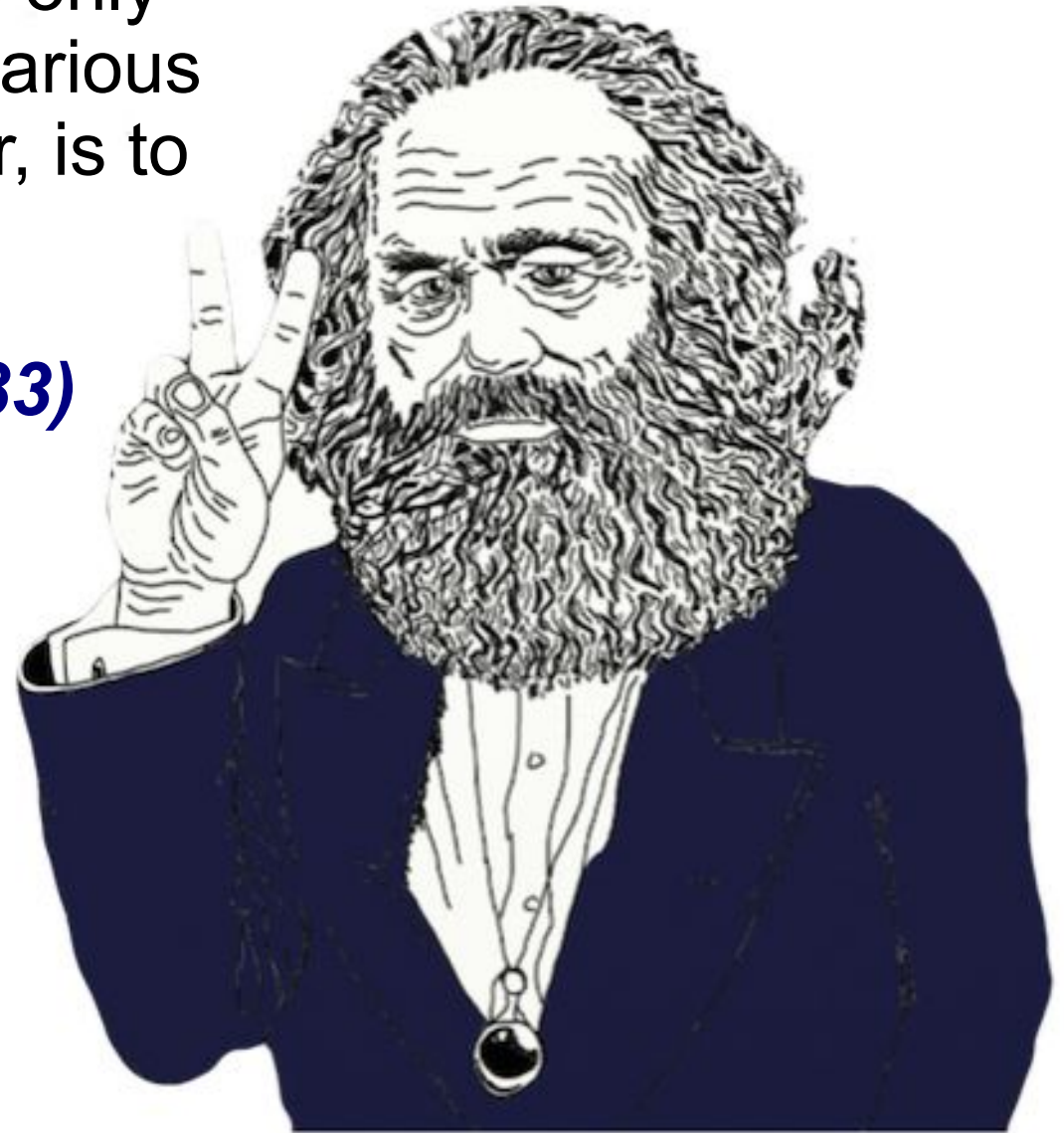


“The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it.”

***Karl Marx (1818-1883)***





The dominant ideology in any class society is the **ideology of the ruling class**. Every ruling class has insisted that their right to rule is natural or pre-ordained by some deity and that it is unchangeable. But class conflict generates challenges to the dominant ideology and in a revolutionary crisis the dominant ideology is submitted to a dramatic reality check.



