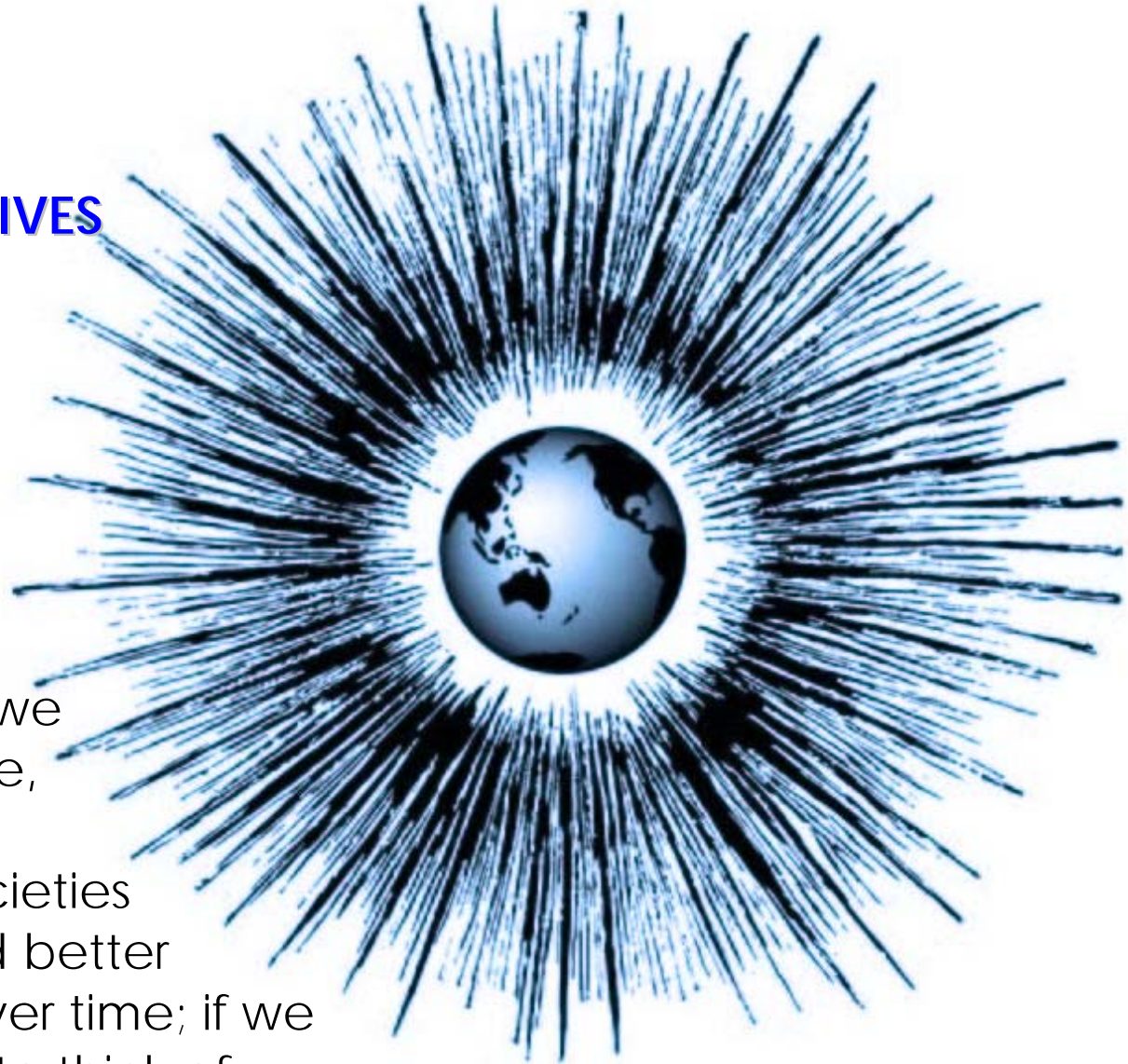


## SESSION 4: WORLD-SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVES

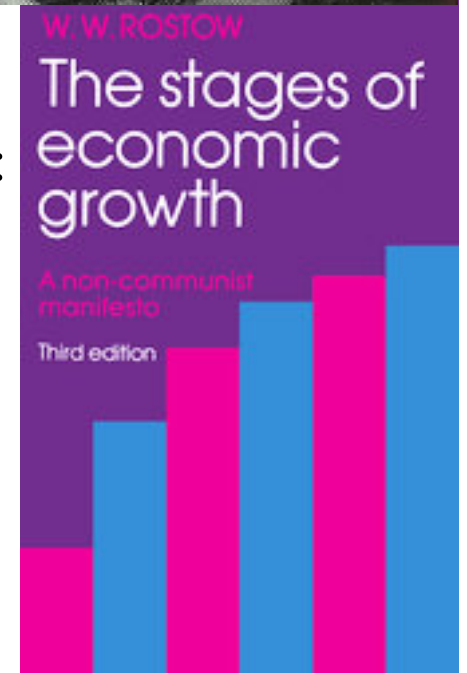
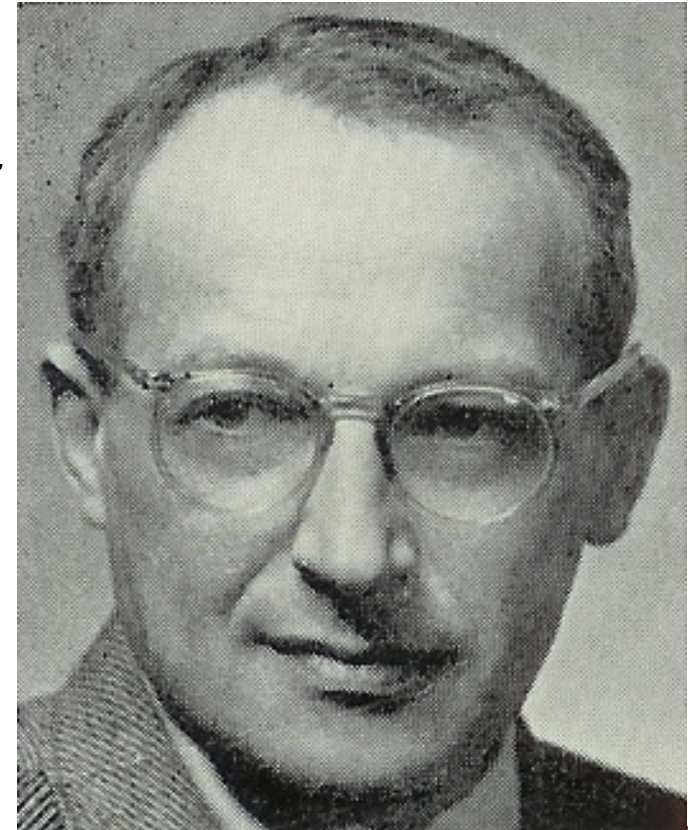
### INTRODUCING WORLD-SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

“What difference it would make to our understanding if we looked at the world as a whole, a totality, a system, instead of as a sum of self-contained societies and cultures; if we understood better how this totality developed over time; if we took seriously the admonition to think of human aggregates as ‘inextricably involved with other aggregates, near and far, in weblike, netlike, connections’.”—Eric Wolf, *Europe and the People without History*



## A CRITIQUE OF MODERNIZATION THEORY

- Walt W. Rostow-- 1960, *The Stages of Economic Growth: A Non-Communist Manifesto*--universal stages through which all societies go in achieving economic growth and development – progress, evolutionism
- Modernization Theory (Developmentalism)
- “Why was the Third World failing to develop according to expectations?”
- Impediments to a universal process of transformation:
  - ◆ cultural backwardness
  - ◆ the predominance of tradition
  - ◆ the lack of a Need to Achieve
  - ◆ the failure to think in terms of progress
- Assumption: nation-states act autonomously



## *THE LATIN AMERICAN THESIS: DEPENDENCY THEORY*

- 1950s – 1970s, Latin American economists, historians, sociologists
- Raul Prebisch, UN Economic Commission for Latin America: *The Economic Development of Latin America and its Principal Problems*

What Modernization Theory ignored:

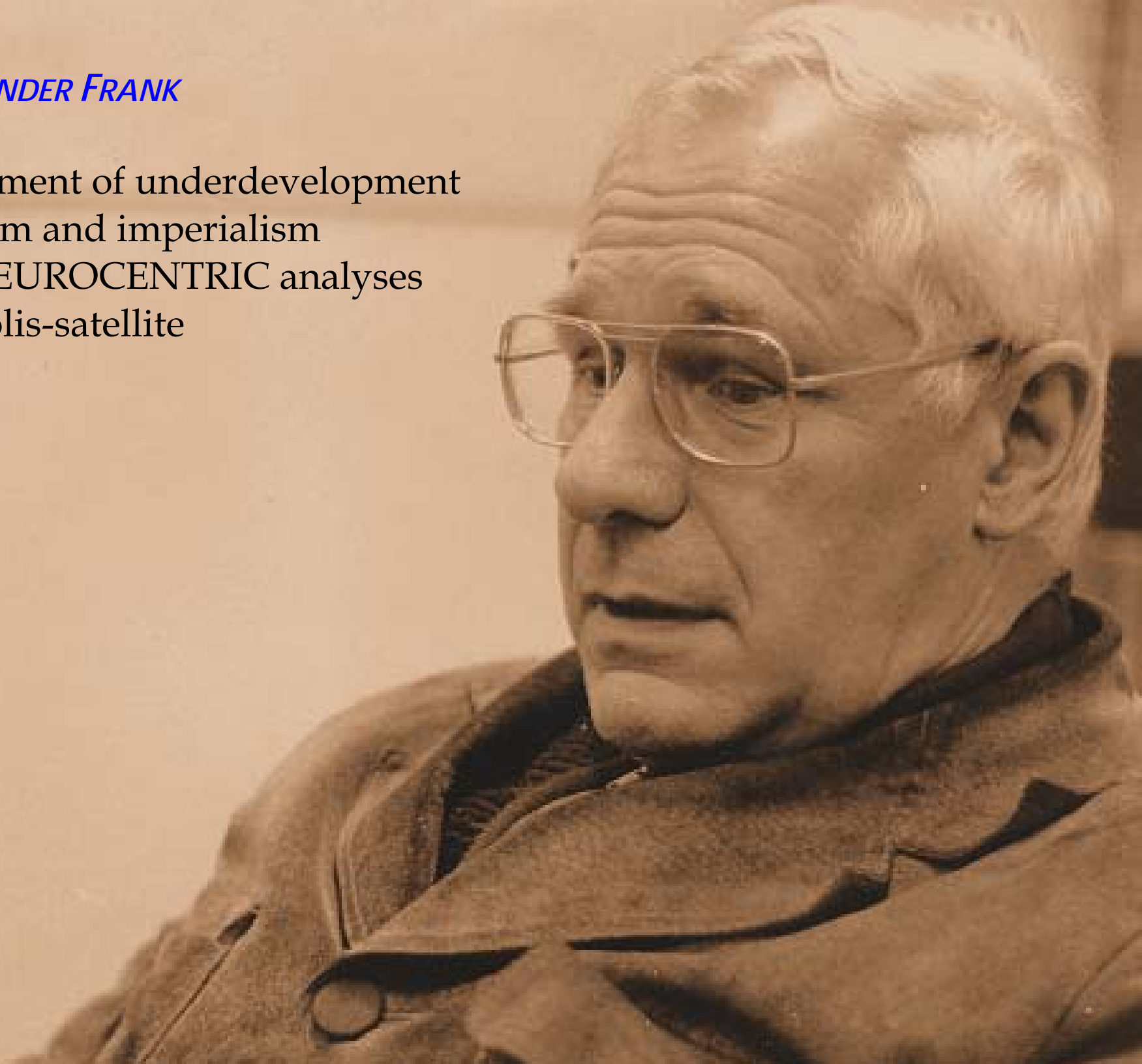
- a) Latin America had over a century of foreign private investment
- b) Modern state structures copied from Europe and the US
- c) Extensive trade
- d) European immigrants

*Explanation?*

- ◆ unequal trade, net capital loss
- ◆ foreign investment in natural resource extraction
- ◆ dependence on manufactured imports

