

MARXISM AND ITS MODERN INTERPRETATIONS

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ORIGINS

- **KARL MARX AND FRIEDRICH ENGELS**
- **1848 - THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO**
- **3 VOLUMES OF “CAPITAL” (1867-1883)**

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

Ontology

• **Foundationalism**

Epistemology

• **Realism**

KEY FEATURES

Economism

- **Economic relations are the cornerstone**

Determinism

- **Political sphere and state are determined by class relations and mode of production**

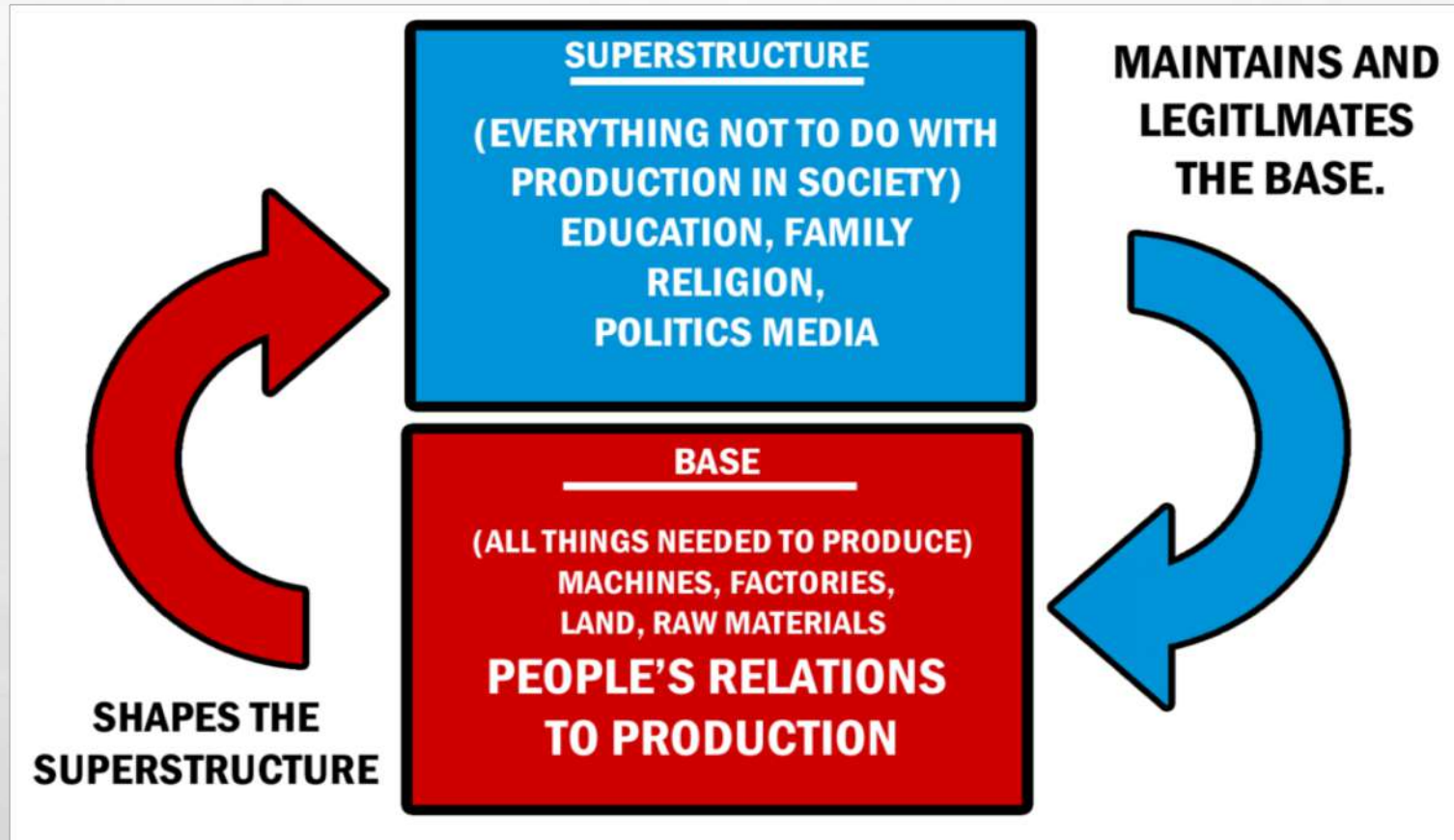
Materialism

- **Material relations shape ideas**
- **Dominant ideas promote interests of the ruling class**