There's no such thing as society!

Australia should never be defined by class or envy, but rather a nation united by **mateship** and achievement

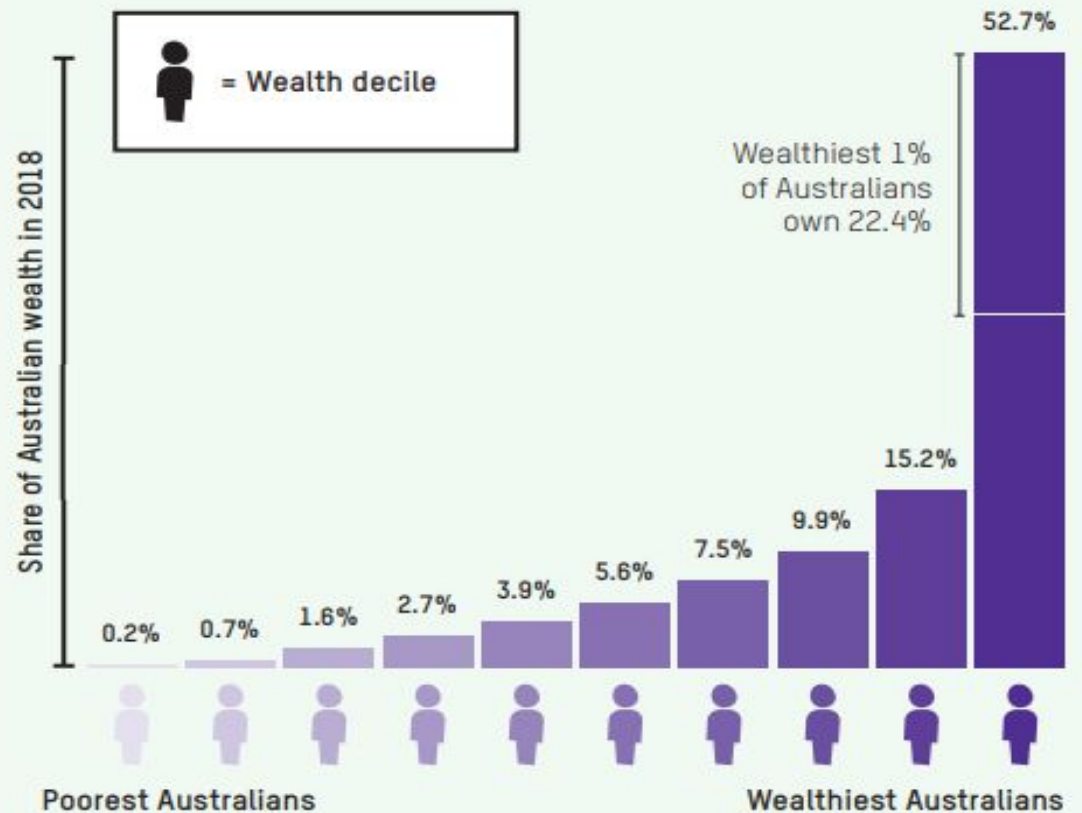


## Class divide a reality not an 'ideology'

- In 2018, 26 people owned the same as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity, down from 43 people the year before
- The wealth of the world's billionaires increased by 12% (almost \$3.5 billion a day) last year. At the same time the poorest half of humanity saw their wealth shrink by 11%.
- The top 1% of Australians owns more wealth than the bottom 70% of all other Australians combined.

Figure 2: Australian wealth distribution in 2018.