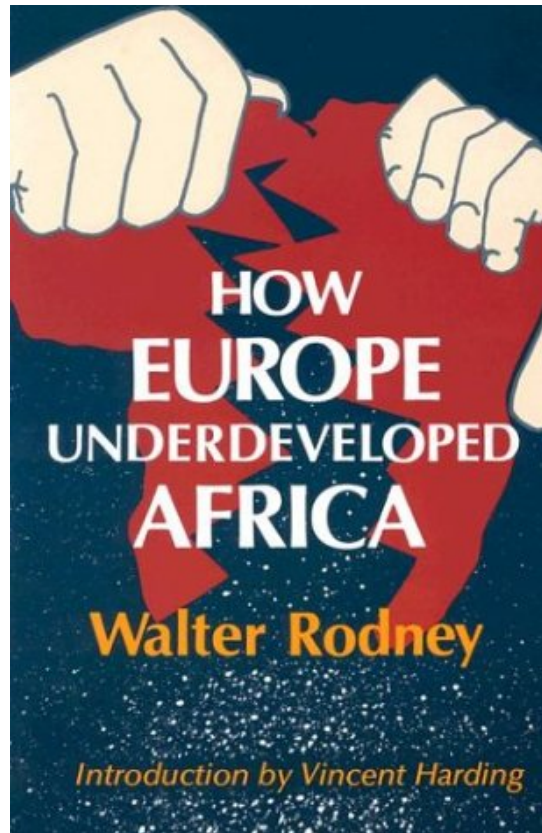
*ANDRE GUNDER FRANK*

- ◆ development of underdevelopment
- ◆ capitalism and imperialism
- ◆ against EUROCENTRIC analyses
- ◆ metropolis-satellite

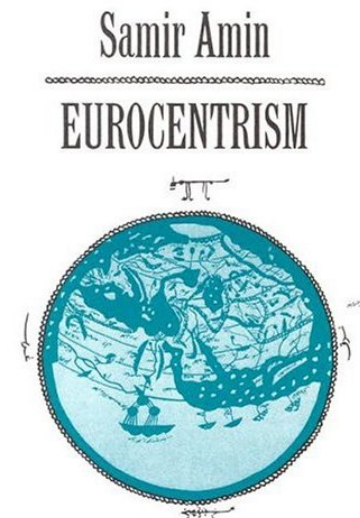


→ underdevelopment is not “local”: the product of incorporation into world capitalism

