

Critical Theory, Legitimation Crisis, and the Deindustrialization of Flint, Michigan

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Dandaneau uses Habermas' ideas to make sense of deindustrialization

Domination: "historically specific situations that prevent [people] from realizing their human freedom"

Ideology: "the kind of thinking that muddies [people's] ability to fully understand the sources of their unfreedom"

Three stages of capitalism:

Liberal (laissez-faire) capitalism: government has little involvement with capitalism

Advanced (welfare state) capitalism: government becomes more involved with capitalism

Late capitalism: an even further stage of capitalism marked by a breakdown in stability

Contradictions of capitalism described by Marx did not result in crisis of capitalism. Instead, under advanced capitalism there is a displacement of economic crises to the political sphere, i.e., a "rationality crisis."

Under late capitalism, the economic system becomes more integrated (or colonized) into the "lifeworld" or sociocultural system resulting in legitimation and motivation crises.

Legitimation crisis: "withdrawal of mass political loyalty"

Motivation crisis: "withdrawal of motivation, especially the motivation toward achievement and participation in the occupational system"