

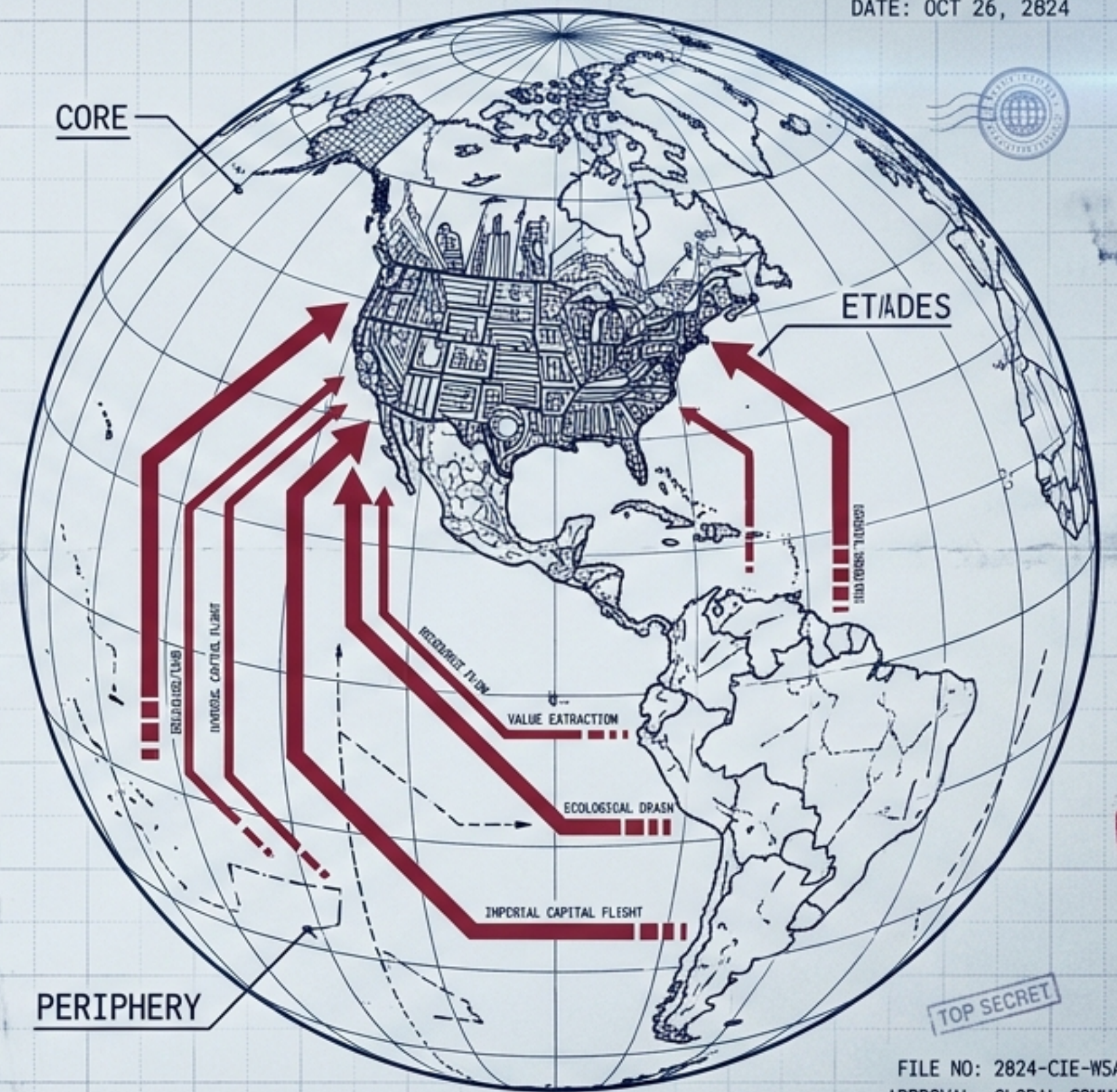
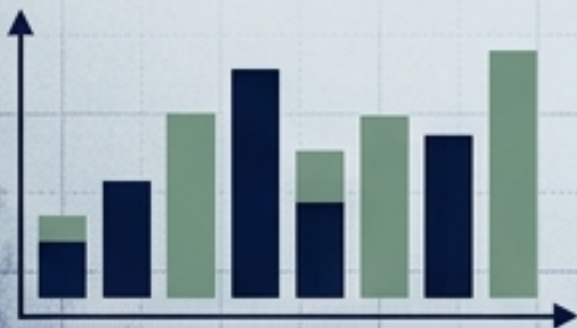
# Capitalism, Imperialism, and Ecology

TOP SECRET

A World System Analysis of the 21st Century Crisis.