**Walter Rodney**



**Samir Amin**

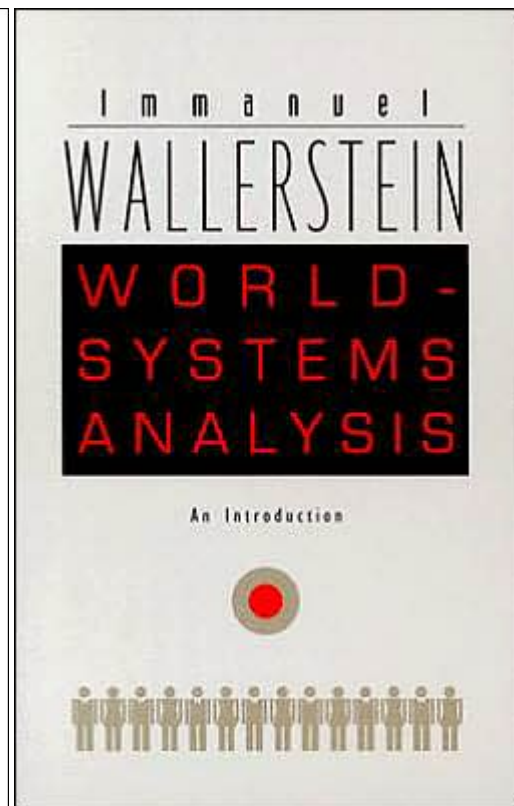
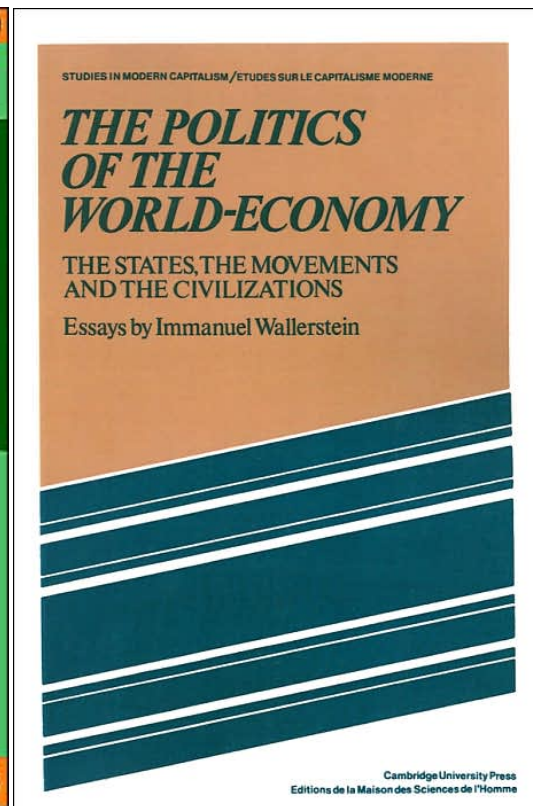
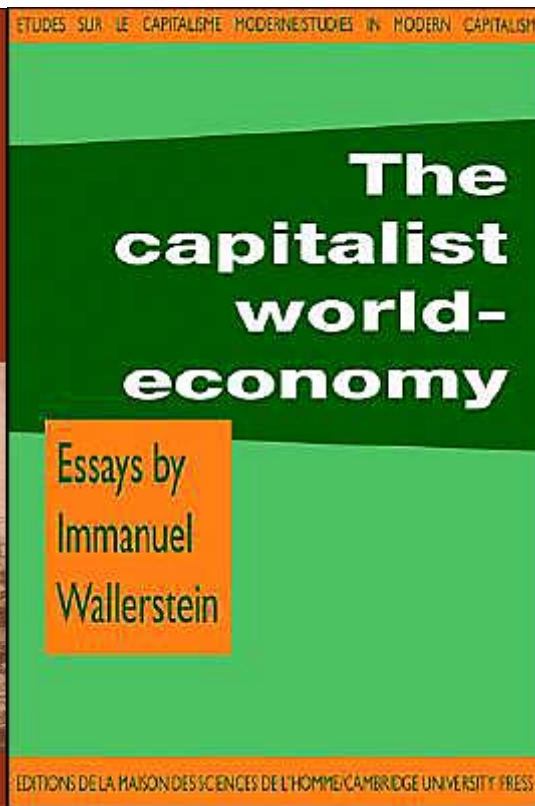
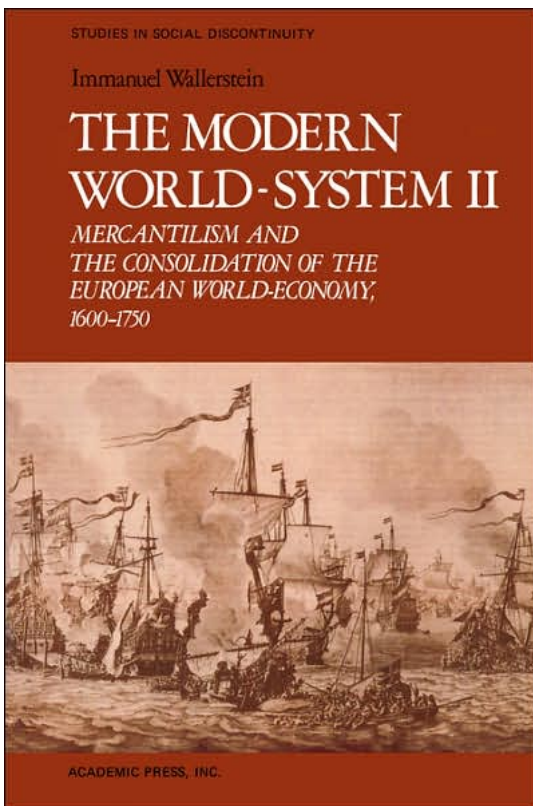