Structuralism

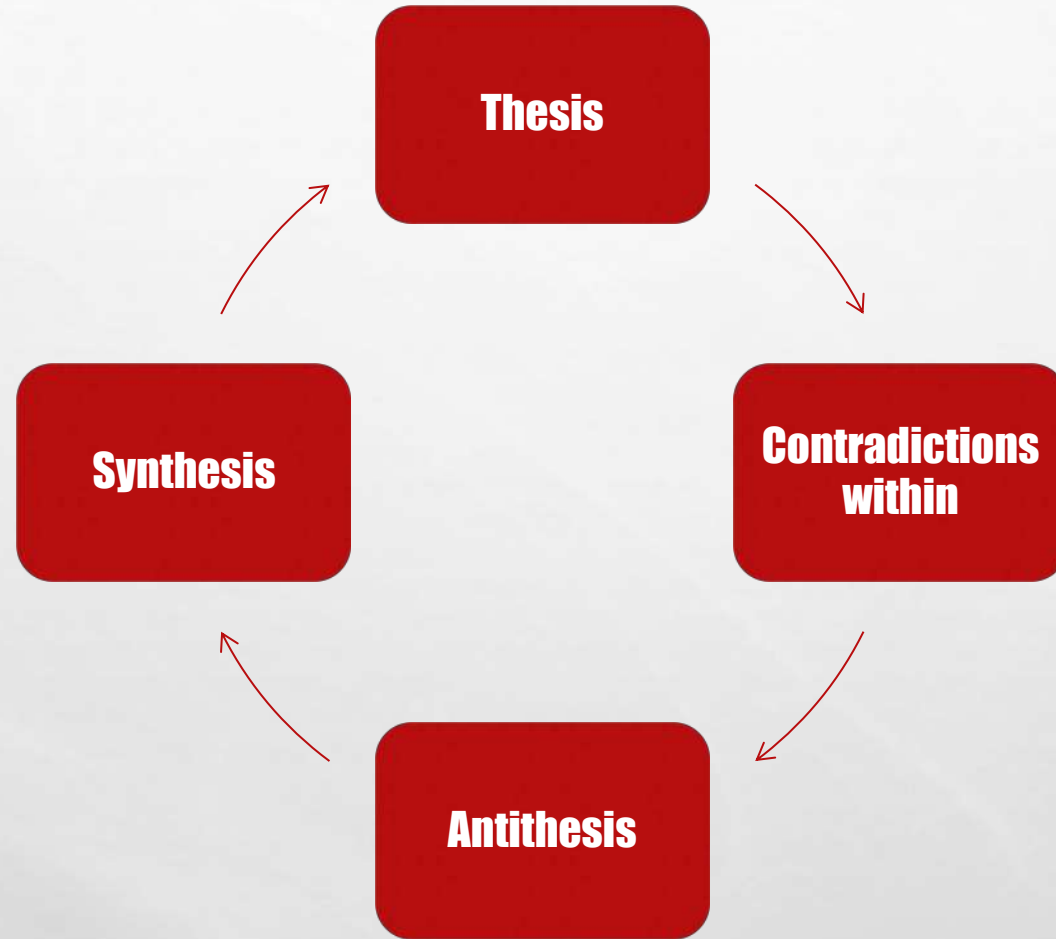
- **Economic structures determine the actions of agents**

