

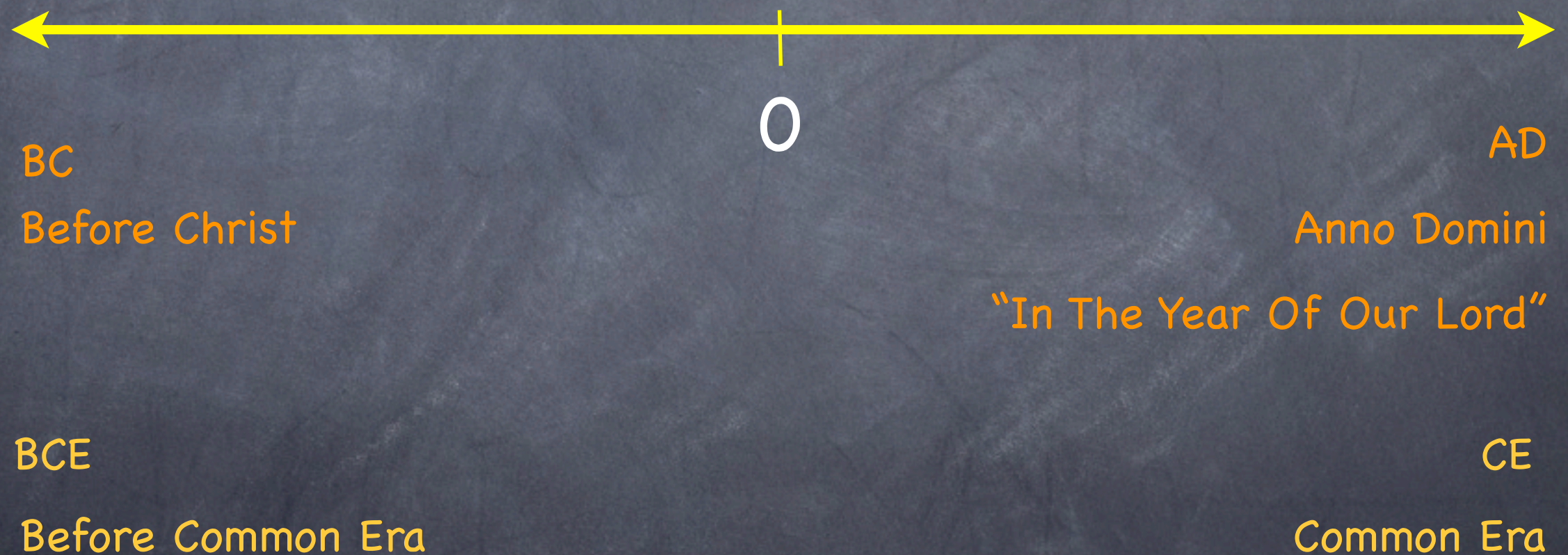
HISTORIOGRAPHY

[PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY]

you've been
THINKING
PHILOSOPHICALLY
ABOUT HISTORY !!

I. Linear Views

- views history as a line.
- timelines



I. Linear Views

A. Teleological Views

- states that history is pushed toward some ultimate goal or ending



Who or What
is pushing history?

I. Linear Views

A. Teleological Views

- states that history is pushed toward some ultimate goal or ending

1. Providential Views (providence)

- states that God controls history

a. Judaism



b. Christianity



c. Islam



If God controls history, toward what end might God be pushing history?

I. Linear Views

A. Teleological Views

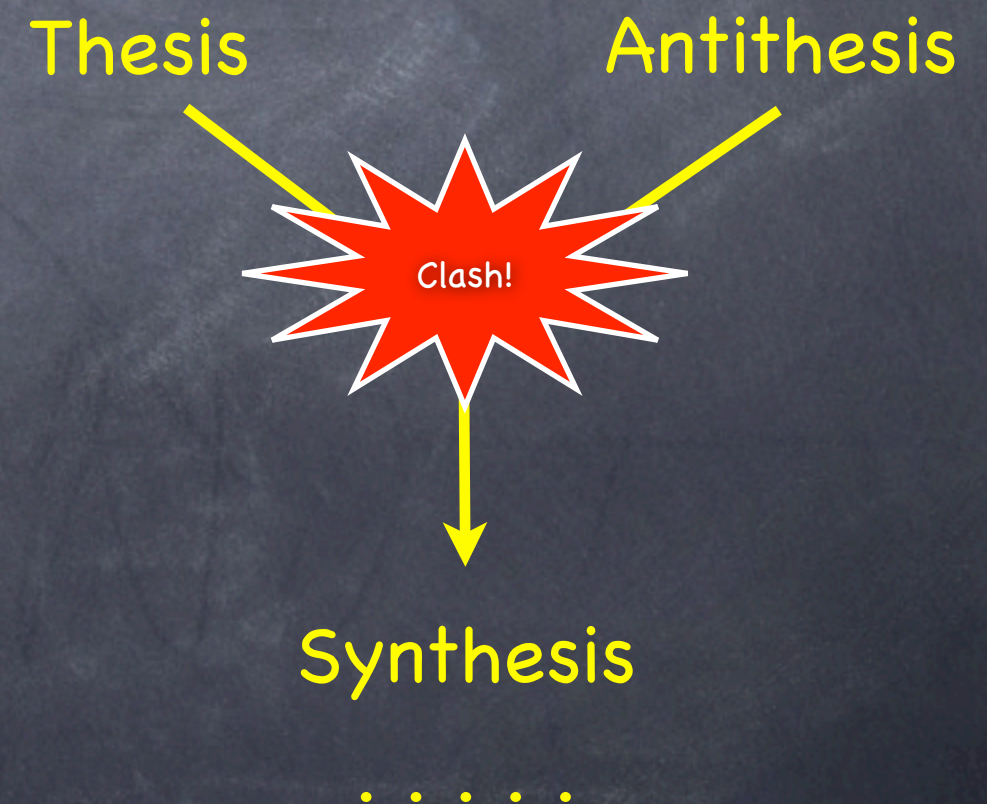
- states that history is pushed toward some ultimate goal or ending

