



Michael Brie

From the
Accumulation of
Capital to the
Social and
Ecological
Reproduction of a
Solidarian Society

Workshop

“The Accumulation of
Capital: A Contribution to
an Economic Explanation
of Imperialism’: A Century-
Old Work Remains
Current, Provocative and
Seminal”

March 2014



Adam Smith
(1723-1790)

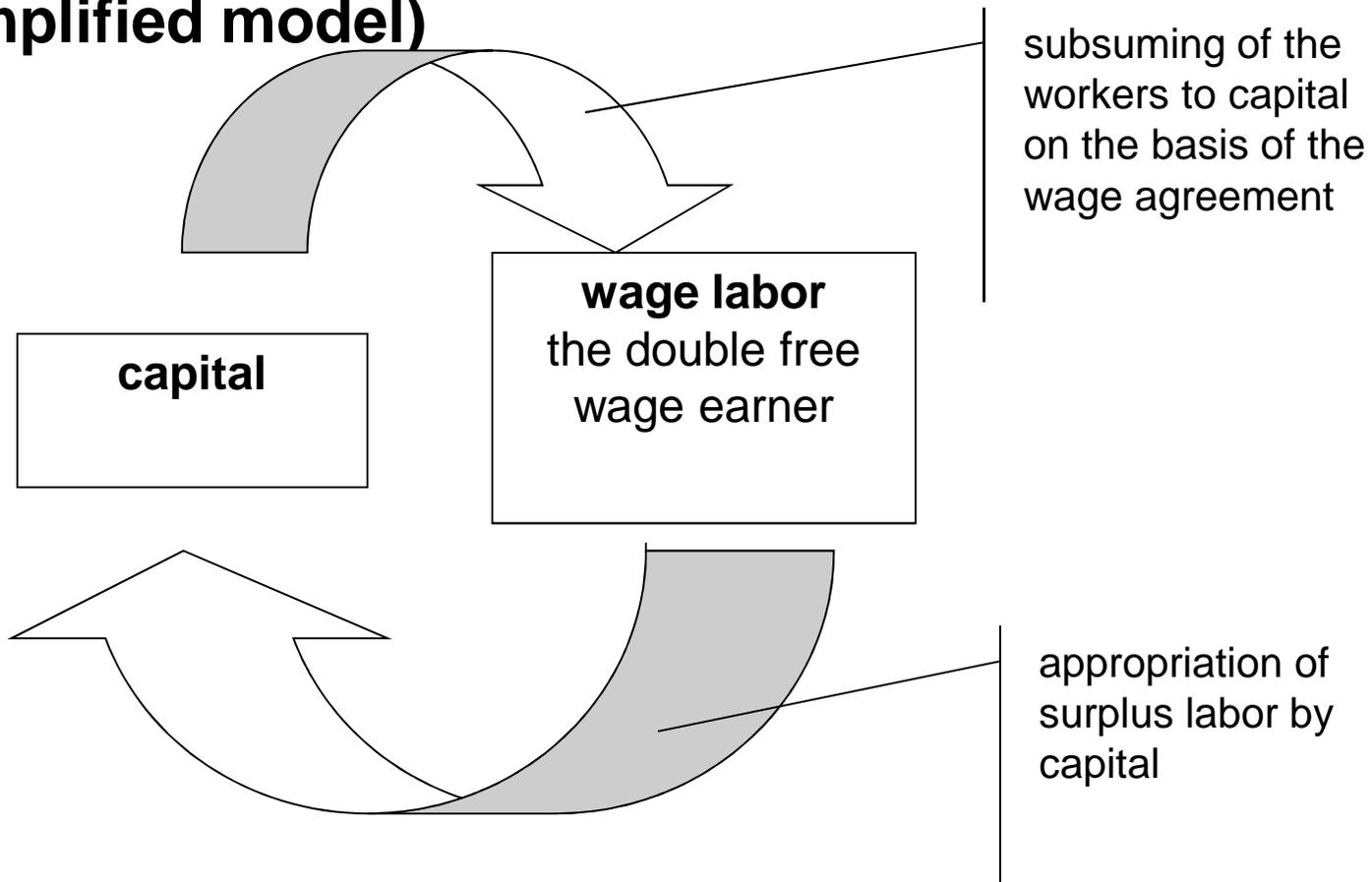
An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of
THE WEALTH OF NATIONS
Book II: Of the Nature, Accumulation, and Employment of
Stock

“the number of workmen in every branch of business generally increases with the division of labour in that branch, or rather it is the increase of their number which enables them to class and subdivide themselves in this manner. As the accumulation of stock is previously necessary for carrying on this great improvement in the productive powers of labour, so that accumulation naturally leads to this improvement. The person who employs his stock in maintaining labour, necessarily wishes to employ it in such a manner as to produce as great a quantity of work as possible. He endeavours, therefore, both to make among his workmen the most proper distribution of employment, and to furnish them with the best machines which he can either invent or afford to purchase.

The quantity of industry, therefore, not only increases in every country with the increase of the stock which employs it, but, in consequence of that increase, the same quantity of industry produces a much greater quantity of work.”

