lecture 9: monist causation part two

sis-206.c01 p. t. jackson
summer 2008
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whatdiscourseisn't

what discourse isn't

- not "talk" or "mere words"

what discourse isn't

- not "talk" or "mere words"
- not "free-floating ideas"

what discourse isn't

- not "talk" or "mere words"
- not "free-floating ideas"
- not "belief"

what discourse isn't

- not "talk" or "mere words"
- not "free-floating ideas"
- not "belief"
- not "rational" in a transcendental sense

discourse

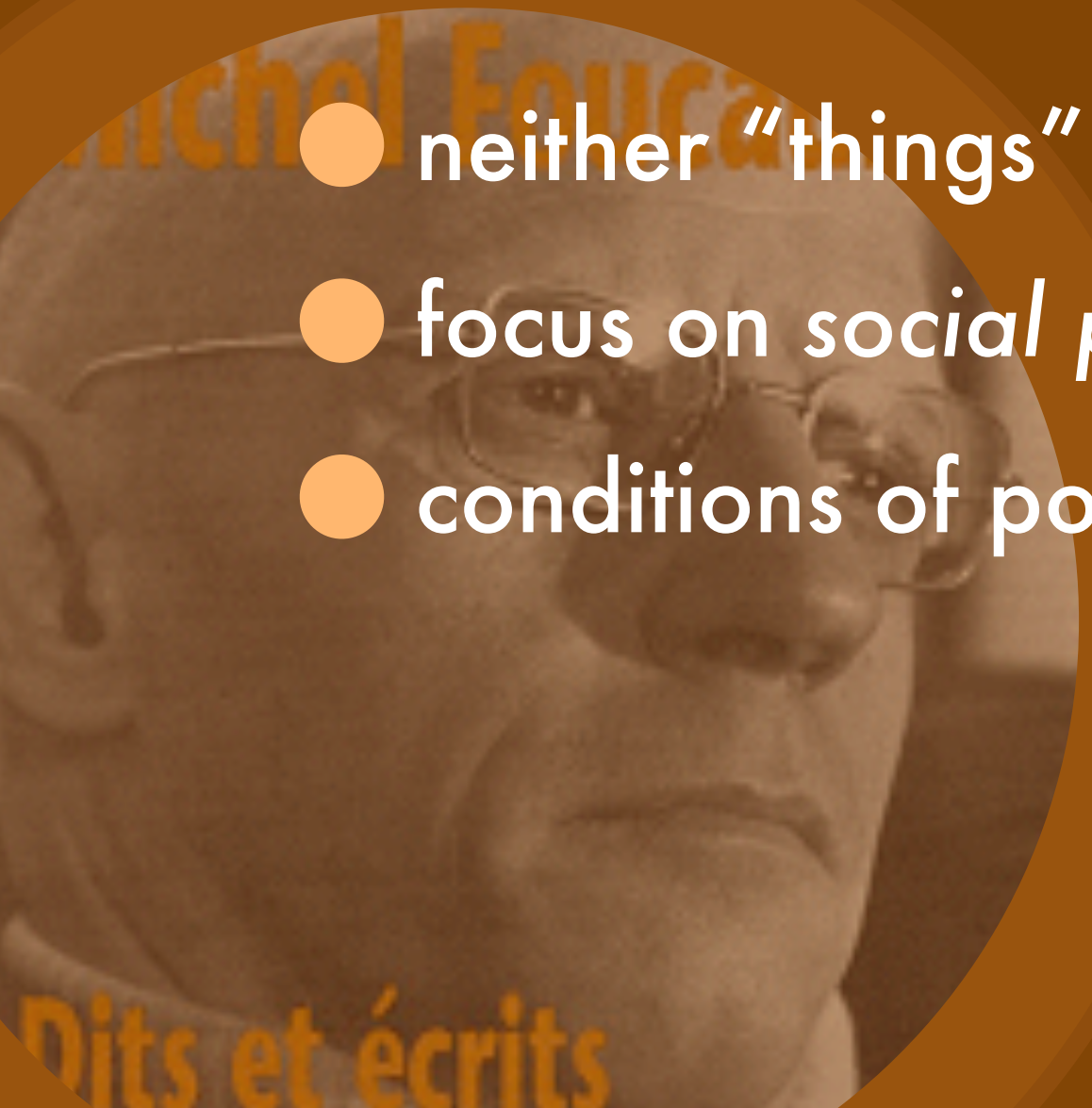
discourse

- neither “things” nor “thoughts”