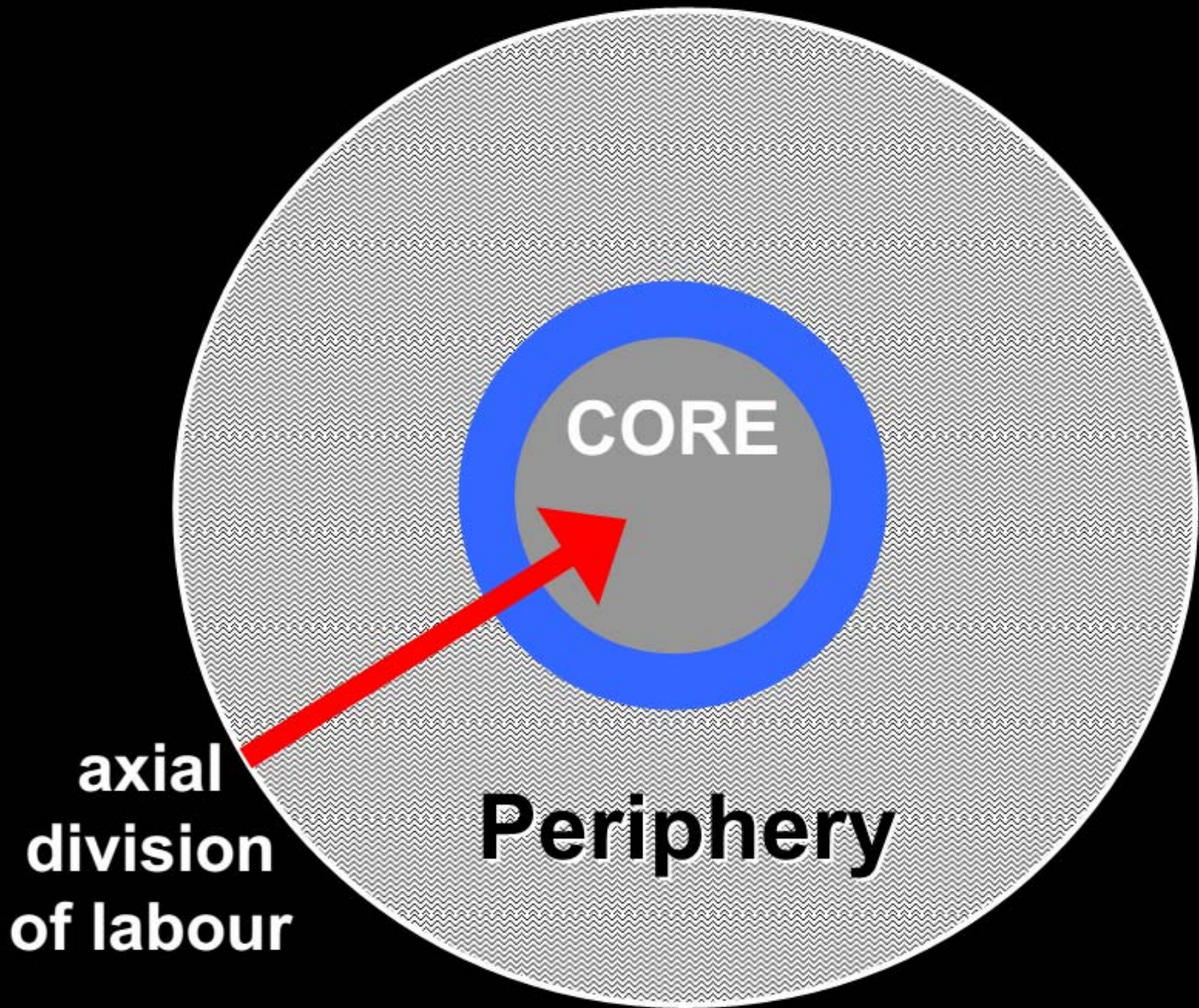
## WORLD-SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

- Immanuel Wallerstein on world political-economic history, 1970s –
  - (1) net drain of capital from the underdeveloped world
  - (2) basic division in the world between core and periphery
- Unit of analysis? The capitalist world-system, came into being with colonial expansion of Europe
- Critique of state-centrism
- Critique of Marxist conceptions of capitalism
- Capitalism is not a mode of production: world-wide system of exchange



- ◆ Defining feature: global circulation of commodities
- ◆ Commodity: any object that can be sold for a profit
- ◆ World capitalism results in commodification of everything
- ◆ Market exchange: central feature of global capitalism
- ◆ Production is for the market
- ◆ Essentials of life, not just luxuries, sold in the market
- ◆ Centre and a periphery: surplus accumulated in the centre, away from the periphery = a single axial division of labour







## Basic premises of World-Systems Analysis:

1. ceaseless accumulation of capital
2. division of labor along center-periphery lines
3. boundary correspondence between capitalist world-economy and interstate system
4. origins lie in sixteenth century
5. began in Europe, expanded via incorporations
6. Particular states experienced periods of hegemony
7. States, ethnic groups, households possess only a “nonprimordial character”
8. Racism & sexism = fundamental organizing & disciplining principles
9. Antisystemic movements arise to challenge the system

→ How change occurs

→ repetition (recursion): cyclical

→ unidirectional and irreversible changes: secular

→ “long waves”: cyclical processes played out in tune with secular trends

→ **cyclical processes:**

- rise and fall of hegemons
- warfare
- forty to sixty year business cycle
- colonization and decolonization
- hegemony and decline

→ **secular trends:**

- long-term proletarianization of world work force,
- growing concentration of capital,
- increasing internationalization of capital investment & trade,
- accelerating internationalization of political structures.

