

Ordering the International: Actors, Processes, Structures

**Basic Concepts and Analytical
Levels of
International Relations**



Perspectives of International Relations

Actor



Structure

Process

Introduction



Actor

Environment

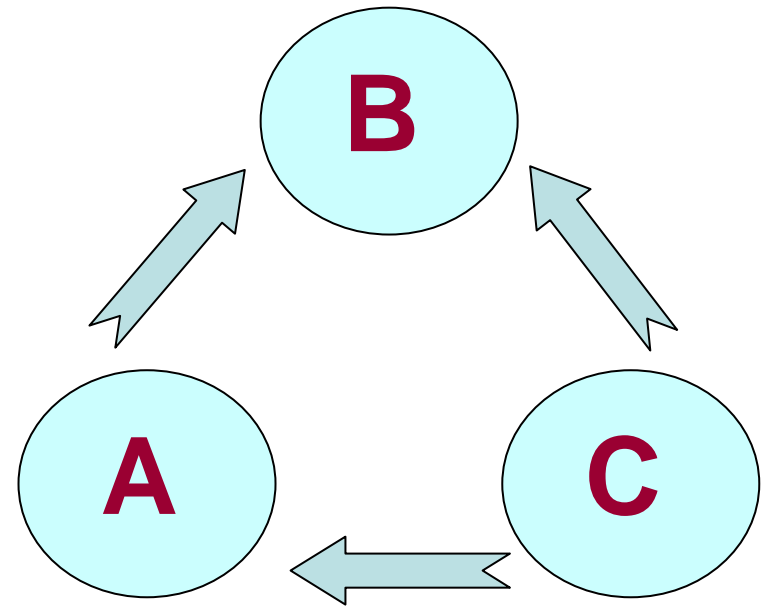
Actor

- a) Who acts ?
- b) Forms, occasions, reasons, causes, results of the behaviour of actors which crosses national borders or is directed towards the international system ?



Process

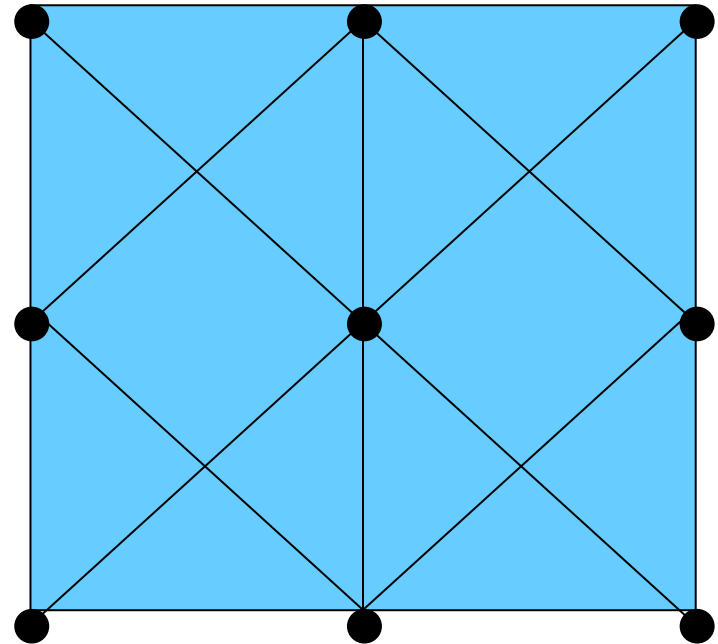
- a) **Interaction of Actors
(Duration, Regularity,
Action-Reaction-Pattern ?**
- b) **Forms, occasions, reasons,
causes, results ?**





Structure

- a) Like processes between actors repeated over time and thus solidified
- b) Forms, reasons, consequences ?



