - a. Magician-emperor: encasts WM
 - b. Jurist-king: appropriates WM for SA
 - c. Warrior: exterior, traitor
 - d. SA: zombies: pre-mutilation for work
- B. "tempting 3-part hypothesis": WM between two poles of SA, assuring passage btw them
1. Norse, Greek, Roman examples from Dumézil and Detienne
 2. This is not a causal movement:
 - a. Urstaat rather than evolution of State
 - b. Capture is "preaccomplished and self-presupposing" [= "magic"]

- II. Proposition XI: Which comes first? (427-37)
- A. Urstaat: imperial/despotic capture
1. Overcoding of lineal-territorial codes by despot to whom all belongs
 2. Regime of signs = signifier
 3. Machinic enslavement
 4. Public property: giving w/o transfer of ownership: bond/rent
 5. State is origin of agriculture, animal breeding, metallurgy
- B. Contra evolutionism and neglect by ethnology of archaeology
1. Critique of Clastres
 2. D/G: must see co-existence of empires and primitives in interaction
 - a. Note on language as translation, not communication
 - b. Vectors w/in primitive society that "seek" the State
 3. Topology of social machines; history only turns co-existence into succession
- C. Physics models of causality to explain hunter-gatherer/State interaction
1. Reverse causality w/o finality: convergent wave and anticipated potential
 2. Co-existent thresholds (virtual)

- a. Town transconsistency: polarizing town-road-network
- b. State intraconsistency: resonance-stratification-isolation
 - (1) DT = taking territory as object to stratify, make resonate
 - (2) hierarchy: recombine the isolated by subordination
 - (3) global integration; redundancy of resonance; stratification of territories
- c. Primitive societies: ward off/anticipate both town/State thresholds/potentials
- 3. Each threshold (town/State) is a DT relative to primitive territorial codes
 - a. reciprocal presupposition of town/State
 - b. Both needed to striate space
 - c. Towns achieve autonomy w/ decoded flows
 - d. But only States allow capitalism
 - (1) models of realization of axiomatic of decoded flows
 - (2) worldwide axiomatic like a single City (cf. Fascist desire for autochthony)
- D. Defining social formations by machinic processes rather than by mode of production
 - 1. Definitions:
 - a. primitive warding off;
 - b. State capture;
 - c. town polarization;
 - d. WM nomadization;
 - e. Ecumenical encompassment
 - 2. Two forms of co-existence
 - a. Extrinsic interaction (brought to expression by ecumenical organizations)
 - (1) discussion of ecumenicals (trade, religions, ...)
 - (2) objection: doesn't capitalism homogenize?
 - (a) capitalist axiomatic – isomorphy
 - (b) isomorphy not = homogeneity
 - (c) peripheral polymorphy
 - b. Intrinsic interaction
 - (1) SA appropriates WM, polarization, and warding off
 - (2) warding off (bands) transferred to towns (vs States) and States (vs ecumenicals)
 - (3) WM metamorphizes (revolution? creativity?)

III. Proposition XII: Capture (437-48) (Rent/Profit/Tax)

- A. Modified marginalism (“exchange” btw primitive groups)
 - 1. “Last”/“marginal” = penultimate = limit (maintains assemblage)
 - 2. Too far = threshold (forces change of assemblage)
- B. Critique of exchangist models
 - 1. hunter-gatherer; serial; itinerant; territorial: Each group assesses its own limits from the start
 - a. Not a comparison of quantity of social labor (=exchange value)
 - b. Rather it is a matter of a desire to conserve an assemblage (preventing the threshold)
 - c. Series of objects is evaluated in an “operation period”
 - 2. sedentary groups: overcoding of land: at thresholds, stockpiling (after exchange has lost its interest)
 - a. co-existence of simultaneously exploited territories or
 - b. succession of exploitations of same territory
- C. Three types of capture
 - 1. Ground Rent: comparison of exploitation of territories
 - a. Stock is what permits comparison of plantings
 - b. “Last” no longer = limit of ordinal series, but threshold of cardinal set
 - c. Rent homogenizes, deterritorializes, (appropriation)
 - (1) by comparing different lands of one landowner
 - (2) relative to surplus over least productive land
 - d. Land is deterritorialized, distributed among people (vs. smooth distribution of people on a territory)
 - 2. Profit: work as other correlate of the stock
 - a. Same process of comparison and appropriation
 - b. Surplus labor = appropriation by entrepreneur: presupposition of labor as comparison of activity
 - c. Primitive groups do not have labor, but free action in continuous variation
 - (1) this free action does not mean no “work”, but that ritual codes prevent profit taking
 - (2) that is, prevent appropriation and comparison
 - 3. Taxation
 - a. Money is derived from taxation (money is political before it is commercial/financial)
 - b. Money is the correlate and subset of stock

