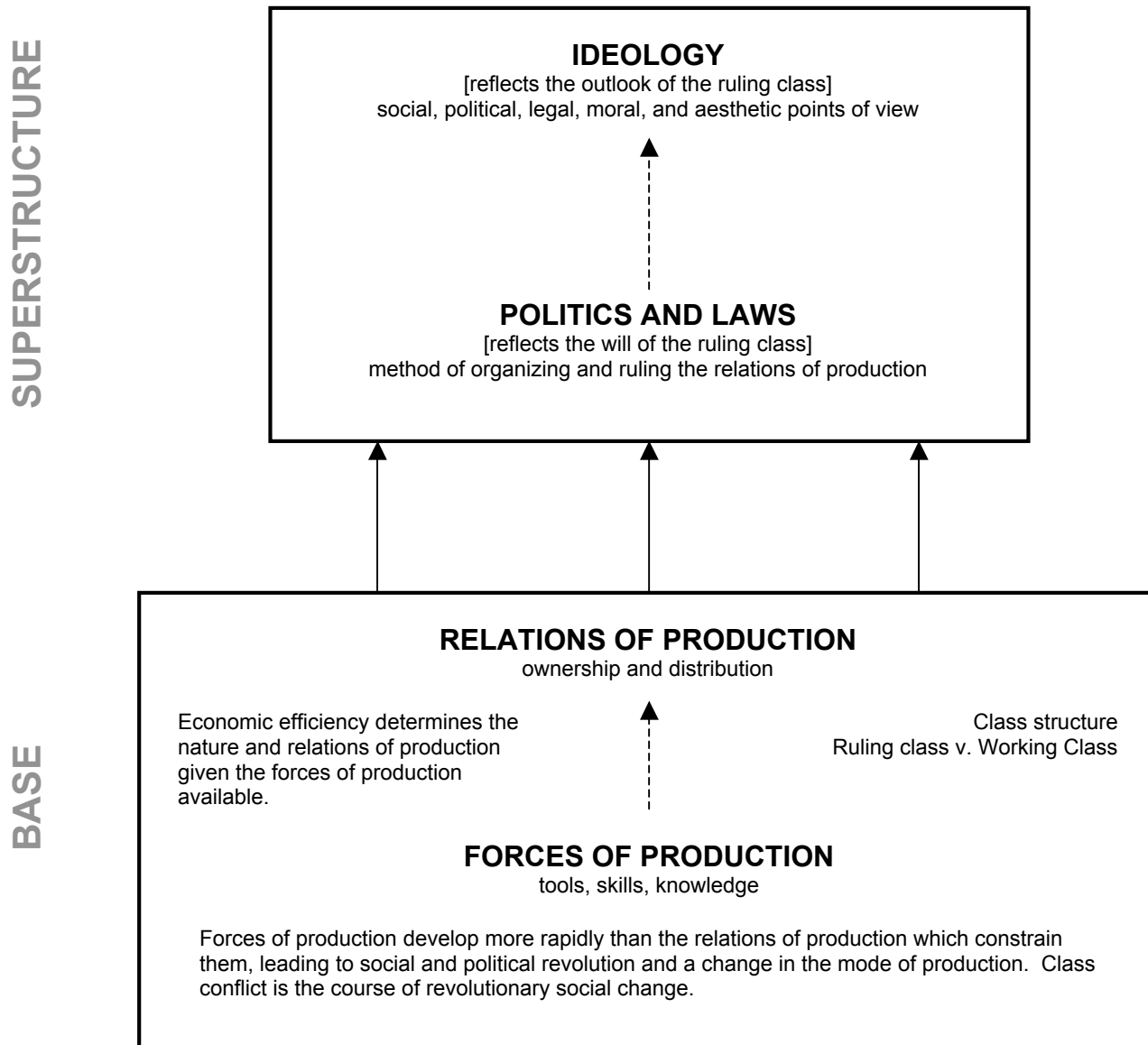


Schematic of the Classic Base—Superstructure Model

One of the central problems in Marxism is the **unequal distribution of resources** and **unequal access to the means of production**. The solution is the **socialization of the means of production** wherein the workers assume ownership and control of the means of production. Thus, the ethical principle invoked by Marx is that of **equality**.



“To each according to his needs; from each according to his abilities.” [**Needs Principle** and **Non-Alienation Principle**]

Marx's Historical Principles

1. History reveals a consistent **class struggle**. (Established by empirical analysis of history.)
2. Class conflict is based on **exploitation**. (Exploitation is using someone simply as a means to an end.)
3. Exploitation exists in the **wage relationship**.

The human being is defined by **work**. Alienation arises when one is unable to realize their potential for creative and cooperative production. This is generally the result of the **commodification of labor power**, i.e. when one is hired to work for another in return for a wage. The worker loses control of the fruits of their labor.