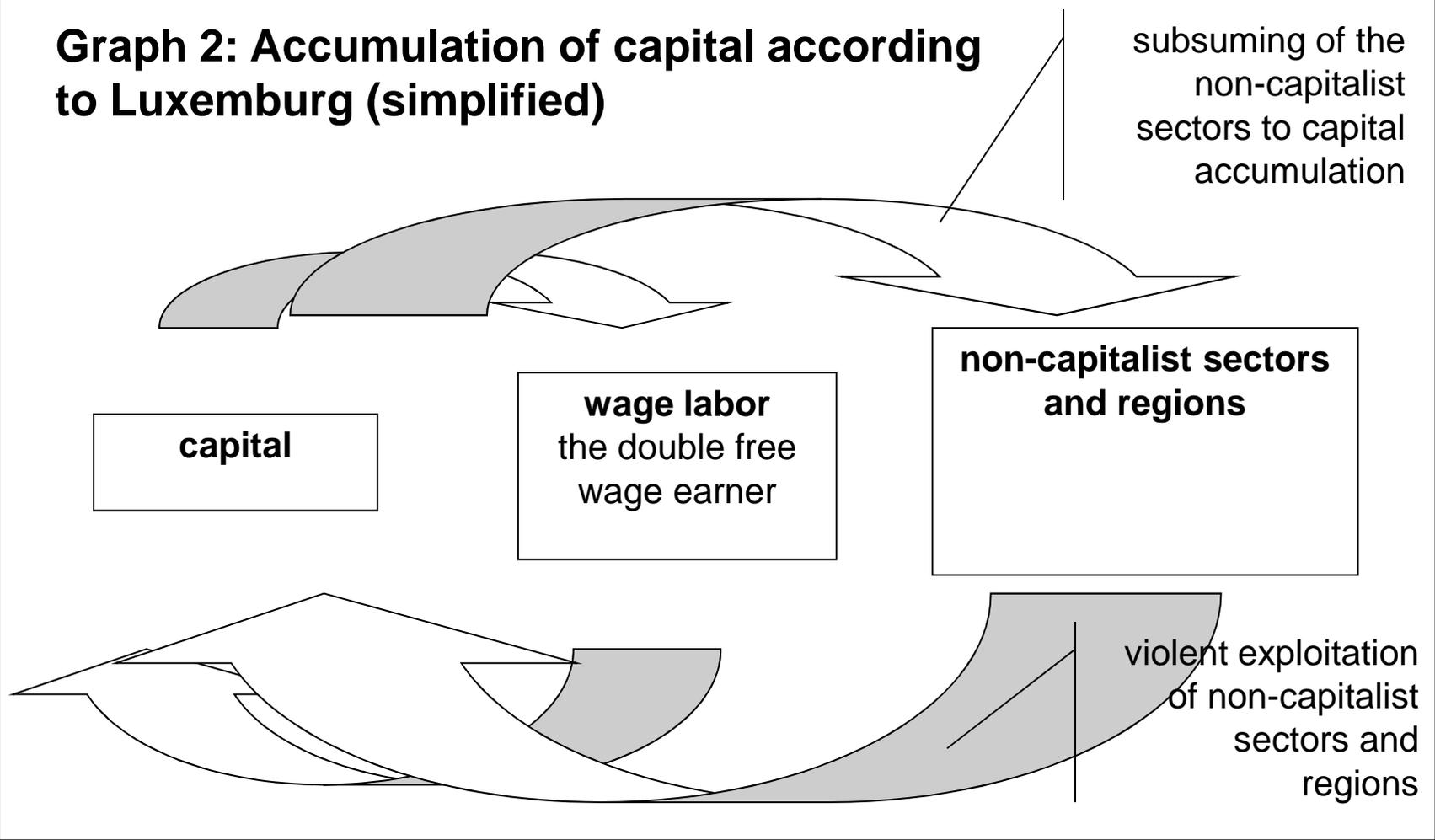


Graph 1: Accumulation of capital according to Marx (simplified model)

