

Fall 2010

Conflict and Critical Theories

inanutshell

Outline

- Ingredients
 - Genealogy and Branches
 - Historical Imperatives
- Varieties
 - Frankfurt School
 - “Public Sociology” 1950s-60s-70s
 - Disciplinary Self-Critique
 - Collins’ Conflict Theory

Ingredients

- Genealogy and Branches
- Historical Imperatives

Genealogy and Branches

Genealogy

Machiavelli
(1469-1527)

Hobbes
(1588-1679)

Clausewitz
(1780-1831)
War... policy...
other means

Marx
(class struggle)
(ideology)
(consciousness)
(critical, false)

Weber
(power)
(class, status, power)
(legitimacy)

Simmel
(1858-1918)
Conflict as
sociation

Malthus
(1766-1834)

Darwin
(1809-82)

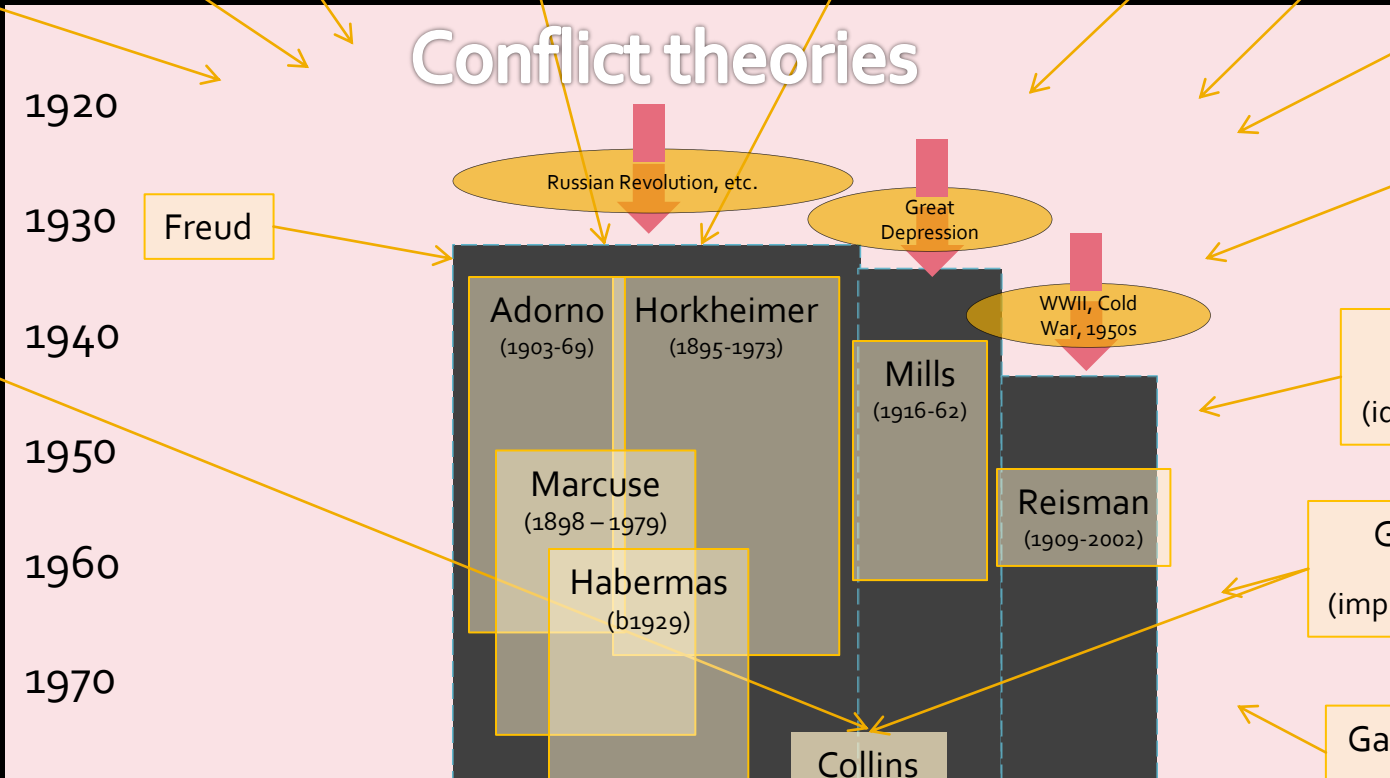
Spencer
(1820-1903)

Erikson
(1902-94)
(identity crisis)

Goffman
(1922-82)
(impression mgt)

Game Theory
(Schelling)

Conflict theories



Durkheim
(ritual)

Critical Race Theory

Feminist Theories

QueerTheories

Critical Legal Studies

Critical Etc. Theory

Historical Imperatives (1920-50)

- Russian Revolution, great depression, Stalin, WWII, fascism, cold war, US becomes world power, the bomb, civil rights, breakdown of colonialism



WWI, Bolshevik Revolution Change Playing Field for Left

European socialism had three choices

1. support moderate non-revolutionary (SPD) socialists and disavow Moscow
2. accept Moscow, join communist (KPD) party, work against Weimar republic

These were old choices. Recent events gave rise to 3rd option:

3. re-examine foundations of Marxist theory, understand past, prepare for future

Simmel



- *Conflict and the Web of Group Affiliations*
 1. **Proposition:** Conflict establishes and maintain identity and boundary lines of groups.
 2. **Proposition:** Conflict is not always dysfunctional for a relationship; may even be necessary. Safety valve and signal.
 3. **Proposition:** Conflict is not absence of relationship; conflict presumes a relationship.

Varieties

- Frankfurt School
- “Public Sociology” 1950s-60s-70s
- Disciplinary Self-Critique
- Collins’ Conflict Theory

Frankfurt School

- Summer 1922 group of independent thinkers convene to discuss Marxism.
- Inspired organizing formal setting for same purpose.
- 1923 Felix Weil, well-to-do political science PhD, helped to set up an endowment and found the Institute for Social Research affiliated with the University of Frankfurt.

Institute for Social Research (1923-33)



Horkheimer & Adorno

Habermas

Public Sociology 1950s & 60s

Disciplinary Self-Critique

Collins' Conflict Sociology
