

World-Systems Theory



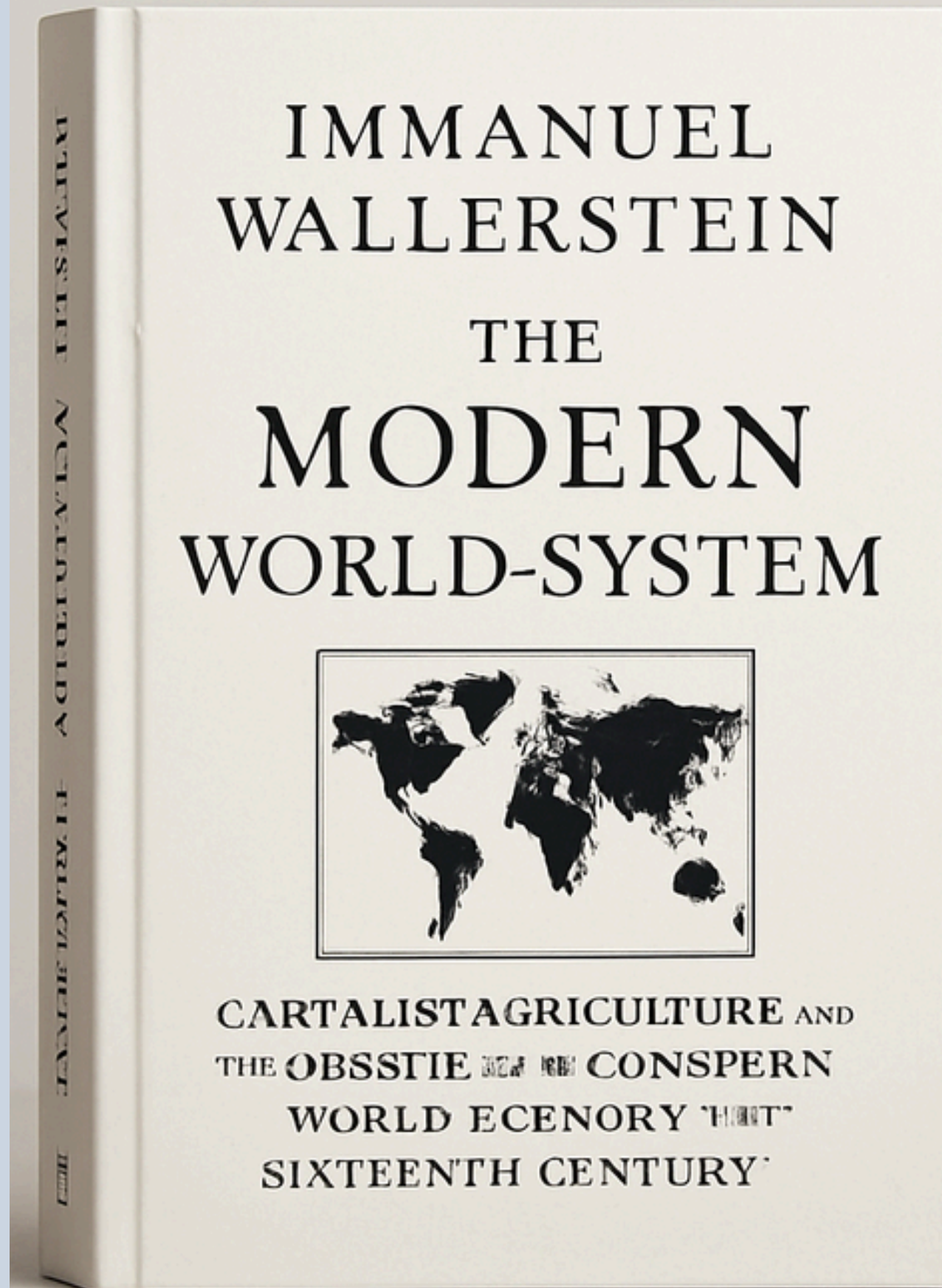
*Prepared by Dr. Faouzia Zeraoulia
University of Jijel*



Conceptual Overview

Understanding the Core Framework of Wallerstein's Model in Depth

Wallerstein's World-Systems Model provides a **holistic framework** for understanding global capitalism as an interconnected system. It divides the world into three structural zones: core, periphery, and semi-periphery, highlighting how economic and political relationships sustain inequalities. This perspective emphasizes the **historical roots** of exploitation and dependency, dating back to the 16th century.





Core
Countries
Dominant
powers with
advanced
technology.

Periphery
Countries
Dependent on
resources and
labor supply.

Semi-
Periphery
Countries
Intermediate
zone with
economic
transitions.