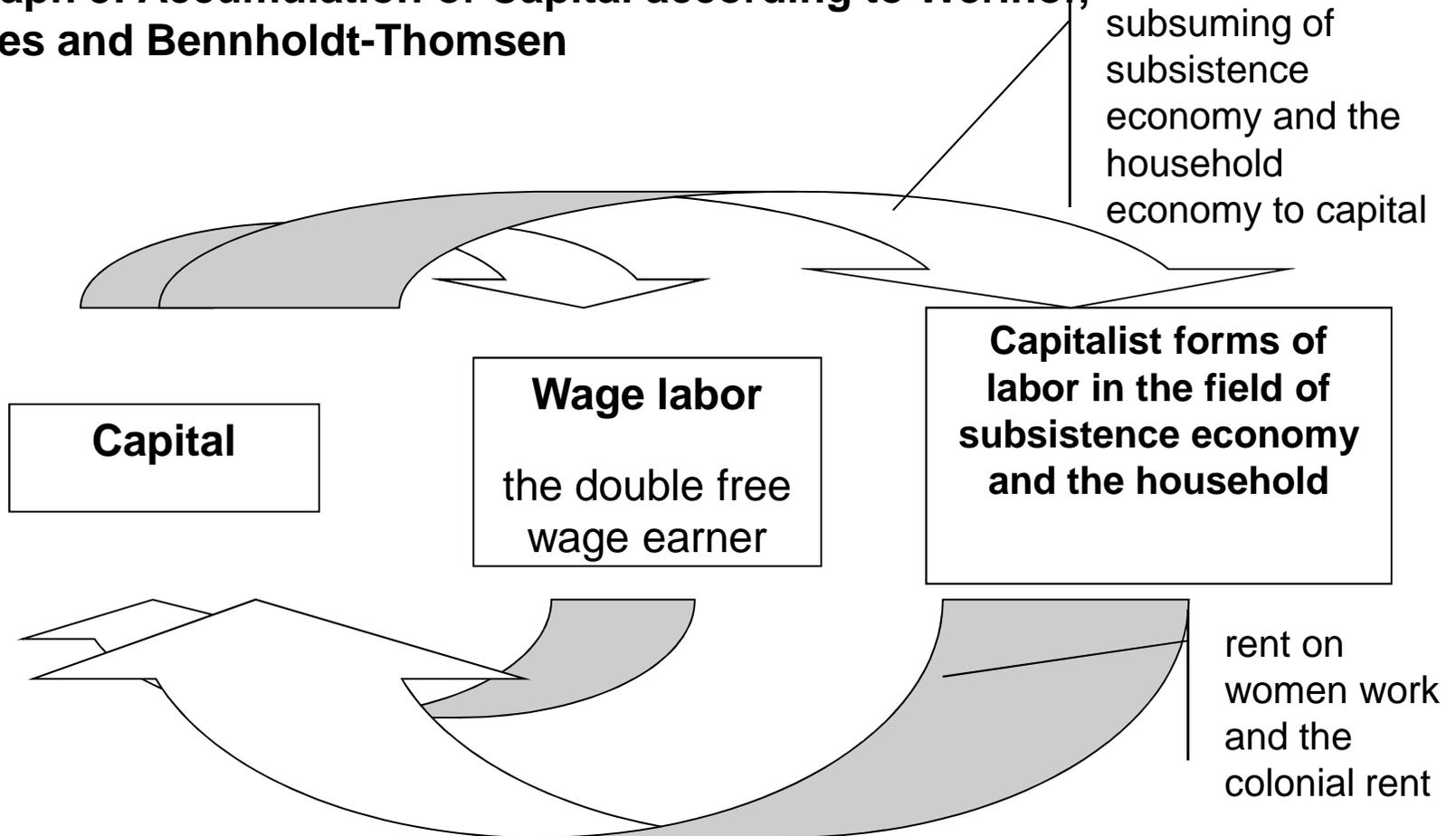




Graph 2: Accumulation of capital according to Luxemburg (simplified)

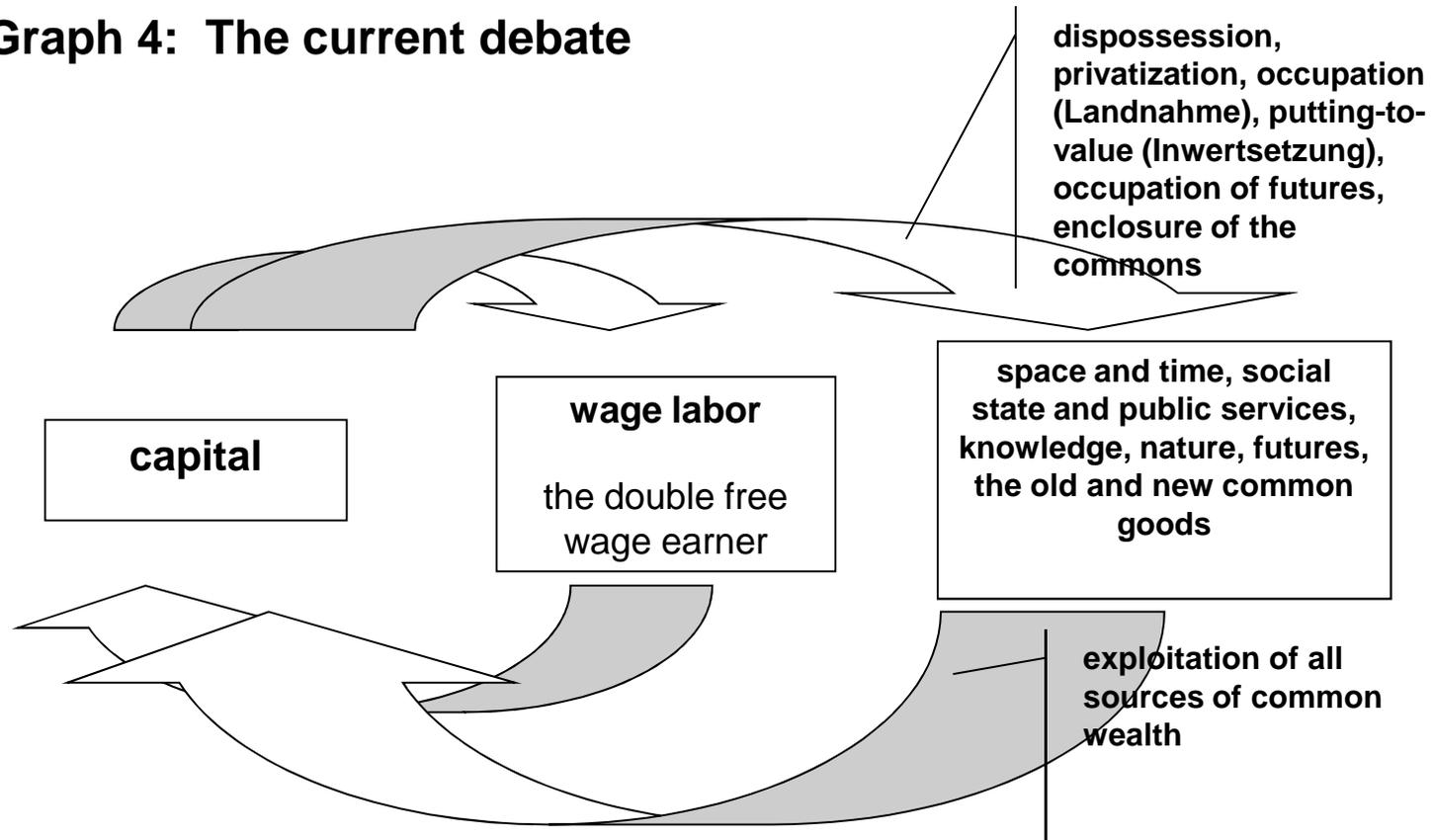


Graph 3: Accumulation of Capital according to Werlhof, Mies and Bennholdt-Thomsen





