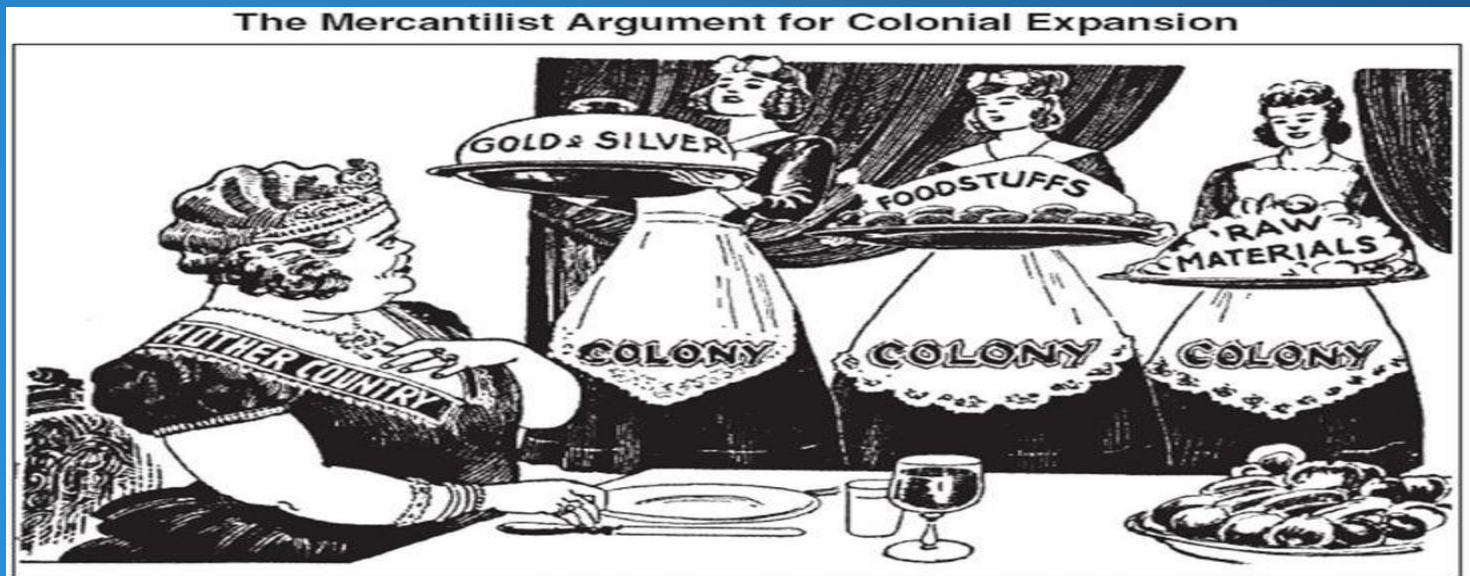


Chapter 8: Political Geography

Enjoy
Colonialism
Since 1493

European Colonialism and the Diffusion of the Nation-State Model

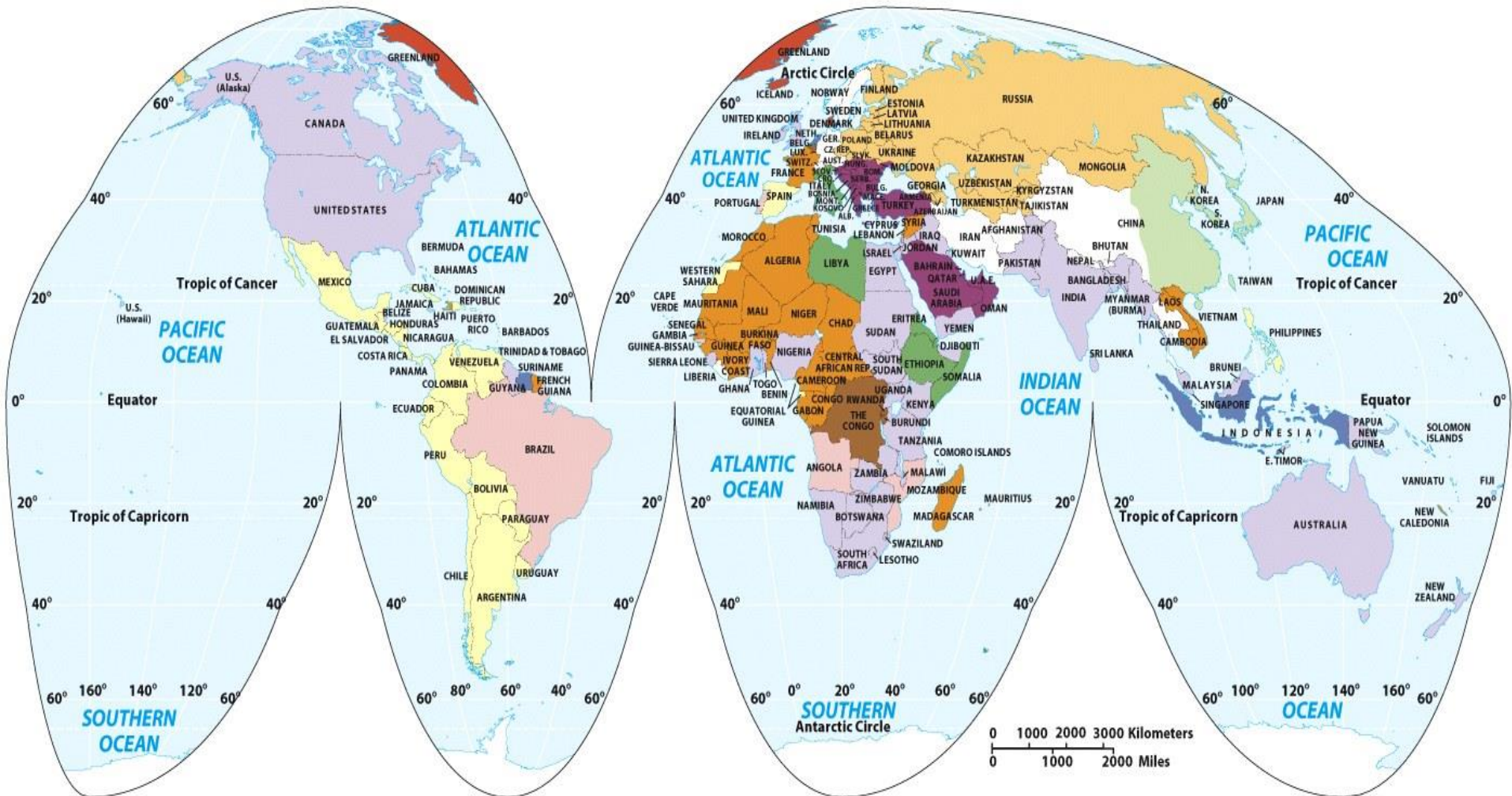
- Europe exported its concepts of state, sovereignty, and the desire for nation-states to much of the rest of the world through two waves of colonialism.
- Colonialism- the practice of establishing political dominance over a people for economic, political, or territorial gain.



Source: Philip Dorf, *Our Early Heritage: Ancient and Medieval History*, Oxford Book Company (adapted)

