LEGITIMATION AND HEGEMONY

Propositions

1. The dominance of elites is based on most people accepting as common sense that the economic and political system that keeps those elites in power is the best and most just.

2. This production and reproduction of what people think of as truth and common sense (political socialization) is carried out by a variety of institutions that specialize in the production and distribution of ideas.

3. There are three principal arenas used by elites for political communication and socialization: schooling, media, and elections.

4. Citizens in the United States have access to neither an education system nor a media system that provides adequate opportunities for them to formulate and express their political preferences.

5. Neither the liberal-conservative nor the democratic-republican spectrum of alternatives is broad enough to ensure that competition among leaders for votes provides meaningful debate----nor an adequate mechanism for mass influence over government.