1. Providential Views

2. Dialectical Materialism

a. Dialectical Process

- Georg Hegel



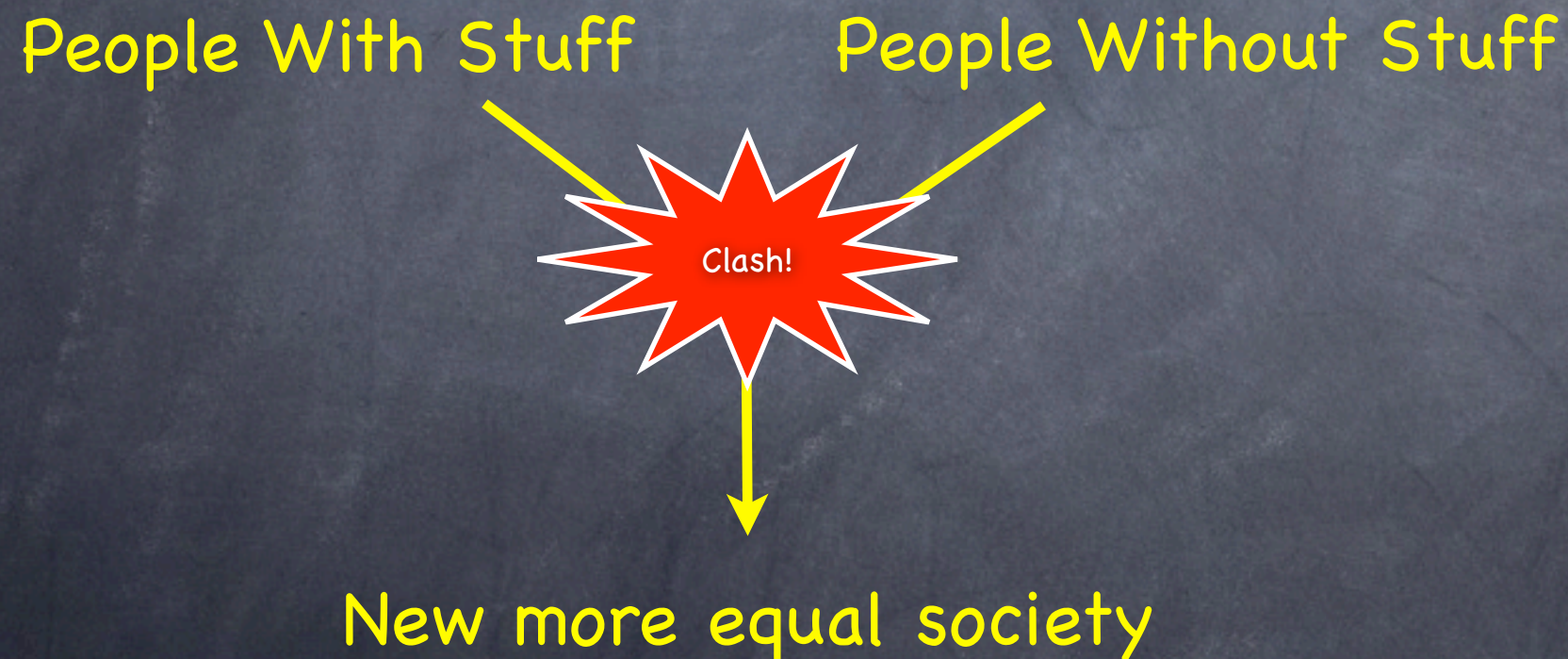
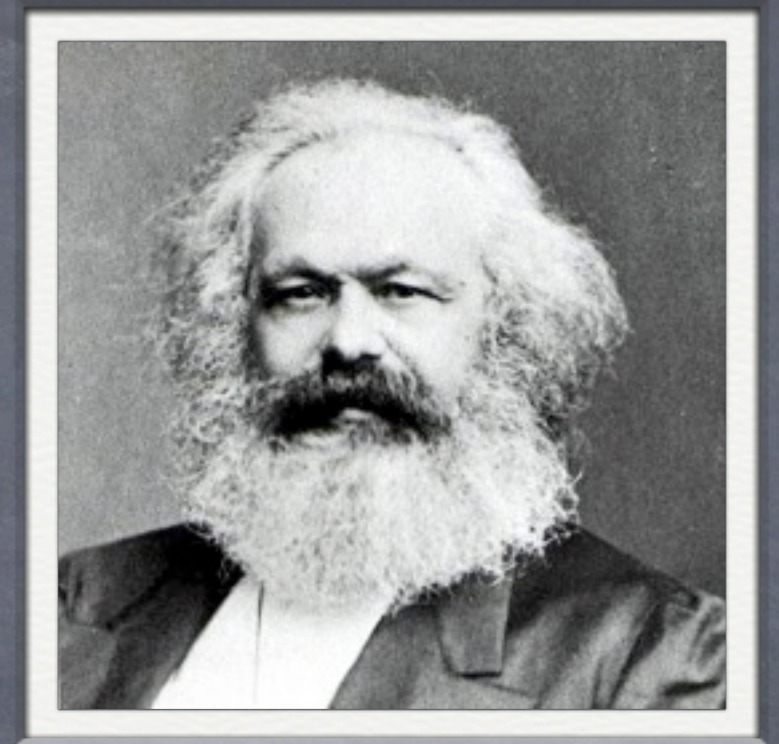
2. Dialectical Materialism