STRUCTURE OF HUMAN SOCIETY



Source: Deviant Art

DIALECTISM



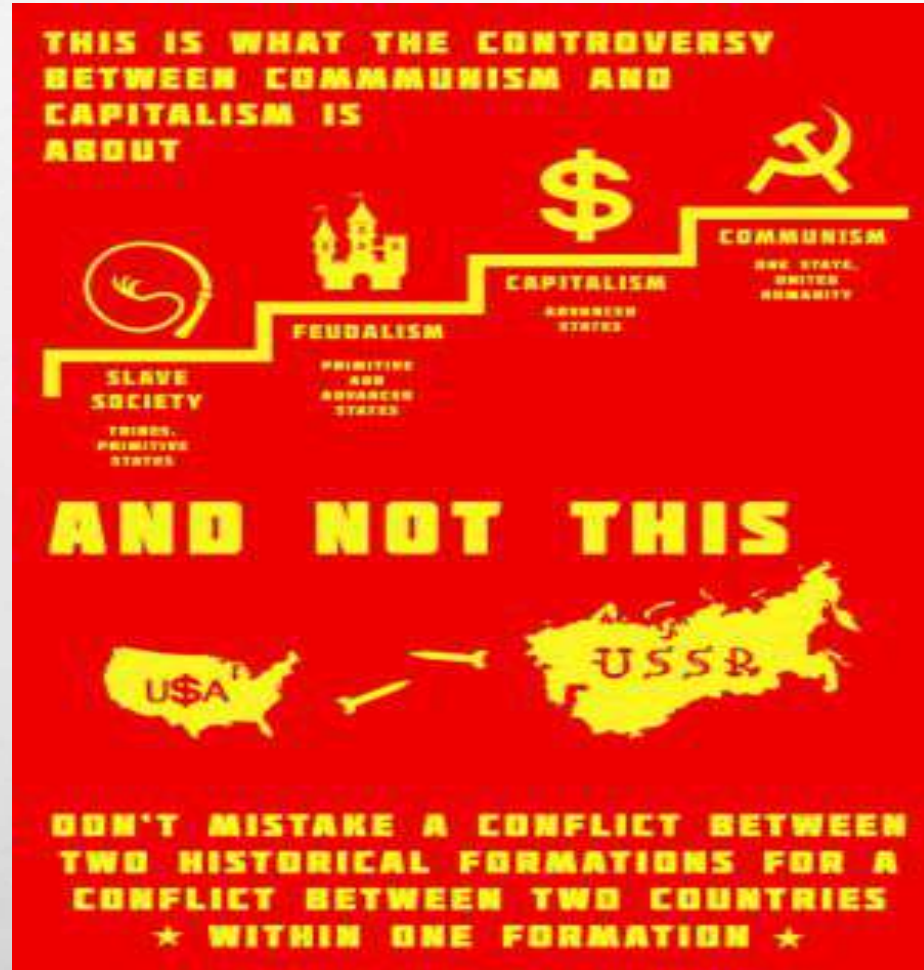
HISTORICAL/DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

Dialectical Materialism: Marx's Theory of History



- **Progress**
- **Emancipatory potential – critical theory**

THEORY VS. REALITY



- **Evolutionary (Kautsky) vs. Revolutionary (Lenin) strains**
- **Scandinavia/Northern Europe vs. USSR and China**
- **Global system vs. Particular Country**
- **Socialism vs. Communism**

