Topic 8
Breadth:
Greenfield, Mergers and Globalization

Regimes of differential accumulation (revision)
- Breadth (size) and depth (elemental power)
- External breadth: green-field
- Internal breadth: mergers and acquisitions
- External depth: stagflation
- Internal depth: cost cutting
- Paths of differential accumulation: corporate strategies vs. regimes

External breadth: green-field
- Size of firms, number of firms
- The double edged sword of economic growth

Internal breadth: mergers and acquisitions
- Buy-to-build ratio
- One of the “ten mysteries of finance”
- Marshall’s economies of scale?
- Coase’s transaction costs?
- Corporate size: efficiency or differential profit?
- Merger as a “disciplinary force”?

Breaking the envelope
- The merger waves: monopoly, oligopoly, conglomerate, global
- Tobin’s Q – are investors out of their mind?
- “Eating the goose that lays the golden eggs”
- Depleting the pool of takeover targets
- Merger as a social transformation

Amalgamation and globalization
- Globalization cycles
- The Unholy Trinity: state sovereignty, capital mobility, monetary stability
- Gross and net flows
- Capital mobility and ownership
- Foreign investment: efficiency or power?
**Earnings**

\[ earnings \equiv \text{employment} \times \frac{\text{earnings}}{\text{employment}} \]

\[ earnings \equiv \text{employment} \times \text{earnings per employees} \]

\[ earnings \equiv \text{breadth} \times \text{depth} \]

**Differential Earnings**

\[ earnings_D \equiv \text{employment}_D \times \text{earnings per employees}_D \]

\[ earnings_{DK} \equiv \text{employment}_{DK} \times \text{earnings per employees}_{DK} \]

\[ earnings_A \equiv \text{employment}_A \times \text{earnings per employee}_A \]

**Table 1**

**Regimes of Differential Accumulation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>External</strong></th>
<th><strong>Internal</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breadth</strong></td>
<td>Green-field</td>
<td>Mergers &amp; Acquisitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depth</strong></td>
<td>Stagflation</td>
<td>Cost-cutting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURE 1  U.S. Employment, Firms and Firm Size

* Corporations only.
** Non-agricultural employment divided by the number of corporations.

SOURCE: U.S. Internal Revenue Service; US Department of Commerce.
FIGURE 2  U.S. Accumulation: Internal vs. External Breadth

NOTE: Indicator is based on splicing of separate series.

FIGURE 3  Tobin’s Q?

NOTE: Series are smoothed as 5-year moving averages.

The Unholy Trinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Sovereignty</th>
<th>Stability</th>
<th>Capital Mobility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold Standard (1870–1914)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-War (1914–1944)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bretton Woods (1944–1971)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neo-liberalism (1971–present)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</table>
FIGURE 4       G7 Cross-Border Private Investment Flows (% of Gross Fixed Capital Formation)

NOTE: Series are smoothed as 3-year moving averages. Flows comprise direct and portfolio investment. Gross flows are computed as the sum of inflows and outflows. Net flows are computed separately for each country as the difference between inflows and outflows and are then converted into absolute values and aggregated. Each series denotes the ratio of overall G7 flows to overall G7 gross fixed capital formation, both in $US.

SOURCE: Jonathan Nitzan and Shimshon Bichler, Capital as Power: A Study of Order and Creorder (London & New York, Routledge, 2009), Figure 15.5, p 355 (http://bnarchives.yorku.ca/259/). Original data are from the IMF’s International Financial Statistics through Global Insight (series codes: LAF for the $U.S. exchange rate; L93E&C for gross fixed capital formation); IMF’s Balance of Payment Statistics through Global Insight (series codes: B4505 for direct investment abroad; B4555Z for direct investment in the reporting country; B4602 for portfolio investment abroad; B4652Z for portfolio investment in the reporting country); Global Insight International Database (series codes RX@UZ for Euro/$U.S. exchange rate; IFIX@EURO for fixed capital formation from 1998 for EU countries).
### Table 2
The Globalization of Ownership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ratio of Global Gross Foreign Assets* to Global GDP (%)</th>
<th>Share of Global Gross Foreign Assets* (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>U.K. Owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td></td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
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<td>7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Gross foreign assets stocks consist of cash, loans, bonds and equities owned by non-residents.

FIGURE 5  Ratio of Global Gross Foreign Assets to Global GDP

NOTE: Gross foreign assets consist of cash, loans, bonds and equities owned by non-residents. Both gross foreign assets and GDP are estimates based on a changing sample of countries. The Obstfeld & Taylor series (thick line) uses a sample that gradually grows from 4 countries in 1870, to 7 in 1900, to 26 in 1980, to 63 in 2000. The Lane & Milesi-Ferretti series (thin line) uses a sample that gradually grows from 101 countries in 1970, to 177 in 2000, to 178 in 2007.

**FIGURE 6** The Globalization of U.S. Business: Ownership vs. Trade

* Receipts from the rest of the world as a percent of corporate profit after tax.

NOTE: Series are shown as 5-year moving averages.