a. Dialectical Process

- Georg Hegel

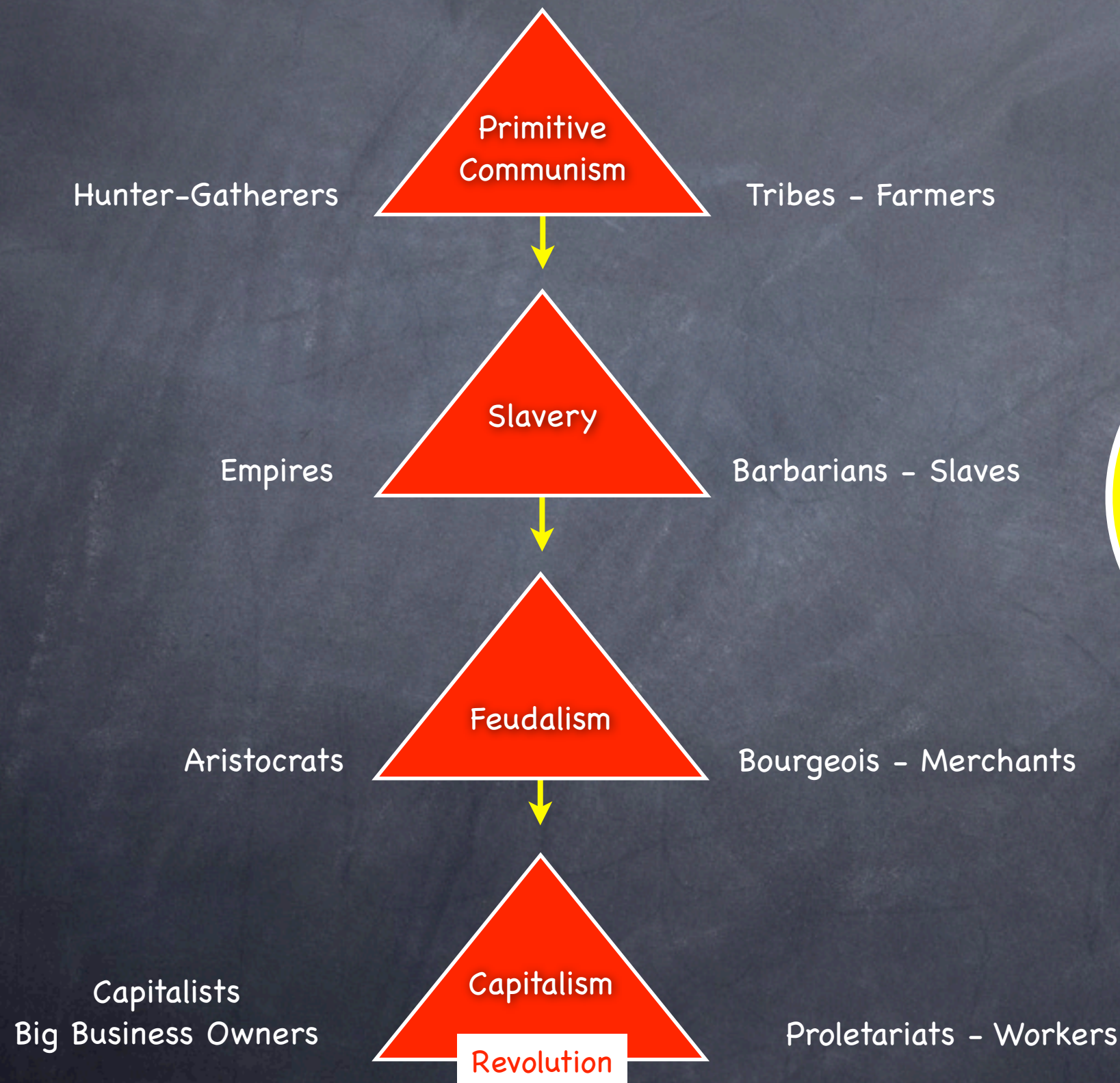
b. Materialism

- Karl Marx



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Karl Marx' Five Stages of History



Perfect
Communist Society
in which everyone is
equal.