- c. Issued by SA to establish equivalence of goods/services/money
 - d. Monopoly of foreign trade by State
 - D. Recap: Three-headed AC
 - 1. Stock has three aspects: land/labor/money
 - 2. AC is the megamachine, the archaic empire
 - a. Operations of direct comparison and monopolistic appropriation
 - (1) general space of comparison and mobile center of appropriation
 - (2) = WW/BH system = face of despot
 - b. General semiology overcoding primitive semiotics (hylomorphic politics)
 - (1) primitive (or WM metallurgy): follow machinic phylum/singularities
 - (2) SAC: FE (resonance/appropriation); matter as homogeneous content (comparison)
 - E. Schmitt's model of the AC
 - F. State violence is preaccomplished (that is, it is invisible w/in assemblage [= primitive accumulation])
 - 1. D/G enlarge upon Marx: regimes of violence
 - a. Struggle: primitive: code: last of series
 - b. War: WM: violence against SA
 - c. Crime: capture w/o "right"
 - d. State violence: law: capture and create right to capture:
 - (1) structural violence
 - (2) i.e., create what is used against "criminals," "primitives," "nomads"
- IV. Proposition XIII: The State and its forms (448-460) Internal principle of evolution of the State
- A. Archaic State's overcoding frees decoded flows that escape
 - 1. Decoding = state of flow escaping its own code
 - a. old, primitive codes
 - b. new flows: labor/mines; money/commerce/public/private property
 - (1) origin of private property
 - (2) freed slaves: decoded: develop trade and metallurgy
 - 2. Figure of the Outsider: East/West
 - a. Childe: absorption of surplus/overcoded content
 - (1) military and bureaucracy
 - (2) artisans
 - b. Aegean marginality: access to Oriental stock through plunder/trade w/o having to compile it
 - c. different role of metallurgy (artisans and traders) in West
 - (1) prefigured middle class
 - (2) no longer SV code, but SV flow
 - B. Aegean States: another pole of State: evolved empires (e.g. Rome)
 - 1. Public sphere not = property but shared means of private appropriation
 - a. Personal rather than public relations of dependence
 - b. Law = organizing conjunctions of decoded flows: topics
 - c. Regime of signs = processes of subjectification
 - d. Machinic enslavement leads to social subjection
 - C. Capitalism: conjugation of flows of decoded labor and wealth, beyond SA
 - 1. Capitalism = general axiomatic of decoded flows
 - 2. Beyond previous flow inhibitors (feudal countryside; corporative towns)
 - 3. Social subject (no longer personal dependence bond)
 - 4. Law = civil "code" = axiomatic
 - 5. Property = right (deterritorialized from land/things/people)
 - D. Worldwide axiomatic beyond States (capitalism deterritorialized beyond State DT/RT)
 - 1. General characteristics
 - a. Cap DT has as object the commodity as materialized labor
 - b. International division of labor
 - c. State is mode of realization for worldwide axiomatic exceeding it (not = "do w/o")
 - d. State DT moderates capitalist DT and gives it compensatory RT
 - 2. State isomorphy ("axiomatic" is not a metaphor)
 - a. All States isomorphic re: capitalist axiomatic: only one global market
 - b. Polymorphy/heteromorphy
 - c. Metaeconomics
 - 3. Nation-State: State as model of realization
 - a. Nation = land/people as DT = collective subjectification = passional/living form for realizing capital
 - b. State = process of subjection

