

Economic Transformations in Capitalist Society

DEGROWTH

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What is Your Ideal Workplace

What do you want to do as labour?

Where do you want to work (office, home, outdoors)?

How are decisions made?

How are employees remunerated? Where does surplus go?

What work hours are most ideal for you?

Who owns the means of production?

What benefits do you expect from your work?

What other expectations do you have from your workplace?

What is Degrowth?

The planned and democratic reduction of production and consumption as a solution to the social and ecological crises (Fitzpatrick, Parrique, Cosme, 2022).

Sustainable degrowth is an equitable downscaling of production and consumption that increases human well-being and enhances ecological conditions at the local and global level, in the short and long term (Schmelzer, Vetter, Vansinjan, 2022).

Degrowth challenges the hegemony of growth and calls for a democratically led redistributive downscaling of production and consumption in industrialized countries as a means to achieve environmentally sustainability, social justice and well-being (Schmelzer, Vetter, Vansinjan, 2022).

Sustainable degrowth is a multi-faceted political project that aspires to mobilize support for a change of direction, at the macro-level of economic and political institutions and at the micro-level of personal values and aspirations. Income and material comfort is to be reduced for many along the way, but the goal is that this is not experienced as welfare loss (Schmelzer, Vetter, Vansinjan, 2022).

What is Degrowth?

Degrowth proposes as an alternative a radically democratic reorganization of the political and economic structures of industrialized societies, aiming at drastic reductions in resource and energy throughput while furthering a good life for all...Degrowth requires fundamental changes in everyday social practices as well as a profound cultural, social and economic transformation that overcomes the capitalist mode of production (Schmelzer, Vetter, Vansinjan, 2022).

The background features a close-up, slightly blurred view of a pen writing on a document. A line graph is visible, showing an upward trend. The pen is positioned in the upper right corner, and the graph lines are drawn in blue ink. The overall color palette is muted, with greys and blues, and a solid orange bar at the bottom.

What is Economic Growth?

Limitless Accumulation

C-C

C-M-C

M-C-M'

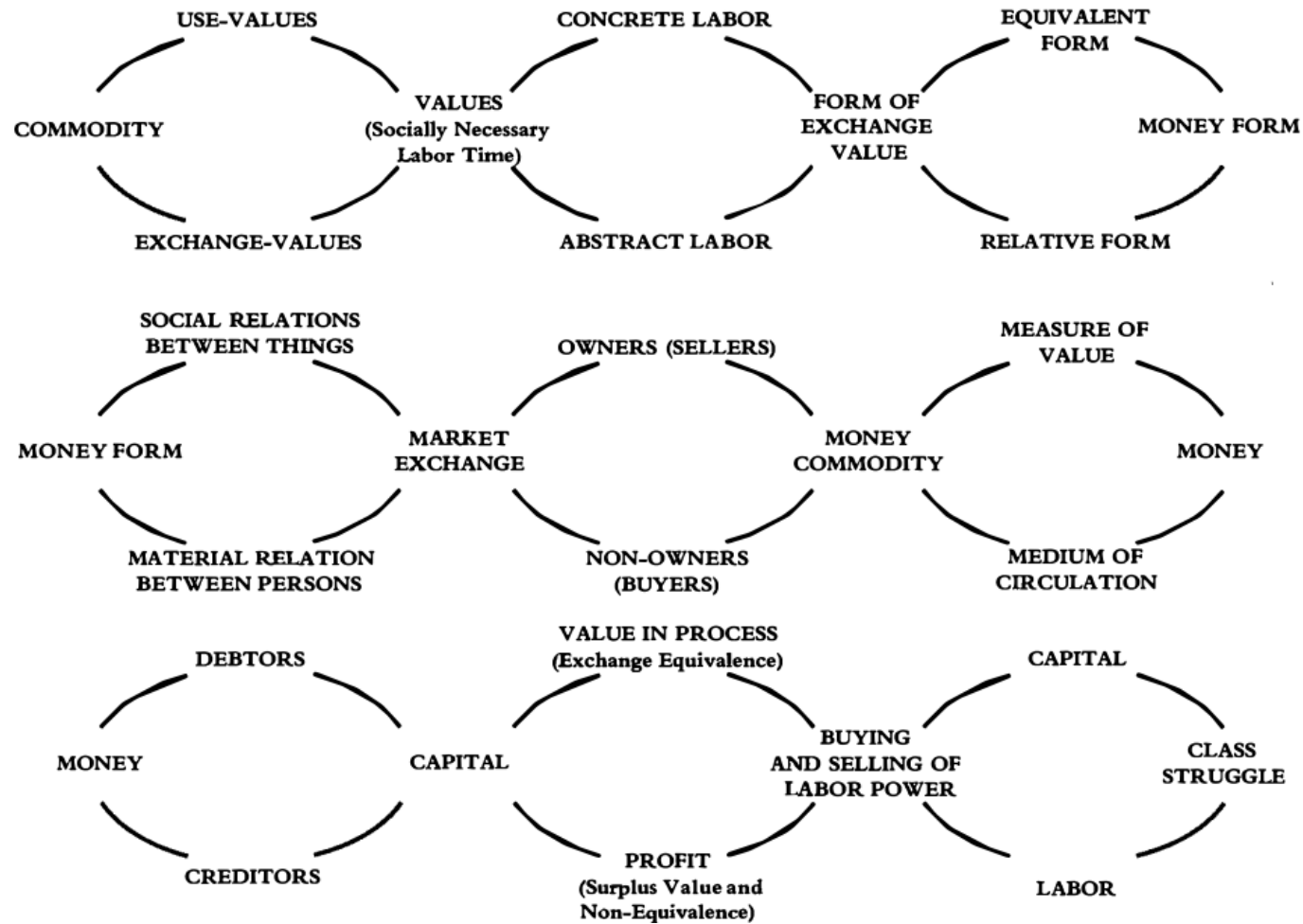
M(LP-MP-RM)-C-M'