Source: Credit Suisse (2018), Global Wealth Report Databook



THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD'S BILLIONAIRES INCREASED \$900 BILLION IN THE LAST YEAR, WHICH IS:

**\$2.5 BILLION A DAY**<sup>1</sup>



EXTREME POVERTY IS INCREASING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

This new evidence also shows that 3.4 billion people (almost half of humanity) have barely escaped extreme poverty and are living on less than

**\$5.50 A DAY**<sup>2</sup>



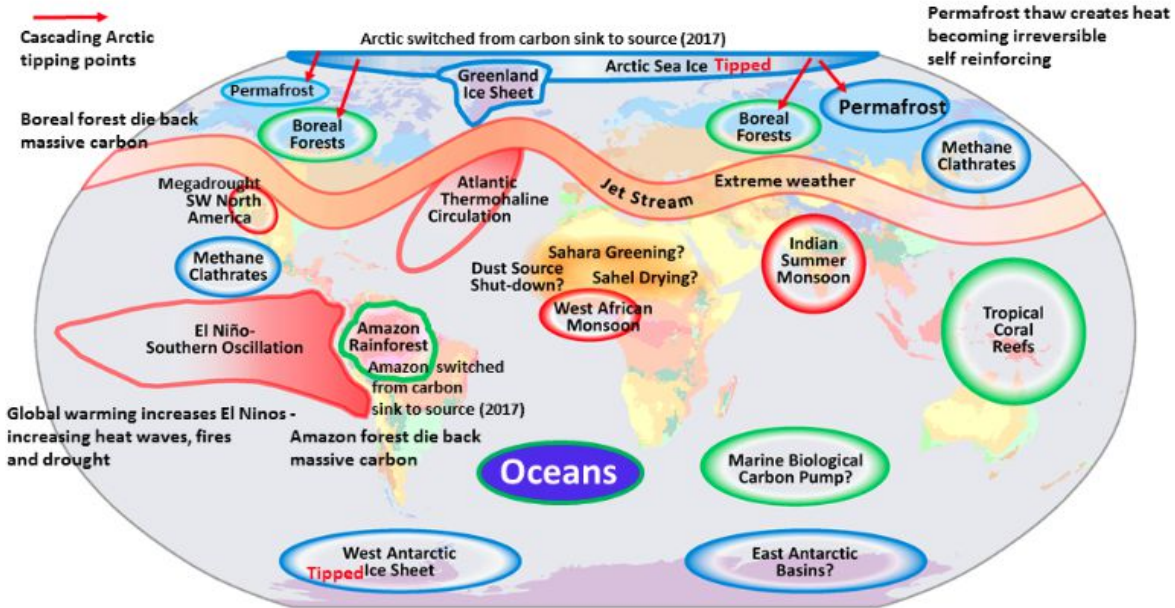
Reality should be understood not as a “complex of ready-made things, but as a **complex of processes**, in which the things apparently stable ... go through an uninterrupted change of coming into being and passing away”

**EXAMPLE**

## Global Warming Vulnerable Tipping Points

Committed global warming (>2°C) commits most, most likely past tipping  
Thawing permafrost is emitting CO<sub>2</sub>, methane & nitrous oxide

- Cryosphere Entities
- Circulation Patterns
- Biosphere Components



Permafrost thaw creates heat becoming irreversible self reinforcing

Cascading Arctic tipping points

Boreal forest die back massive carbon

Megadrought SW North America

Methane Clathrates

El Niño-Southern Oscillation

Global warming increases El Ninos - increasing heat waves, fires and drought

Amazon Rainforest

Amazon switched from carbon sink to source (2017)

Amazon forest die back massive carbon

West Antarctic Tipped Ice Sheet

East Antarctic Basins?

Oceans

Marine Biological Carbon Pump?

Tropical Coral Reefs

Indian Summer Monsoon

West African Monsoon

Sahara Greening?

Sahel Drying?

Dust Source Shut-down?