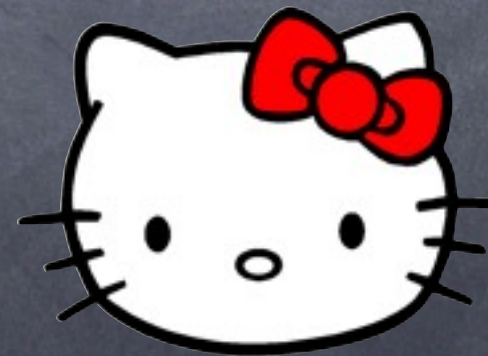
2. Dialectical Materialism

- states that history is moved along through class conflict leading ultimately to a perfectly equal (Communist) Society

Why is Dialectical Materialism a teleological view of history?

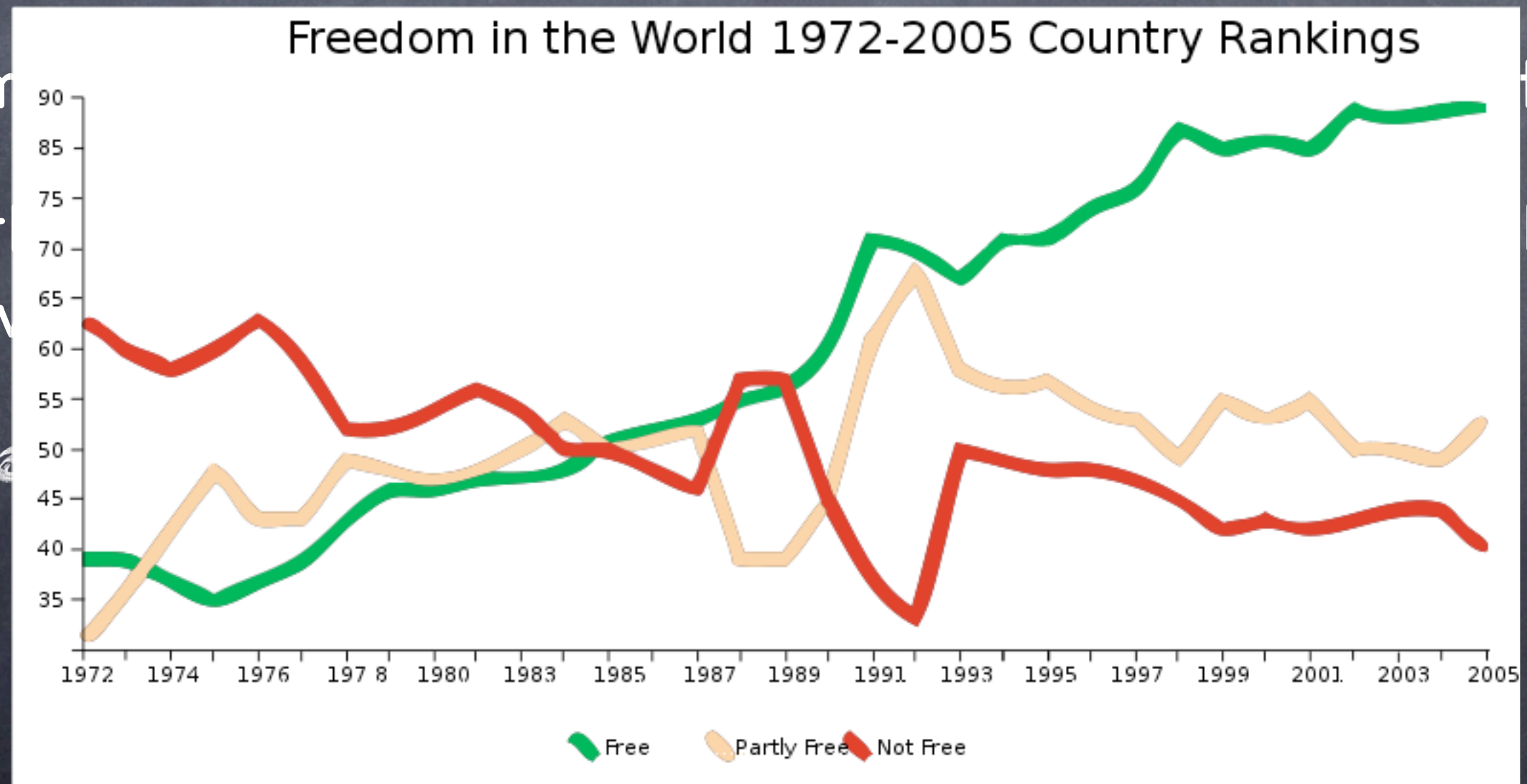
3. Francis Fukuyama's End of History View

- after the fall of communism in 1990 Fukuyama argues that the progress of mankind had ended.
- he argued that there was no greater form of government than liberal democracy.
 - liberal democracy: government elected by free and fair elections with universal suffrage; usually with a free market (capitalist) economy



Arguments for Fukuyama

- dramatic rise in democratic nations over the 20th Century.



