

# Louis Althusser

'Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses  
(Notes Towards an Investigation)' (1970)

- Marxism
- Louis Althusser



Introductions

RSA vs ISA

Materiality of Ideology

Ideology and subjectivity

	RSA	ISA
<i>Unity/plurality</i>	One/unified apparatus	Plurality of apparatuses (or through an hypothetical unity that is not immediately visible)
<i>Domain of action</i>	Entirely in the public sphere	Mostly private
<b><i>Main distinction:</i></b> <i>Means of action</i>	By violence But no purely repressive apparatus → By violence (predominantly) and ideology (secondarily)	By ideology But no purely ideological apparatus → By ideology (predominantly) and violence (secondarily, attenuated or even symbolic)

- Religious apparatuses
- Educational apparatuses
- Familial apparatuses
- Legal apparatuses
- Political apparatuses
- Trade union apparatuses
- Communications apparatuses
- Cultural apparatuses

- ISAs as sites of struggles?

- Pascal: 'kneel down, move your lips in prayer, and you will believe'
- Materiality of ideology

- Interpellation
- Old opposition: 'false consciousness' vs 'class consciousness'
- Here too?
- Individual → subject
  - Resistance ?



- Always already there
- Alternative? Way out?
  - Determinism? Pessimism?
  - Scientific vs ideological conception of ideology
  - Political praxis?