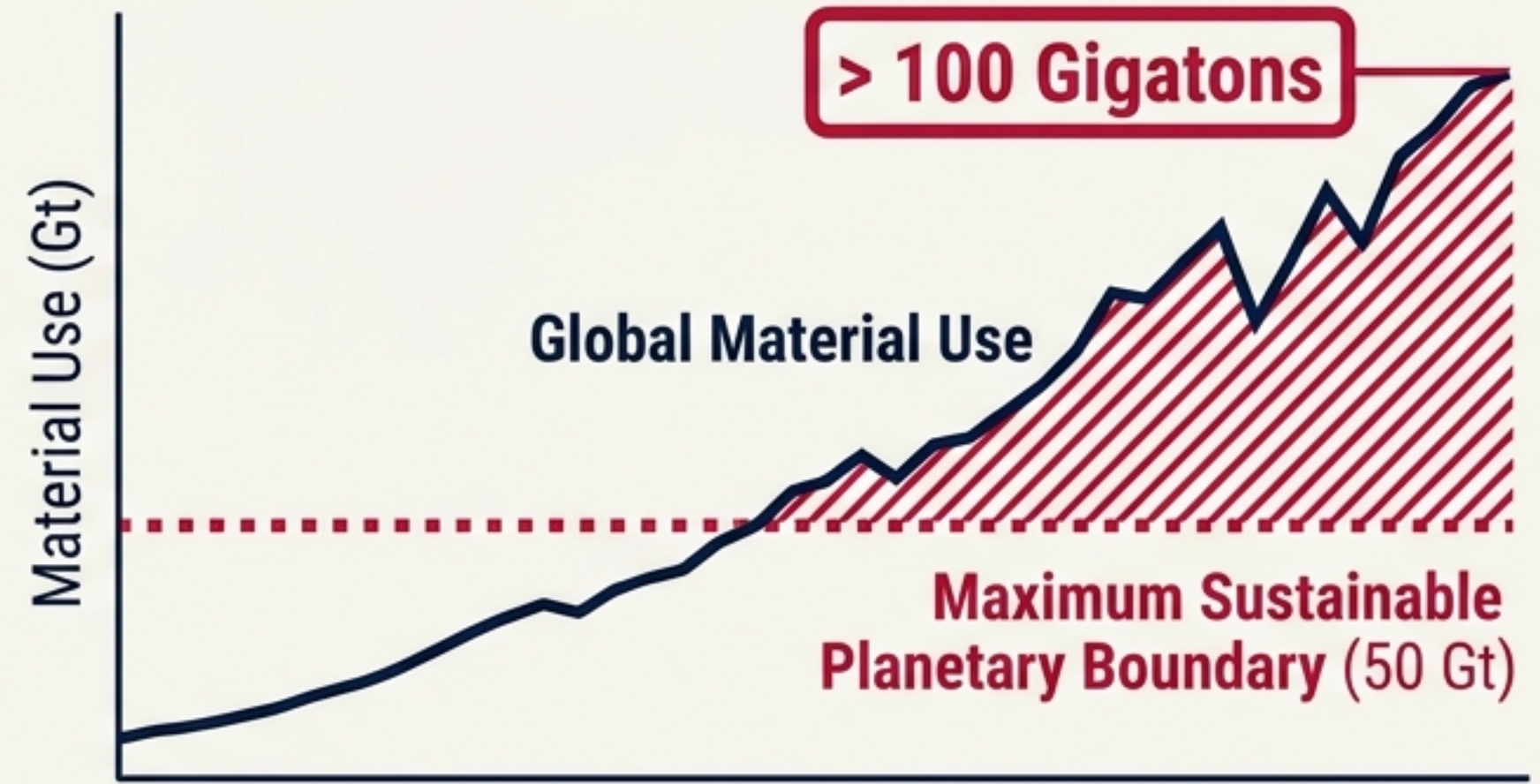
Based on the economic and ecological research of Jason Hickel.

- Tracks the historical development of unequal exchange.
- Highlights the ecological debt of the Global North.
- Examines the role of imperialism in the Anthropocene.
- Proposes degrowth and global justice as solutions.