Source: Deviant Art

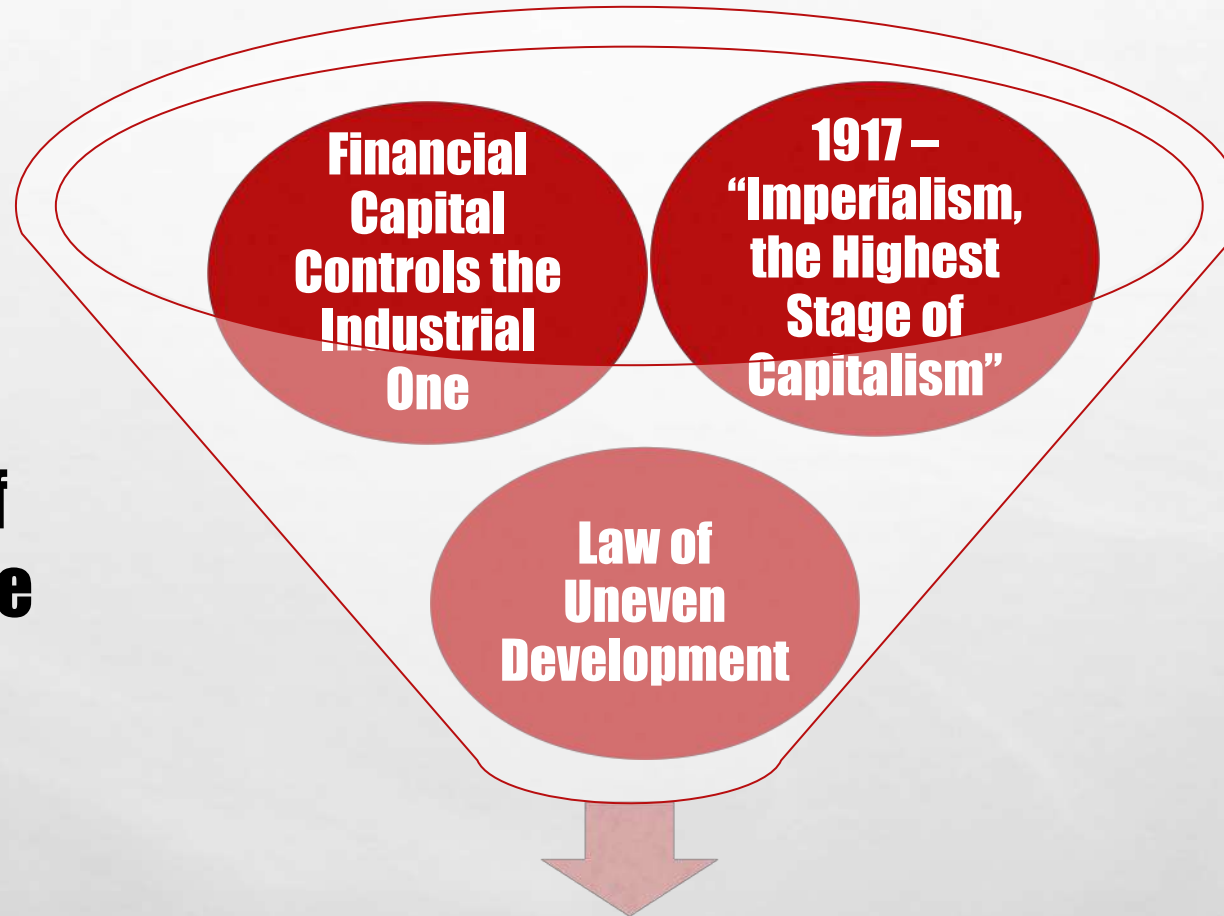
3 LAWS OF CAPITALISM (MARX)

Law of Disproportionality

Law of Accumulation

Law of the Falling Rate of Return

LENIN'S 4TH LAW



Political reasons of capitalism's demise

**Trotsky:
World
Revolution**

Theory of International Relations

TOWARDS NEOMARXISM

Ontology

- More Idealist
- Ideas Are Independent; Actors Are Reflexive

Epistemology

- More Interpretative
- Interpretation Affects Outcomes

THE MAJORITY OF THE AUTHORS:

- **REJECTS RIGID ECONOMISM, DETERMINISM, STRUCTURALISM, MATERIALISM**
- **ACKNOWLEDGES VARIOUS FACTORS OF STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY OTHER THAN CLASS (E.G. GENDER, RACE, ETC.)**

SOME VARIANTS

Marxist Feminism

Gender as a factor of structural inequality

Men's politics are aggressive

Obsolete distinction between public and private spheres (productive vs. reproductive labor)

Cultural Hegemony of Gramsci

Hegemony is control/leadership/authority

Hegemony is complex: cultural component is crucial

Key role of ideology and institutions

NEOMARXISM OF I. WALLERSTEIN: WORLD-SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Economic factors dominate global politics

