

A Thousand Plateaus 9: Micropolitics and Segmentarity

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protevi@lsu.edu / <http://www.protevi.com/john/DG/PDF/ATP9.pdf>

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- I. Segmentarity: inherent to all strata 208-9
 - A. three types: binary, circular, linear
 - B. bound up w/ each other, cross over into each other

- II. primitive, supple, segmentarity 209
 - A. ethnologists create "segmentarity" for societies w/ no central State
 - B. characteristics:
 - 1. leeway;
 - 2. communicability btw heterogenous elements;
 - 3. local construction
 - 4. extrinsic and situational properties
 - 5. continuous activity
 - C. elements:
 - 1. polyvocal code (clan lineages)
 - 2. itinerant territory (tribal land)
 - 3. this distinction prevents resonance 212

- III. modern State: rigid segmentarity (global whole/constellation of subsystems) 209-10

- IV. Distinction of supple and rigid in binary, circular, and linear segmentarity 210-12
 - A. binary
 - 1. primitive supple: result of machines that are not binary
 - 2. modern rigid: binary machines
 - B. circular
 - 1. primitive supple: non-resonating circles: inhibit resonance
 - 2. modern rigid: concentric, resonating: center of signifiacnce: macroface
 - C. linear
 - 1. primitive supple: proto-geometry
 - 2. modern rigid: equivalence of units; homogenous space; overcoding; gridding

- V. Summary: 2 different processes: tree vs. rhizome: 212-3

- VI. de jure distinction; de facto entanglement of molar [rigid] and molecular [supple] 213
 - A. "everything is political, but every politics is simultaneously a *macropolitics* and a *micropolitics*."
 - 1. perception: molar = feeling; micro = affect
 - 2. binary: molar = class; molecular = mass. reciprocal presupposition
 - 3. bureaucracy
 - B. fascism: molecular; totalitarianism: molar: total and central
 - 1. microfascisms: molecular focuses in interaction, before resonating in State
 - 2. micro-black hole that stands on its own and communicates w/ the others
 - 3. war machine installed in each hole, in every niche
 - 4. persistence of microfascisms after Nazi State
 - a. act upon the masses
 - b. "a molecular and supple segmentarity, flows capable of suffusing every cell"
 - 5. capitalism came to prefer Stalinist totalitarianism
 - 6. danger of fascism: molecular or micropolitical power [*puissance*] 215
 - a. mass movement
 - b. "cancerous body rather than a totalitarian organism"
 - 7. "only microfascism provides an answer to the global question: why does desire desire its own repression?"
 - a. desire: never instinctual energy, but is engineered from complex assemblages
 - b. desire: "supple segmentarity that processes molecular energies and potentially gives desire a fascist determination"
 - c. "the fascist inside you"

VII. Four errors to be avoided 215-6

- A. axiological: don't believe a little suppleness is enough to make things "better"
- B. psychological: molecular is not just imagination and individuals and inter-individual
- C. size: molecular works in detail & in small groups, but is coextensive w/ social field
- D. separation: always interaction of molar and molecular
 - 1. strong molar organization induces molecularization
 - 2. molecular movements thwart and break through global molar organization 216
 - a. line of flight escapes centralized, molar organization
 - b. movements are molecular, but "represented" molarly [interest groups]
 - c. society defined by its lines of flight
 - d. May 68 in France
 - 3. NB: molecular must return to reshuffle the molar 216-7

VIII. new terminology for molecular composition: 217

- A. segmented line/quantum flow; power center at border to convert
- B. example of money flow
- C. correlations:
 - 1. linearization and segmentation: where flows run dry; spot of new creation
 - 2. power centers defined by impotence: "something always escapes"
- D. consequence: microlevel defined by its "mass": quantum flow vs. segmented line
- E. other examples: Church; criminality; military 218
- F. ontology: pure flow: abstract yet real; etc.
 - 1. flow and quanta grasped only by indexes on segmented line
 - 2. but line and indexes exist only by virtue of flow suffusing them
 - 3. macropolitics immersed in and prolonged by micropolitics reshuffling segments
 - 4. diagram on p. 218