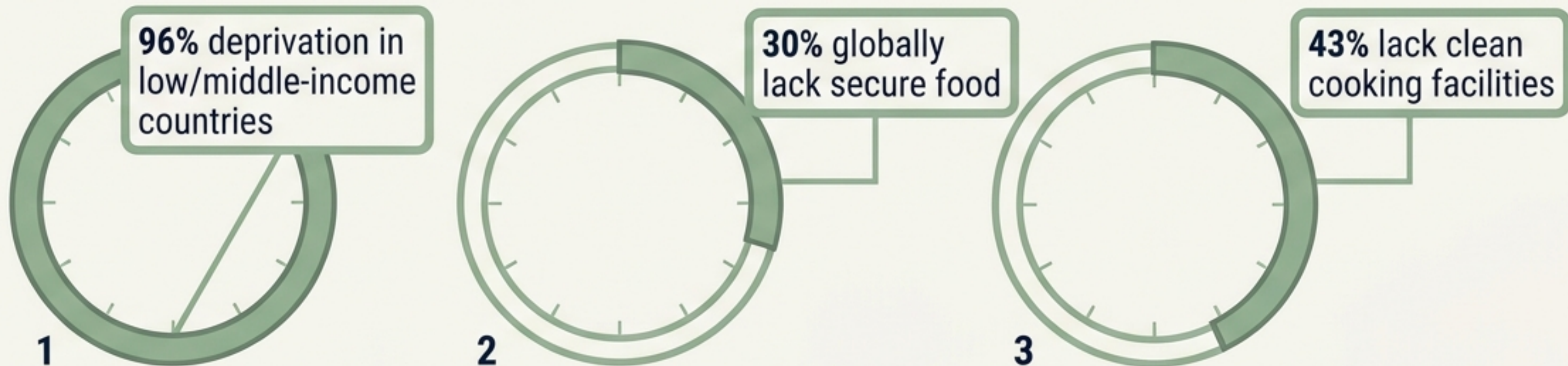
# The Paradox of the World System

The global economy possesses massive aggregate productive capacity, yet simultaneously drives **planetary ecological overshoot** and leaves billions in severe deprivation.



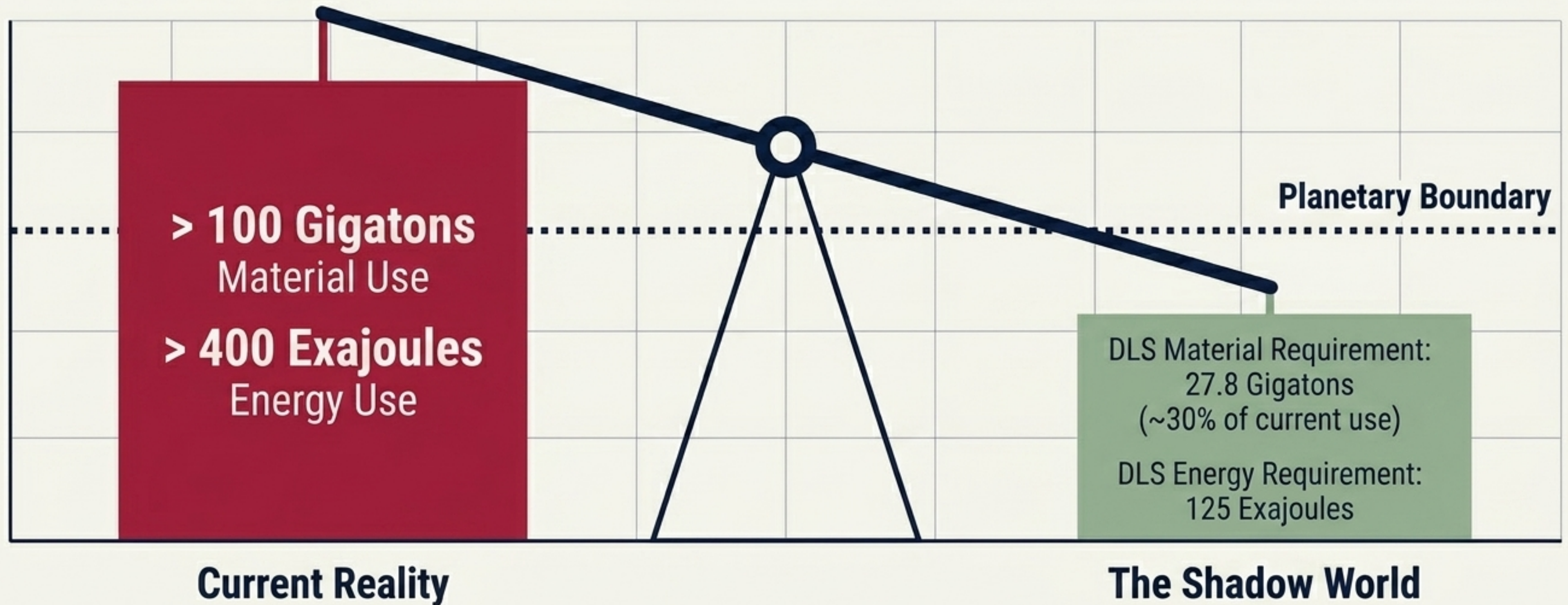
## Human Deprivation

Decent Living Standards (DLS)



# We Live in a Shadow of the World We Could Have

Providing universal Decent Living Standards (DLS) for 8.5 billion people requires only a fraction of current global material and energy use. The crisis is one of allocation, not scarcity.



