

THE POLITICAL USES OF THE UNIVERSITY

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The Evolution of the State in the United States

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- Federalism and state's rights
- The New Deal: Provider and regulatory State
- The neoliberal State: De-regulation and privatization
- *The Predator State*: Hyper-capitalism and the erosion of institutions (James K. Galbraith, 2008)

The Contemporary State, Markets and Politics in the United States

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- The aftermath of 9/11: the security State
- No Child Left Behind
- Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, AIG
- Iraq: Outsourcing the coercive power of the State
Corporate Warriors (Peter Singer, 2003)

The End of Neo-liberal Governance?

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- "I fear the government has passed the point of no return," said Ron Chernow, a leading American financial historian. "We have the irony of a free-market administration doing things that the most liberal Democratic administration would never have been doing in its wildest dreams."
- "For opponents of free markets in Europe and elsewhere, this is a wonderful opportunity to invoke the American example," said Mario Monti, the former antitrust chief at the European Commission. "They will say that even the standard-bearer of the market economy, the United States, negates its fundamental principles in its behavior."

Nelson D. Schwartz,

New York Times 9/18/08

Universities, the State and Civil Society

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- The State/university relationship
- Who represents the university in contest with the State?
- The university in tension with civil society
- The State and civil society in contest over higher education
- Who represents the civil society in political contests with the university?

The Political Terrain of the University

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- The university as a political institution of the State
- The internal and external political coalitions of the university
- The challenge of nonprofit status
- The essential question: whose interests are served?
- Stratification and inequality

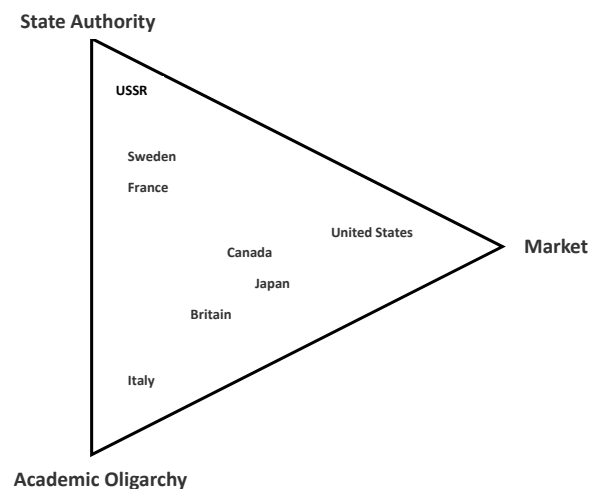
The University Beyond the State

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- The university as a public sphere
- The university as a site of great intellectual, cultural and symbolic importance to civil society and the broader political economy
- A site of resistance, critique and critical inquiry free from control by the State, private interests/market or the institution itself

Clark's Triangle of Authority Relations *The Higher Education System* (1983)

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Virginia Restructuring

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- A visible, protracted contest over authority
- Revisiting the role of the public university
- The power of the postsecondary institutions
- The power of the market
- The State and the balance of public/private goods

The Case of Virginia Restructuring

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- Higher Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- Thirty nine 2-year and 4-year institutions
- 357,000 students
- The 11th largest postsecondary system in the U.S.
- Higher education revenue of 4.5 billion dollars, \$1.5 billion from the Commonwealth (2006).

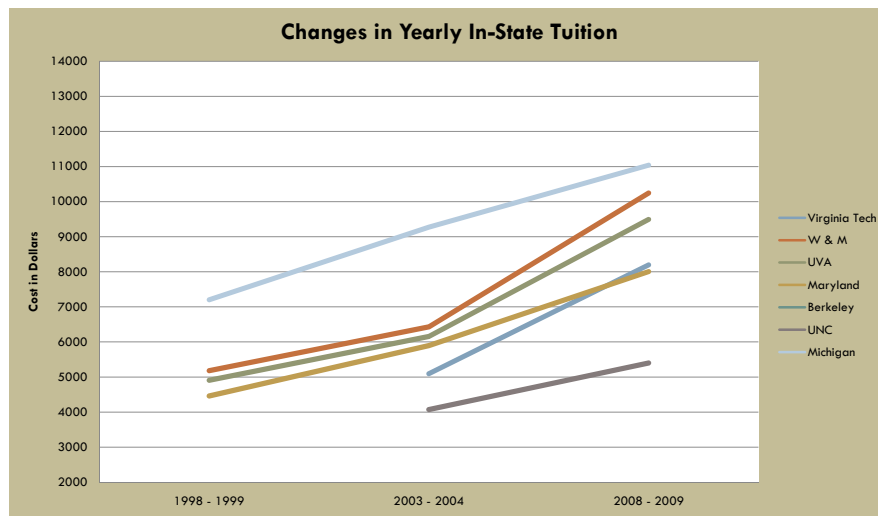
Neoliberal Public Finance in Virginia

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- Twenty years of declines in financial allocations from the legislature to higher education
- Tuition controlled by Virginia legislature
- Growing disparities in per-student funding for Virginia flagships and peer institutions
- U.Va. aspiring to become 'the finest privately financed public university in the world.'

Tuition at Virginia Universities

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The Goal of Virginia Restructuring

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- The institutions: 'competitiveness, quality, control of resources'
- The employees: 'State-centered status'
- The legislature: 'institutional autonomy vs. public accountability'
- The students: 'excellence and affordability'

The Centrality of Institutional Revenue

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- "It's no secret that the main goal of the leaders of U.Va., William & Mary, and Va. Tech in seeking greater autonomy was to assert the authority of the institutions' boards of visitors to set their own tuition and fees, thereby gaining control over one of their most important revenue sources."

Lara K. Couturier (2006)

The Unfolding Political Contest 2004-2006

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- The institutions: United or divided?
- The legislature in transition
- The Governor takes the lead
- Faculty Senates raise labor concerns
- The students and the media

The 'State Ask': Fourteen Conditions

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- Each institution must present a strategic plan for meeting state performance goals for:
 - Access for underserved populations
 - Affordability
 - Economic development
 - K-12 transition to higher education
 - Academic standards

The Enacted Legislation

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- Institutions gain greater control over tuition and other revenue streams, labor arrangements and financial procedures
- Labor preserves existing agreements but not for new employees
- The legislature links increased institutional autonomy to the “state ask.”
- Students preserve the centrality of affordability

Lessons From the Virginia Contest

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- Public and private universities as political institutions: sites and instruments of political contest
- Universities as producers of public and private goods demanded by interest groups
- The importance of contest
- The centrality of the university as a public sphere
- The State as guardian of the autonomy of the public sphere

Reconceptualizing Authority Relations

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The State & Civil Society In Contest

THE
INSTITUTIONAL
ESTATE

MARKETS/PRIVATE
INTERESTS