

Social implications of the formation of an Oedipus complex:
the passage to (external) law

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The paper deals with the psychological mechanisms that emerge in the process of the formation of an Oedipus complex (Oedipus complex being its central element) and are the part of human psyche that constitutes the principal self-control mechanism, responsible to large extent for making subject respect valid social norms. Since an Oedipus complex represents a link between the subject and society, and defines a subject's attitude towards authority and law, changes in the process of the formation of an Oedipus complex consequently result in a subject's changed attitude towards law. Sigmund Freud defined a libidinal investment and feelings of hate towards parents in children aged between three and five years as an Oedipus complex and thus set the origins of sociability in the Oedipal situation. Cultural and civilization implications of the Oedipal situation are demonstrated on the example of the contemporary nuclear family, important for the rise of an "abstract", alienated, not spiritualized and creative subject and as such significant also for the constant renewal of consumer hyper-capitalism. (Specific) complications arising in the Oedipal situation also find their expression on a social level.

In this way, the characteristics of the Oedipal situation (co)determine the (specific) "psychology of nation". The process of the formation of an Oedipus complex seems to be essential for the subject's attitude to possession and through that towards the property right and the law in general; a changed process of the formation of an Oedipus complex in post-modern society and psychological mechanisms arising from it thus constitute the psychological basis for the subject's changed attitudes towards law and, at the same time, the psychological background to the modern resort to the logic of "law and order". Through analysis of the social effects of the process of the formation of an Oedipus complex, the paper also demonstrates its cultural and civilization implications and its societal procreative function.

Key words: psychoanalysis, law, subject, Oedipus complex, authority, social norms, laws, internalization

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