Atlantic Thermohaline Circulation

Jet Stream

Extreme weather

Methane Clathrates

Boreal Forests

Permafrost

Greenland Ice Sheet

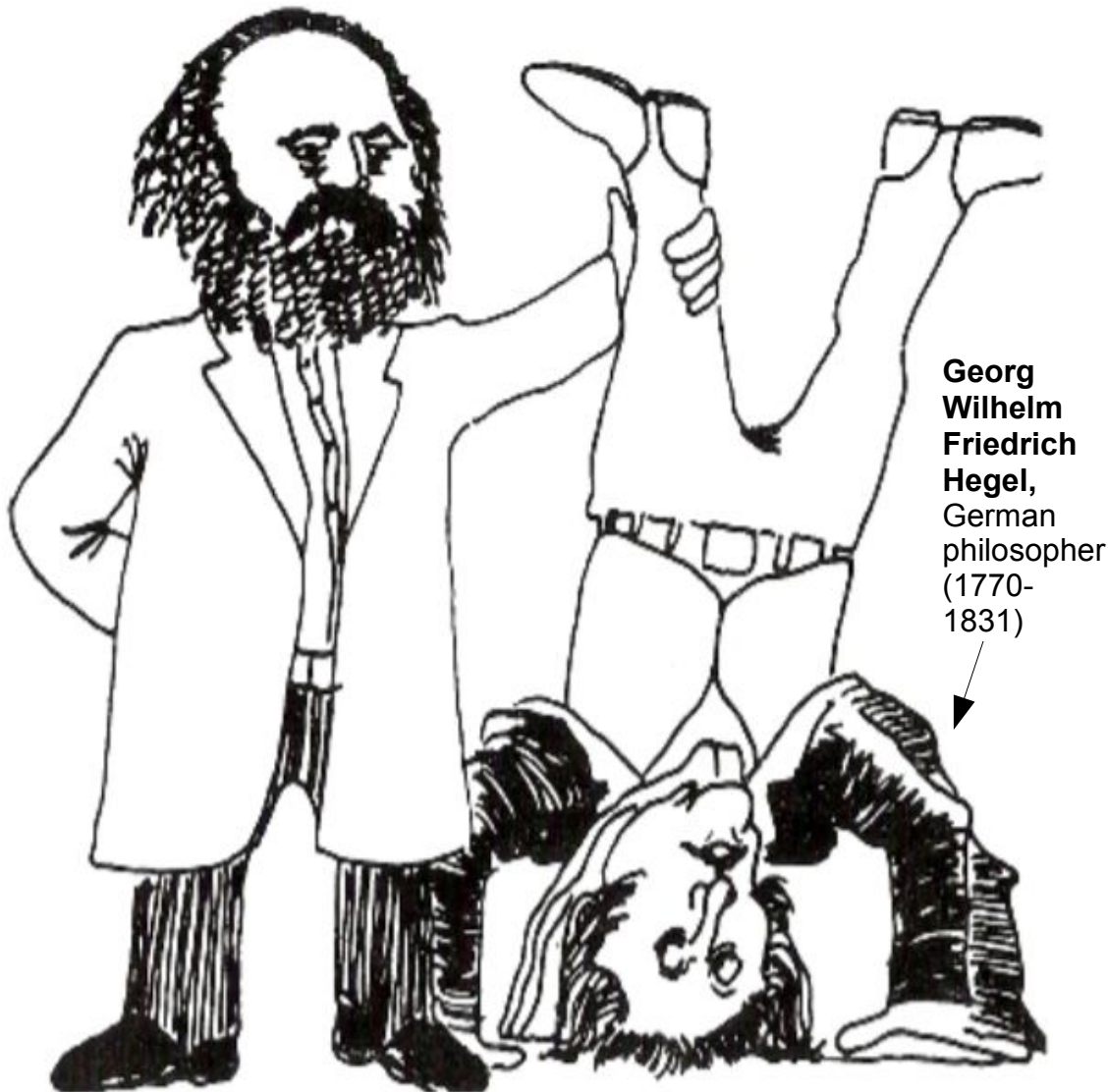
Arctic switched from carbon sink to source (2017)

Arctic Sea Ice Tipped

Oceans: Heating, Acidification & Deoxygenation

Adapted from Potsdam Climate Institute  
Tipping Elements the Achilles Heels  
of the Earth System

# Marx and Hegel



**Hegel** argued:

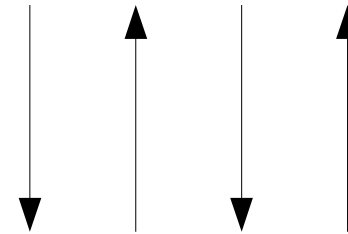
“contradiction is at the root of all movement and life, and it is only in so far as it contains a contradiction that anything moves and has impulse and activity”. However, he thought these contradictions unfolded in the sphere of ideas, which were then transmitted into the real world.

