

CRITICAL DICTIONARY

Cybernetic Mode of Production: Exploitation of human passions for the purpose of increasing control over populations. The body of information produced by this control is analogous to Capital. Whoever controls the flow of Capital dominates the world in the capitalist mode of production; whoever controls the flow of information dominates the world in the cybernetic mode of production. The Capitalist mode of production accumulates capital (*abstract form of power*) and workers (*concrete human form of power*). The Cybernetic mode of production accumulates control information (*abstract form of power*) and **elements**^[1] (*concrete human form of power*).

The major contradiction of the Capitalist mode of production is the physical and intellectual exhaustion of workers through unlimited exploitation, which provokes their revolt (*an explosion of passions left free in this mode of production*). These revolts give rise to the class of **Logicians**, charged with carrying out **a regulation** (*development of control*) **of the exploitation of workers** by the Bourgeoisie. Passionate revolts (*revolutions*) are channelled by the Logicians, who assume their leadership in cooperation with the Bourgeoisie - *Leninism, fascism, representative democracy*. Finally, the exploitation of these passions is achieved through the construction of a compromise: **the Society of the Spectacle**^[2] (*the commodity-based and pseudo-passionate consumption of workers who have become employees*^[3]).

The gradual collapse of the Capitalist component of the Society of the Spectacle signals the seizure of power by the Logician component and the end of the **Society of the Spectacle, which becomes Cybernetic Society**.

The major contradiction of the Cybernetic mode of production is that passionate compression (*the loss of the pseudo-freedoms of the Society of the Spectacle*) provokes the revolts (*Explosion of real passions*) of employees who are increasingly deprived of their pseudo-passions. Since no new class can appear, the Cyberneticians, trapped in the dead end they have created for themselves, sink into nihilism. **Employees** are progressively transformed into **elements** whose revolts will become increasingly radical - ***if the degree of passionate freedom tends toward zero, then the degree of radicalism of the revolts tends toward infinity.***

The only way to continue producing a flow of information, and therefore to maintain the domination of the world by this Elite, now turned nihilistic, is to increase control (*loss of freedoms and compression of passions through fear*) by using artificially constructed catastrophes in an attempt to contain, over the long term and with little hope, the revolution that is brewing.

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1. Toothless, according to the rhetoric of those in power.
2. Guy Debord, *The Society of the Spectacle*, 1967.
3. Employees in the broad sense: salaried workers, self-employed workers, small shopkeepers...