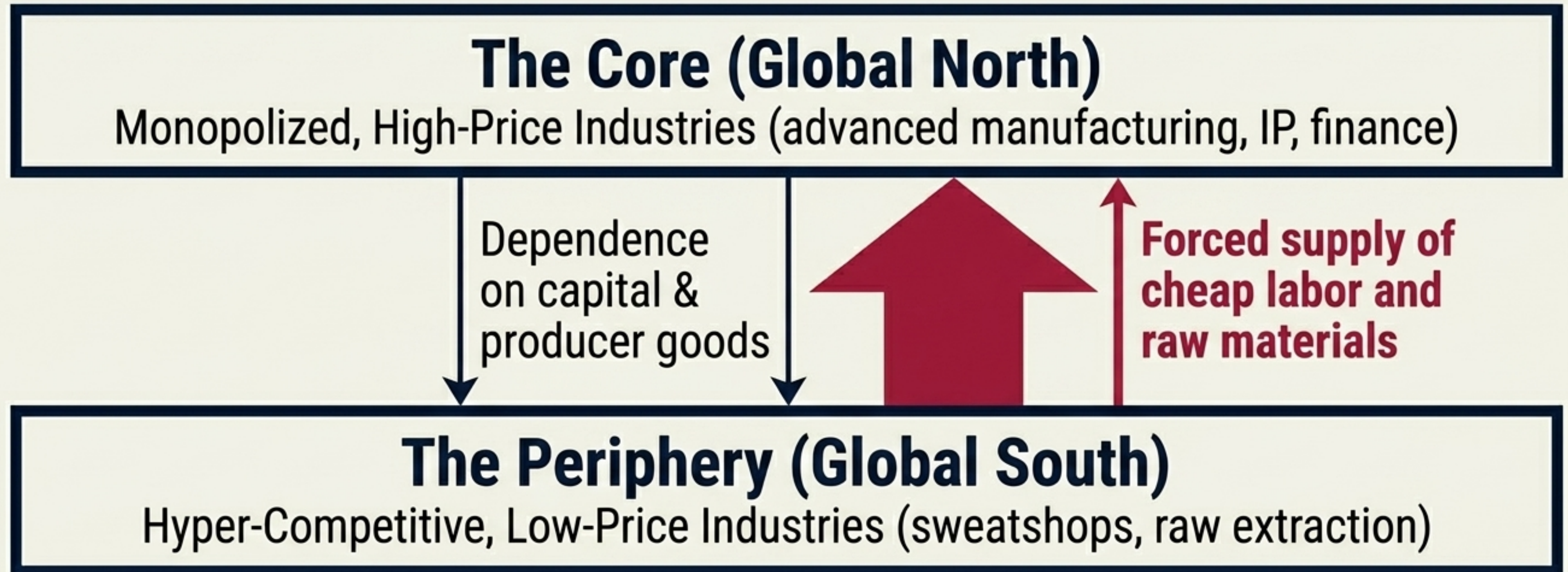
# The Root Cause is the Capitalist Law of Value

Capitalism is an undemocratic system of production controlled by a tiny fraction of society. The objective is capital accumulation, not human welfare or ecological stability.

<b>The Capitalist Law of Value</b>	<b>The Ecosocialist Law of Value</b>
<b>- Objective:</b> Maximize Profit	<b>- Objective:</b> Fulfill Human Needs
<b>- Control:</b> Undemocratic / Dictatorship of Capital	<b>- Control:</b> Democratic determination of labor/resources
<b>- Overproduces:</b> SUVs, fast fashion, weapons, private jets	<b>- Scales Down:</b> Ecologically harmful luxury sectors
<b>- Underproduces:</b> Affordable housing, agroecology, clean transit	<b>- Ensures:</b> Universal basic services and decarbonization

# Mapping the Core and the Periphery

Capitalism requires a world economy strung between the Core (Global North) and the Periphery (Global South). 90% of global labor and resources exist in the South, but they are systematically organized to serve Core accumulation.



# The Hidden Mechanics of Unequal Exchange

Growth in the Global North relies on the massive net appropriation of resources from the Global South—a structural transfer of wealth that sustains Core profits while externalizing ecological damage.