European Colonialism and the Diffusion of the Nation-State Model

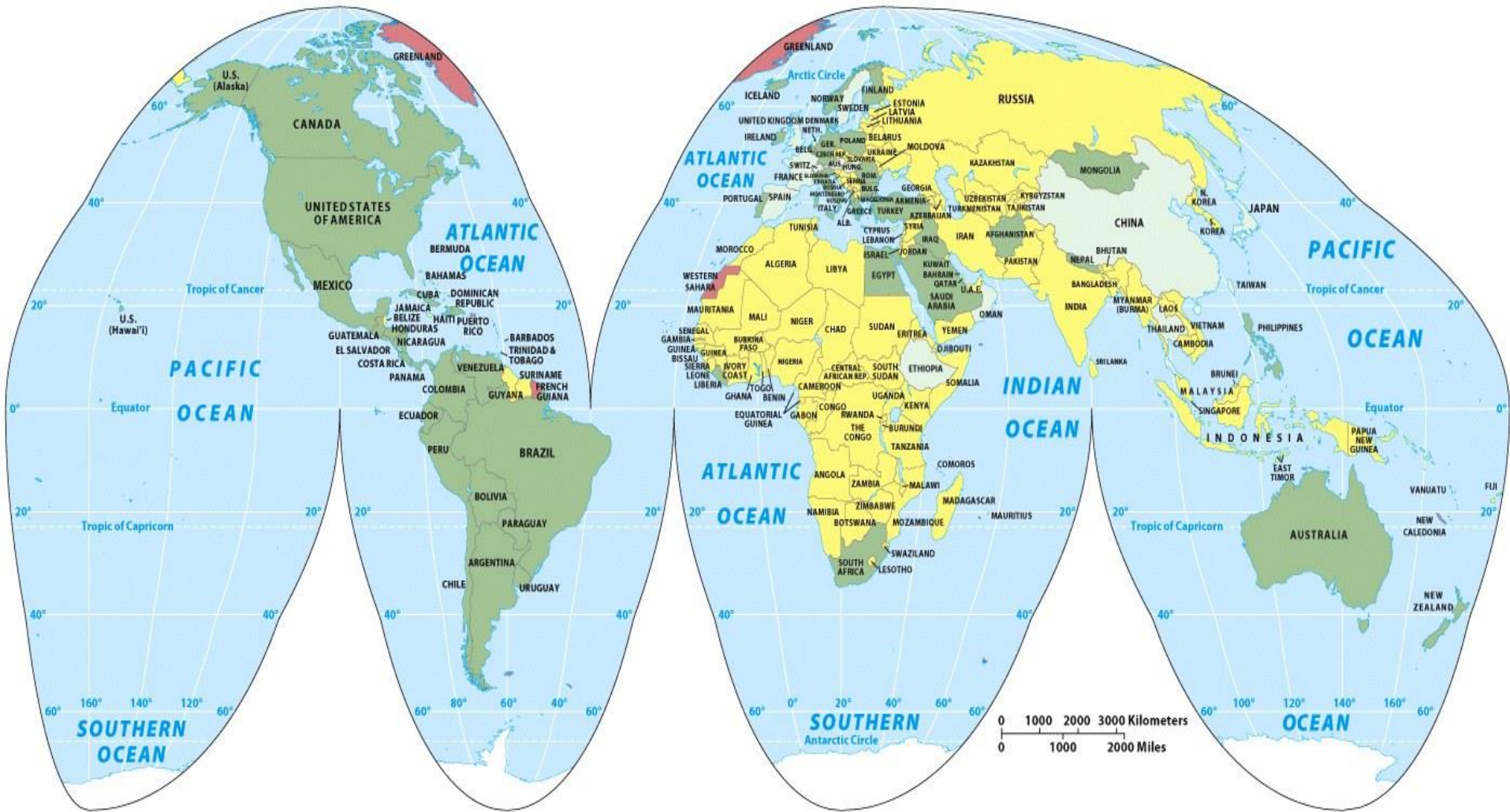
- During the heyday of colonialism, imperial powers exercised ruthless control over their domains and organized them for maximum economic exploitation.
- Despite the end of colonialism, the political organization of space and the global world economy persist.



**DOMINANT COLONIAL INFLUENCES
OVER FOUR CENTURIES, 1550–1950
(including mandates)**

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Great Britain | Portugal | Italy | Japan |
| France | Netherlands | Turkey | Denmark |
| Spain | Belgium | Russia | Not colonized by Europe or Japan |

Figure 8.8
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DATES OF INDEPENDENCE

- Independence before 1750
- Independence in or after 1940
- Independence between 1750 and 1939
- Still a territory of another state

Figure 8.2
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Reasons for Colonization