Arguments Against Fukuyama

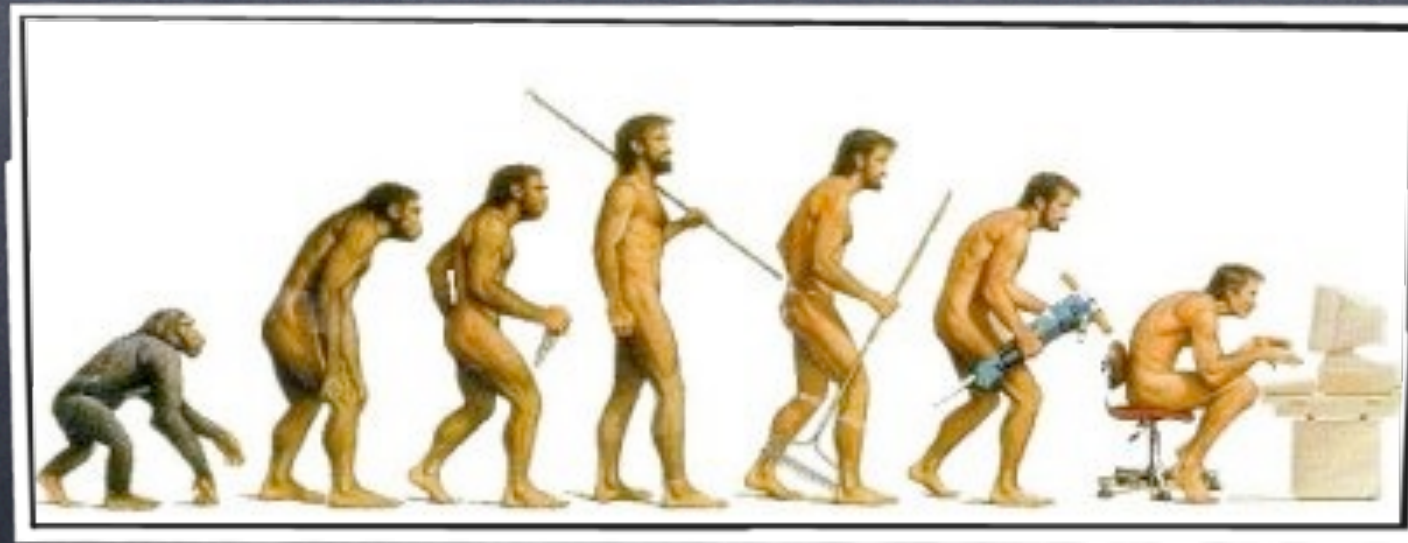
- Jihad vs. McWorld/iWorld
 - George Will on Sept. 11, 2001 "History has returned from a vacation."
- Rise in power of China and Russia
- poverty, inequality, ethnic tensions within liberal democratic countries.
- global poverty and inequality.
- success of "Arab Spring"?

I. Linear Views

A. Teleological Views

B. Evolutionary View

- states that society is progressing over time through natural selection and the survival of the fittest
- Social Darwinism