Foreign Policy

1. Ressources
2. Means
3. Aims
4. Interests
5. Decision making processes

National Actor

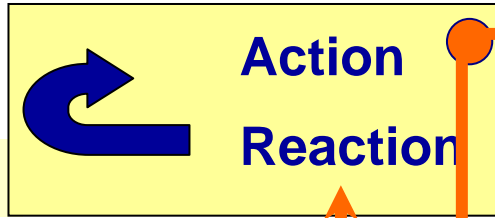
International environment

Border crossing action

International Politics



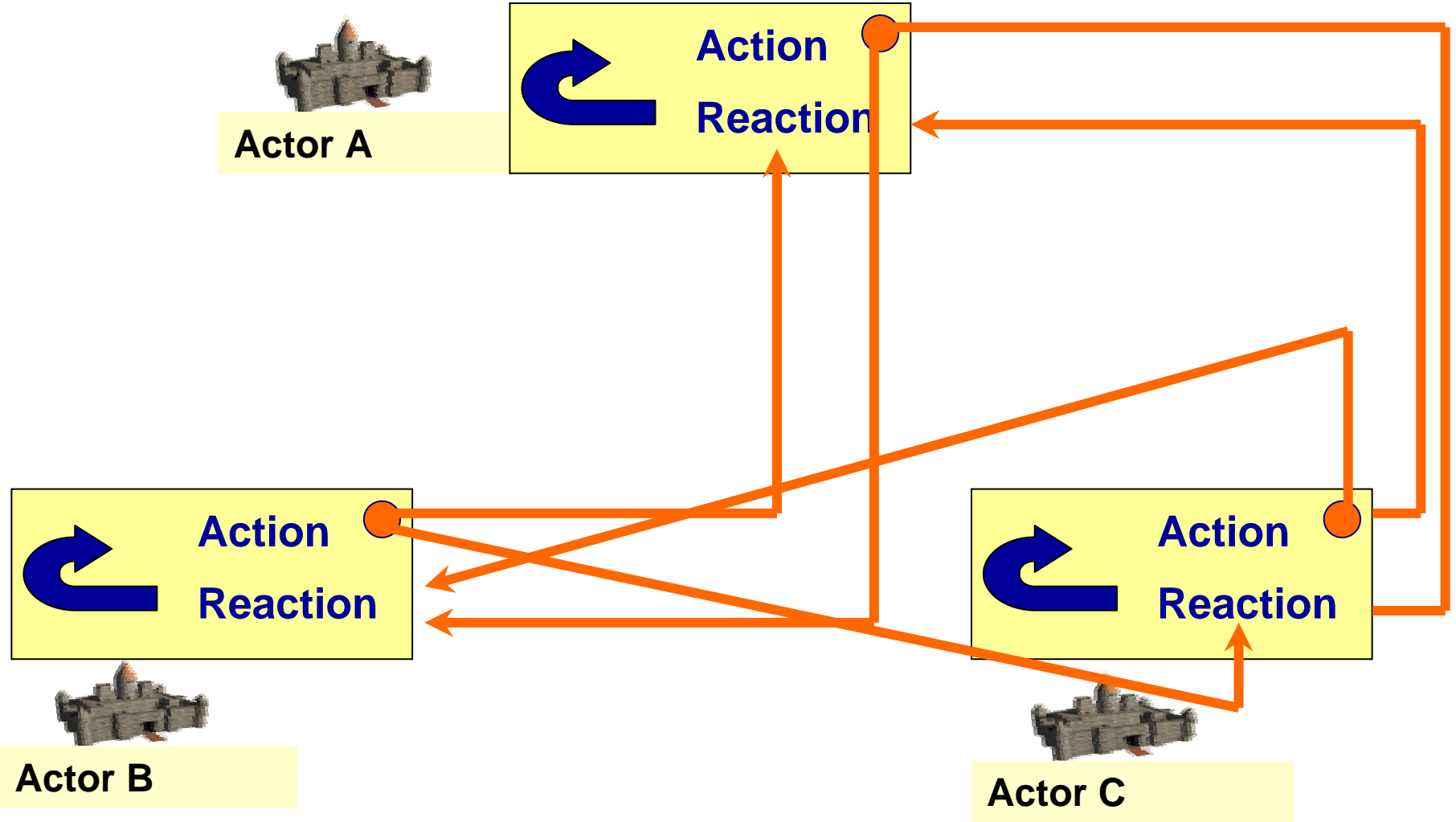
Actor A

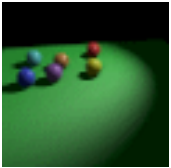


Actor B

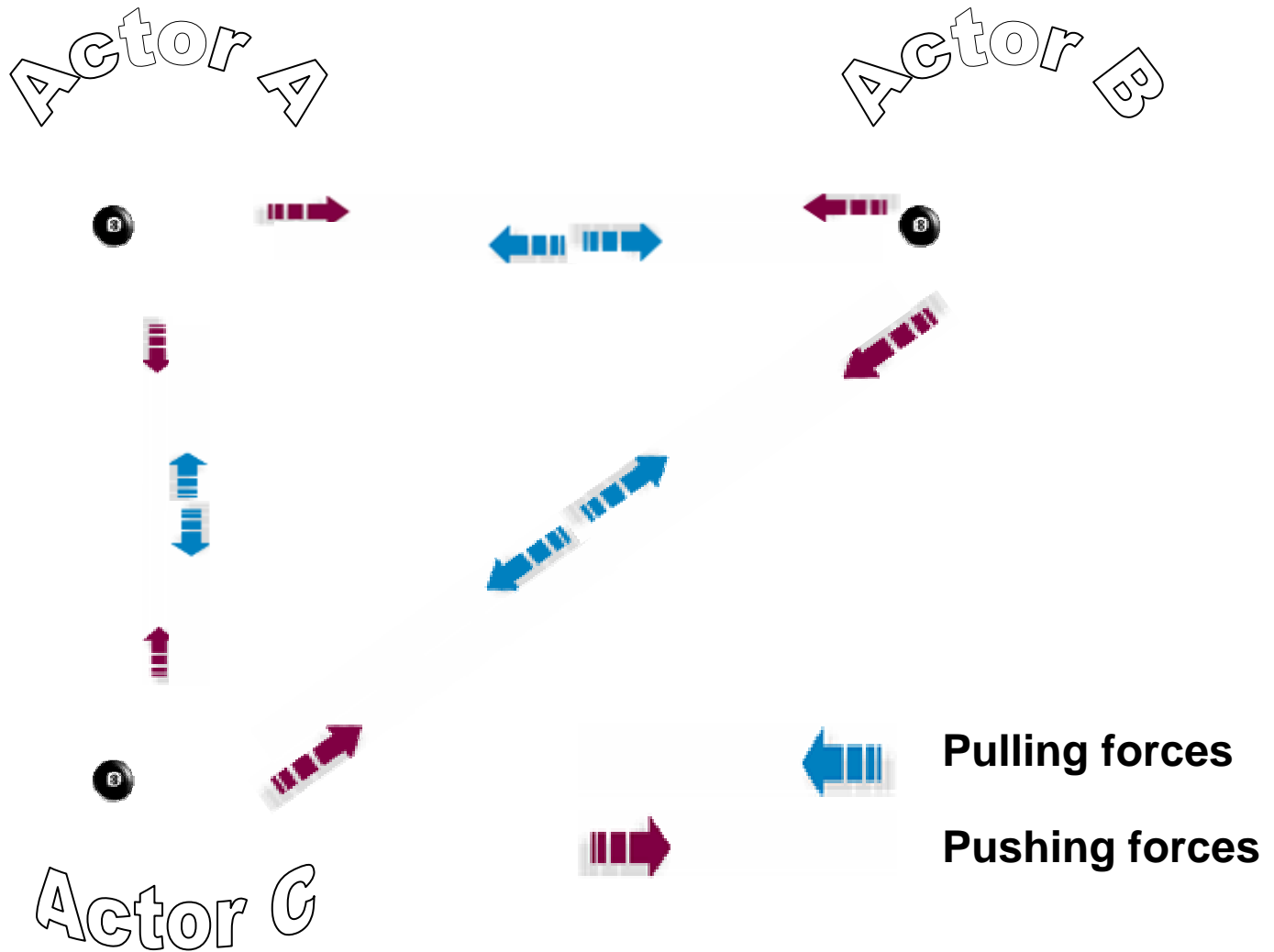


Actor C





The Billiard-Ball-Model of International Politics



International Politics

IGO



