

A Brief Outline of *Anti-Oedipus*

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This outline adapted from Ronald Bogue, *Deleuze and Guattari* (New York: Routledge, 1989).

- I. all desire is social; best guide to social desire is schizophrenic id rather than neurotic ego.
 - A. schizo-analysis: focus on body parts and social connections:
 - 1. not a "celebration" of schizophrenia, but use of it to explore contemporary society
 - 2. individual subject as heterogenous aggregate of parts functioning in social and natural machines
 - B. subsume Marx and Freud in single Nietzschean framework: desiring-production.
 - 1. critique of traditional Marxism and Freudianism
 - 2. history and politics of social libido

- II. Critique of Freudianism: extending Freud beyond family
 - A. Oedipal-capitalism link ignored
 - 1. Oedipus is mode of channeling desire
 - 2. psychoanalysis reinforces this channeling
 - B. Capitalism and desire
 - 1. deterritorializes:
 - a. destroys feudal hierarchial channels
 - b. sets adrift pieces of desire, bodies, etc.
 - 2. reterritorializes:
 - a. channels all production into commodity form
 - b. Oedipalization concentrates, individualizes desire into neurotic daddy-mommy-me
 - 3. schizophrenia is result of fragmentation without Oedipal reintegration
 - C. Positive desire:
 - 1. desire traditionally seen as lack
 - a. cf Plato
 - b. exception: Spinoza
 - c. Lacan most evident example today
 - 2. for D & G, this is negative, reactive, idealistic, slavish
 - 3. rather, they want positive, productive desire
 - a. desiring-production
 - (1) Freud's libido
 - (2) Nietzsche's will-to-power
 - b. unconscious
 - (1) unrelated to negation
 - (2) indifferent to personal identity
 - (3) independent of linguistic expression
 - c. pure multiplicities: nomadic singularities

- III. Critique of Marx: libidinalizing Marx
 - A. "social field is immediately invested w/ desire"
 - 1. no distinction between production and consumption
 - B. "everything is production"
 - 1. no distinction between use and exchange value
 - a. use value depends on stable needs, but needs are mobile, produced (as Marx knew very well)

- IV. Schizo-model for desiring production (Not a romanticizing of schizophrenia, but using it to interrogate modern production)
 - A. desiring-machines: invasion/persecution
 - 1. production proper
 - 2. cutting off primary flows
 - a. symbolizes unceasing production
 - b. e.g. flow of milk between

- (1)breast machine
- (2)mouth machine
- 3.linked in chains with other machines
 - a.in body
 - b.other bodies
 - c.nature
 - d.society
- 4.unconscious is a factory rather than a theater
- 5.rather than linking dependent parts into a functioning whole, desiring machines involve heterogenous "parts" in a connective synthesis

B.body without organs: catatonia

- 1.recording (distribution and exchange / unconscious inscription)
 - 2.congealing of d-machines into undifferentiated object
 - a.d-machines at zero intensity
 - 3.extra part produced alongside desiring machines
 - a.paranoiac machine: body w/o organs repels d-m
 - b.miraculating machine: " " " " attracts d-m
 - 4.**socius**: larger social body w/o organs
 - a.body of earth:
 - (1)primitive
 - (2)autochthonous myths [miraculating]
 - b.body of despot
 - (1)barbaric
 - (2)divine origin and absolute power myths [miraculating]
 - c.body of capital
 - (1)capitalistic
 - (2)fetishism: capital appears to produce labor [miraculating]
 - 5.each chain of d-machines is a line traversing body w/o organs, thus forming a grid
 - 6.disjunctive synthesis: all lines are libidinally invested at once in a synthesis that affirms differentiation
- #### C.nomadic subject: multiple personalities
- 1.consumption
 - 2.when social codes [e.g. Oedipus] break down in their channelling of desire, then the nomadic subject is possible, traversing the lines of the d-machines inscribed on the body w/o organs
- #### D.Model of the giant egg traversed by lines with a wandering point of pure intensity

V.History of social machines

A.primitive territories

- 1.pre-state: resist centralization of power
 - 2.socius: body of the earth
 - 3.codes: kinship relations coding flow of goods, privilege, people, prestige
 - a.filiation: fixed "capital" stock
 - (1)blood
 - (2)administrative
 - (3)hierarchial
 - b.alliance: mobile blocks of debt
 - (1)marriage
 - (2)political
 - (3)economic
 - 4.debt:
 - a.primary dissymmetry setting in motion flows
 - b.ceremonial inscription within systems
 - (1)giver: debtor
 - (2)receiver: surplus value of code
 - 5.representation:
 - a.ceremonial system is a **writing** in which words pronounced and signs written are plurivocal
 - b.system is also libidinal economy of pleasure and pain
 - (1)cf. Nietzsche and debtor-creditor
- #### B.barbarian despotic states
- 1.befalls primitive territories as catastrophe from without

- 2. socius: body of despot
 - 3. codes: functional pyramid
 - a. despot at apex
 - b. peasant at base
 - 4. debt:
 - a. primitive debt become infinite debt of existence owed to despot
 - b. punishment no longer festive, but vengeful
 - 5. representation:
 - a. fixed meanings
 - b. deterritorialization of graphic sign: made into transcription of the voice
 - c. sound given meaning by transcendent authority enforcing law of linguistic regularity [dream of transcendental signifier]
 - (1) Saussurian linguistics is reflection on despotic representation
 - (2) signifier dominates the signified
 - (a) two forces:
 - i) deterritorializing of signifiers [creates arbitrary flow]
 - ii) fixing of signifier-signified
 - (b) signifier is arbitrary, but also "acoustic image" within which resounds "mute voice from on high"
- C. civilized capitalist production
 - 1. capitalist machine arises from within
 - 2. socius: body of capital
 - 3. debt:
 - a. deterritorialized into abstract unit of exchange: free flows of goods, bodies, images, etc
 - b. reterritorialized thru an **axiomatic**,
 - (a) conjoining two flows
 - (b) of labor
 - (c) of capital
 - (1) direct relation of entities on abstract qualities
 - (2) no limit: can always add new axiom
 - 4. representation:
 - a. breaks free of Saussurian domination
 - b. means nothing: simply functions as means of co-ordination of flows
 - 5. post-state: capitalist state is hangover
 - a. cap sign does not simply replace despotic sign, but reintegrates it
 - b. absorption yet indigestibility provokes oscillation between two poles of desire
 - (1) paranoia (metaphysics!)
 - (a) domination
 - (b) hierarchy
 - (c) molar aggregates
 - (2) schizophrenia
 - (a) non-systematic
 - (b) nomadic
 - (c) molecular

VI. Schizo-politics:

- A. overcoming paranoiac tendencies by intensifying schizophrenic tendencies,
 - 1. accelerating deterritorialization
 - 2. for those trapped in hierarchies
 - 3. micro-political intervention
 - 4. good for intervention in hierarchial parties
- B. politics of creativity:
 - 1. freeing of new patterns:
 - 2. horizontal rather than vertical
- C. Foucault: power as primary
- D. Deleuze and Guattari: desire as primary