4. Machinic enslavement vs social subjection of modern State
 - a. Enslavement = humans part of larger machine controlled from above
 - b. Subjection = humans separate from object: subjected to machine
 - c. Capital = point of subjectification: all humans are subjects
 - (1) some are subjects of enunciation = capitalists (give orders)
 - (2) some are subjects of the statement = proles (take orders)
5. Worldwide axiomatic reinvents new form of machinic enslavement (cybernetics)
 - a. Machinic SV: emergent property of new human/machine assemblage
 - b. New power: both subjection and enslavement as co-existent poles
 - (1) TV subjection: viewers used as node in communication network
 - (2) TV enslavement: viewers part of information loop: ads–behavior–polls–ads–behavior-polls.....
- E. Universal history of forms of the State
 1. Archaic empires:
 - a. enslavement
 - b. overcoding
 2. Diverse States: evolved empires, towns, feudalisms, monarchies:
 - a. subjectification and subjection
 - b. topical conjunction of decoded flows
 3. Modern nation-States: models of realization for axiomatic of decoded flows
 - a. Machinic enslavement and social subjection
 - b. General conjugation of decoded flows
- F. The State and flows
 1. Two poles of the State: bond and contract only forms of capture
 - a. Bond: overcoding
 - b. Contract: treatment of decoded flows resulting in subjectification/subjection
 - (1) but this is itself a knot/bond
 - (2) thus subjection is only a relay for capture/machinic enslavement
 - (3) this is preaccomplished: neither voluntary nor forced
- V. Proposition XIV: Axiomatics and the current situation (461-73)
 - A. Introductory paragraph
 1. Politics as axiomatic
 2. Axiomatics in science
 - a. Stopping point; reordering to prevent decoded flows from escaping
 - b. Axiomatics/theorematics vs intuitionism/problematics
 - B. Numbered sections
 1. Addition, subtraction (461-3)
 - a. Axioms of capitalism:
 - (1) component parts of assemblages of production/circulation/consumption
 - (2) conjugating (RT) the flows
 - b. Addition: capitalism always adding new axioms: New Deal, Marshall Plan
 - (1) when integrated domestic market organized for foreign market
 - (2) = social democracy = method of mastering flows
 - c. Subtracting axioms: small number of axioms for dominant flows; others theorems (=State force)
 - (1) = totalitarianism
 - (2) promotion of foreign sector
 - (3) = minimum State of anarcho-capitalism (Chile): Virilio
 - d. Fascism: (here = "national socialism") SAC: economic definition of fascist State
 - (1) coincides w/ totalitarian in collapse of domestic market/reduction of axioms
 - (2) not an appeal to foreign capital, but a war economy
 - (a) expansionism (foreign to totalitarianism)
 - (b) autonomous fabrication of capital
 - (3) domestic market inundated with the Ersatz
 - (4) proliferation of axioms
 - (a) seemingly Keynesian
 - (b) tautology/fictitious proliferation: multiplication by subtraction
 2. Saturation (463-4)
 - a. Immanent laws of capitalism: tendency of rate of profit to fall: displacement of own limits
 - (1) confronts limits (depreciation of existing capital): totalitarian restriction of axioms
 - (2) displaces limits (formation of new capital): social democratic multiplication of axioms
 - b. Political struggle on level of axioms: "pressure of living flows"

3. Models, isomorphy (464-6): isomorphy of States as “domains of realization of capital”
 - a. Isomorphy in center
 - b. Heteromorphy of East-West
 - c. Polymorphy of North-South: international division of labor
4. Power (puissance) (466-7)
 - a. Axiomatic marshalls higher power: destruction/war
 - (1) war follows movement of capital: increase in constant capital: machinic enslavement
 - (2) depreciation/formation of capital: WM incarnated in military-industrial complexes
 - b. Three steps in State appropriation of WM
 - (1) war becomes object of WM; State political aim directs WM
 - (2) total war becomes object of WM; State political aim in contradiction w/ its object
 - (a) fascist “inversion”
 - (b) suicidal State
 - (3) peace becomes object of WM; world order (politics) is now aim of WM
 - (a) WM = materialized war
 - (b) no longer any need for fascism
 - (c) world = smooth space of terror / MAD
 - (d) States = WM of which they are only parts
 - c. Virilio’s theses
 - (1) peace of terror deterrence: object of WM
 - (2) technoscientific “capitalization” of WM
 - (3) terror of peace of WM
 - (4) the “unspecified enemy”
 - (5) security = materialized war
5. The Included Middle (468-9)
 - a. Center/E-W split destabilized by N-S split
 - b. Overcoding stimulates decoded flows: matter-energy; population; food; cities
 - (1) internal margins
 - (2) difference between subjection and machinic enslavement
 - (a) subjection: labor vs property
 - (b) enslavement: split of labor
 - i) intensive SV: does not take route of labor
 - ii) extensive labor: erratic and floating
6. Minorities (469-71)
 - a. Minorities defined by becomings, by gap separating them from majority
 - (1) nondenumerable set: line of flight: masses (“one” is black and white and ... : Tiger Woods)
 - (2) minority “nationalitarian” movements
 - (3) recognition = transferring into denumerable sets = our own new axiom!
 - b. Struggle on level of axioms is important, but not final word
 - (1) index of another struggle
 - (2) opens gap of propositions of flow/propositions of axioms
 - (3) calculus: problems of nondenumerable sets vs. axioms of denumerable sets
7. Undecidable propositions (471-3)
 - a. WM attacks on minorities
 - b. Capitalist integration of minorities
 - c. Leaving the plan(e) of capital: refusal of work, refusal of proletarianism (variable capital)
 - d. Deepest law of capitalism: “overcoding” (as axiomatization) frees decoded flows
 - e. Undecidable propositions = coexistence of conjugation/capture & connection/escape (revolution)