

Problematizing Ideology and The Ideological Problematic : Althusserian Engagement with the Oxymoron

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ABSTRACT

Ideology conceptualised and perceived of in the larger context of a complex web of social and political intercourse in specific human condition is essential and axiomatic to Althusser's imagination of the concept. In Althusserian imagination, the concept enjoys a vibrantly active presence in the relationship that connects the economic base with cultural, intellectual and ideological superstructure. Manifestation of this phenomenon pronounces itself as an all pervasive element informed with omnipotent dynamism seeping through the institutional and structural order of the state. Objective embedded in this exercise is to engineer the said concept of the individual as *subject* through a process of ideological interpellation. In the pursuit of this endeavour, further attempts are invoked in order to define the conception of a *subject position* with reference to structural concepts. The logical extension of this exercise then encapsulates within itself the putative potentialities of action. Agencies of repression and constraint, in consequence, strive to attain their respective definitions through a convergence of political and psychological forces. To articulate it differently, suggestive is the idea that the chief objective which underlined Althusserian exercise was to subject to critico-analytical scrutiny the techniques (a combination of *Ideological State Apparatus* and *Repressive State Apparatus*) through a complicated interplay of which State exercises dominance and control over its subjects for the purpose of reproduction of Productive power. In consequence, by taking recourse to discussion of the relationship that work as connect between the State and the subjects, Althusser invoked an effort to define ideology as the supreme material power which stands in transcendence over traditional Marxist understanding that celebrated economy as the ultimate power of the capitalist society.

Key Words : Problematizing ideology, Oxymoron, Human condition

INTRODUCTION

Cogitation of ideology with reference to the matrix of social and political intercourse in a specific human condition is fundament to Althusser's imagination of the concept.¹ It is redolent that in Althusserian conception, the concept enjoys a vibrantly active presence in

How to cite this Article: Jha, Saroj R. (2016). Problematizing Ideology and The Ideological Problematic : Althusserian Engagement with the Oxymoron. *Internat. J. Appl. Soc. Sci.*, **3** (1&2) : 39-52.