Core Elements of the Model

Visualizing the World- System Zones



Systemic Interconnectedness

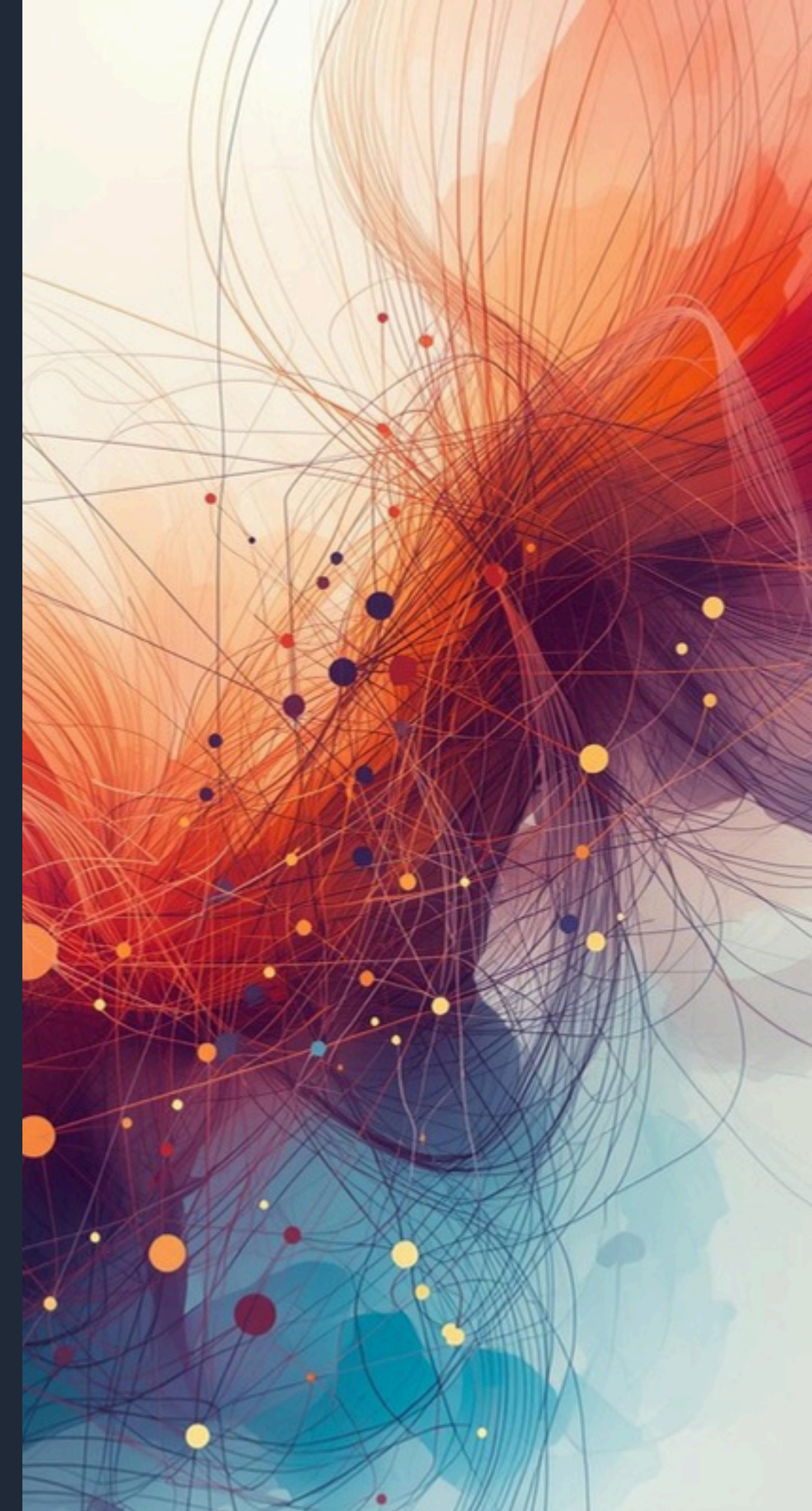
The model illustrates global economic and political relationships.



Economic and Political Dynamics

Understanding the interactions that drive global inequalities and power structures

The **core-periphery dynamics** are essential in shaping the international system. Capital accumulation and profit drive core countries to dominate through technology and institutions, while peripheral nations remain subordinated, limiting their development. Semi-periphery states play a crucial role as stabilizers or sources of tension, reflecting ongoing systemic inequalities.



Theoretical Perspectives

An interdisciplinary approach to understanding the world-systems model

Wallerstein's model emphasizes **systemic structures** over state-centric views by integrating economic history, sociology, and political economy. This holistic methodology utilizes both qualitative and quantitative data, challenging traditional realist theories in International Relations while allowing for a broader understanding of global dynamics and inequalities across various contexts.