**Marx** turned Hegel’s dialectical approach **on its head**.

The contradictions in the sphere of ideas that Hegel identified, he argued, were ideological reflections of material processes and material contradictions that drove the development of nature and history.



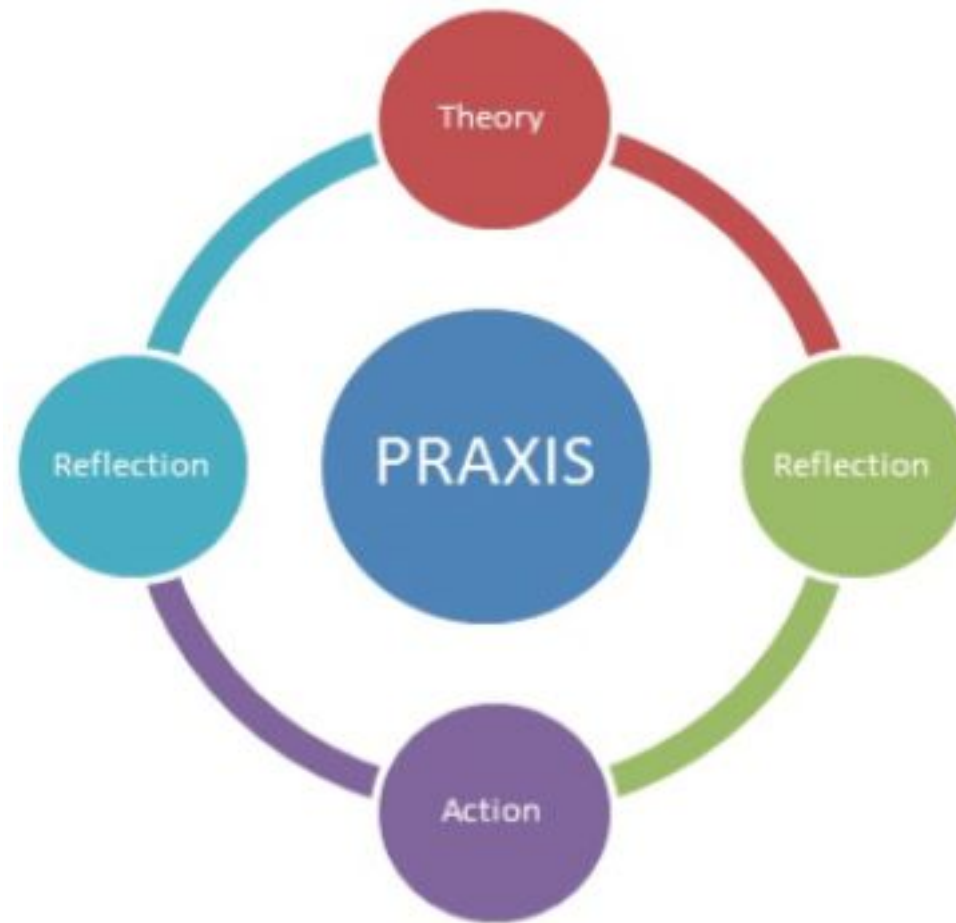
**IDEAS**



**REALITY**

### **Marx's philosophical materialism:**

Developments in the sphere of ideas do impact powerfully on the material world. However, ultimately, “It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but their social existence that determines their consciousness”.



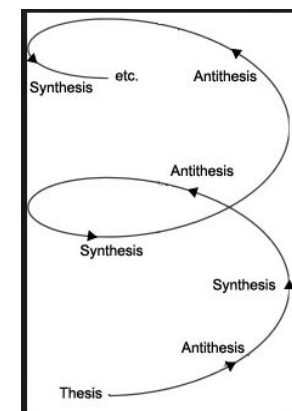
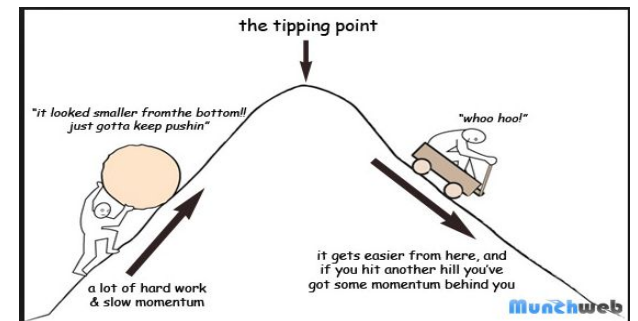
**Marx:** Reality should be understood not as a “complex of ready-made things, but as a complex of processes” and that *we understand these processes by engaging with reality as well as reflecting on what we perceive.*

