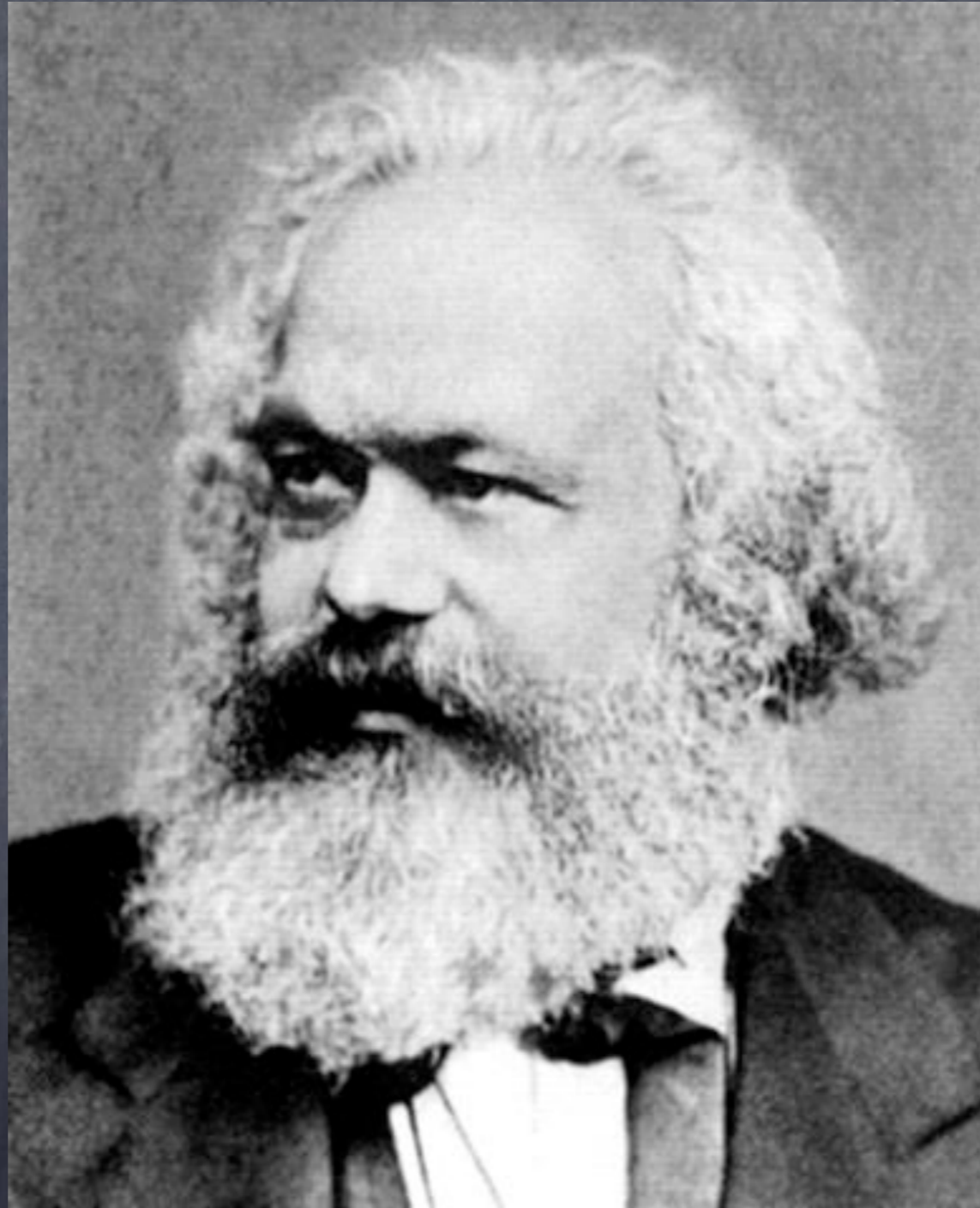


# Marxism



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# Capital Controls

- The power of capitalism in the modern era is undeniable
- Example: World Economic Forum at Davos



Image courtesy of [World Economic Forum](#) on flickr. License CC BY-NC-SA.



