


MARXISM


Dr. Tasiu Magaji

Lecture Outline

- Structuralism
- The Marxist Perspective
- The Marxist IPE Theories
 - Imperialism
 - Modern World Systems Theory
 - Dependency Theory
 - Intellectual Hegemony

- 
- Marxist theory, developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels,
 - is a socio-economic and political framework that seeks to understand and critique capitalist society.
 - It is based on the analysis of class struggle and the belief that social change is driven by conflicts between different social classes.
 - posits that social and economic relationships are fundamentally shaped by the mode of production.

- This means that the organization of production, including the ownership of means of production, determines the social relationships and social structures of a given society.
- emphasizes the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class.
- It argues that capitalists profit by extracting surplus value, which is the difference between the value produced by workers and the wages they receive.
- Marxism predicts that the inherent contradictions and antagonisms within capitalism will eventually lead to its downfall.

- 
- the contradictions between the capitalist class and the working class will escalate, resulting in class struggle.
 - Class struggle originates out of the exploitation of one class by another.
 - The ultimate goal of Marxism is to create a classless society, known as communism, where the means of production are owned collectively and wealth is distributed equally.
 - Here are some key concepts of Marxist theory:

Key Concepts Of Marxist Theory

- 1. **Class struggle:** Marxist theory emphasizes the conflict between the capitalist class, which owns the means of production, and the working class, which sells its labor power to the capitalist class in order to survive.
- This conflict is seen as a fundamental part of capitalist society and is believed to drive historical change.
- 2. **Alienation:** Marx argued that workers under capitalism are alienated from the products of their labor, as well as from each other and from themselves.
- This is because they do not own the means of production and are forced to sell their labor power as a commodity.

Key Concepts Of Marxist Theory

- Since workers sell out their labour to earn a living, and the capitalist owns the labor process, the product of the workers' labor is in a very real sense alien to the worker.
- It is not his product but product of the capitalist.
- The labourers are not able to purchase the product they make for their company/employer.
- The amount of wage paid to the labourer are not the same value of the products made during the work.

Key Concepts Of Marxist Theory

- 3. **Surplus value**: Marx argued that capitalists extract surplus value from the labor of their workers, which is the difference between the value of the goods produced and the wages paid to the workers.
- This surplus value is appropriated by the capitalist class and is used to accumulate capital and increase profits.
- **Example**: Nike is produced by sweat of laborers who do not earn enough in a week to buy one pair of shoes they produced in five minutes.
- **Michael Jordan** (whose name is used for product name in the brand) is paid more than the entire Indonesian labor force for lending his name to the product

