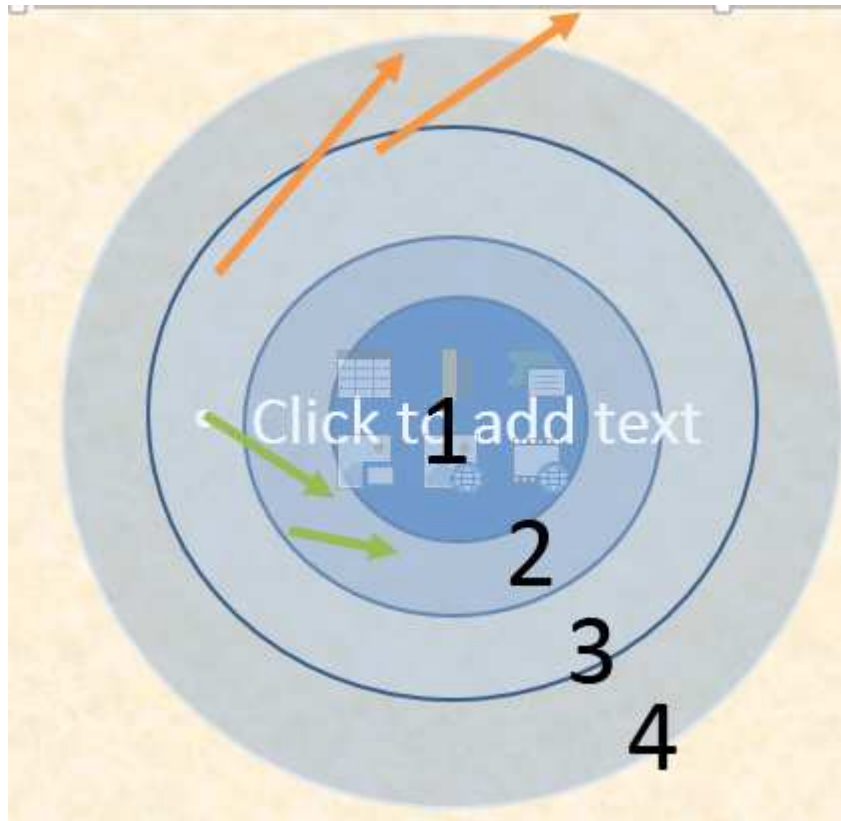


Eastern and Western World Views: Which one is better?

Answers:

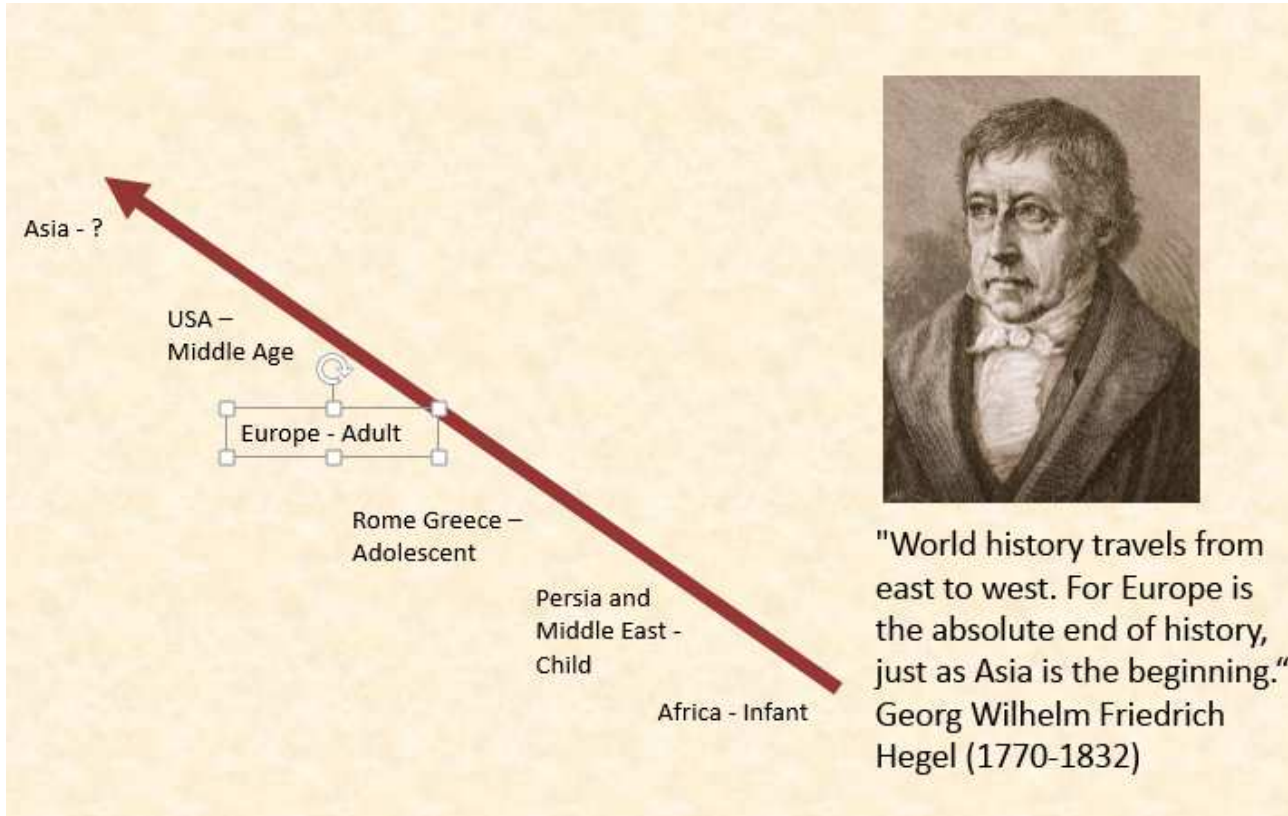
- Different conceptions of the world, civilisation, progress and international relations.
- These conceptions are dynamic, interacting, contested.
- Asians are circles: communal, character and virtue, context, harmony and expansion.
- Westerners are arrows: individual, will and power, rationality, progress and transcendence.