10 Billion tons  
of raw materials

140  
Exajoules of  
embodied  
energy

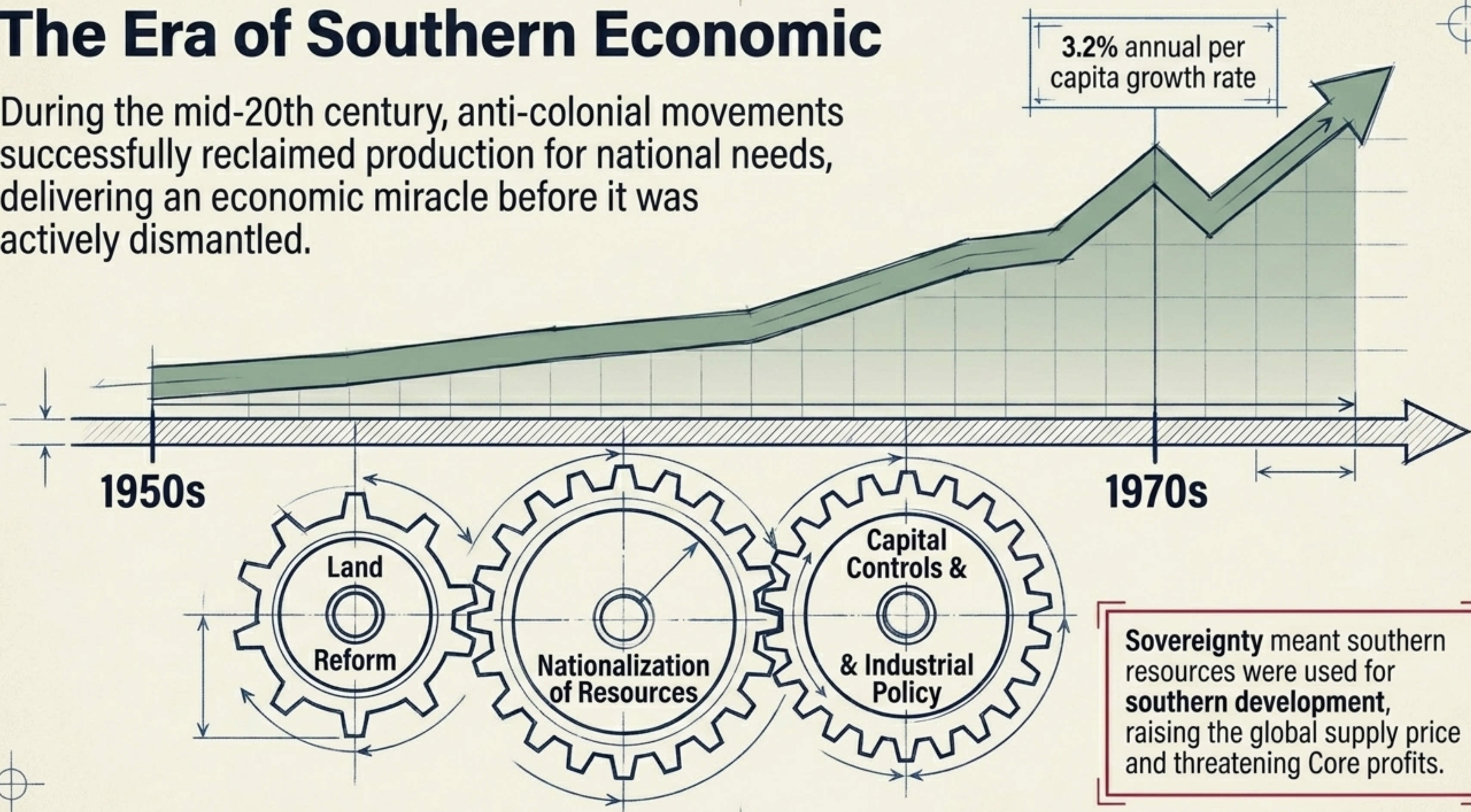
800 Million  
hectares of  
embodied land  
(Twice the size of  
India, enough to  
feed 6 billion people)

