

Questions for Section 5. Stages and Forms of Capitalism

1. What is a social structure of accumulation (SSA)?
2. How is an SSA supposed to promote capital accumulation?
3. How can such post-World War II institutions as the Bretton Woods monetary system, militarization of the US economy, and peaceful collective bargaining be interpreted as components of an SSA? How did they contribute to capital accumulation? What other institutions played an important role in that SSA?
4. How do advocates of the SSA theory explain long waves in capitalist economies?
5. According to the SSA theory, why does a period of long wave expansion eventually end in a crisis? Give examples from the end of the post-World War II regulated capitalist SSA.
6. What is a regime of accumulation (ROA)? What are the 3 types of ROA that have existed in sequence according to the regulation theory?
7. What is a mode of regulation, and what relation does it have to a regime of accumulation?
8. According to the regulation theory, why does each regime of accumulation/mode of regulation eventually go into crisis?
9. What are the similarities and differences between the SSA theory and regulation theory?
10. What are the institutions, policies, economic theory, and ideology referred to as neoliberalism?
11. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the neoliberal form of capitalism for the capitalist class?
12. What are the grounds for asserting that neoliberalism does not promote rapid accumulation?
13. How can the emergence and persistence of neoliberalism be explained?
14. How does the emergence and persistence of neoliberalism cause a problem for the SSA theory?
15. How can the SSA theory be revised to take account of a neoliberal SSA?
16. What are the differences between a liberal and regulated type of SSA?
17. What are the dominant crisis tendencies in a regulated SSA? in a neoliberal SSA?
18. What are the contradictions that have led to what appears to be a crisis of the neoliberal SSA?