Marx: History, Class, and Capitalism

Economic Structure



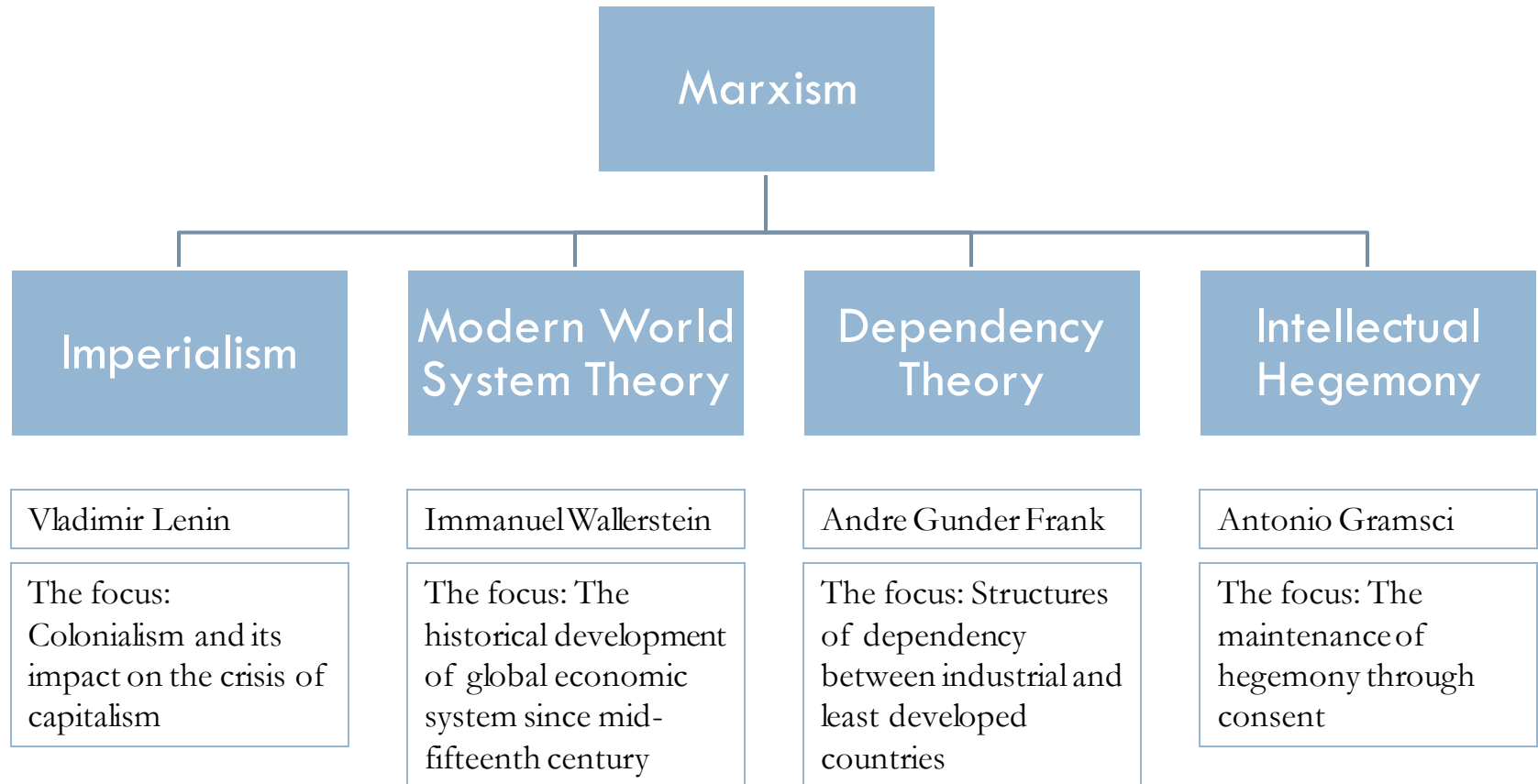
Political, Societal,
and Ethical Outcomes

□ The mode of production

- Primitive Communism
- Slavery
- Feudalism
- Capitalism
- Socialism
- Communism

Conflict or Cooperation

IPE Theories within the Marxist Tradition



Imperialism

- Vladimir Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, 1917
- Imperialism is another stage between capitalism and socialism
- **Imperialism** is a historical process in which a powerful country extends its political, economic, and cultural influence over weaker countries,
- often through military force or economic coercion, in order to gain resources, markets, or strategic advantages for itself or its allies,
- at the expense of the colonized countries' sovereignty, autonomy, and development prospects, and sometimes with the aim of spreading its own culture, values, and ideology.