420 Million  
person-years of  
embodied labor  
(Equal to the entire  
US and EU workforce  
combined)

Global North  
Accumulation

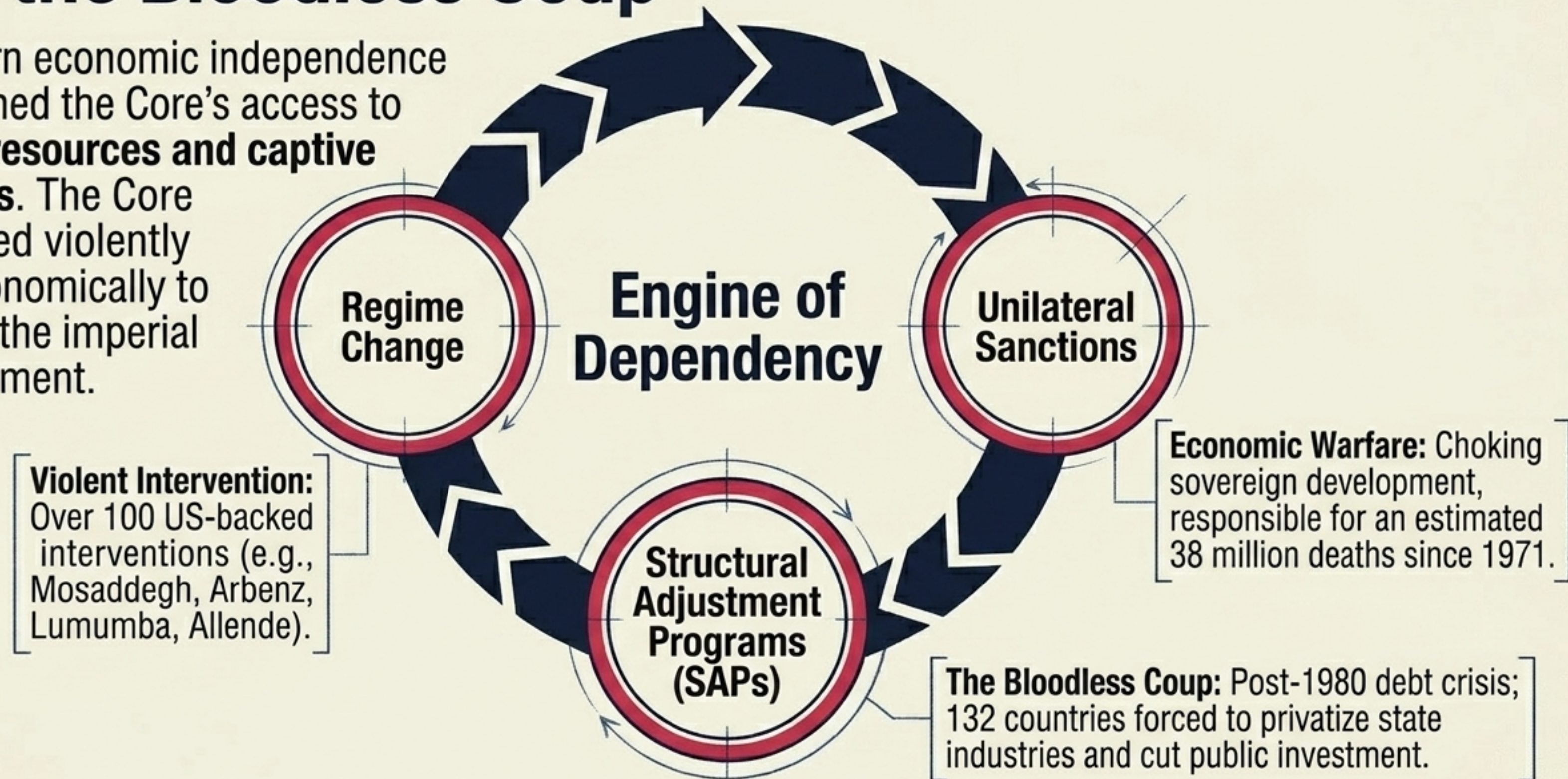
# The Era of Southern Economic

During the mid-20th century, anti-colonial movements successfully reclaimed production for national needs, delivering an economic miracle before it was actively dismantled.



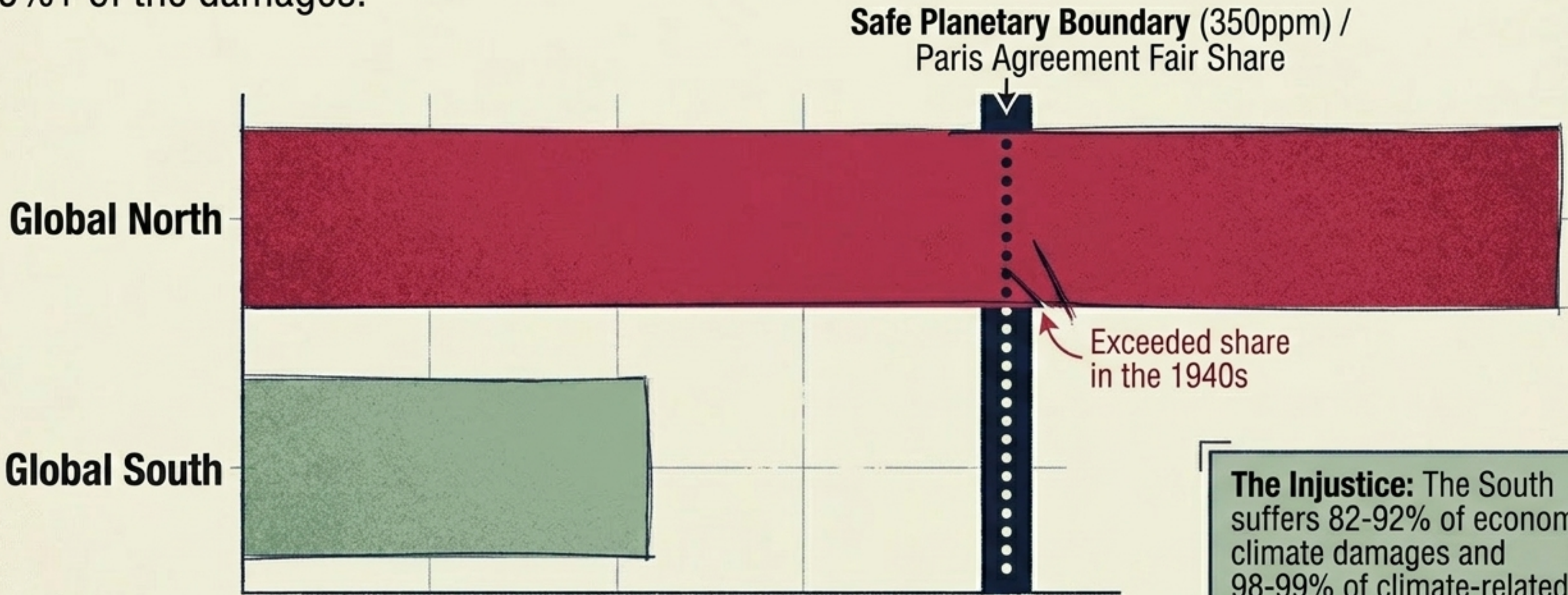
# The Imperial Backlash and the Bloodless Coup