# MARXISM

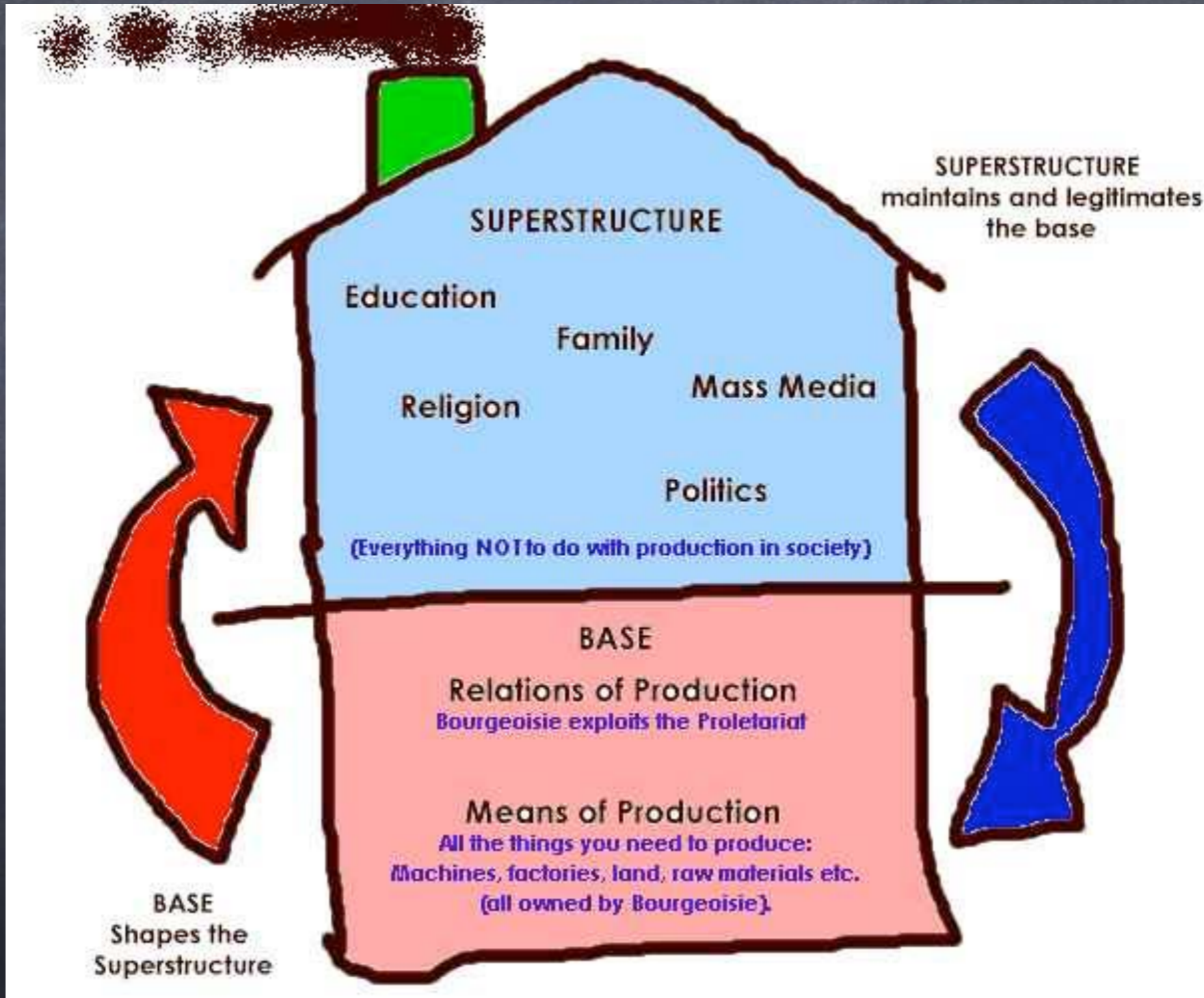
- ◉ Writing in the mid-1800s, Marx saw a pretty horrible world
  - ◉ Child labor
  - ◉ Merciless exploitation of workers
  - ◉ Poor working conditions
- ◉ Capitalism = predatory economic system that was unsustainable
- ◉ Liberalism suggests capitalism tends towards equilibrium and stability
  - ◉ Experience indicates otherwise!

# Marxism

- Like the Neos, Marxism is a materialist theory
- Unlike Neos, Marxism points to economic systems rather than the international system as the principle structure.
  - Changes as Relations and means of production change
- Economic development is the motor of history
- History's stages:
  - Primitive Communist
  - Slave Society
  - Feudalism
  - Capitalism
  - Socialism
  - Communism



# Marxism





# MARXISM

- History is the story of class struggle.
- Social science should seek emancipation
- Capitalism must grow or it dies.
- Source of all profit is labor; value of goods related to the amount of socially necessary labor time to produce them. Bourgeois exploits labor or proletariat.
- "Capital is dead labor, which, vampire-like, lives only by sucking living labor, and lives the more, the more labor it sucks." -Karl Marx
- "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs." -Karl Marx

# MARXISM

- Marx felt history progressed along a fixed path.
- Advanced capitalist/industrialized states would experience revolution first
  - Problem for Communists in Russia and China
  - Solutions:
    - Russia: Vanguard Party
    - China: Peasants = proletariat



# MARXISM

- Dependency Theory
- Everyone comfortable with this?



# Peer Discussion

- Is Marxism relevant today?