Graph 4: The current debate



The dynamic engine of productivity

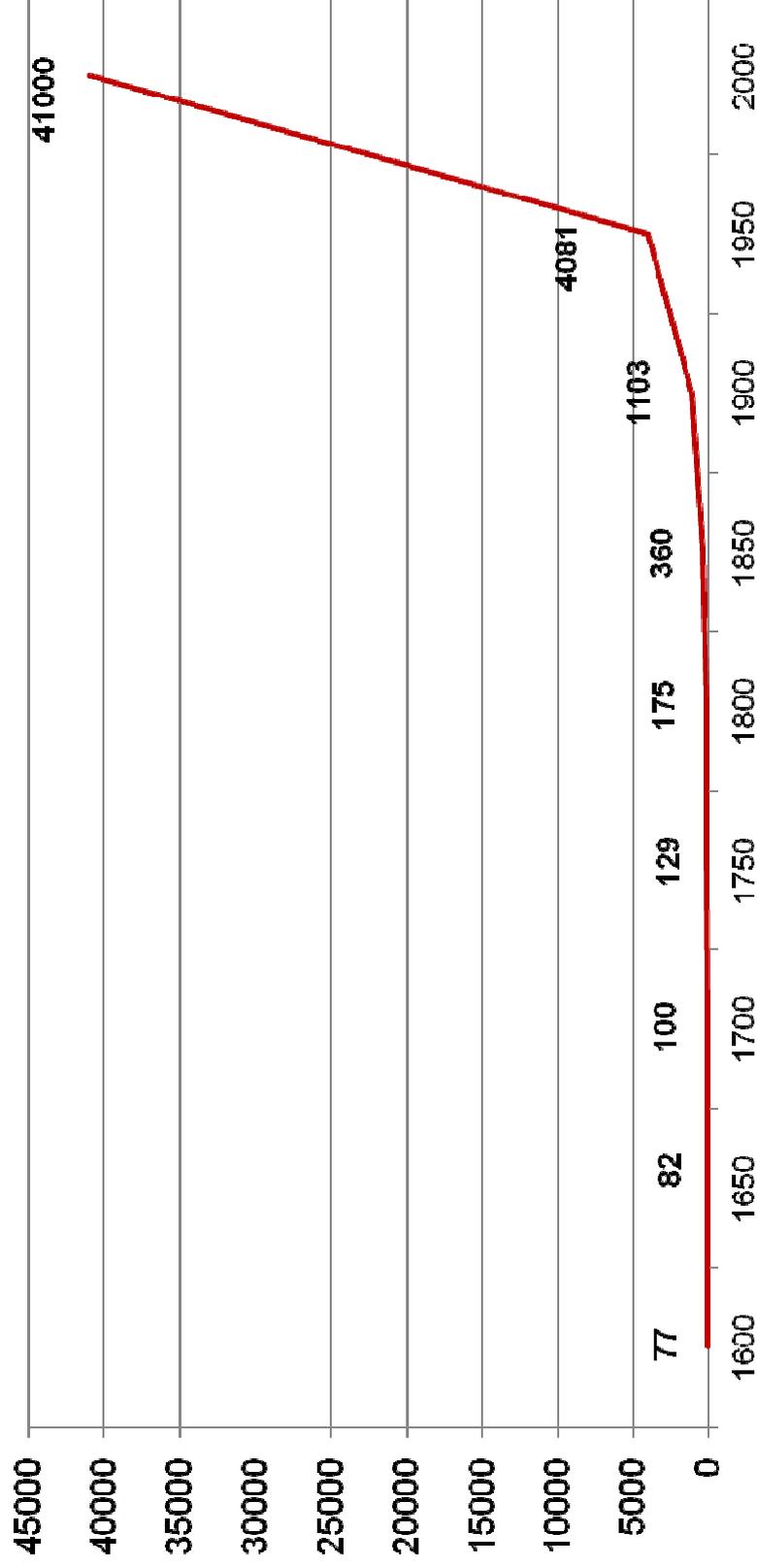
„Capitalism has an immense creative force, but it must put to use. I must know its egoism, its misery and know what it does. But I must give him space to live. I must growl at him and thread him with the machete a little bit, but not kill him. In this case I would kill the chicken laying the golden eggs.”