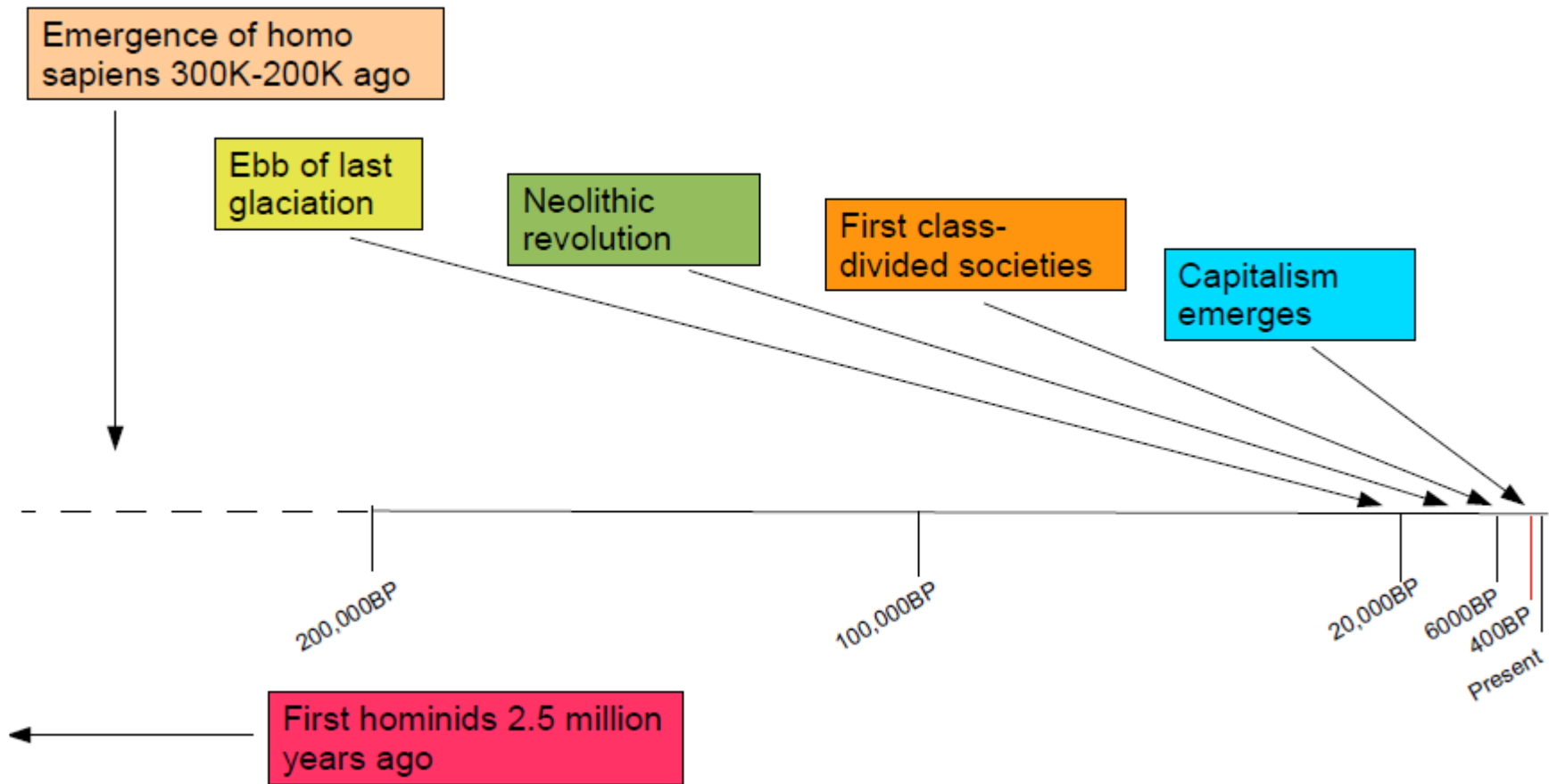


# Dialectics = the logic of change

Engels postulated three laws of dialectics in his *Dialectics of Nature*:

- The law of the unity and conflict of opposites
- The law of the passage of quantitative changes into qualitative changes
- The law of the negation of the negation (development as a spiral rather than a straight line)





# The long view of history

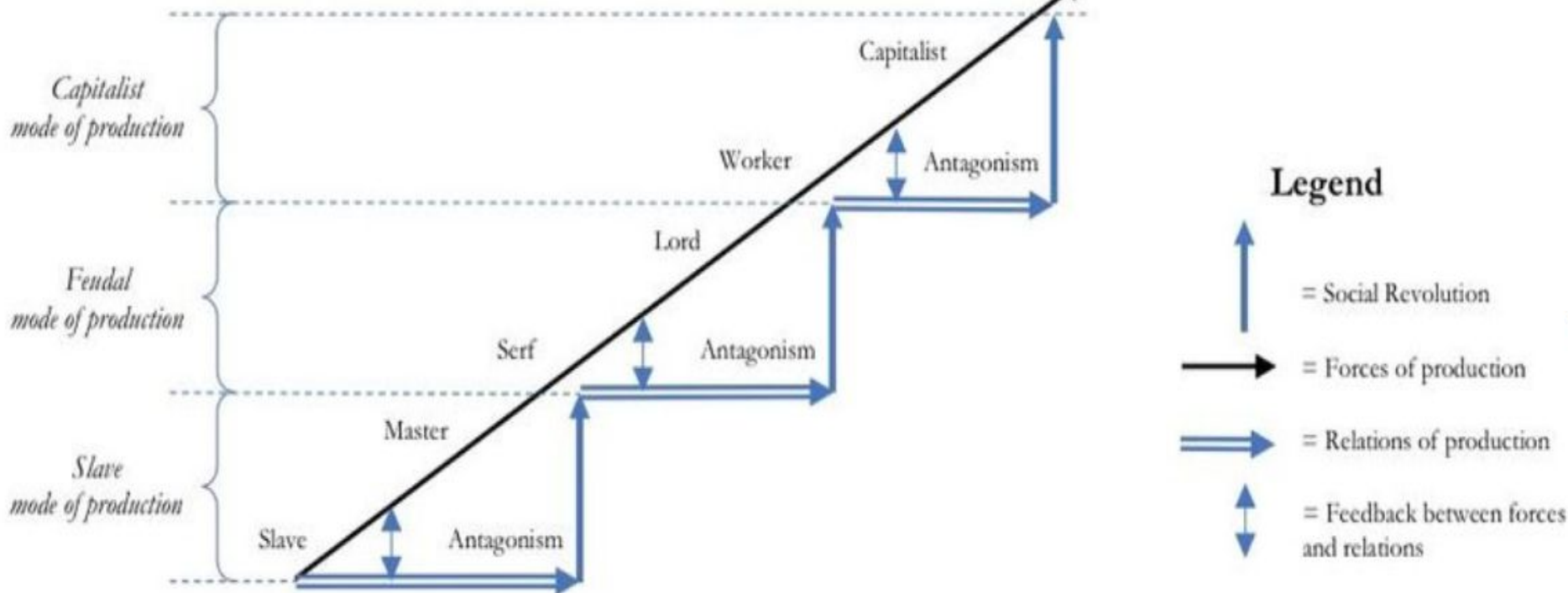
# Emergence of class-divided societies



# Marx's theory of rise and fall of class division

For millennia, human societies were classless. Private property, states, kings, standing armies and police forces did not exist. Since class-divided societies emerged 6,000 to 7,000 years ago, once 'all-powerful' ruling classes have come and gone.

**Classless society**



**'Primitive communism'**