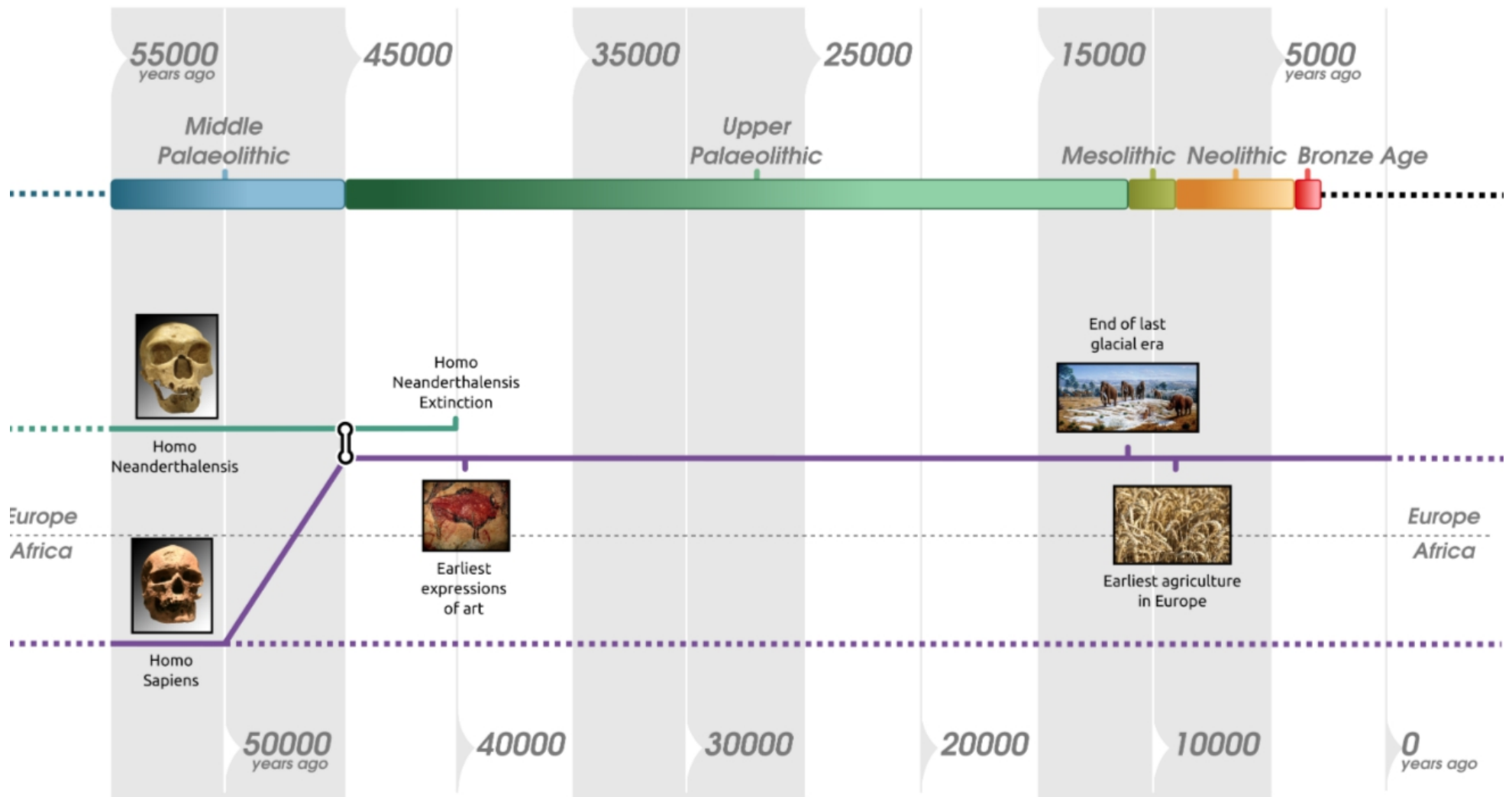


Introduction to Marxism

Class 2: Private property, class, women's subjugation and the state





Communal

Class divided

Contradictions in early neolithic societies

- Early agriculture was hard work – more labour needed, women's reproductive power exploited more
- Competition for land and water leads to conflict between groups of farming communities and with hunter-gatherer communities
- Slaves acquired as by-product of war