José Muchica, president of Uruguay

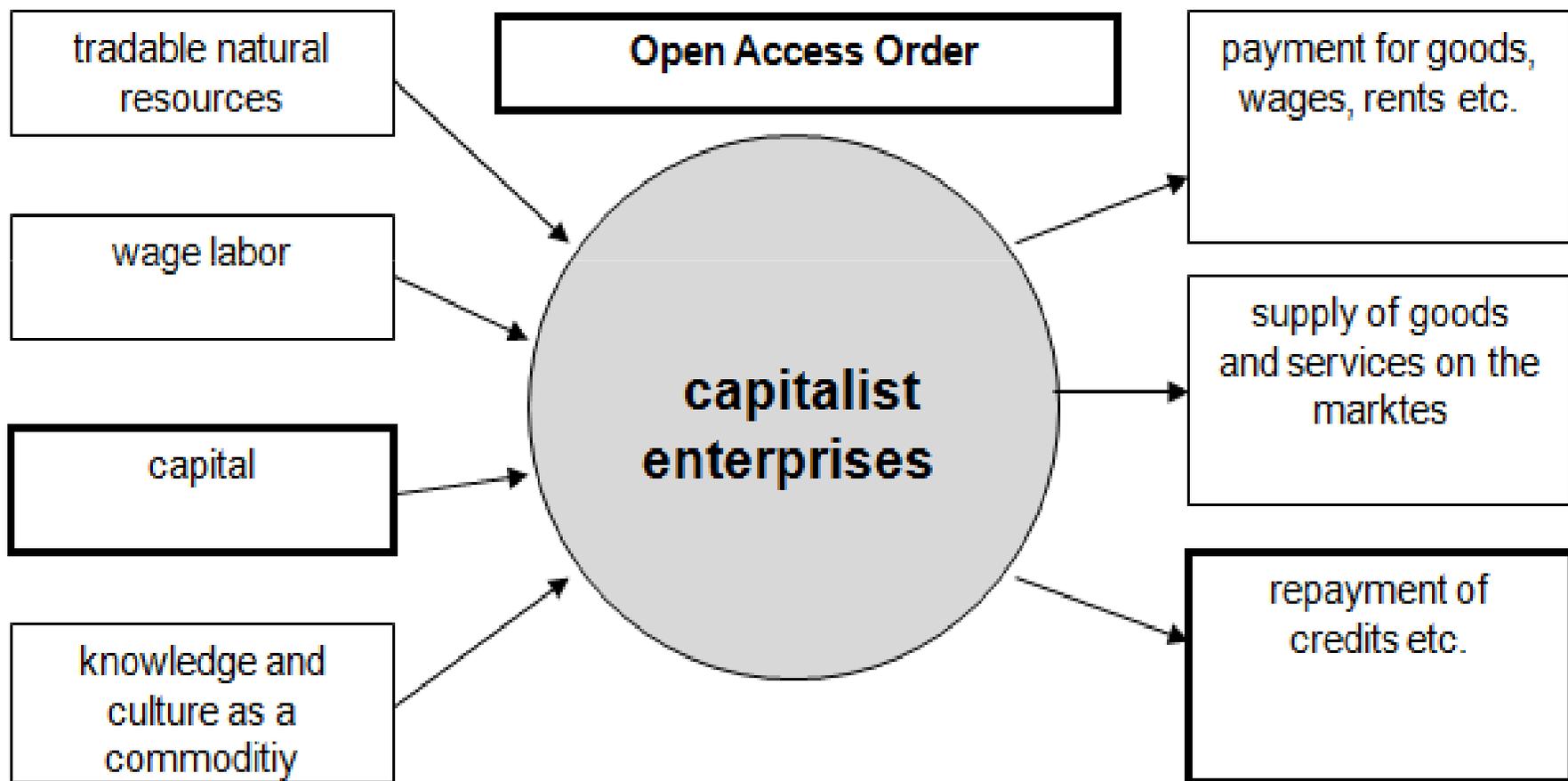


Graph 5: Increase of the global social product from 1600 to 2000 in billion dollar