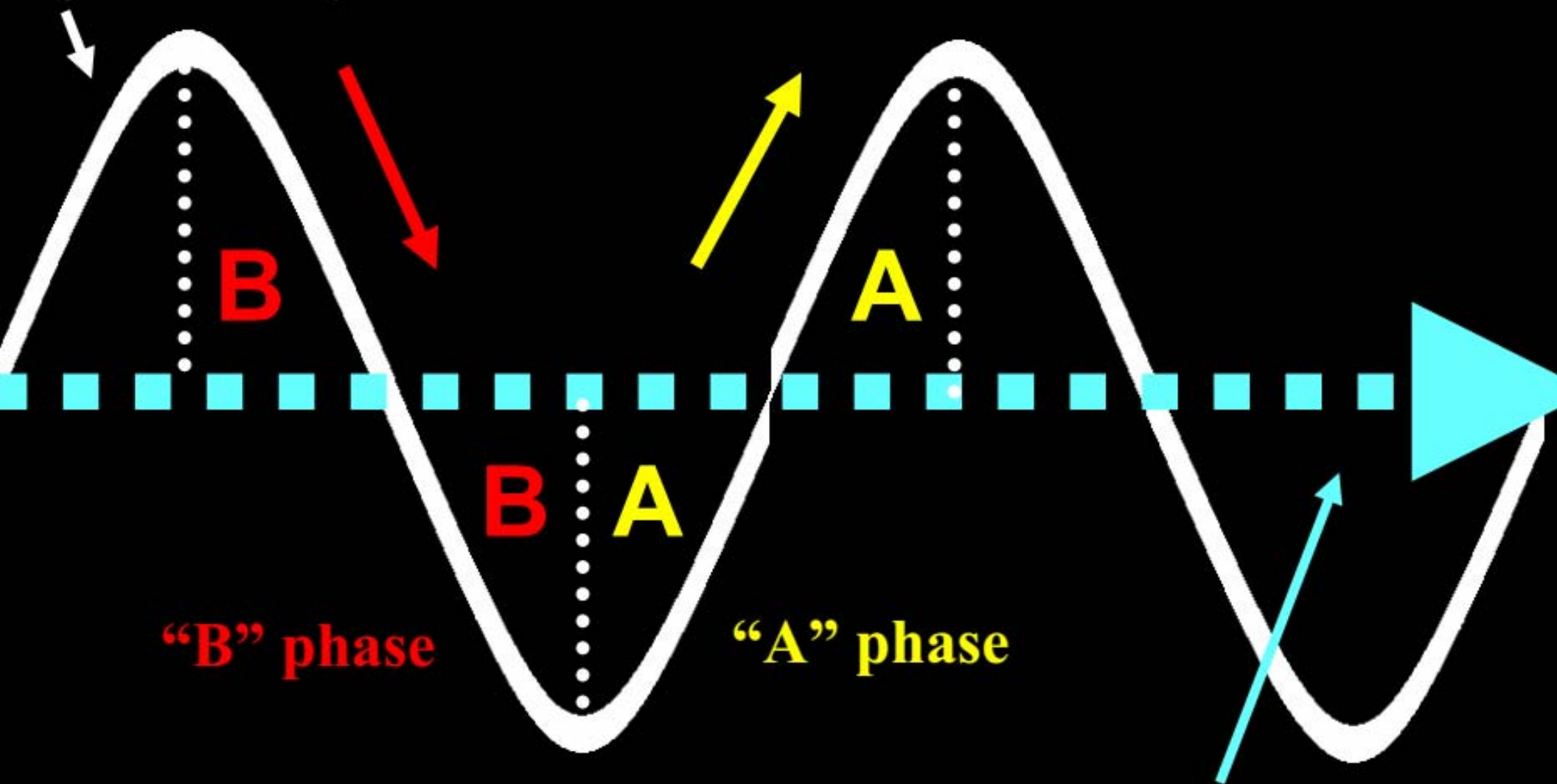
→ new cycles bring about small but significant structural shifts