Southern economic independence threatened the Core's access to **cheap resources and captive markets**. The Core retaliated violently and economically to restore the imperial arrangement.



# Atmospheric Colonization and Climate Debt

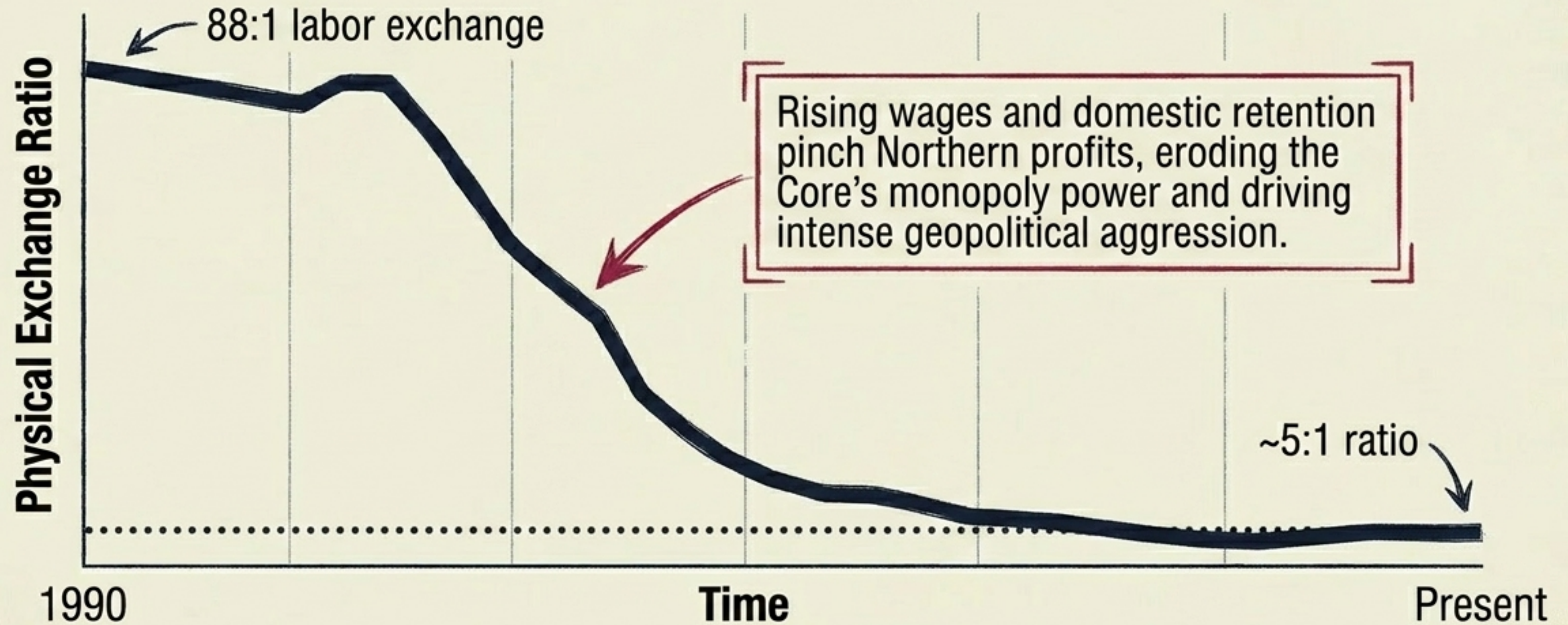
The Global North is overwhelmingly responsible for climate breakdown, having vastly exceeded its fair share of the planetary boundary, while the Global South suffers 90%+ of the damages.