1. Religious Colonization

a. All European colonizers participated in some form of conversion

2. Wealth in the New World

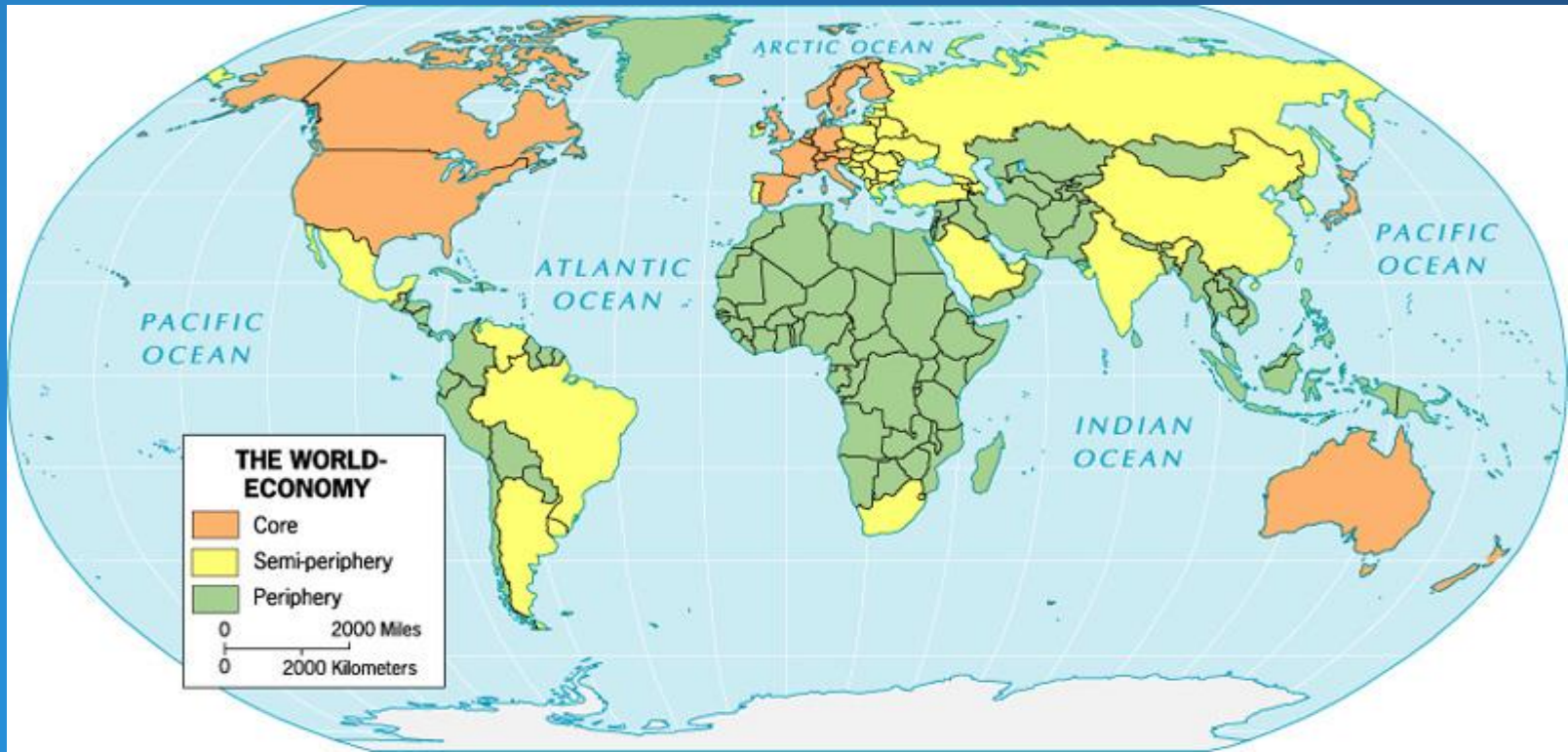
a. Gold, silver, furs, spices, and salt

Construction of the Capitalist World Economy

- One of the most powerful impacts of colonialism was the construction of a global order characterized by great differences in economic and political power.
- The concentration of wealth that colonialism brought to Europe, and to parts of the world dominated by European settlers.
- Colonialism is at the heart of highly uneven global distribution of power that continues even today.

Construction of the Capitalist World Economy

- Proponents of world-systems theory view the world as much more than the sum total of the world's states.



Construction of the Capitalist World Economy

The three basic tenets of world-systems theory:

1. The world economy has one market and a global division of labor.

- **Capitalism:** in the world economy, individuals, corporations, and states produce goods and services that are exchanged for profit.
- **Commodification** is the process of placing a price on a good, service, or idea and then buying, selling, and trading that item.

Construction of the Capitalist World Economy

2. Although the world has multiple states, almost everything takes place within the context of the world economy:

- Colonialism played a major role in establishing this system by exporting the European state idea and facilitating the construction of an interdependent global economy.