Akteur A

Akteur B

Foreign Policy B



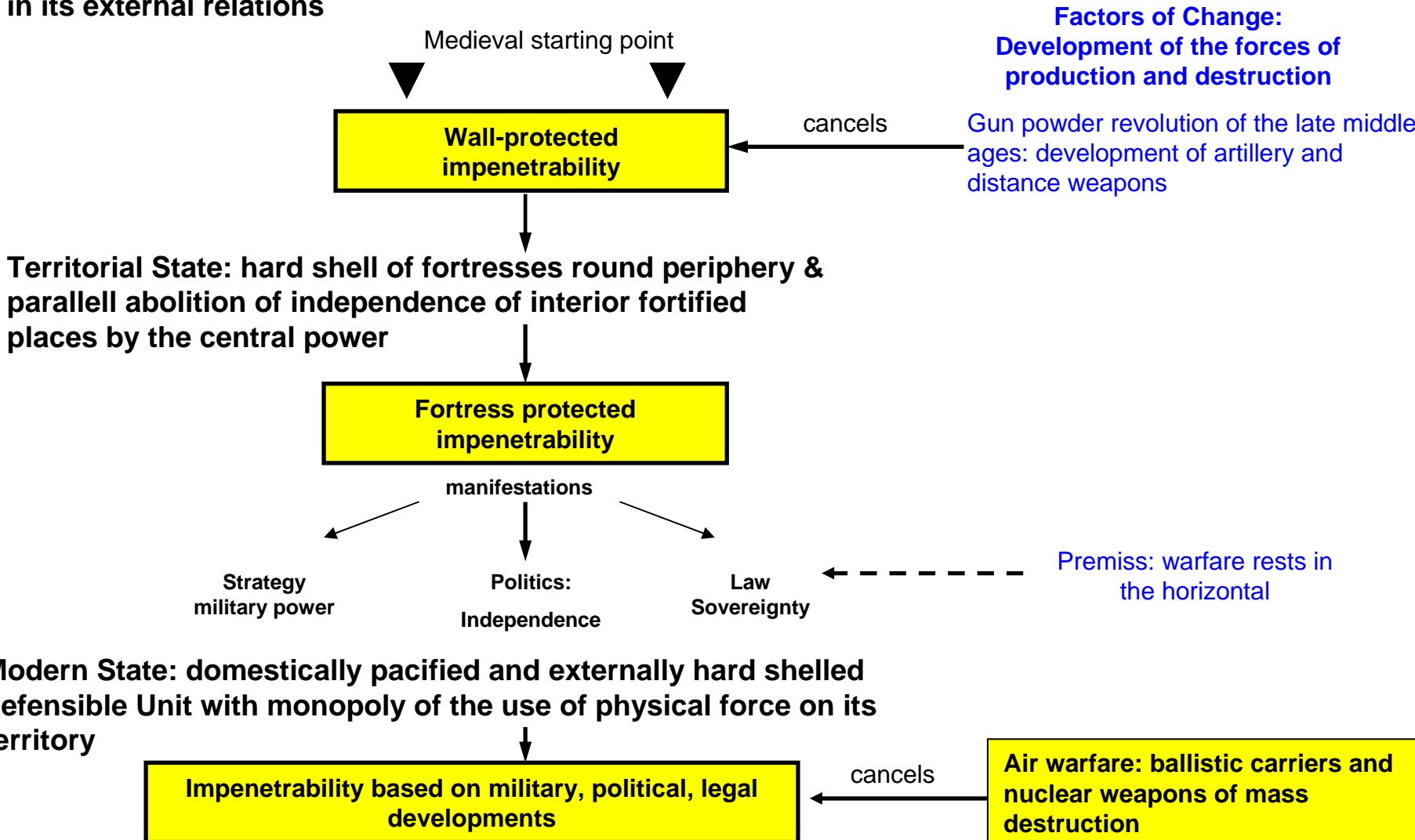
Society A

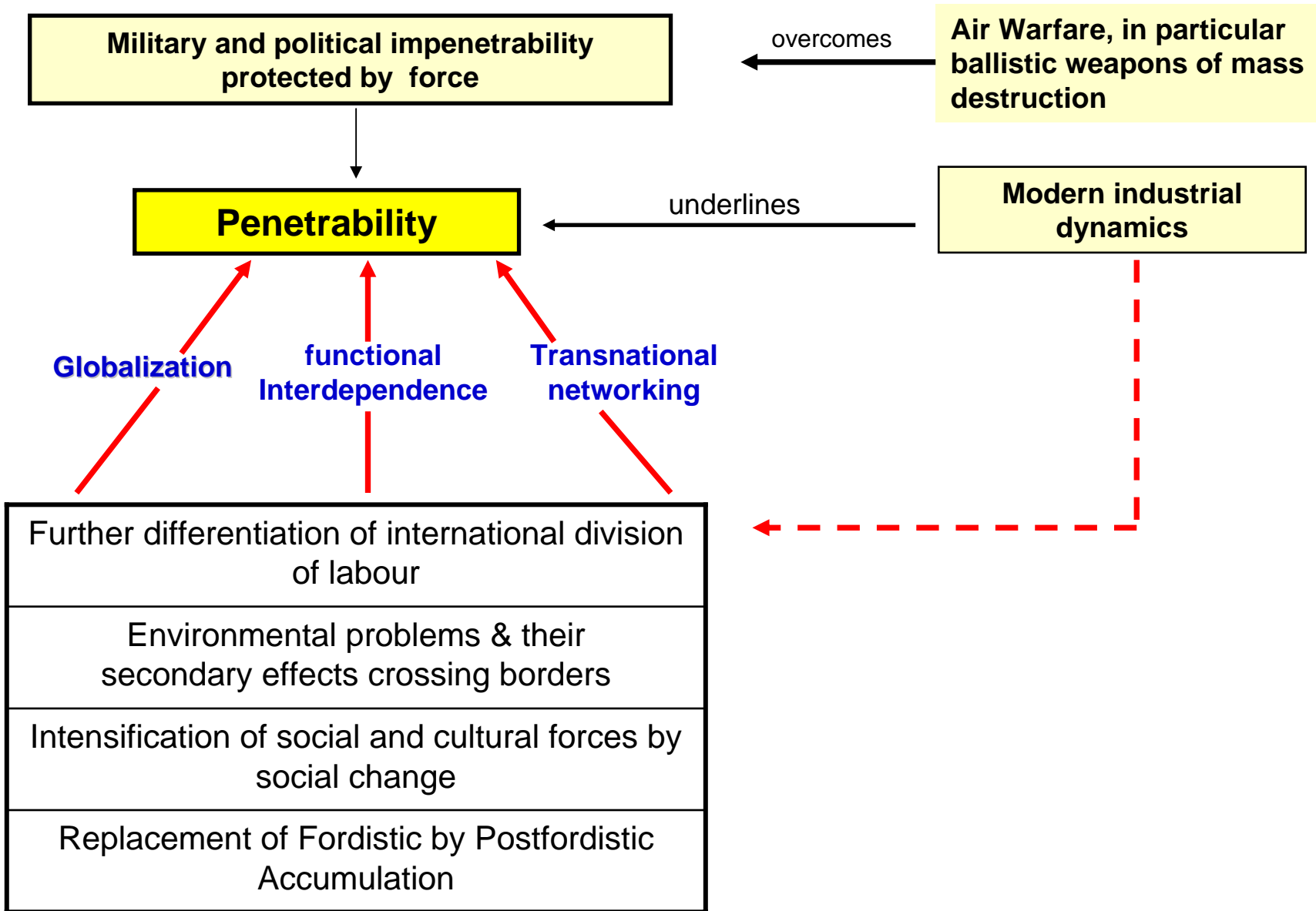


Society B

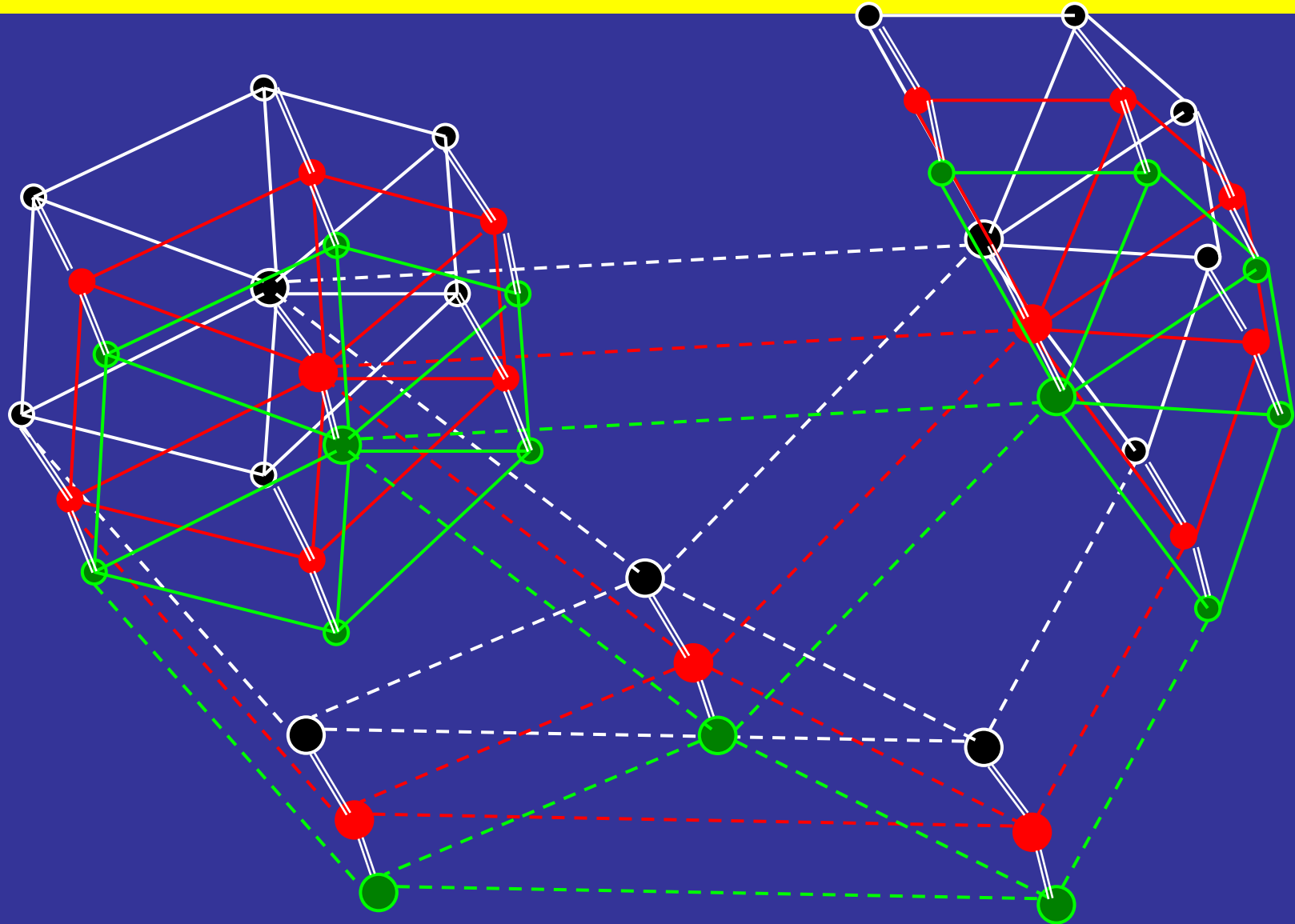
The modern territorial State – Substrate of the Billiard-Ball-Model of International Politics

Premiss: Legitimation of the state by successful completion of its functions: guarantee of law and order domestically and protection against (military)attacks in its external relations