Eastern World View: Self-Cultivation Circles



1. Self-Cultivation
(integrated-self)
 2. Regulate the Family
 3. Govern the State
 4. Pacify the World
- Gradual Expansion
 - What does self cultivation mean for Vietnamese and Asians today? Nationally and Personally

Western World View: Big “H” History



The diagram illustrates Hegel's 'Big H' History as a diagonal red arrow pointing from the bottom right to the top left. The arrow is labeled with various regions and their corresponding stages of development:

- Asia - ? (at the top left tip)
- USA - Middle Age (along the arrow)
- Europe - Adult (along the arrow, enclosed in a box)
- Rome Greece - Adolescent (along the arrow)
- Persia and Middle East - Child (along the arrow)
- Africa - Infant (at the bottom right tail)

A portrait of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel is shown to the right of the diagram. Below the portrait is a quote: "World history travels from east to west. For Europe is the absolute end of history, just as Asia is the beginning." Below the quote is the name and dates: Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1832).

Driver: the Development of the consciousness of freedom and the realisation of that freedom.

Europe and UK in the 1700s – as good, true and free as it gets

- Religion
- Science
- Politics

Eastern Geopolitics: Expanding Circles

- Middle Kingdom
- Solid Core
- Stable Expansion
- *Tian xia*, all under heaven, great harmony, peaceful rise

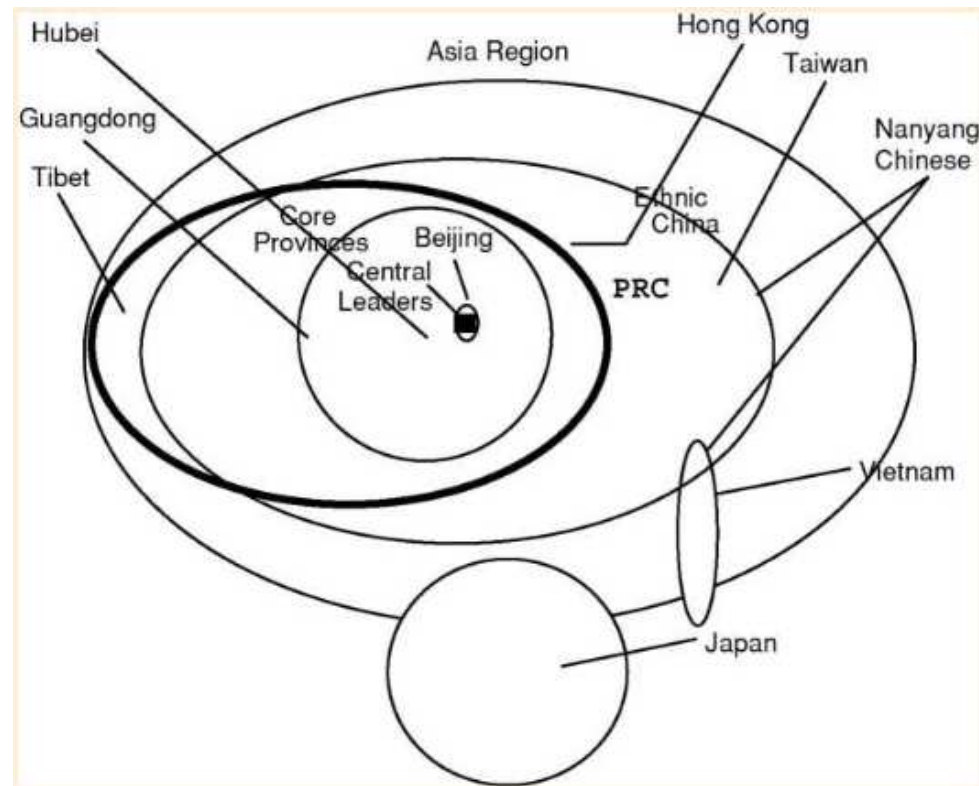


FIGURE 2.3. Circles of influence

Western Geopolitics: Ascending Arrow



- Europe: Liquid Core
- The USA: Ocean Bound

Other Things to Consider



- Time: chronological vs reincarnation or zodiac
- Space: up and over vs coming around
- Literature and writing: narrative and plot driven vs context driven
- Films: Hollywood heroes, darkness to light, redemption and resurrection vs reconciliation...

Questioning Civilisation: Directionless Arrows and Hollow Circles



Doubts about Western Civilisation:

- Decolonisation
- Vietnam/Indochinese Wars
- Postmodernism
- Decline of the West? Self-doubt, Asian Century, demography is death, financial crisis, lack of leadership, affluenza, hippies and hipsters...

Doubts about Vietnamese and Asian Civilisation:

- Lack of filial piety (bất hiếu)
- Indifference (vô cảm)
- Hunger for success (hiếu thắng), crazy consumerism (tiêu thụ quá độ), new lords (đại gia mới, trọc phú)
- Gen 9x
- Abuse of power (ỷ thế)

Deceleration/Stagnation vs
Erosion/Stability: Spiritual and
Material

Concluding Thoughts, circles, arrows, politics and pedagogy

- The key contest of the 21st Century: circle vs arrow.
- Pessimistic Response
- Optimistic Responses
- Teaching, Travelling and Taboos
 - Patriarchy,
 - Corruption
 - Karaoke,
 - Traffic,
 - Public Urination,
 - Dick Pulling