

Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xiii
Chapter 1. Oppression, Resistance, and the State: An Introduction	1
Systems of Oppression and the State	3
Structures of Oppression: Power, Politics, and the State	3
Political Economy	4
Patriarchy	7
Racism	10
Heteronormativity	12
Structures of Oppression and Resistance	13
References	13
Chapter 2. From the Top Down? Power Structure Theories	15
Pluralism	15
Group Pluralism	16
Elite Pluralism	19
Critique of Pluralism	21
Power Elite Theory	25
Critical Assessment of Power Elite Theory	29
Class Dialectic Theory	31
Critical Assessment of Class Dialectic Theory	32
Poststructuralist Theories of Power	33
Critical Assessment of Poststructuralist Theories of Power	34
Comparing Power Structure Theories	34
The Meaning and Dimensions of Power	36
Summing Up	43
Discussion	44
References	45

Chapter 3. Is This the Best (or Only) Possible World?	
Oppression and Socialization	47
Oppression Values and Ideologies	48
Individual Rights, Group Interests, and Oppression	48
Political Socialization	51
Media	51
Schools	56
The State	59
Patriarchal Socialization and Gendered Oppression	62
Media	62
Family	65
Work	66
Schools	67
The State	69
Resistance to Patriarchal Oppression and Socialization	70
White Superiority Socialization and Racist Oppression	71
Media	72
Family	75
Schools	77
The State	81
Summing Up	82
Discussion	83
References	83
Chapter 4. Power to the People? Voting and Electoral Participation	91
Who Votes?	92
Why Don't People Vote?	97
Social Psychological Explanations	97
Structural Explanations	99
Political Alienation	101
Why Are People Politically Alienated?	103
Scandals in Leadership	103
The Structure of the Political Process	104
Racism in the Electoral Process	107
Is There a Gender Gap?	110
Radical Objections to Voting	113
Power Beyond Voting	115
Direct Action	115
Political Action Committees	117
Soft Money	120

<i>Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission</i>	122
Structural Factors of Power Without Voting	123
Discussion	125
References	126
Chapter 5. Who's in Charge Here? The State and Society	129
Marxist Theories of the State	131
Instrumentalism/Business Dominance Theory: “Capture” or Domination?	131
Capitalist State Structuralism	134
Class Dialectic Perspective: “Bringing Class Back In”	137
State-Centered Structuralism: “Bringing the State Back In”	139
Anarchist Theory	141
Theories of the State and Oppression	142
Discussion	145
References	145
Chapter 6. From the Bottom Up? Social Movements and the State	149
Defining Social Movements	149
Explaining Social Movements	153
Absolute and Relative Deprivation Theories	153
Resource Mobilization	156
Political Process Perspective	158
Globalization and Social Movements	162
Social Movements and State Theory	164
Discussion	165
References	165
Chapter 7. State Policies and Practices: Racialized, Class-Based, and Gendered Oppression	171
Toward a Multidimensional View of the State, Society, and Oppression	173
State Projects	175
Selectivity Filters	176
Balance of Political and Institutional Forces	177
Modeling a Multidimensional View of the State, Society, and Oppression	178
The State and Class-Based Oppression	182
State Projects of Economic Intervention and Class Oppression	182

The State and Gendered Oppression	185
Gendering State Projects	188
The State and Heteronormative Oppression	194
The State and Racialized Oppression	199
Racial Formation State Projects	201
Intersectionality of Racialized, Class-Based, and Gendered Oppression and State Projects	206
Summing Up	208
References	209
Index	219
About the Authors	231