Neolithic figurines often of women pregnant or giving birth. Fertility goddesses prominent

Changes in role and status of women

Hunter-gatherer society

Women had equal status but separate roles, clans often matrilineal, women had fewer children



Early farming society

Need for labour means women under pressure to reproduce more, clans begin to shift to patrilineal



Later farming society

Need for labour and land leads to first wars, slaves. Social surplus allows for new divisions of labour and the emergence of class

Development of private property

No concept of property

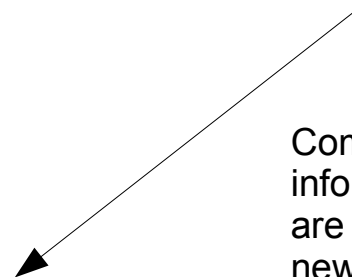
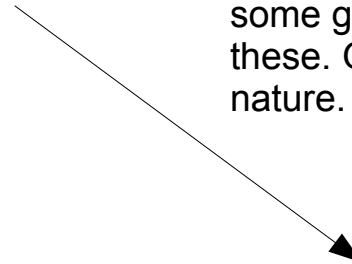
'We don't own the land, the land owns us'

Competition between groups for land, water and labour excludes some groups from access to these. Greater alienation from nature.

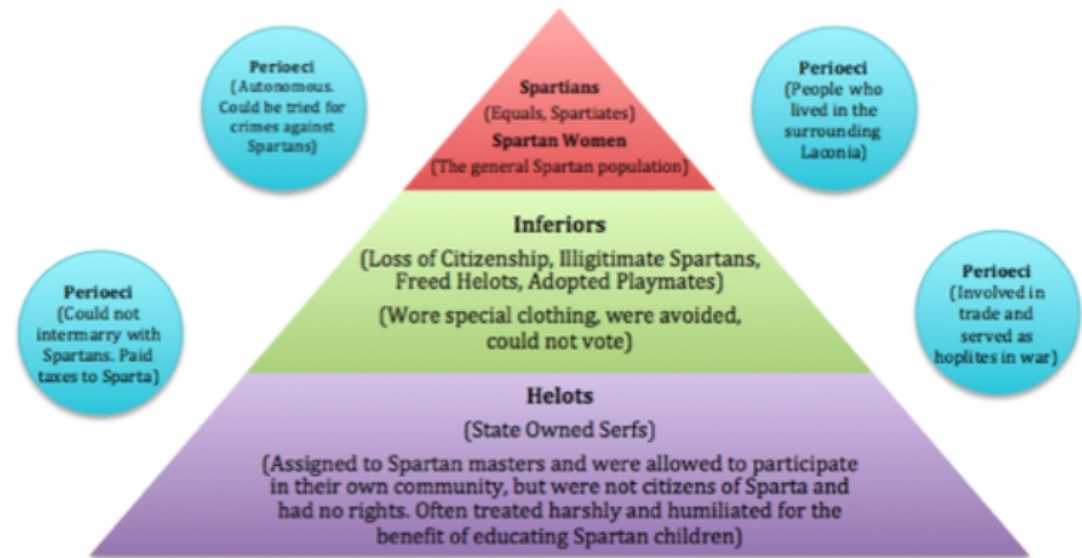
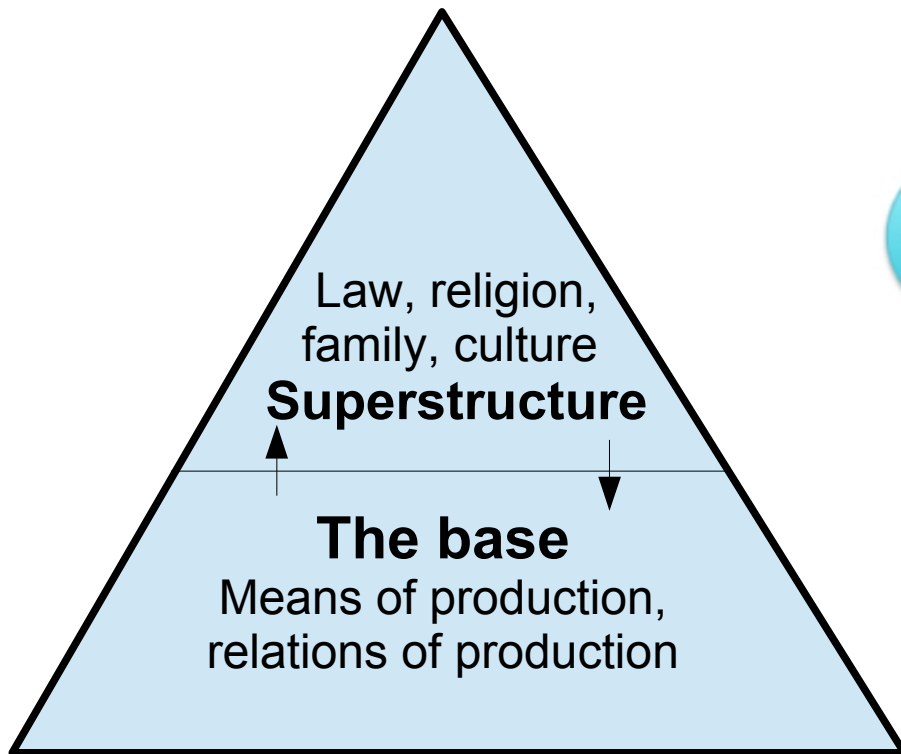
Communal property