**The Injustice:** The South suffers 82-92% of economic climate damages and 98-99% of climate-related mortality.

# The China Exception and Core Panic

Contrary to Western narratives, China has barely reached its planetary boundary fair share. By raising wages and retaining resources, China is cutting off the Core's access to cheap labor, accelerating a capitalist crisis.



# Divergent Paths to Global Convergence

To achieve ecological stability and universal welfare, the world system must converge. The Core must actively scale down its resource drain, while the Periphery reclaims its productive capacity.

## Global North: Scale Down

- Decrease energy/resource use by 50%
- Implement demand-side mitigation
- Defund fossil fuels
- Abandon green-growth illusions

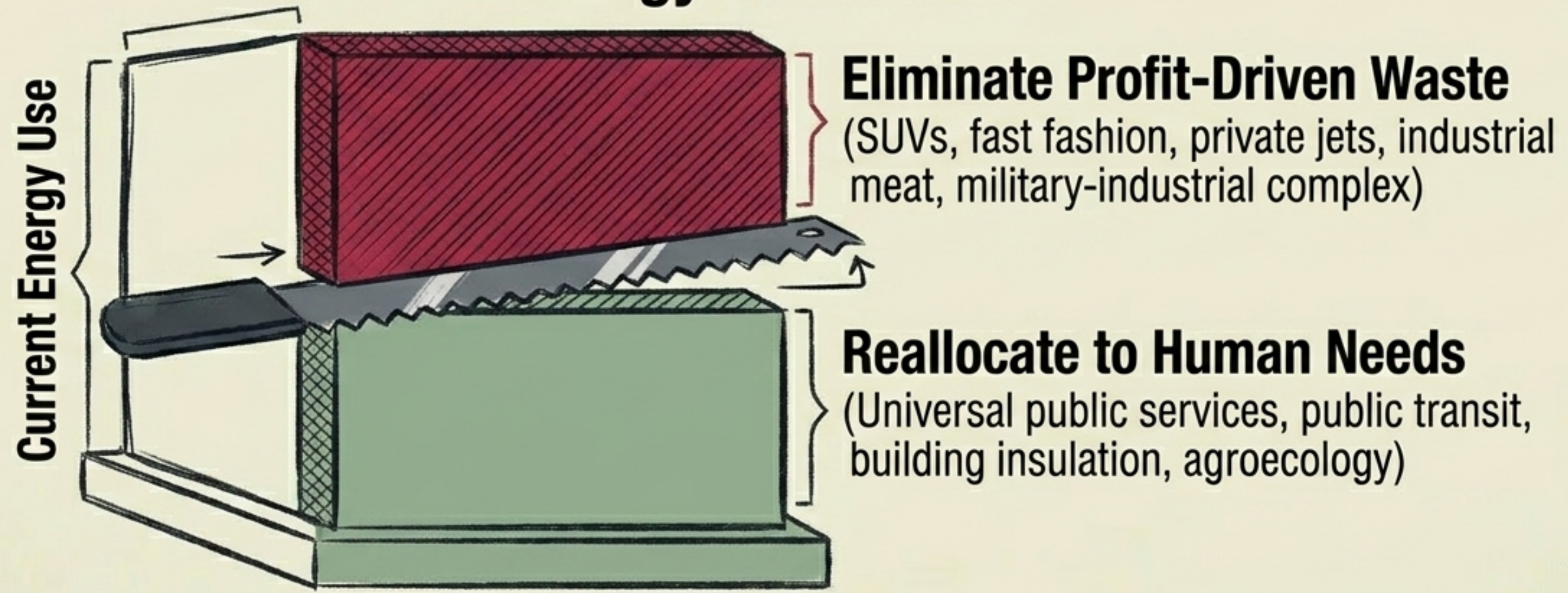
## Global South: Reclaim Capacity

- Retain resources for domestic needs
- Increase necessary growth for DLS
- Organize around sovereign national development

# Prescriptions for the Core: Democratic Decarbonization

Green growth and technological efficiency are mathematically insufficient. The North must actively reduce damaging, profit-driven production to achieve Paris-compliant decarbonization without continuing to extract from the South.

## Energy Reallocation



# Prescriptions for the Periphery: Sovereign Delinking

The South must “delink”—not by isolating from the world, but by escaping the unequal exchange pipeline and subordinating production to their own national development rather than Core accumulation.

## Sovereign National Development

### Economic Redirection

Substitute luxury imports and implement sovereign industrial policy.

### Financial Independence

Build South-South trade outside Core currencies to bypass financial imperialism.

### Defensive Deterrence

Form military/economic alliances (e.g., Alliance of Sahel States) to protect sovereignty against imperial violence.

# From Capitalism to Ecosocialism

Realizing a world without mass deprivation or ecological collapse requires extending democracy into the realm of production. We must overcome the capitalist law of value.



**We live in a shadow of the world we could have.**