# World System Theory

- Marxism not explicitly international in scope
- Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism
  - V. Lenin trying to explain why revolution had not occurred
  - Explicitly internationalized Marxism
  - Imperialism driven by the need for capitalism to expand
- Immanuel Wallerstein
  - History a series of international systems
  - Capitalism drives the current system
  - Added semi-periphery to the core/periphery distinction
    - Semi-periphery stabilizes the system

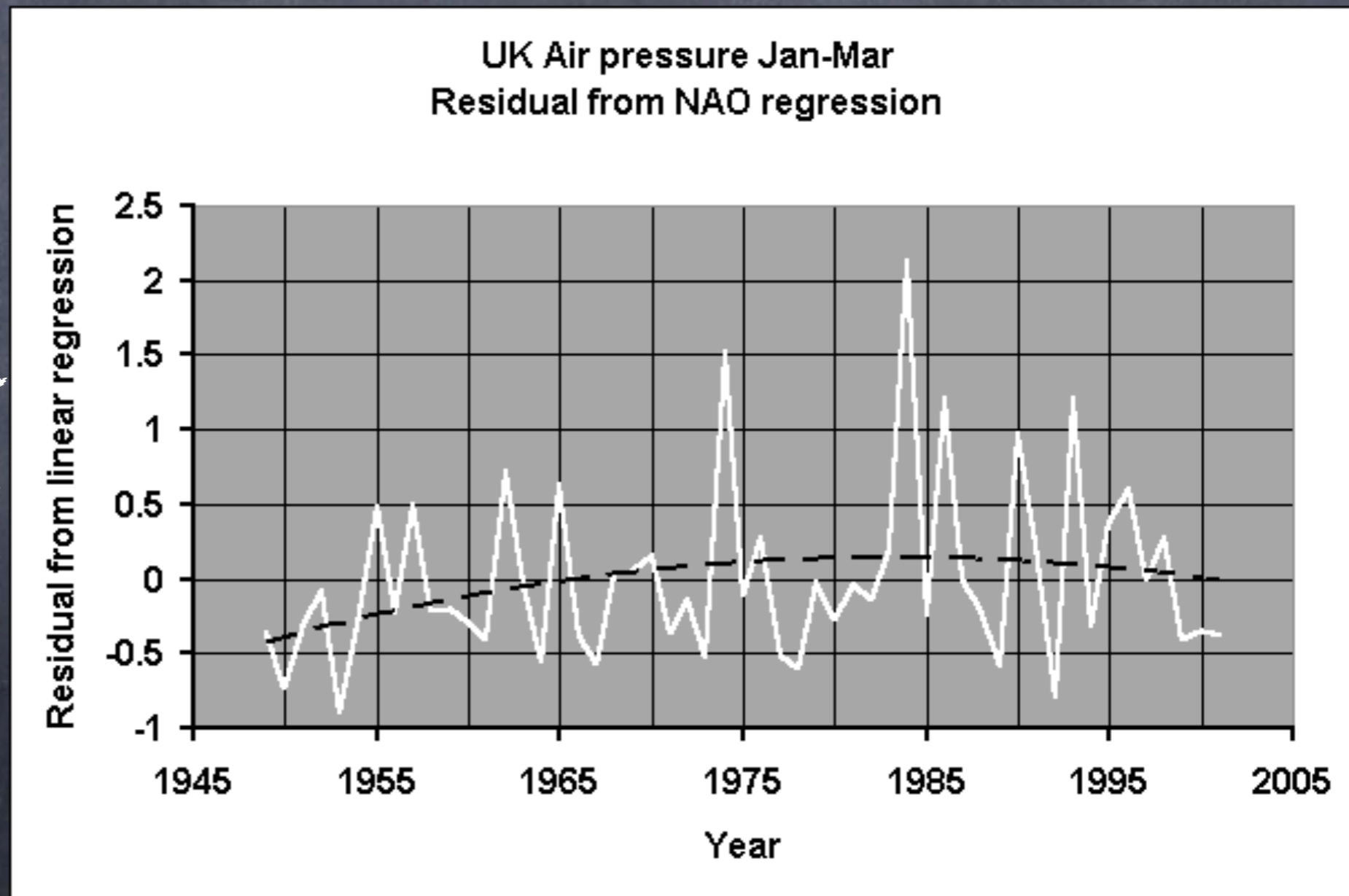


# World System Theory

- Temporal element
  - Cyclical rhythms: expansion and contraction
  - Secular trend: long term growth or contraction of the system
  - Contradictions: Short run interests conflict with medium or long term interests.
    - Example: underconsumption.
  - Fourth element: Crisis, which brings about the end of the system.

# World System Theory

• Cyclical example





# GRAMSCIANISM

- Another attempt to explain why no revolution
  - Reason: Hegemony.
  - Control exists through both coercion and cooperation
    - Coercion certainly an element of Marxism, but cooperation element missing
    - Hegemony: dominant idea (free trade) reshapes proletariat's perceived interests in line with capitalists.
    - Brings superstructure into Marxism.
- Robert Cox: "Theory is always for some one, and for some purpose."



# Gramsci and Hegemony

- Here is a second use of the term hegemony: ideational authority.
  - Neo-liberalism is hegemonic in this instance because it shapes the very way we perceive the international economic system and gives instruction on how best to engage with it and deal with problems. It pervades the existing international institutions and defines the parameters of debate. Control is manifested not just through force, but by redefining what actors believe is in their best interest.



# Critical Theory

- Problem solving theory (Neos) versus critical theory (challenges prevailing order, seeks emancipation)
- More concerned with Superstructure
- Emancipation: controlling versus reconciling with nature.
- Emancipation (Habermas): radical democracy, find the blocks to participation in democratic systems and eliminate them.
- Emancipation (Linklater): expansion of the moral boundaries of a political community (EU as post-Westphalian).

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Spring 2018

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