IX. homage to Gabriel Tarde: microsociology (vs. Durkheim) 2188-9

X. flow and line in terms of coding, decoding, overcoding 219

- A. definitions:
 - 1. mutant flow: escaping the codes
 - 2. quanta: signs or degrees of deterritorialization in decoded flow
 - 3. rigid line: overcoding
 - 4. segments: reterritorializations on overcoding line
- B. example of original sin 219-20
- C. social field analysis in terms of "mass": example of Europe 10th-14th C 220
- D. distinction between connection and conjugation of flows 220-21
 - 1. connection: decoded and deterr. flows boost each other
 - 2. conjugation: accumulation, reterritorialization, single power for overcoding
 - 3. most deterritorialized flow brings about conjunction and reterr: e.g., bourgeoisie
- E. "task of historian" 221 mass (molecular) vs class (molar)
 - 1. operations
 - a. mass: mutation, molecular, decoding, connection
 - b. class: overcoding, molar, segmentation, conjugation
 - 2. coexistence: "flow continues beneath line, forever mutant, while line totalizes"
 - 3. amorality: "just as much relations of force, and just as much violence"
 - 4. interdependence: molar politics decided by the molecular 222

XI. a new map 222

- A. elements: 3 lines: supple/primitive, rigid/State, line of flight/war machine
- B. coexistence of tribes, empires, war machines: e.g.: migrants, Rome, Huns
- C. transformation: e.g., Vandals: only mass to cross Med, but forms own empire
- D simultaneous states of the Abstract Machine 223
 - 1. abstract machine of overcoding:
 - a. produces rigid segmentarity:
 - b. effectuated by State apparatus, which is a reterritorializing assemblage
 - i can be either geometrical (empire) or axiomatic (capitalism)
 - ii. totalitarian State:
 - aa. identifies w/ overcoding machine
 - bb. creates conditions for "autarky"

- cc. reterritorialization by "closed vessel"
- dd. artifice of the void: never ideological, but econ-political

2. abstract machine of mutation:
 - a. operates by decoding and deterritorialization
 - b. creates lines of flight
 - c. itself in a state of flight: erects war machines on its lines
3. realm of molecular negotiation between molar lines and lines of flight 223-4
 - a. lines of flight connect and continue intensities (full BwO)
 - b. or retreat into swirl of micro-black holes (microfascism; cancerous BwO)
 - c. or enter overcoded, resonance around central black hole (totalitarian State)

XII. power center 224-6 illustrates entanglement of lines

- A. rigid segments; "centralization is always hierarchical; hierarchy always segmentary"
- B. micrological fabric: disciplines; zone of indiscernability: molar and molecular 225
- C. limit: quantum flow: power centers translate flow into segments; impotence 225-6
 1. power centers only translate; they do not govern the flow
 2. power centers govern assemblage that effectuates abstract machine overcoding
- D. example of money:
 1. power: segments: central banks:
 - a. conversion of credit flow into payment money;
 - b. State apparatus = assemblage effectuating a.m. of molar overcoding;
 2. indiscernability: texture:
 - a. series of private relations btw banks and borrowers
 - b. molecular fabric immersing the State assemblage
 3. impotence: flow:
 - a. desiring flow of money:
 - b. a.m. of mutation, flows and quanta

XIII. pragmatics/schizoanalysis: 227-31: the four dangers re: Zarathustra and Don Juan

- A. Fear: cling to molar, rigid segments; flee from flight
- B. Clarity: supple molecularity; marginal reterr; microfascisms; static; black holes 227-8
- C. Power (*pouvoir*) 228-29; stop lines of flight; totalitarian State
- D. great Disgust; Passion for abolition 229-31 danger of the lines of flight themselves
 1. a strange despair; a state of war from which one returns broken (instead of episode of BwO which creates a new desiring body)
 2. line of flight become line of death [misses self-organizing zone and hits chaos]
 3. not a death drive: desire is always assembled;
 4. war machine produces mutation; war is failure of mutation 230
 5. war machine constructs destructive State apparatus
 6. paradox of fascism 230-1
 - a. total.: State assemblage of a.m. overcoding, molar, resonance; conservative
 - b. fascism: war m. taking over State; intense line of flight become destructive