

Lecture 3

Envisioning Alternatives

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The Three Tasks of Emancipatory Social Science

1. Diagnosis & Critique

2. Alternatives

3. Transformation

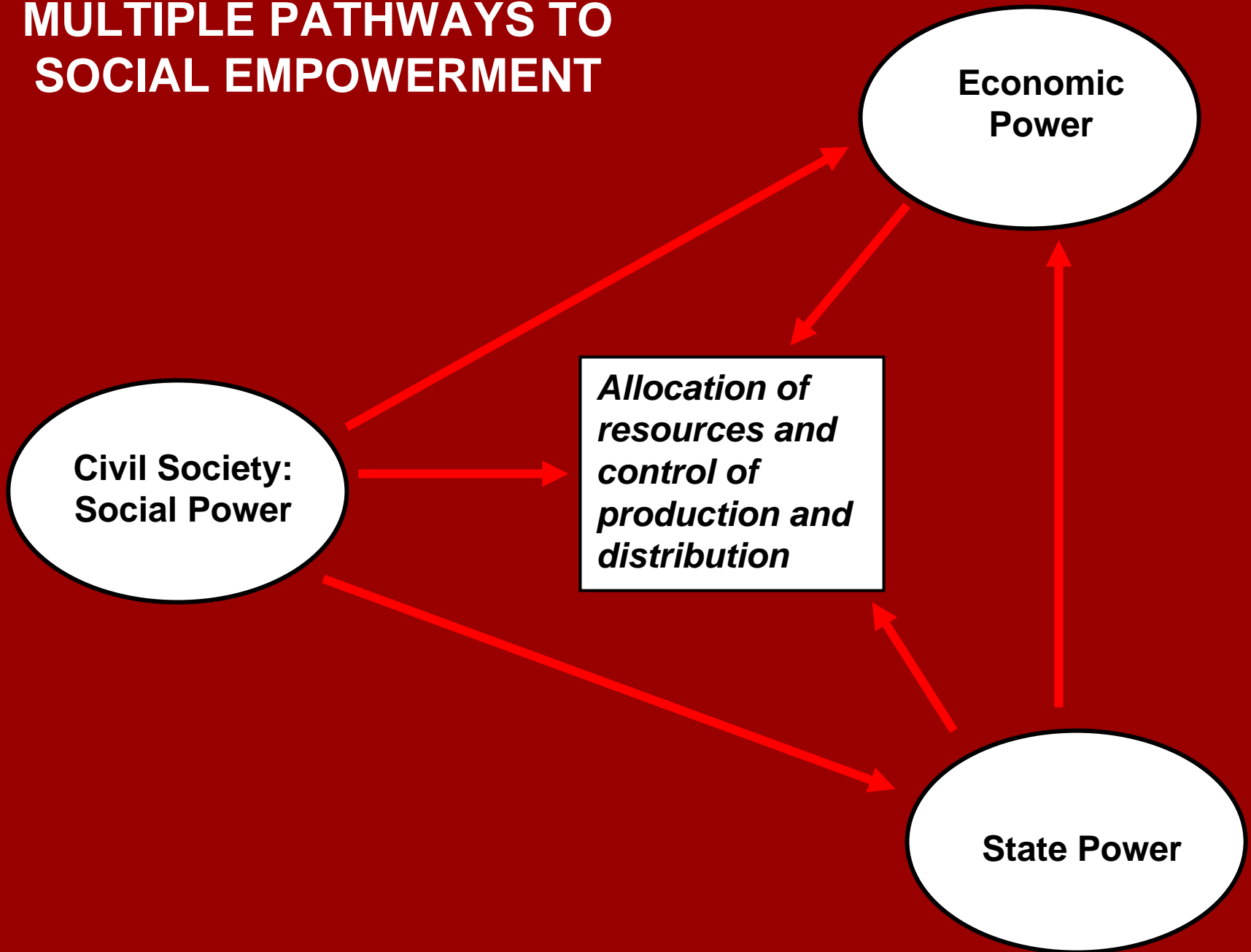
MARX'S THEORY OF ALTERNATIVES TO CAPITALISM:

Strong prediction: in the long run capitalism destroys its own conditions of possibility. The destiny of capitalism is its demise.

Core argument: The laws of motion of capitalism generate a trajectory of social change that a) makes capitalism progressively more fragile, and b) strengthens the collective actor most opposed to capitalism, the proletariat. Eventually these two tendencies make it possible to overthrow capitalism.

The alternative: When capitalism is overthrown, the proletariat is (a) powerful and (b) has interests in a democratic alternative. It will create an alternative through pragmatic creativity: *where there is a will there is a way.*

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT



Enhancing Social Power: Six examples

- 1. Empowered Participatory Governance:
Porto Alegre participatory budget**
- 2. Publicly funded social economy: Quebec**
- 3. Unconditional Basic Income**
- 4. Socially-controlled Capital investment Funds**
- 5. Egalitarian network production: open source**
- 6. “Randomocracy”: citizens assemblies, policy juries, referenda councils**