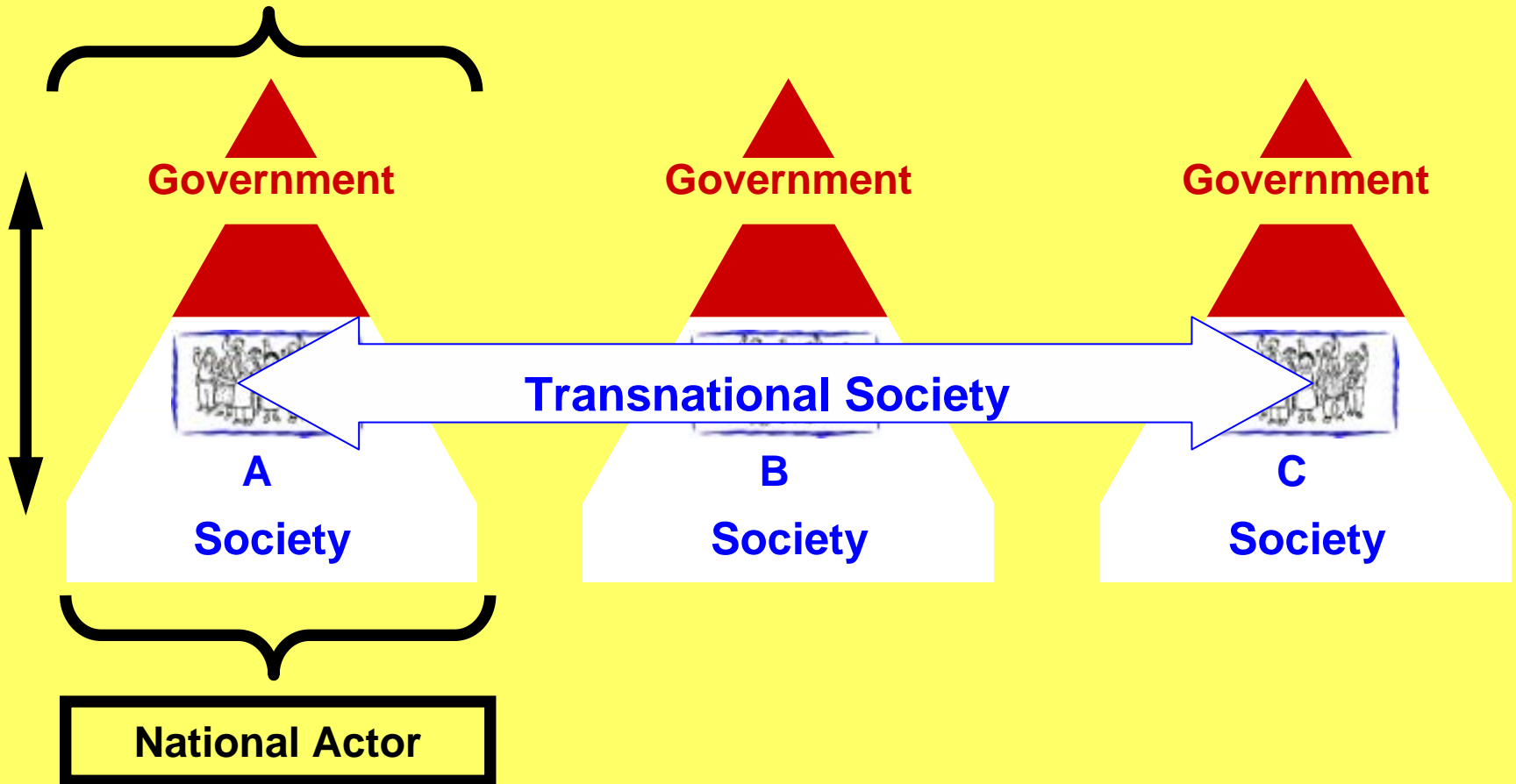




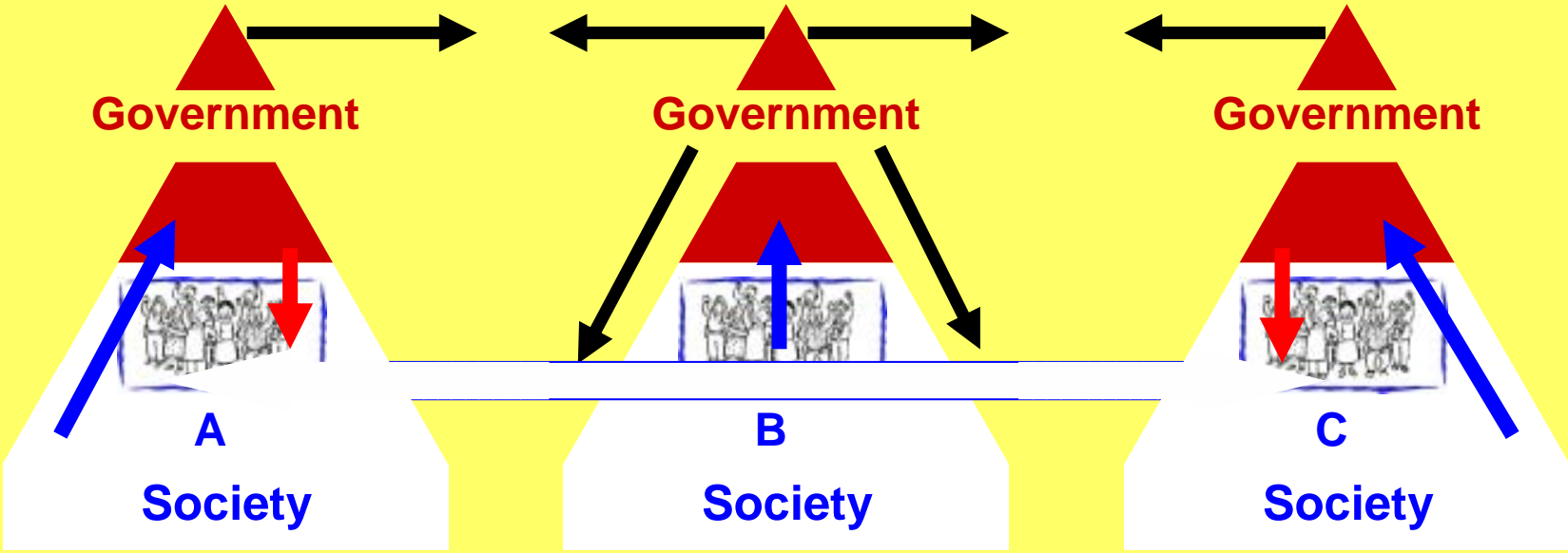
Cobweb model of international Relations



Transnational Society (of Actors)



Transnational Politics



