

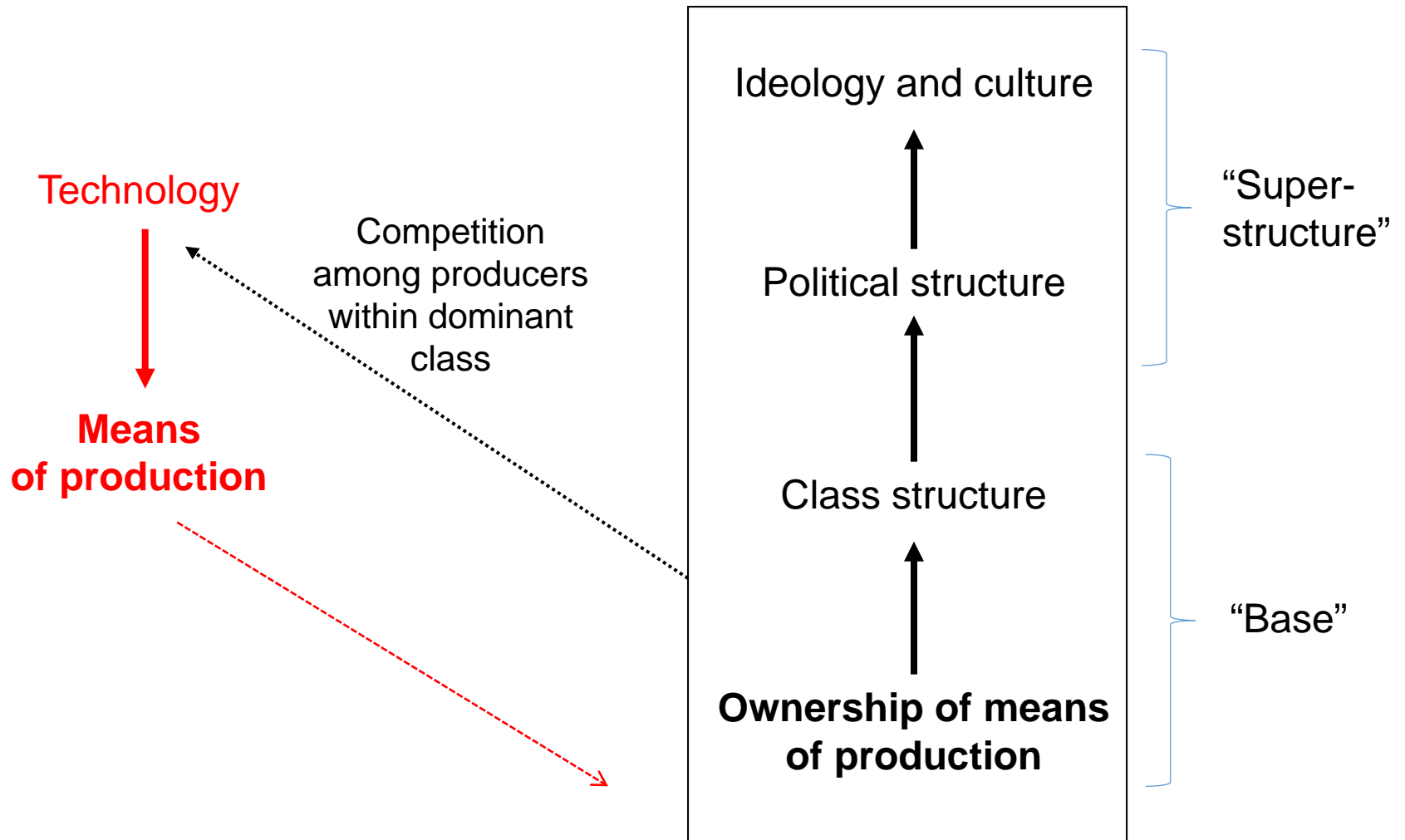
# Impact of new technology on politics is disputed

	New technologies redistribute power	Technologies that threaten system are suppressed	New technologies pose a dilemma for rulers
<b>Theory</b>	Marx	Ray Bradbury, "The Flying Machine"	[Alternative history of "The Flying Machine"]
<b>Examples</b>	Printing press; radio + TV	Printing press (Ormerod 2005)	Printing press (Catholic countries) Radio and TV on cadres
• <b>Comms</b>			
• <b>Military</b>	Swiss pikemen; crossbow; hoplite phalanx	Firearms (medieval Japan)	Swords for Alfred the Great; guns for FSLN
• <b>Economic</b>	Capital mobility; trade tech	Capital controls	Capital mobility

Can we say anything general about the political effects of technological innovation?

- Endogenous development versus exogenous introduction?
- Political starting points (distributed versus concentrated power)
- Capital intensive versus not?
- Nature of threats to ruler (internal versus external, mass versus elite)

In the Marxist model, political change would be driven by changes in productive technology



# Effects of the Digital Revolution and Related Technology

Q1. In what way does the digital revolution enhance the ability of rulers to control their citizens?

Q2. In what way do new digital technologies enhance the ability of citizens to hold their rulers accountable?

Q3. In terms of the overall political effect (enhancing control *versus* enhancing accountability), how do these impacts net out?

Q4. Quick vote: is the digital revolution a “singularity” that fundamentally changes politics?

Q5: You are the Advisory Council to the President-for-Life of Qumar. Pick two emerging technologies (e.g., AI, facial recognition, genetic databases, etc.) and make recommendations to him regarding what he should do about them.

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