Commentary

About Capitalism: Three Notes

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Accelerationism proposes accelerating capitalism toward a post-capitalist future. Schizoanalysis proposes liberating the patient also by accelerating capitalism. This essay explains why not only acceleration but also redirection may be essential in both accelerationism and schizoanalysis.

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Capitalism and Repetition

Accelerationists, drawing on Marx, propose overcoming capitalism by accelerating it without interruption (cf. [1]). Nick Land[2] relies on Deleuze and Guattari's[3][4] concept of "deterritorialization," according to which capitalism disrupts social orders while dissolving boundaries between communities. He insists that only deterritorialization can lead to a post-capitalist future. However, Williams and Srnicek[5] point out that capitalism generates reinforced orders at once, which Deleuze and Guattari called "reterritorialization." They propose not only accelerating but also redirecting capitalism toward a post-capitalist future.

Such redirection may be essential to driving *macroevolution*. Referring to Deleuze's[6] concept of "repetition," I have proposed viewing living things as life cycles within *lineages*, as defined in evolutionary biology[7].

> [L] ineage [is] an entity that changes indefinitely through time as a result of replication and interaction. Neither genes nor organisms can function as lineages because neither can change indefinitely without becoming numerically distinct individuals. However, both form lineages that can and do evolve[8].

In contrast to genetic replication, which is mere duplication, lineages are *repetitions* that generate difference and new variations among living things. In evolutionary biology, *microevolution*, which

generates variations within species, is distinguished from *macroevolution*, which creates new species. Macroevolution sustains biological diversity essential to ecosystems. Lineages, which drive macroevolution, are repetitions *with* difference. By contrast, deterritorialization disrupts social diversity by dissolving boundaries between communities. Capitalism, which drives deterritorialization, is repetition *without* difference. Speaking metaphorically, since capitalism drives only microevolution, redirection may be essential to driving macroevolution toward a post-capitalist future.

Accelerationism and Arche-Capitalism

Such a post-capitalist future may be an *arche-capitalist* future. Derrida[9] *deconstructed* the hierarchical opposition of speech/writing, pointing out that speech is not one-time but repeatable like writing, as both instantiate word types. He claimed that speech is derived from "arche-writing," without which neither speech nor writing would exist (cf. [7]). Similarly, capitalism is derived from *arche-capitalism*, without which capitalism would devolve into a closed loop without deviation. The more capitalism is accelerated without redirection, the more we become confined within this closed loop. Arche-capitalism is repetition *with* difference, keeping us from falling into such a loop. Capitalism and arche-capitalism may respectively correspond to "pouvoir" and "puissance" in Deleuze's[10] terminology. *Pouvoir* is sovereign power such as authority, domination, and control, whereas *puissance* is immanent power such as resistance, flight, and creation. According to Deleuze, pouvoir is derived from puissance. Similarly, capitalism is derived from arche-capitalism. This correspondence seems to be supported by Negri's exposition of Williams and Srnicek's accelerationism:

> This horizon ... gives new form to the movement, where by "form" we should understand an arrangement of things that is constitutive, rich with possibilities, and aimed at breaking the repressive and hierarchic horizon of the State that today informs capitalist power. It is not a matter of the overthrow of the State form – it means rather invoking potential (***potenza***) against Power (***potere***), biopolitics against biopower[11].

Williams and Srnicek themselves seem to imply this correspondence in the following way:

> Accelerationists want to unleash latent productive forces. In this project, the material platform of neoliberalism does not need to be destroyed. It needs to be repurposed towards common ends. The existing infrastructure is not a capitalist stage to be smashed, but a springboard to launch towards post-capitalism[5].

While capitalism is derived from arche-capitalism, pouvoir is derived from puissance. Sovereign power, such as domination, derives from immanent power, such as resistance, which used to be against another sovereign power. Since capitalism drives only sovereign power, or pouvoir, redirection may be essential to driving immanent power, or puissance, toward an arche-capitalist future.

Schizoanalysis and Accelerationism

Deleuze and Guattari[3][4] developed *schizoanalysis* in opposition to Freud's psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis regards schizophrenia as a mental illness, or an abnormal state, whereas schizoanalysis does not consider it abnormal but rather a social construct. Freud sought to treat the patient by tracing the cause of the illness to her familial relationships. In contrast, Deleuze and Guattari insisted that the patient suffers because her desires are constrained by social forces that extend beyond the family. In modern society, these constraints are no longer imposed by tribes or nations but by capitalist mechanisms, of which the family is merely one component. According to Deleuze and Guattari, capitalism spreads, or *decodes*, desires in diverse directions, while simultaneously stabilizing, or *recoding*, them into a unified direction. Schizoanlysis posits that the patient with schizophrenia suffers because her decoded desires are recoded by capitalist mechanisms. Deleuze and Guattari proposed liberating the patient by accelerating capitalism to the point where decoding is no longer followed by recoding.

Accelerationists also propose accelerating capitalism. Nick Land insists that only deterritorialization, which disrupts social orders, can lead to a post-capitalist future. However, deterritorialization is always accompanied by reterritorialization, which generates reinforced orders. He proposes pursuing absolute deterritorialization, which is no longer accompanied by reterritorialization, but such absolute deterritorialization may only lead to anarchy. Deterritorialization and reterritorialization correspond to decoding and recoding respectively. As absolute deterritorialization may lead to anarchy, absolute decoding, which is no longer followed by recoding, may only lead to a chaos of desires. Williams and Srnicek propose not only accelerating but also redirecting capitalism toward a post-capitalist future. Such redirection may also be essential to liberating the patient. I have explained above why redirection, as well as acceleration, may be essential in accelerationism. Lineages, which drive macroevolution, are repetitions *with* difference, sustaining biological diversity. By contrast, capitalism, which drives deterritorialization, is repetition *without* difference, disrupting social diversity. Similarly, capitalism, which drives decoding, can be thought of as repetition *without* difference, disrupting psychological diversity. Speaking metaphorically, since absolute decoding may only lead to a chaos of desires,

redirection may be essential to driving macroevolution sustaining a diversity of desires, which leads to liberating the patient.

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