Private property

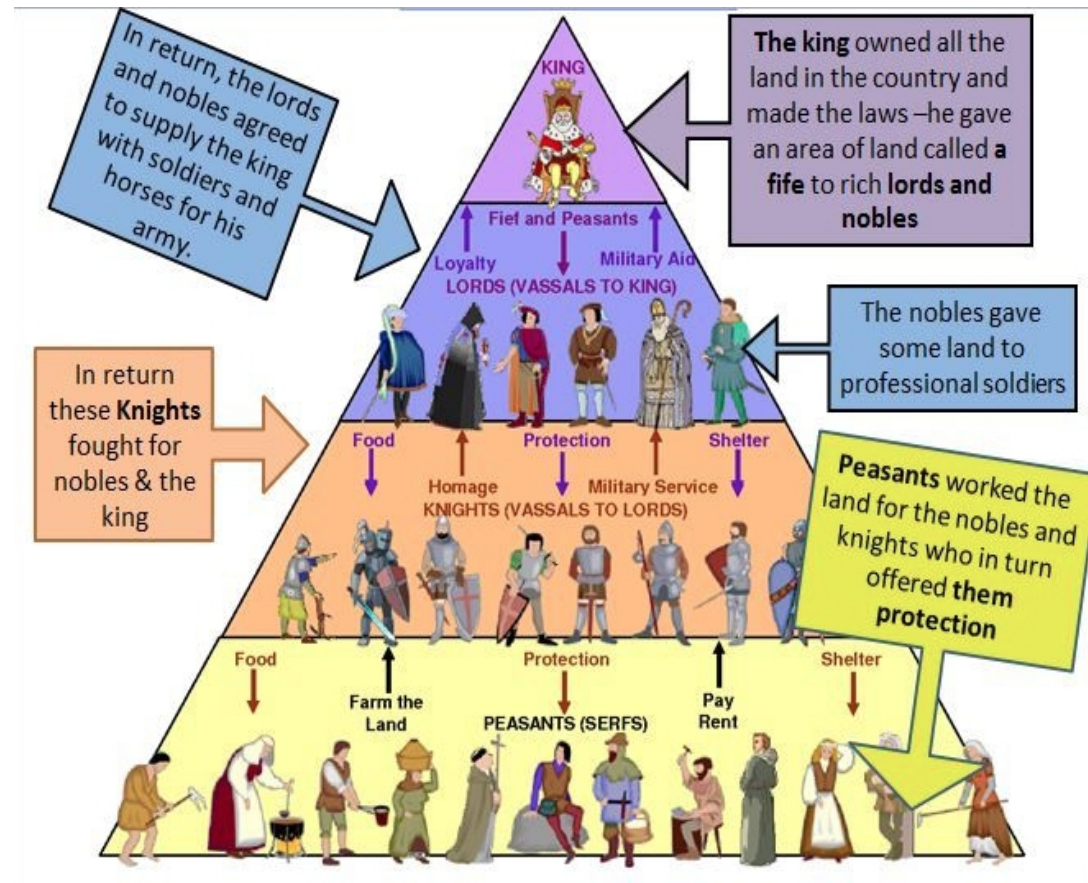
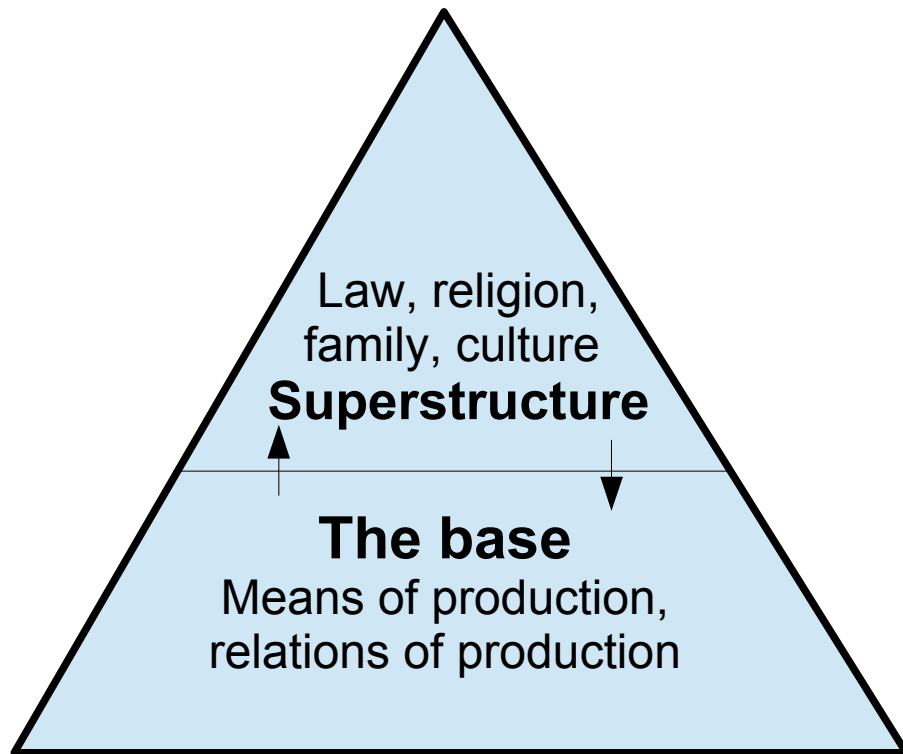
Communal property is first informally privatised then laws are created to justify and enforce new private property rights