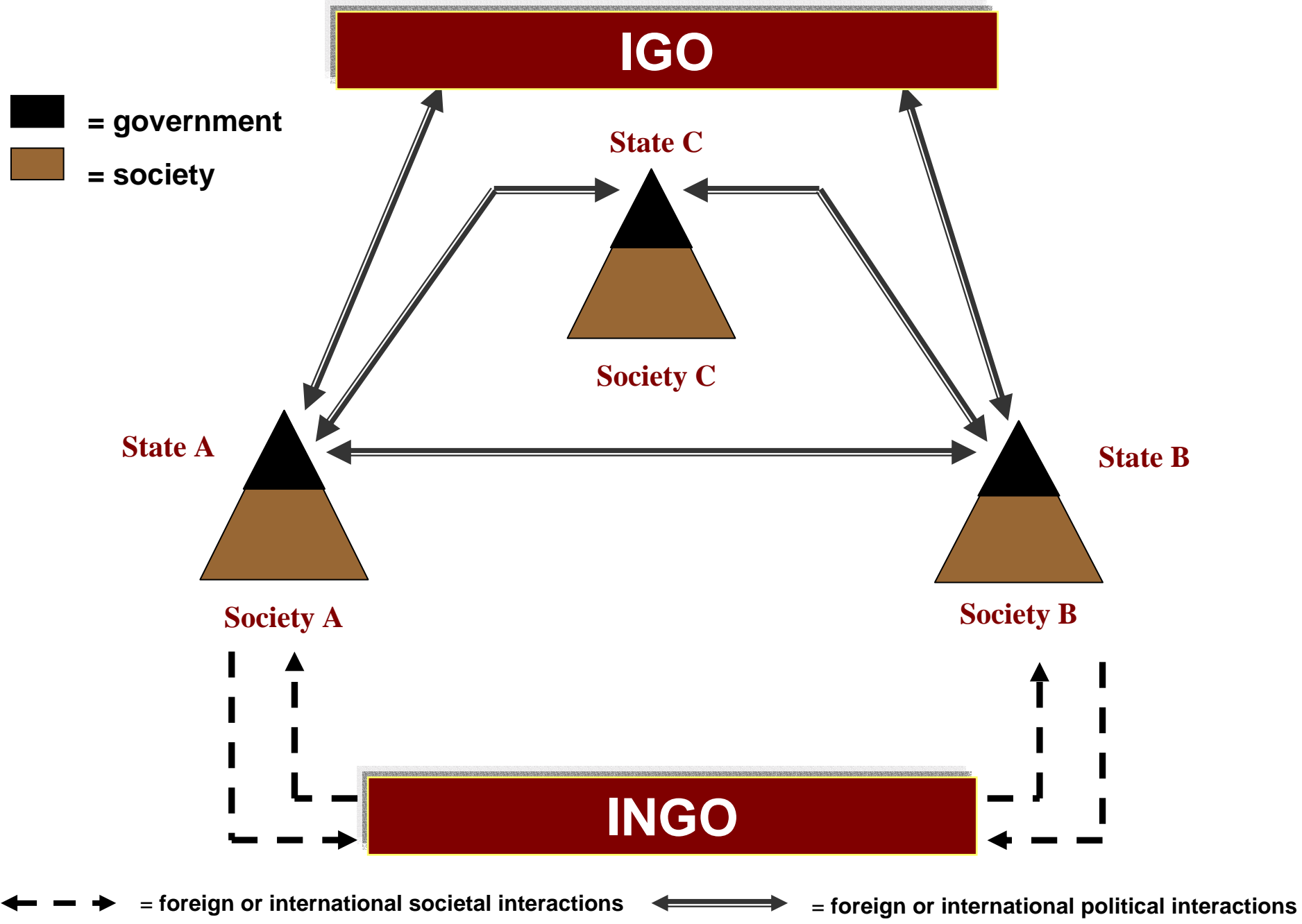
LOOKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FROM A RECENT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PERSPECTIVE