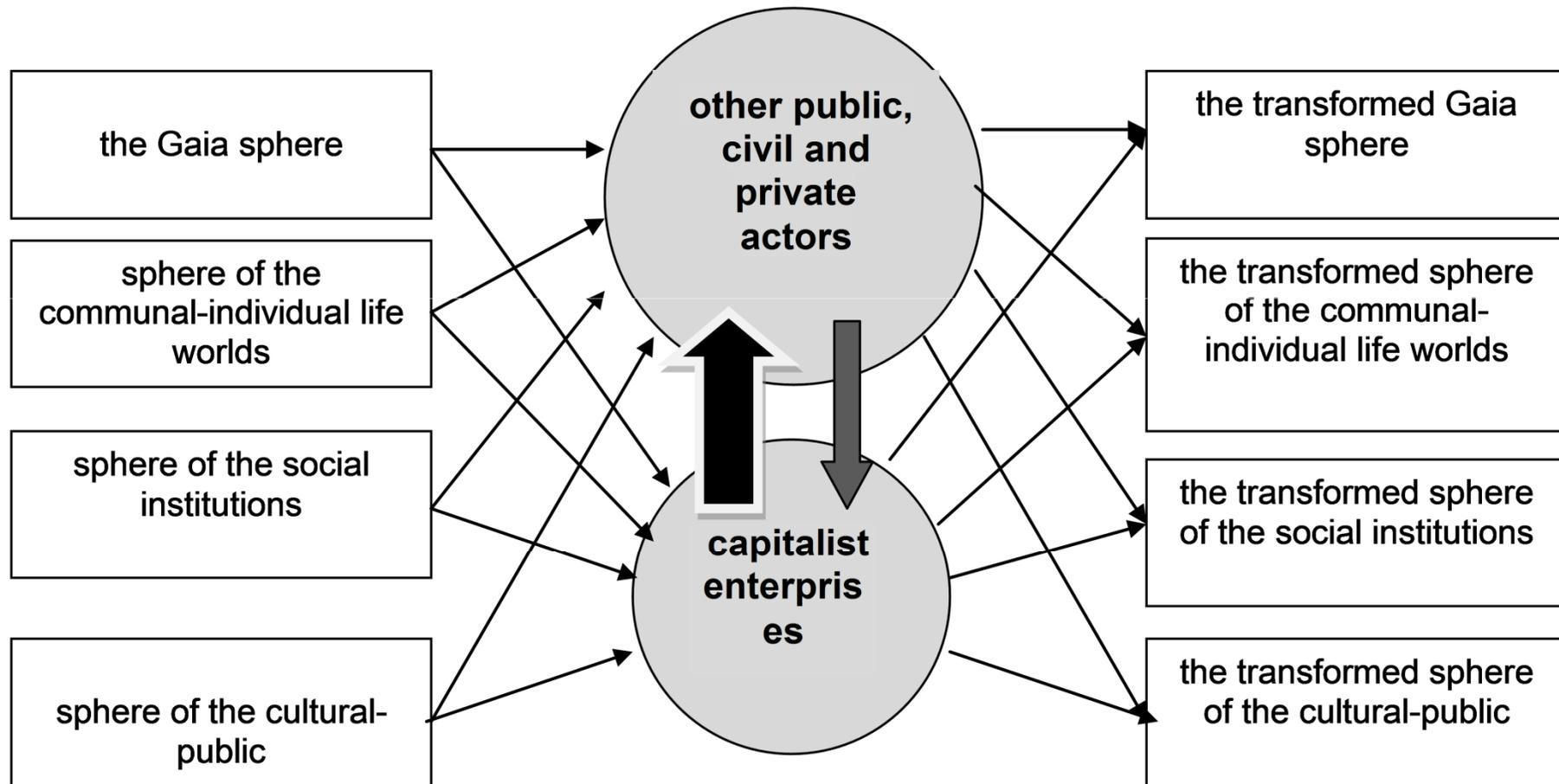


Graph 6: Enterprises as actors of reproduction of capitalist societies



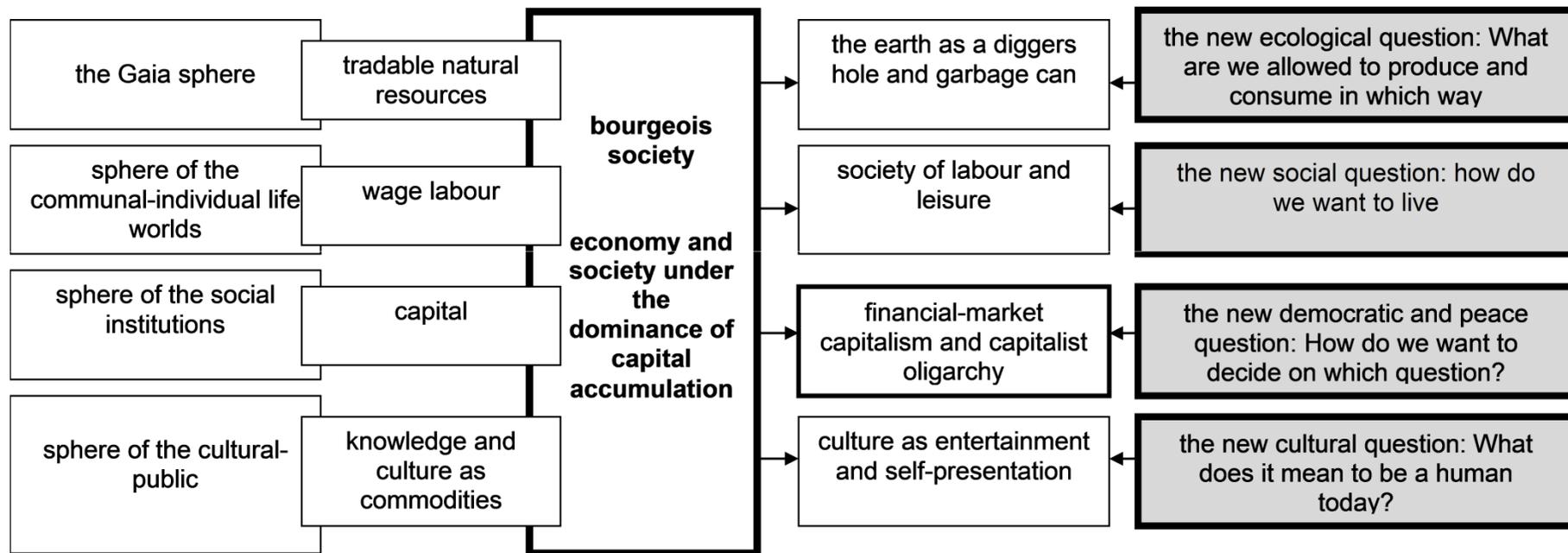


Graph 7: The four spheres of wealth and the reproduction of capital-dominated societies





Graph 8: The new question of emancipatory struggles





“Rivers of blood have flowed in torrents during the four years of imperialist genocide. Now every drop of the precious fluid must be preserved reverently and in crystal vessels. Ruthless revolutionary energy and tender humanity – this alone is the true essence of socialism. One world must now be destroyed, but each tear that might have been avoided is an indictment; and a man who hurrying on to important deeds inadvertently tramples underfoot even a poor worm, is guilty of a crime.”
(1918)

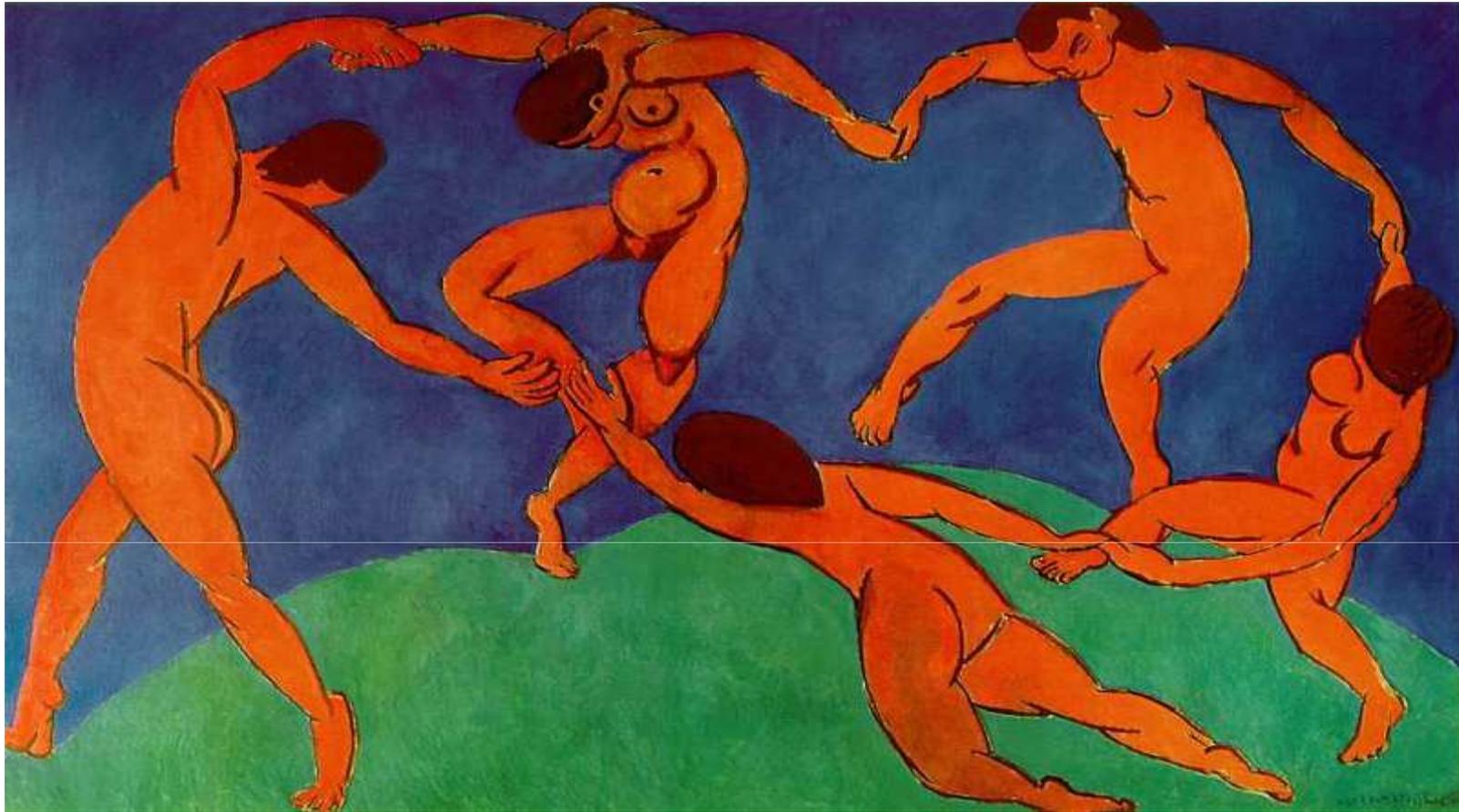
The General Formular of a Solidarian Society

