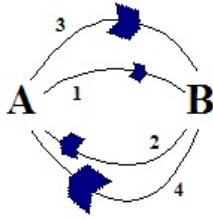


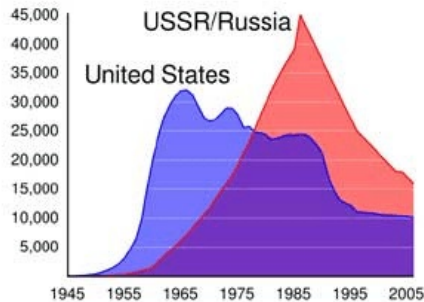
Schismogenesis



The theory of schismogenesis is based on cybernetic systems theory. Consider a positive feedback loop in which A is acting on B acting on A acting on B and so on, each loop amplifying the action on the other, resulting in progressive disorder and increasing entropy. The entire system, A and B, will inevitably collapse, unless the loops are broken, i.e., a new way of communicating and exchanging "information" between A and B is created. The

theory of schismogenesis was put forward by the anthropologist Gregory Bateson (1904-1980), author of *Naven* 1958, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind* 1972, and *Mind and Nature* 1979. Bateson asserts that institutions within societies and societies themselves act similarly, as a series of positive feedback loops. Two types can be easily observed, symmetrical and complementary (asymmetrical). The result of both forms of schismogenesis can be disastrous, unless the ways the institutions or societies relate to one another are significantly re-structured, into negative feedback loops. Competitive rivals, each mirroring the actions of the other, now re-define and re-direct their relations with each other, perhaps becoming collaborators?

Symmetrical: intensification between competitive rivals - the example of the Cold War



The Arms Race between the United States and the Soviet Union/Russia, 1945-2005. As one country sought to defend itself, the other would respond in kind, calling for a response by the first country, and so on, escalating the arms build-up.



The mushroom cloud of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, 1945, rose some 18 kilometers (11 mi) above the hypocenter, and the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.



OR

U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev signing the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in the East Room at the White House in 1987.



Complementary: intensification between dominate-subordinate - Example of the Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Poorer



Bill Gates in 2004, and The Breakers, in Newport, Rhode Island, is one of the most famous 19th century mansions in the US. In the United States (2007), 1% of the population controls 29% of the wealth, while 50% of the populations has access to 13% of the nations wealth.

Rank		Nation	Number
1		United States	371
2		Russia	47
3		Germany	46
4		India	36
5		United Kingdom	34
6		Japan	27
7		Turkey	26
8		Canada	21
9		Brazil	18
10		Hong Kong	17

Numbers of billionaires in 2006 by country, with annual worth of \$1,000,000,000 or more, or there are some 643 people living on \$2,700,000 a day.



Searching through the trash, Jakarta, 1965, and the poor washing their clothing in a polluted river, India, 2001. There are currently 1.1 billion people in the world living on \$1 or less a day.