Capital/labor dichotomy

Rejects dialectical materialism

WORLD-SYSTEMS THEORY: THRESHOLD CONCEPTS

Historical systems: mini-systems, World-Empires, World-Economy

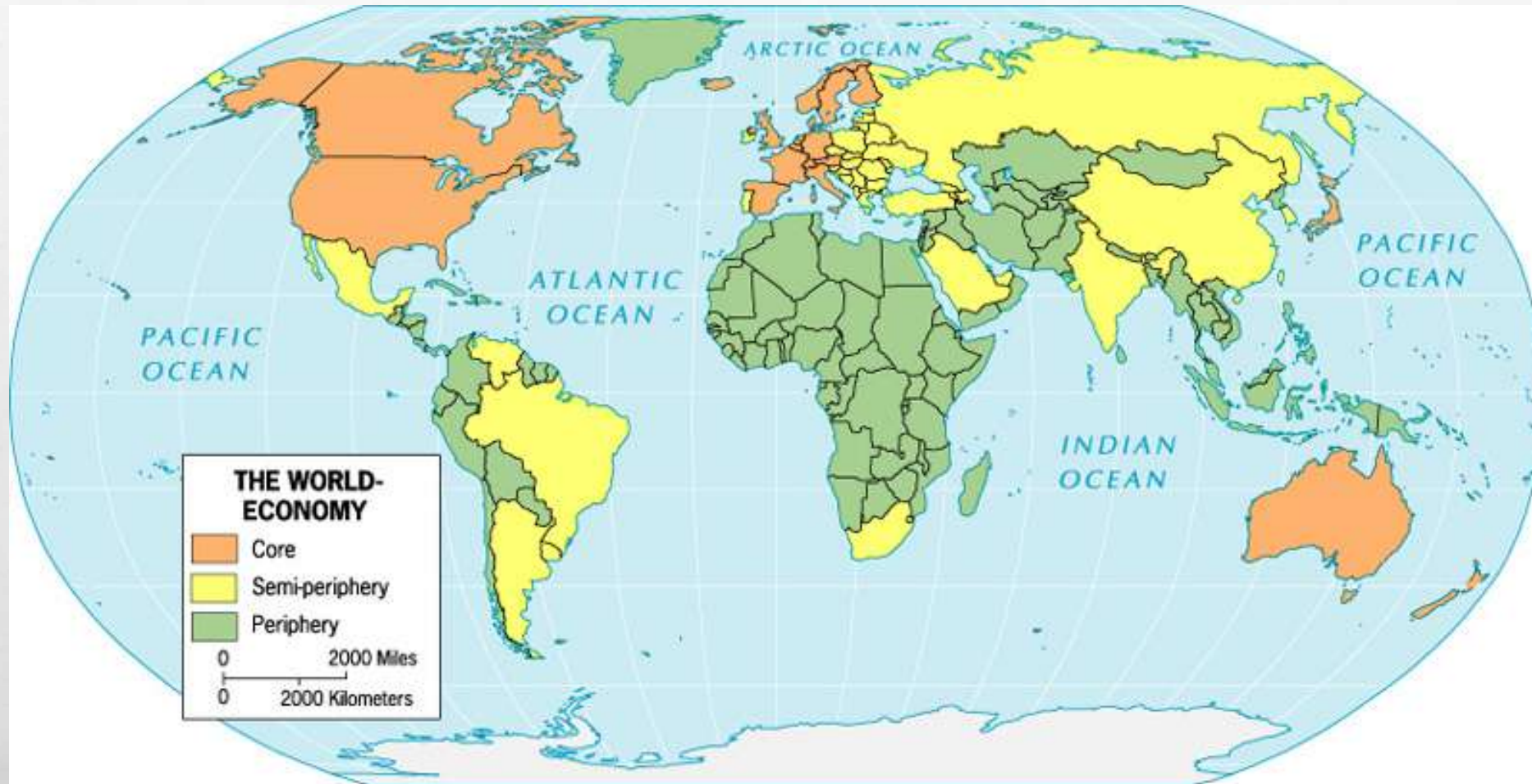
Nowadays – Capitalist World-System or World-Economy

Core, semi-periphery, and periphery

Complex network of economic exchange relationships

Absence of the unified political center or system

WORLD-SYSTEMS MAP



Source: Elwell, F. W.

WORLD-SYSTEMS THEORY: PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS



North/South Divide

“End of liberalism”: Crisis

New System to Resolve the Issues

AFTERWARD: (F)UTILITY?

- **CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN CAPITALISM PERSIST**
- **CAPITALISM IS EXPLOITATIVE**
- **MASSIVE INEQUALITIES DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY
VS. DIVISION OF LABOR**