
1. What is the relationship between forms of alienation and apathy?
2. What is the relationship between “depoliticization” and apathy?
3. What is “depoliticization” and how is it connected to subordination? How does depoliticization happen?
4. What practical steps could be taken, according to C. Wright Mills, to diminish depoliticization? For example, how could workers become politically activated?
5. Who are the apathetic people in Mills’ critiques, and what made them apathetic?
6. How is the discussion of status-seeking related to alienation and apathy?
7. What is “organized irresponsibility”?

NB: The second chapter, featuring Herbert Marcuse’s work, may be a little too opaque at times. Though it can be obtuse and confusing, try to see if you can make sense of the following:

8. What is the “one-dimensional man” and how does this relate to apathy?
9. What is the relationship, posited by Marcuse, between productivity, repression, and aggression? Do you find it convincing?
10. What is Marcuse’s approach to apathy?
11. Make a note of the critical comment by Alistair MacIntyre.