I. Linear Views

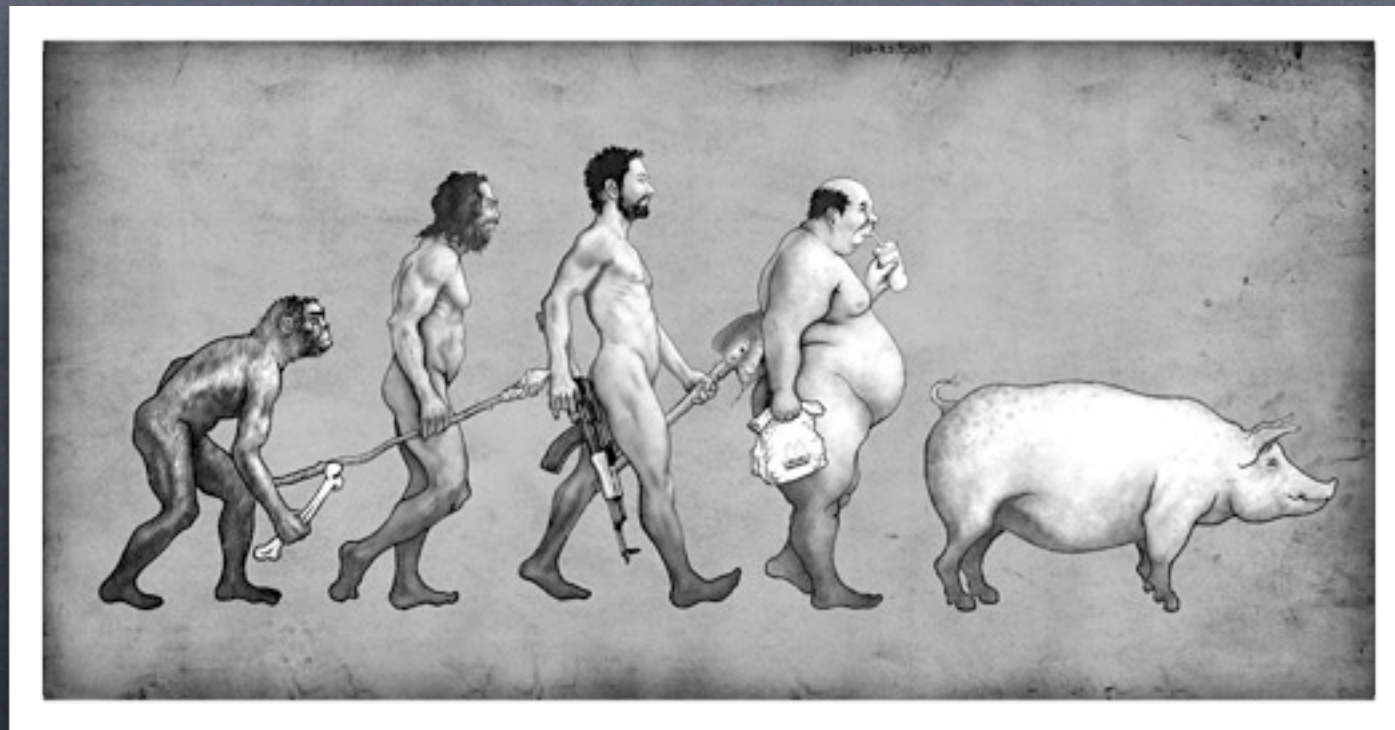
A. Teleological Views

B. Evolutionary View

C. De-Evolutionary View

- states that humans and society in general are de-evolving

How could the
De-evolutionary View
be teleological?



I. Linear Views

II. Cyclical View

- states that history moves in cycles
- reincarnation (transmigration of souls)
 - life, death, rebirth, life, death, rebirth . . .

A. Religions with a Cyclical View of history

- Hinduism



- Buddhism



- Daoism (Taoism)