Dignity and free development of each individual (I)
– development of all in solidarity (S) – enriched
development of each individual (I')

I – S – I'

„Logic of a free association“

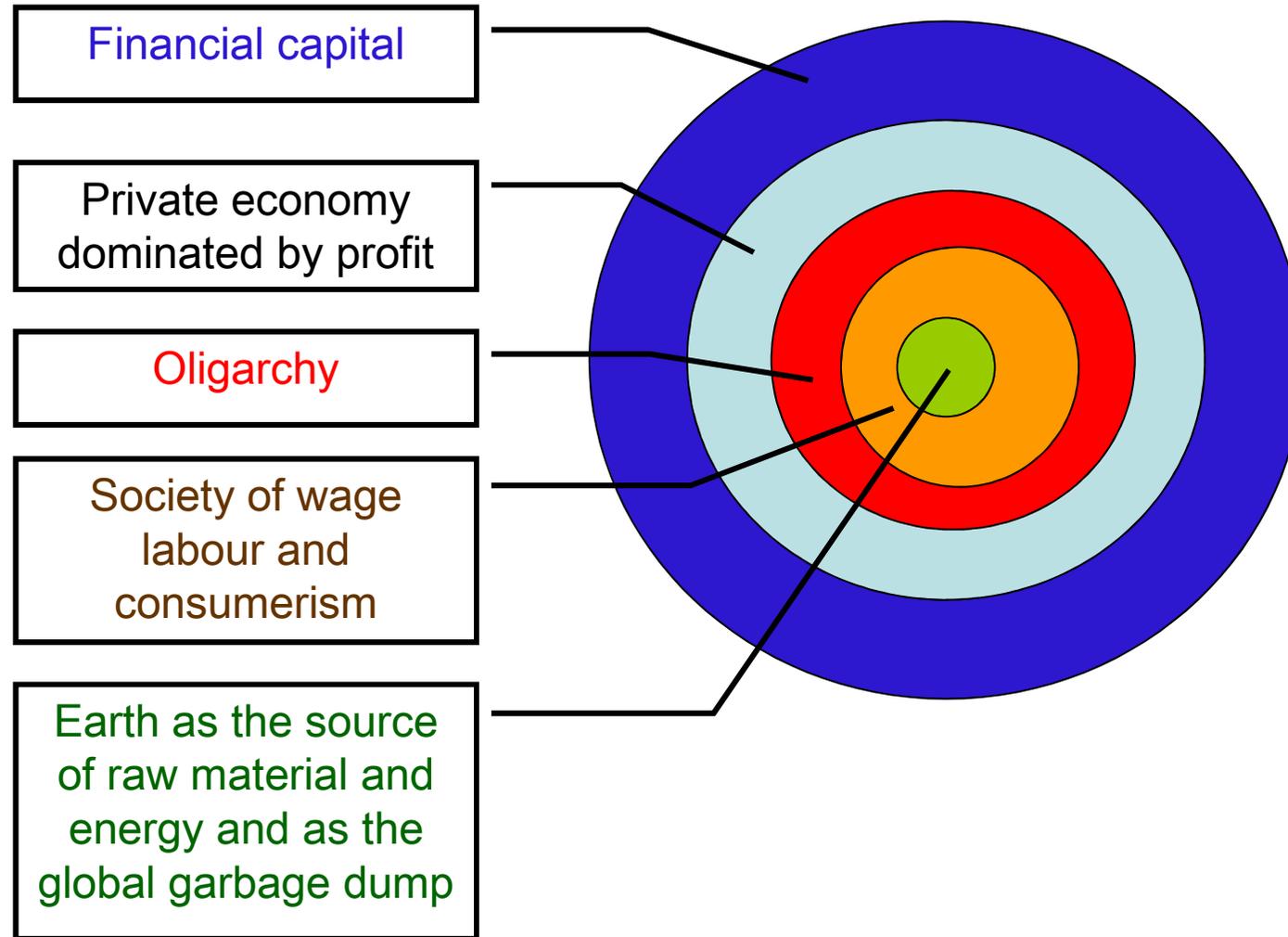
Grounding Human Rights in the Development and
Solidarian Use of the Common Goods of
Humanity (the four spheres of wealth)



Henry Matisse: *The Dance*(1910)

“Only by the process of a lively relating to each other can both the other and me transcend the borders of our separated existence as long as we both take part in the Dance of Life.” Erich Fromm

The Starting point





A planet with a rich biodiversity

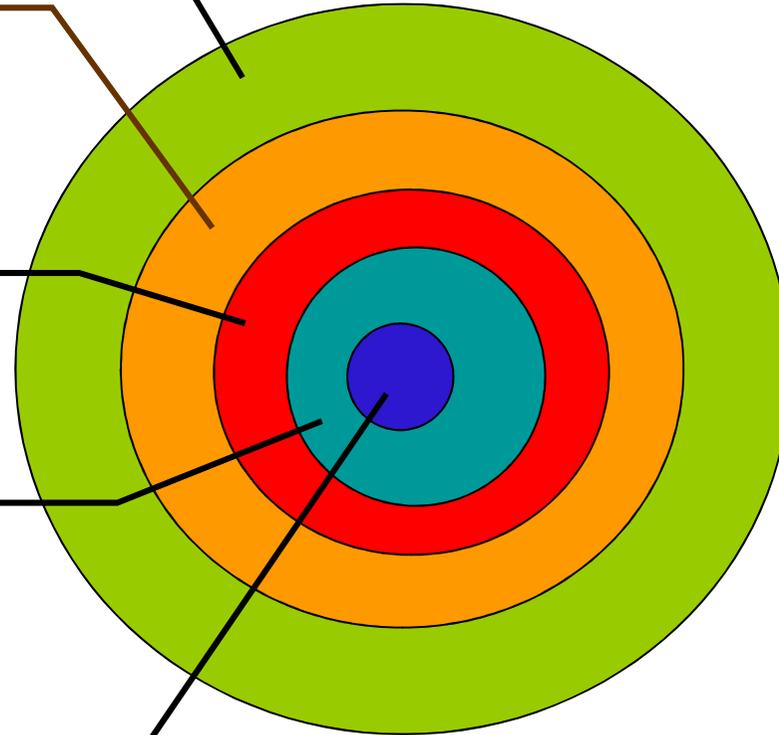
A life in self-determination and solidarity

