1. Everything changes.
2. Everything is interconnected.
3. The basis of change is internal.
4. Everything has contradictions, which lead to change.
   Contradiction: a relationship between two “aspects” which are “opposing” or “conflicting.”
5. Dialectical determination.
   a) Unidirectional determination
   b) Mutual determination
   c) Dialectical determination: Mutual determination with a dominant aspect.
Metaphysical View

1. Eternal, unchanging things and categories.
2. Things are isolated from one another and interact only mechanically.
3. When change occurs, it is due to external forces.
4. Things are non-contradictory.
5. Unidirectional determination.
Materialism

Which is more “real” or “primary”:

- matter ----- mind
- being ----- knowing
- being ----- consciousness

**Idealism**: Mind is more “real” or “primary.”

**Materialism**: Matter is more “real” or “primary.”
Expressions of Philosophical Materialism

1. “Ideological reflexes” and “echoes” in the brain of actual life processes – German Ideology
2. “Conceiving, thinking … appear … as the direct efflux of their material behavior” – German Ideology
3. “Consciousness is only the reflection of being” – Lenin, Materialism and Empirio-Criticism
4. “Social being … determines consciousness” – Preface
5. “[People] alter their thinking along with their real existence” – German Ideology
6. “The production of consciousness is … directly interwoven with the material activity … of [people] – German Ideology
7. “The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political, and intellectual life processes in general” -- Preface
Economic aspect of society: The activities and institutions through which people transform nature into the means of human subsistence.

A) Production: the creation of means of subsistence.

B) Distribution: the allocation of products among groups and individuals.

Political aspect of society: The body of “laws” in a society, together with the activities and institutions through which people make, interpret, modify, and enforce laws.

Laws: Principles or rules specifying rights and duties of persons; rules of conduct

Ideological (or cultural) aspect of society: The modes of thought and expression in a society.
**Base and Superstructure (con’t.)**

**Claim:** The economic aspect (economic base, economic relations, economic structure) of a society determines the character of the political and ideological aspects of that society.
Base and Superstructure (con’t.)

Feudalism
1. Decentralized, small-scale political units
2. Ideas of obligation and rank

Capitalism
1. Large nation-state
2. Ideas of individual liberty and equality before the law
Alternative Views

**Historical Idealism**: Ideas determine historical development.

**Economic Determinism (or crude materialism)**: Ideas and political developments play no independent role in affecting the development of the economic base and have no independent development of their own.
Forces and Relations of Production

**Forces of Production**: The means of production and the productive capacities of producers.

- **Means of production**: tools, machines, produced materials
- **Productive capacities of producers**: strength, skill, knowledge about productive techniques

**Social Relations of Production**: The social relations that people enter into in the process of production
Forces and Relations of Production (con’t.)

Claim: The forces of production determine the character of the social relations of production.

“Relations of Production”-ism: The social relations of production determine the character of the forces of production.

Technological Determinism: The social relations of production have no effect on the forces of production.
Social vs. Material Relations of Production

**Forces of Production:** The means of production and the productive powers of people.

**Social Relations of Production:** Relations among people that necessarily entail rights and powers.

**Material Relations of Production:** Relations among people in the process of production abstracted from power relations.
Social Relations of Production and Property Relations

**Question:** How are SRP different from property relations (which are legal relations)?

SRP are *power* relations.

The power relation embodied in the SRP explains the property relations in society.
Social Relations of Production and Property Relations

Example:

Capitalists have the power to
  Compel workers to work for them
  Direct the labor process
  Appropriate the final product

Laws about private property legitimate and help to enforce those powers.