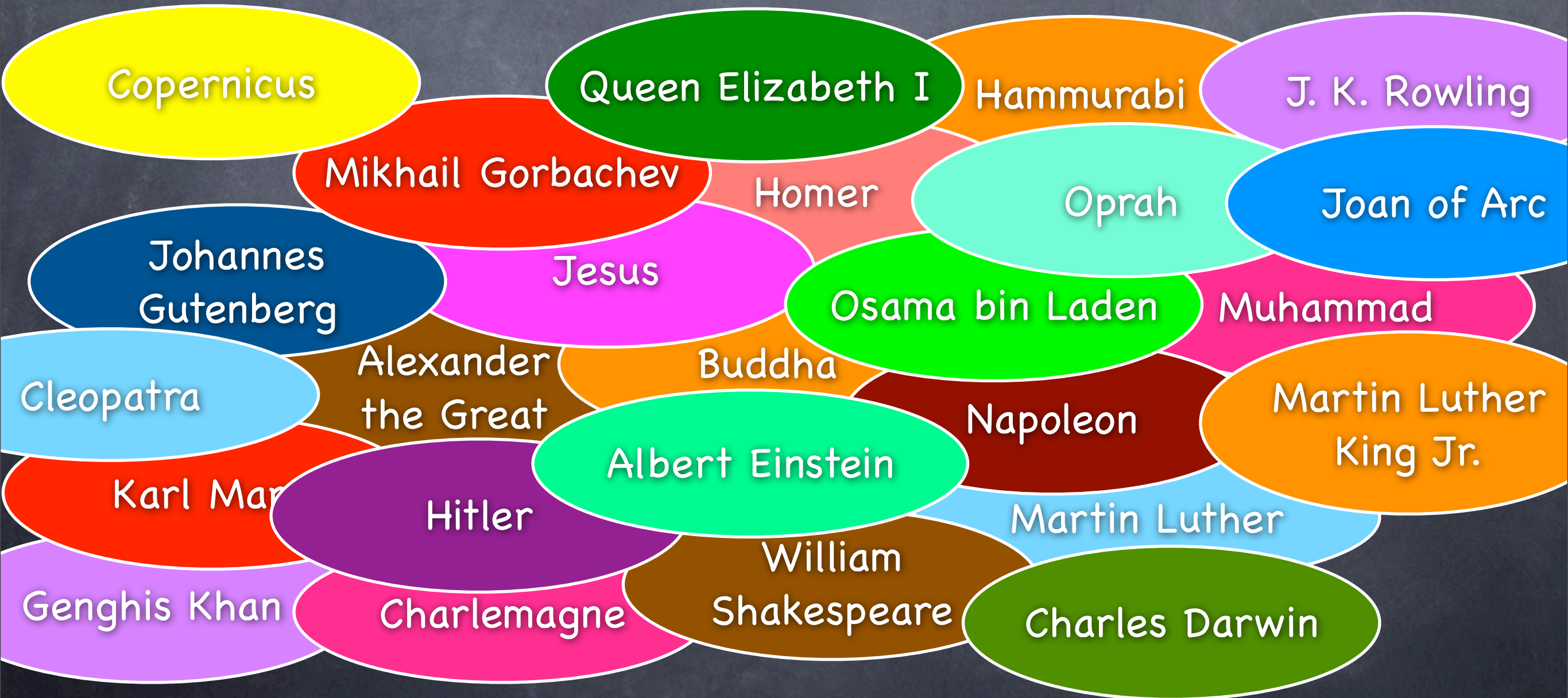


I. Linear Views

II. Cyclical View

III. Great Men Theory of History

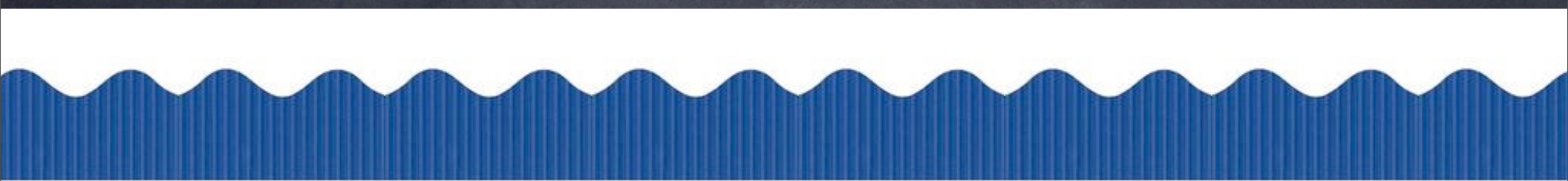
- states that history can be explained by the impact of influential men



IV. Arnold Toynbee's View

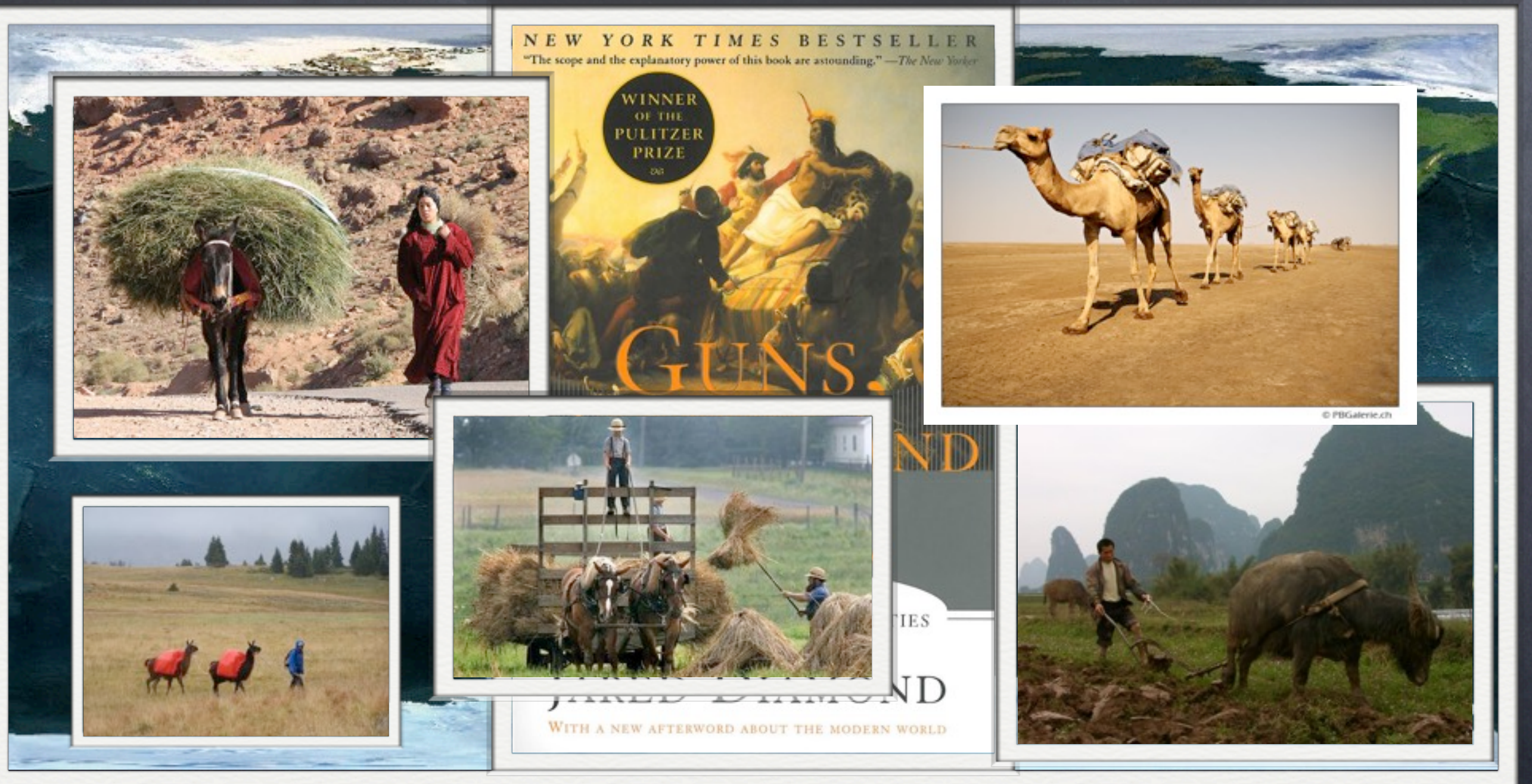
- states that history moves via the rise and fall of great civilizations

- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- Greece
- Rome
- Byzantine
- Islamic Empire
- Franks
- Ottoman Empire
- British Empire
- USA/USSR
- USA
- ?????