→ The modern world-system is finite in duration

→ *kairos*, the time of change – bifurcation

# LONG WAVES

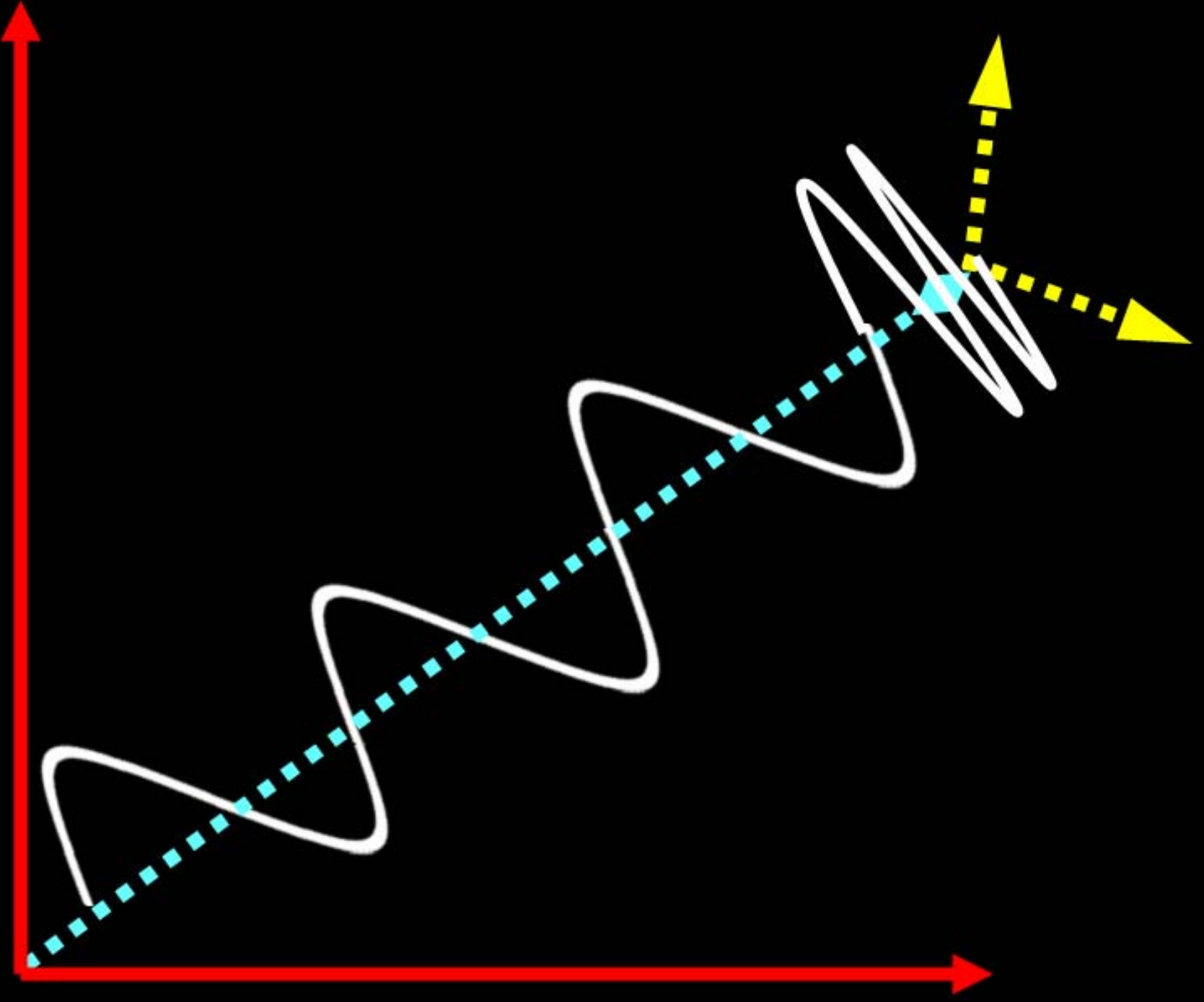
Cyclical Rhythms



“B” phase

“A” phase

Secular  
Trends



## CULTURE AND THE WORLD-SYSTEM

- ◆ Liberalism, the geoculture of the world-system
- ◆ Culture: universalizing & particularizing
- ◆ Culture as the ideological battleground of the modern world-system

## REVOLUTIONS AND ANTI-SYSTEMIC MOVEMENTS

- ◆ “World revolutions”, 1848, 1968-89
- ◆ Old vs. new anti-systemic movements
- ◆ Problem of capturing state power
- ◆ 1968, rebellion against the old left; disillusion with the state; “the forgotten peoples”