Critiques and Limitations

Addressing criticisms of Wallerstein's World-Systems Model in IR analysis

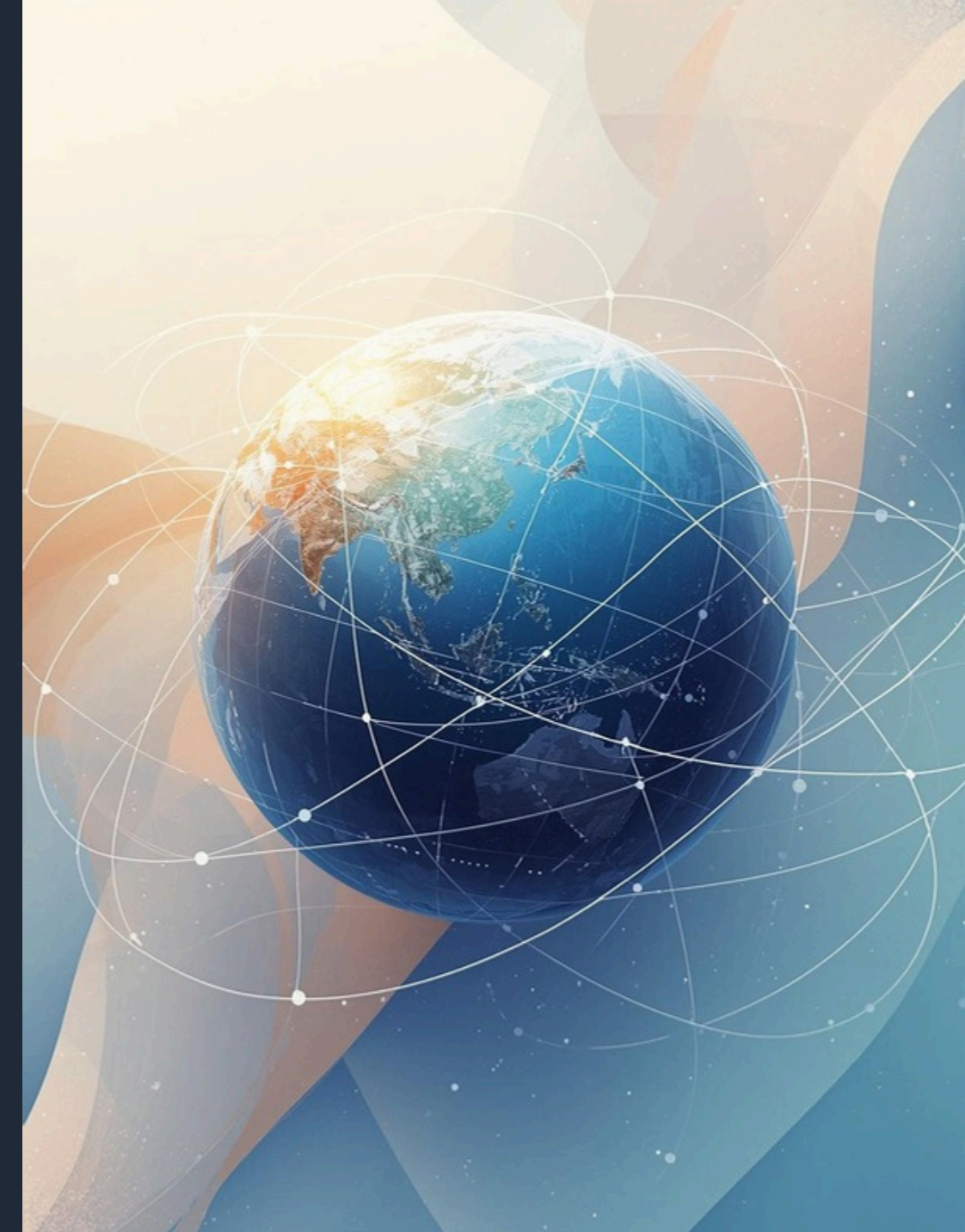
The **Wallerstein model faces significant critiques**, including accusations of economic determinism and the underestimation of cultural factors. Critics argue it insufficiently accounts for peripheral agency and the complexity of non-economic influences, and its focus on capitalism can limit broader applicability. These limitations challenge the model's empirical testing and policy relevance.



Applications of Wallerstein's Model

Understanding Global Inequalities and Dependencies in a Complex World

Wallerstein's World-Systems Model provides a vital framework for analyzing **global inequalities** and dependencies. It aids in understanding the emerging roles of semi-periphery countries while explaining the causes of conflicts, migration patterns, and crises. Furthermore, it emphasizes the influence of international institutions as instruments of core dominance in the global landscape.



Key Insights

Understanding Wallerstein's World-Systems Model for Global Relations

Wallerstein's model illustrates the **interconnectedness** of global capitalism through core-periphery dynamics. This framework emphasizes historical context and systemic relationships that shape **inequalities**. Recognizing these patterns is essential for analyzing international relations and developing strategies to address global challenges, providing a comprehensive view beyond state-centric theories.