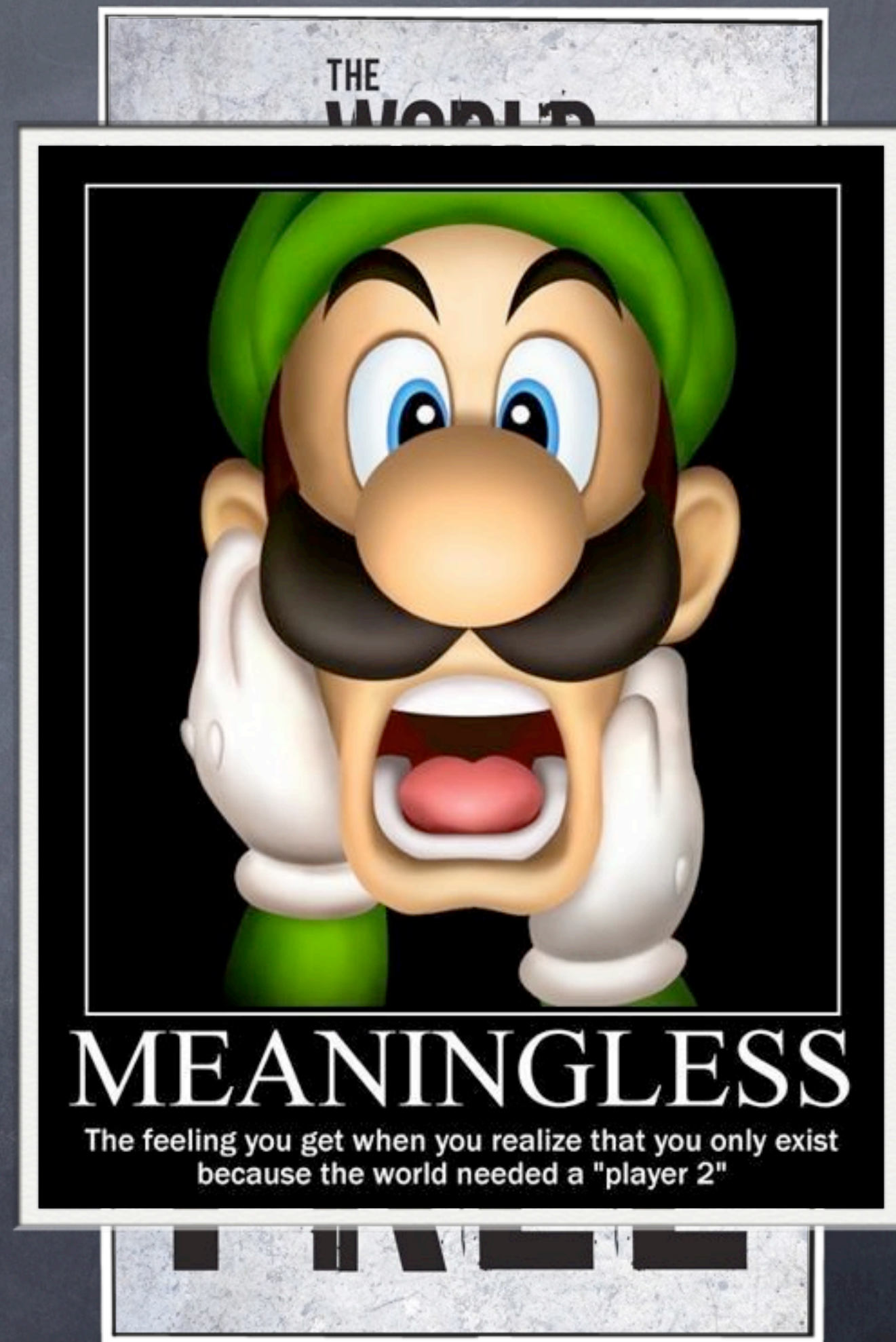
V. Jared Diamond's View

- author of Guns Germs and Steel
- history is determined by geography



VI. Existentialist View

- states that there is no force moving history
- all events are random
- you must create meaning



VII. Post-Modern View

- All history is subjective (opinion)
- History is recorded by the winners
- History was recorded primarily by men (white men)
- You can't trust history



Homework

WRITE A 5 PARAGRAPH ESSAY ANSWERING
THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

OF THE VIEWS OF HISTORY DISCUSSED IN CLASS,
WITH WHICH DO YOU MOST AGREE?