Imperialism

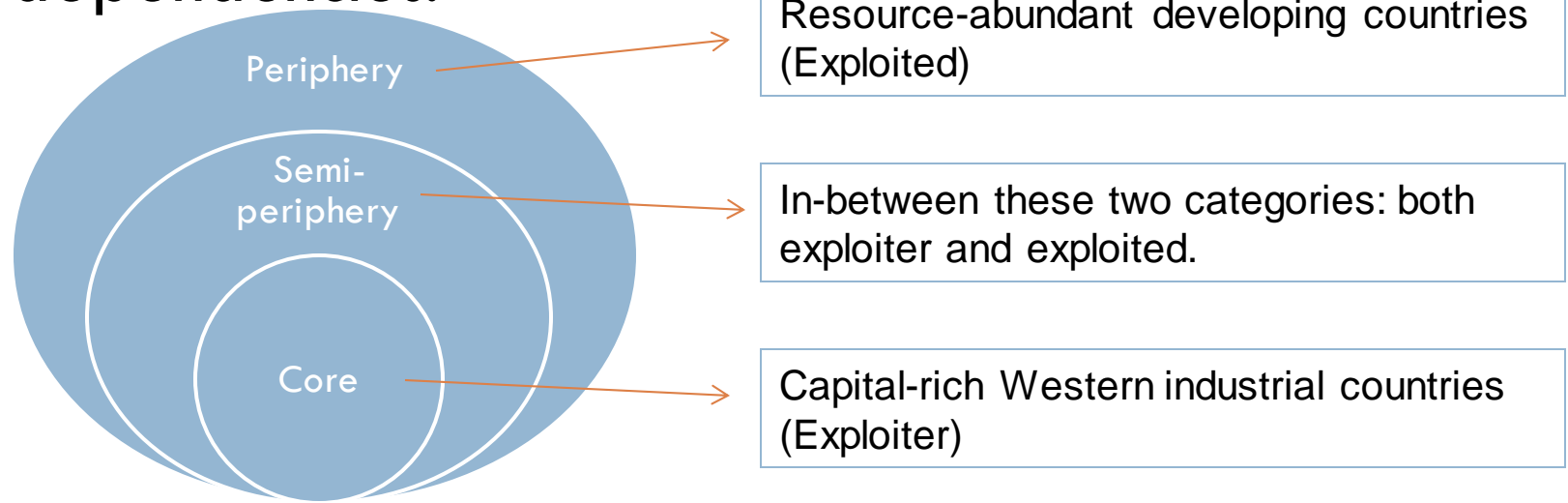
- Imperialism (through colonialism) delayed the capitalist crisis (since it brings new markets, cheaper raw materials and cheaper labor)
- Here are some key aspects of imperialism:
- - **Economic exploitation**: Imperialism often involves the extraction of resources, such as raw materials or cheap labor, from colonized countries, which are then sold at a profit in the imperialist country's markets.
- This can lead to economic exploitation, as the colonized countries are often forced to sell their resources at low prices, while the imperialist country benefits from high profits.

Imperialism

- - **Political domination:** Imperialism often involves the imposition of political domination, such as the establishment of colonial administrations, the creation of puppet regimes, or the manipulation of local politics, in order to maintain control over the colonized country.
- Colonized country is often forced to accept the imperialist country's political agenda, which may not reflect the colonized country's own interests or values.
- **Cultural imperialism:** Imperialism often involves the spread of the imperialist country's culture, values, and ideology, such as through education, religion, or media, in order to promote its own interests and undermine local cultures and traditions.

Modern World Systems Theory

- Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World System* (three volume book, 1974, 1980, 1989)
- Global economic structures determine how world works
- Division of labor among states creates dependencies:



Modern World Systems Theory

- Analyzing the global economy and international relations that emphasizes the interconnectedness and unequal distribution of economic and political power among different regions and countries,
- It seeks to explain historical and contemporary patterns of development, underdevelopment, and global inequality.
- The core countries benefit from the exploitation of the periphery, through the extraction of resources, the imposition of unequal trade relations, and the transfer of capital and technology, while the periphery is trapped in a cycle of underdevelopment and dependence.

Dependency Theory

- Andre Gunder Frank, *Capitalism and Underdevelopment*, 1967
- The global economic structure leads North-South dependence at the expense of the South
- There are three eras of dependency in modern history:
 - colonial dependence,
 - financial-industrial dependence, and
 - dependency through MNCs.
- Because LDCs remain dependent on industrial nations (or MNCs) they are systematically underdeveloped
- The reasons for underdevelopment should be found in colonial history.

Dependency Theory

- analyzing the economic and political development of less developed countries (LDCs) that emphasizes the historical and structural links between underdevelopment and external dependence, and that seeks to explain the persistence of poverty, inequality, and exploitation in the LDCs.

Intellectual Hegemony

- Antonio Gramsci, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, 1971
- Hegemony is maintained through coercion and **consent** (Gramsci is more interested in the consent part)
- Ideas over economic structures: Intellectual hegemony creates consent by convincing the masses, via propaganda, to have the same interests as the dominant class and serve those interests.
- Organic intellectuals as a hope to overturn the dominant classes