Encompassing participatory democracy

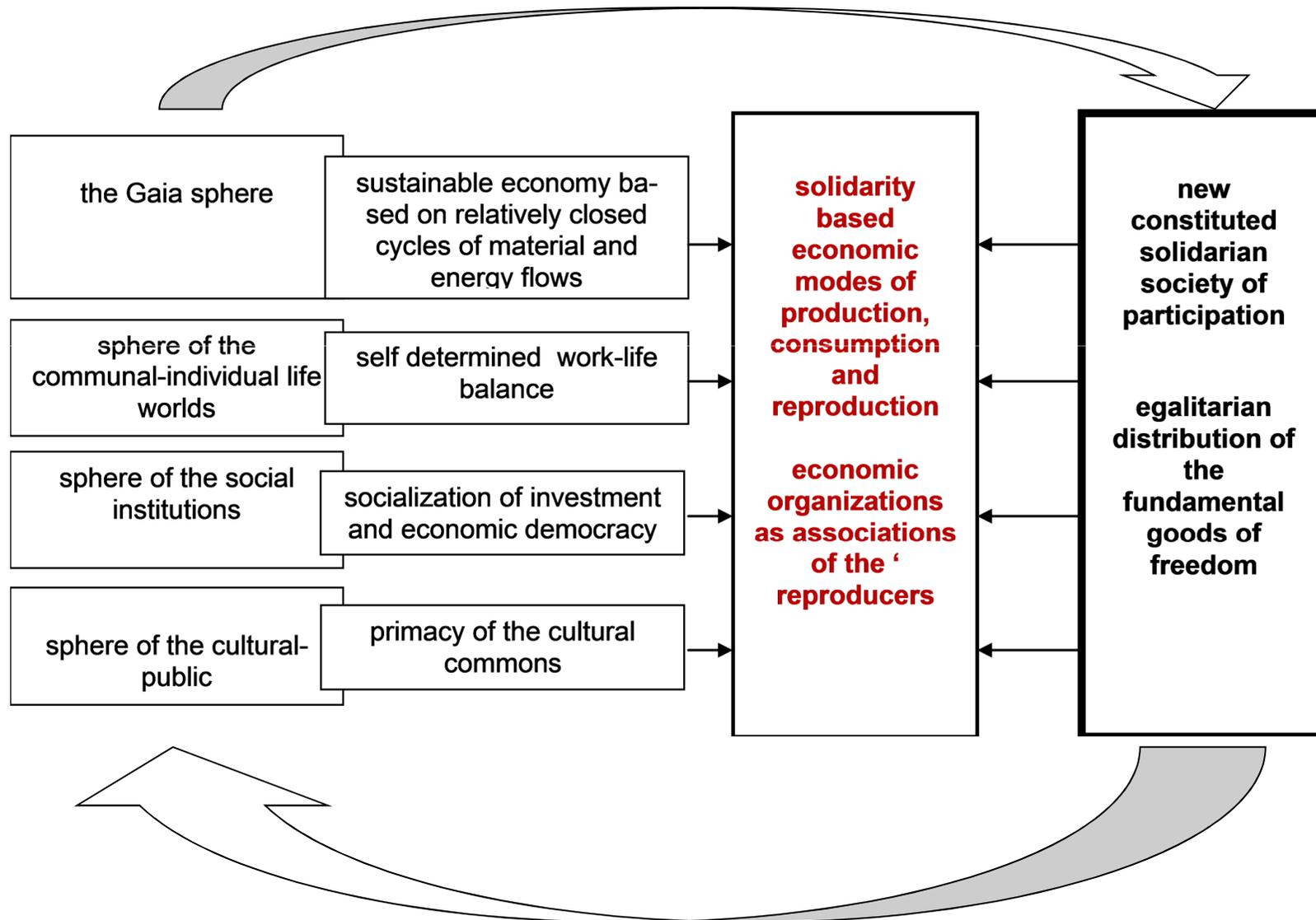
Solidarity economic and social associations

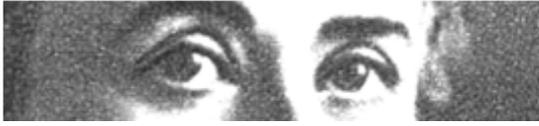
A socialised credit system

The Aim



A new mode of reproduction





Starting point and aim of a socio-ecological transformation

	Present	Alternatives
<i>Social character</i>	Neoliberal capitalism	Eco-social reform alternative: solidarity-based society/ democratic socialism
<i>Dominant social aim</i>	Dominance of profit	Dominance of free individual development shaped as a contribution to the free development of others
<i>Society's relationship to nature</i>	Dominance of profit-oriented economy over the relationship to nature: exploitation of non-renewable resources and litter pollution	Embedding of social development in nature; subordination of the economy to culture
<i>Type of economy</i>	Profit-oriented market economy	Solidarity-based, multi-sector economy
<i>Dominant interests</i>	Interests of capital	Solidarity-based interests of the common weal
<i>Dominant political group</i>	Oligarchy	Citizens
<i>Political system</i>	Representative democracy/ authoritarian national or international organizations	Participatory democracy
<i>Path of development</i>	Profit-oriented growth	Lifeworld-centred, sustained development