For some time already, the analysis of International Relations is characterised by a change in perspective

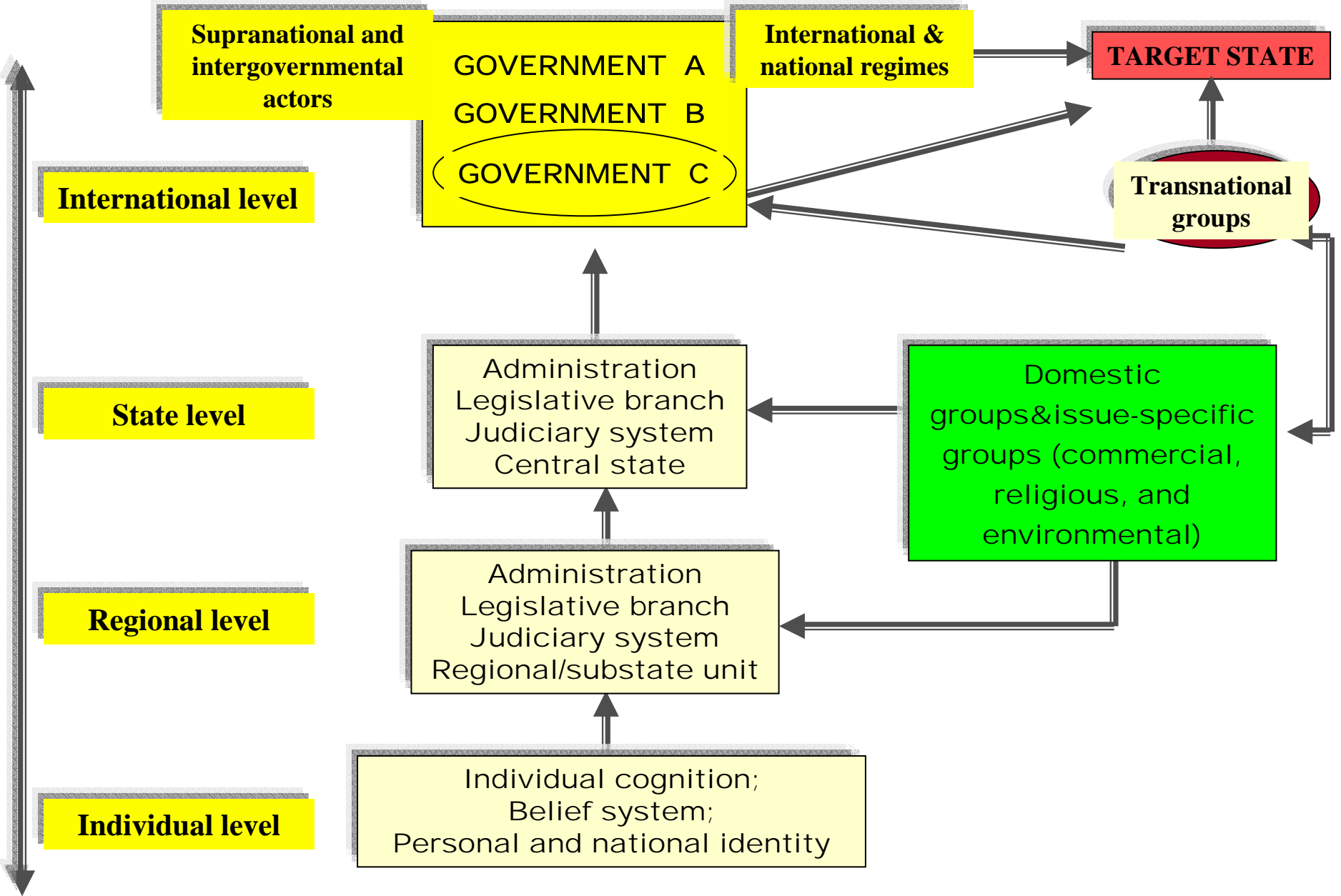
- away from the state as a unitary actor acting as a gatekeeper between the domestic and international policy areas**
- up, down, and sideways to supra-state, sub-state, and non-state actors.**

From the society of states, our focus of attention has consequently shifted to transnational and transgovernmental societies which take the form of boundary-crossing networks amongst individuals and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

States as international gatekeepers



MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE: MAIN ACTORS AND LEVELS OF ANALYSIS





Multilevel Governance

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

Flexibly organised common problem solving among different communities from the local via the regional and state to the international level (and vice versa)



IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Concept covers the mechanisms, agreements, and patterns necessary to insure, in an anarchical international system

- * transnational cooperation
- * balances (of power/influence)
- * stability

without formalised and institutionalised organisations and treaty systems



governance without government

IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

Concept gains importance in contexts in which political institutions and their decision-makers lose part of their autonomy to act; political direction and problem solving has to rely on cooperation of political AND societal actors in networks and negotiation systems (Round Tables etc.)