M-M'

Marx Dialectic From Capital Volume 1



THE PATH OF ARGUMENT IN VOLUME I OF MARX'S CAPITAL



Marx Dialectic From Capital Volume 1

Limitless Accumulation

C-C

C-M-C

M-C-M'

M(LP-MP-RM)-C-M'

M-M'

Many Types of Value

Social capital

Financial capital

Living capital

Intellectual capital

Experiential capital

Spiritual capital

Cultural capital

- Roland, E.C., Lanuda, G. (2013) Regenerative Enterprise. Optimizing for Multi-Capital Abundance

What Economic Values Are Important?

[OECD Data of Canada](#)

- [Article about OECD Well-Being Measurements](#)

Here are some other well-known measures of social well-being:

[Human Development Index](#)

[Happiness Index](#)

[Life Expectancy](#)

[Democracy Index](#)

[Ecological Footprint](#)



[KATHERINE GIBSON INTERVIEW
PLAYLIST](#)

Degrowth Visions

(Schmelzer, Vetter, Vansinjan, 2022)

Common Degrowth Principles

- Enables global ecological justice
- Strengthen social justice and collective self-determination
- Redesigns its institutions and infrastructure so they are not dependent on growth and continuous expansion

Pathways to Degrowth

(Schmelzer, Vetter, Vansinjan, 2022)

Six possible pathways to degrowth

- Democratic economy, expand commons, solidarity-based economy
- Social security, redistribute wealth, caps on wealth
- Convivial democratic technology
- Redistribution and reevaluation of labour
- Equitable dismantling and reconstruction of production
- International solidarity

Making Degrowth Real

(Schmelzer, Vetter, Vansinjan, 2022)

Real Ways to Implement Degrowth

- Nowtopias
- Non-reformist reforms (change institutions)
- Counter-hegemony (build a counter movement)
- Confronting crises (by design or disaster?)

Ten Most Frequently Mentioned Objectives of Degrowth

- 1 – Reduce time in paid labour
- 2 – Redistribute income, labour, knowledge, land, etc. within and between countries.
- 3 – Decommodify human needs
- 4 – Decentralize decision making
- 5 – Promote shared housing
- 6 – Support non-speculative exchange systems
- 7 – Prioritize small self-sufficient communities
- 8 – Create culture of sufficiency and self-limits
- 9 – Re-localize activities
- 10 – Defend and reclaim the commons

Reading Discussion

Choose one degrowth topic

Answer the Following Questions:

- What does it mean to degrow in the topic area?
- What proposals are put forward by the authors?
- Please assess these proposals in terms of desirability, viability and achievability as a larger system.
- Please compare and contrast the information from the chapter you read in Doughnut Economics with this degrowth article.
- Please compare and contrast the information from the presentation on the book, the Future is Degrowth with this chapter.
- Please evaluate your topic in relation to the ten most frequently mentioned degrowth objectives (p. 5 of the article and previous slide).
- How does the topic relate to other course topics?
- How can you use this article for your blog post and/or final paper?

Thank you!

Questions, Concerns?