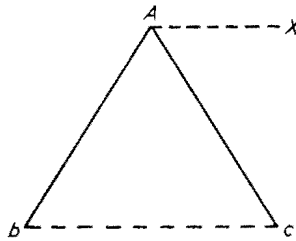


constraints make an even greater variety of qualitatively distinct messages and relationships impossible or unimaginable in the system AS IT STANDS.

A code is thus of a HIGHER LOGICAL TYPE (and therefore less complex) than its messages and messengers. Deep-structure socioeconomic revolution – as distinct from surface-structure change mediated by the given codes – provides an example of the reordering or restructuring of the dominant socioeconomic codes that make one kind of society qualitatively distinct from others. This kind of restructuring nevertheless takes place within the context of codes and constraints – e.g., inorganic and organic (ecological) constraints; the constraints of social organization as such; the requirements of metabolism, maintenance, and subsistence; the genetic code; and so on – none of which appears to have changed in any significant way since the evolution of society.

In human affairs, the structure of the code-message and the code-messenger relation can in part be represented by a version of the Hegelian and Marxian 'triangle of mediation', as in *Figure 1*. The use of solid and broken lines in this diagram is intended to serve as a reminder that the relation involves a hierarchy of logical types.

FIGURE 1
Code-Message Relations: The Triangle of Mediation



- A*: Locus of the code (mediation)
- b, c*: Goalseeking sender-receivers mediated by the code
- b-c*: Locus of the messages (message channels)
- A-b, A-c*: Coding channels
- X*: Relationship to an environment

It will be noted that this relationship is also a definition of the minimal requirements of a communication system. And if *b* and *c* are taken to be children, then the diagram may be used to represent the bourgeois family (introducing relations of sex merely requires a permutation of triangles, with the male dominant). Or *A* may be taken to represent the Great White Father in our society. Similarly, *b* and *c* might represent workers whose

competition with each is mediated by the com its environments: the represents a monopoly of capital with capital system.)

Last, but not all an communicating in what comes to represent the MONEY in the surface: entire relationship of m message relation invol although Marx (obviou commodity of a distinct modities; and that the ' the first volume of *Capit* ship mediated by an Im above; also pp. 210n, 35

Codes and mediation reality that mediation in CONTENTS should not b mediation. If in a given s locus of cooperation, for be primarily constrained than by its natural and under capitalism).

(3) On the role of the d the nervous system, mer "The discovery of [thes with our functional mode cell could only receive si them through its axon, with each other throug axon or a nerve impuls have been found that co is becoming evident tha functional units of incre 100, 103).

9. "Many-valued . . . di of degrees" (p. 158).