Construction of the Capitalist World Economy

3. The world economy has a three-tier structure:

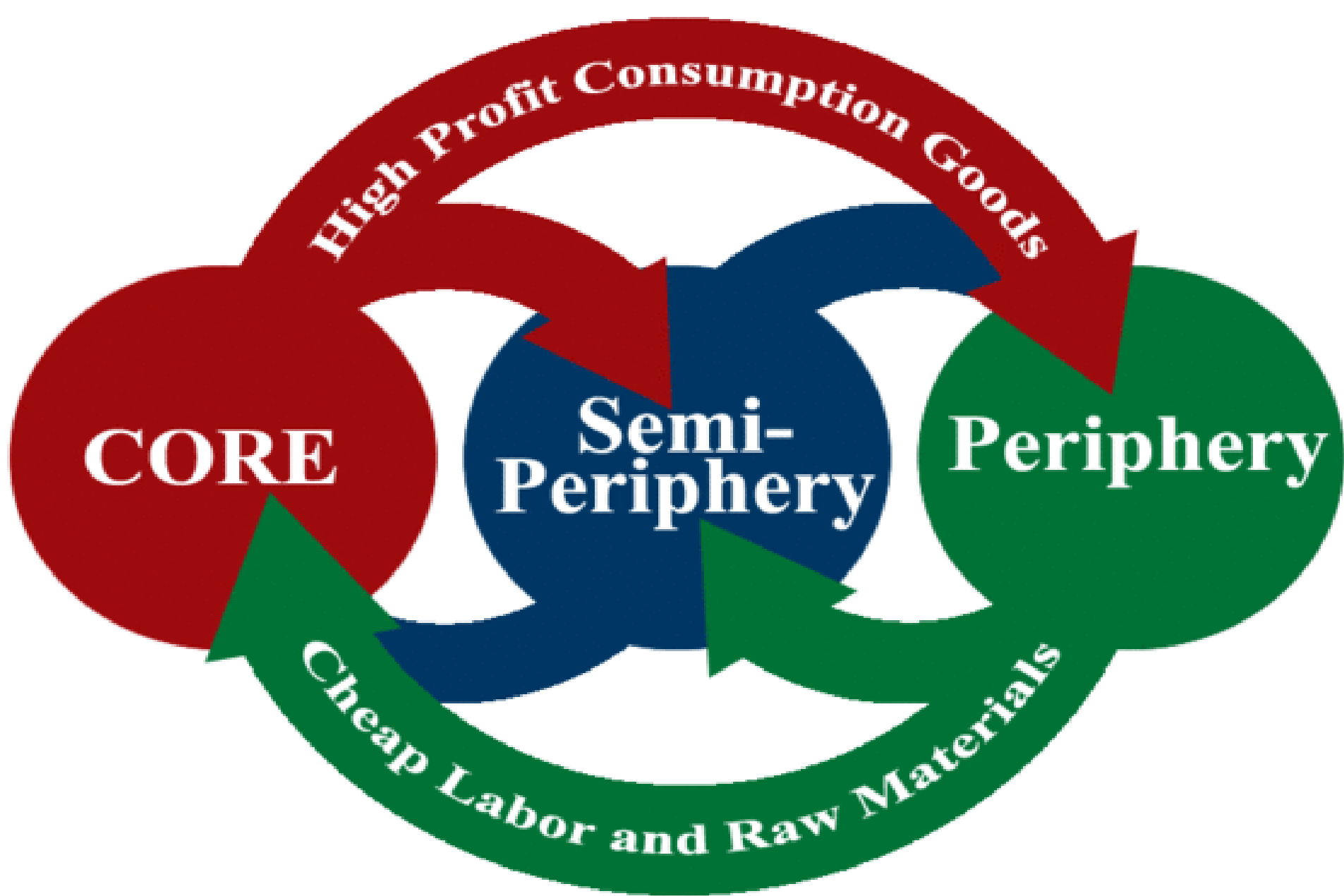
- **Core** is where one is most likely to find higher levels of education, higher salaries, and more technology
- **Periphery**: processes associated with a more marginal position in the world economy
- **Semiperiphery**: places where core and periphery processes are both occurring

Construction of the Capitalist World Economy

Major concerns of the world-systems theory:

- Overemphasizes economic factors in political development
- Very state-centric
- Does not fully account for how places move from one category to another

****World-systems theory helps explain how Europe politically reorganized the world during colonialism.****



Wallerstein's World System Theory Model