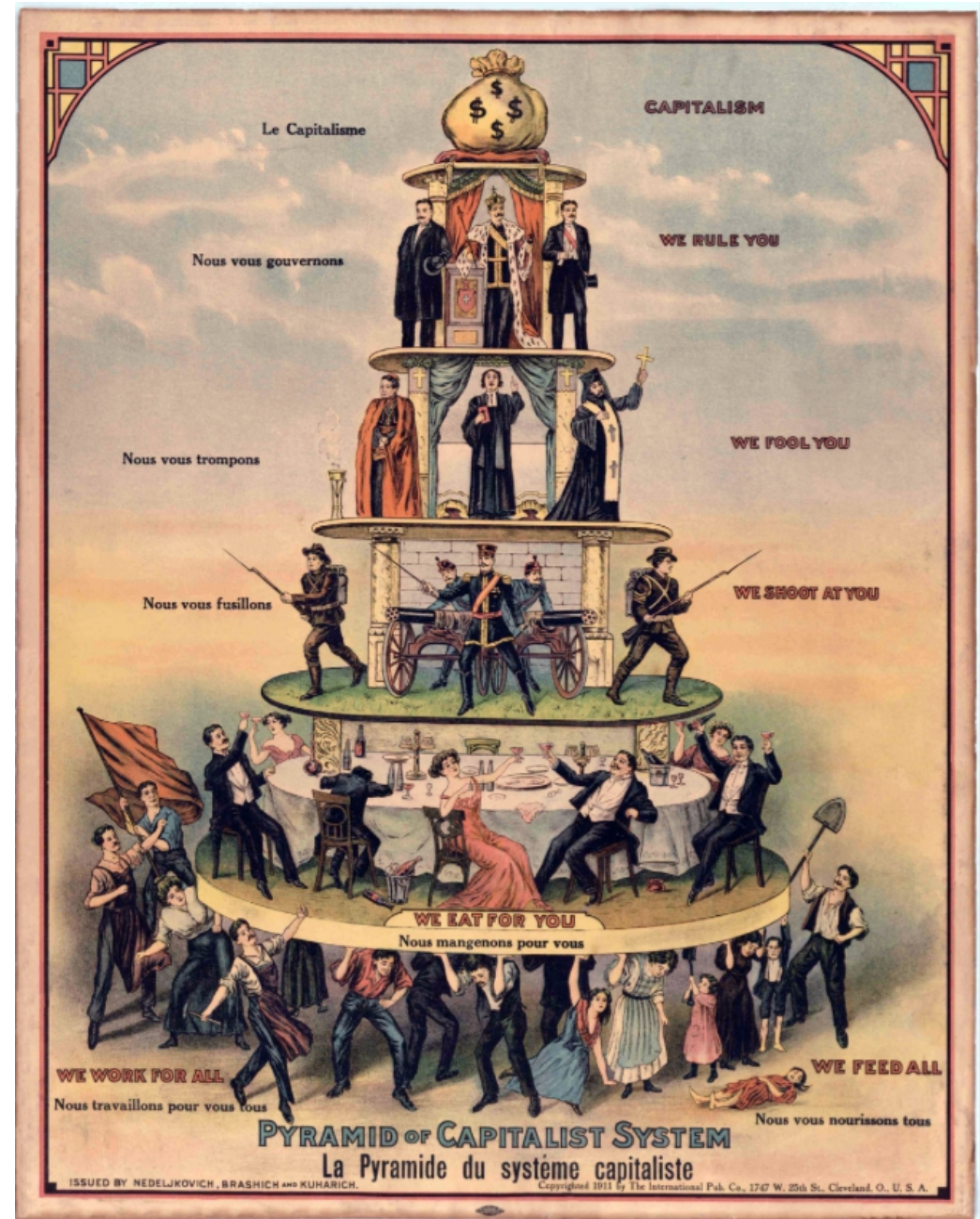
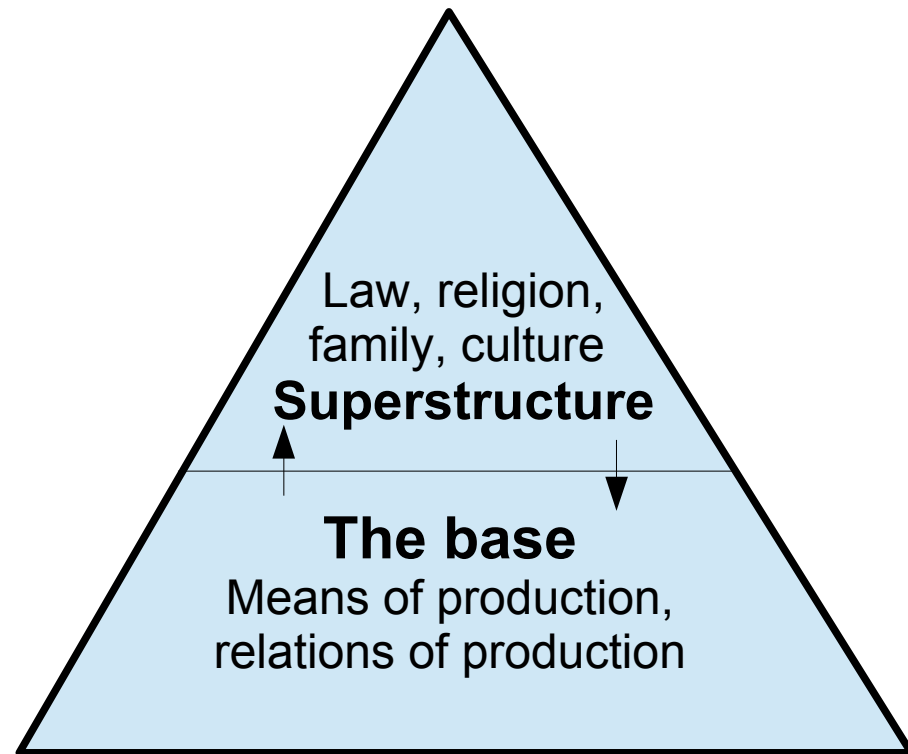
The state in Greek antiquity (slavery mode of production)



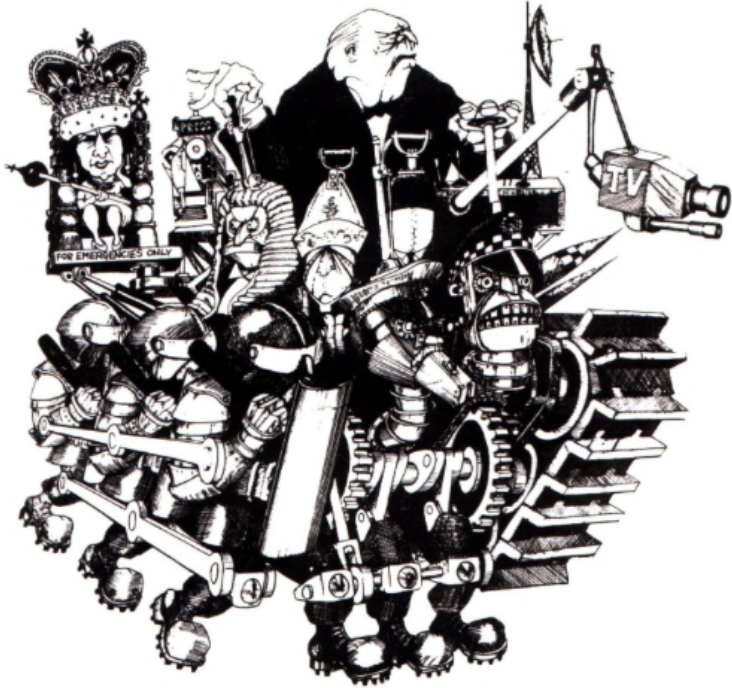
The feudal state



The capitalist state



Can the state be abolished?



“The state, therefore, has not existed from all eternity. There have been societies which have managed without it, which had no notion of the state or state power. At a definite stage of economic development, which necessarily involved the cleavage of society into classes, the state became a necessity because of this cleavage. We are now rapidly approaching a stage in the development of production at which the existence of these classes has not only ceased to be a necessity, but becomes a positive hindrance to production. They will fall as inevitably as they once arose. The state inevitably falls with them. The society which organises production anew on the basis of free and equal association of the producers will put the whole state machinery where it will then belong — into the museum of antiquities, next to the spinning wheel and the bronze axe.”

Engels, *Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State*

- Eliminate class divisions to eliminate the state

Will a privileged class give up its privileges without a fight?

- Is there such a thing as a democratic state?
- Is there such a thing as a people's state?