discourse

- neither "things" nor "thoughts"
- focus on *social practice*

discourse



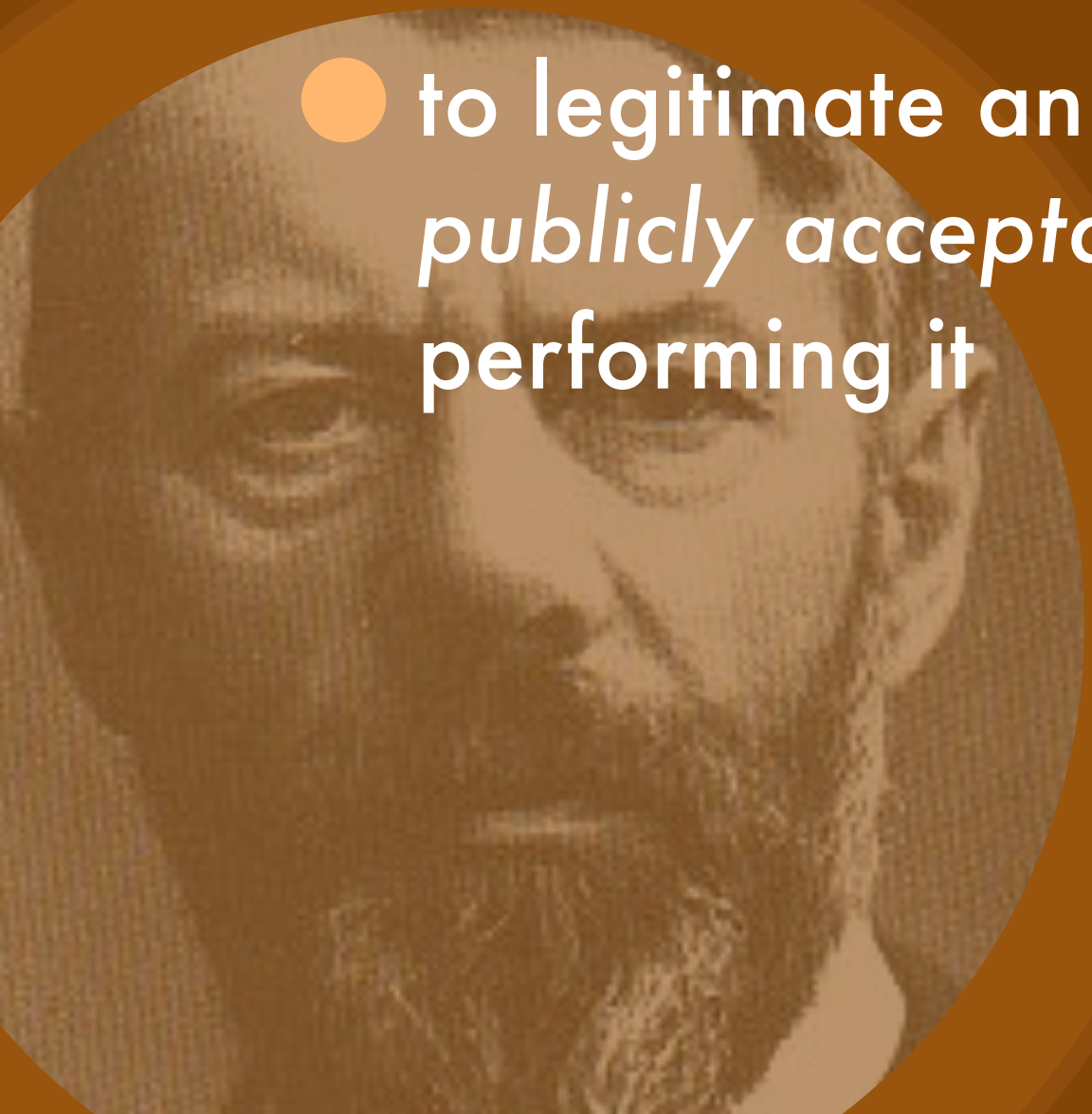
- neither "things" nor "thoughts"
- focus on *social practice*
- conditions of possibility are key

discourse

- neither "things" nor "thoughts"
- focus on *social practice*
- conditions of possibility are key
- *public articulations* are the source of data

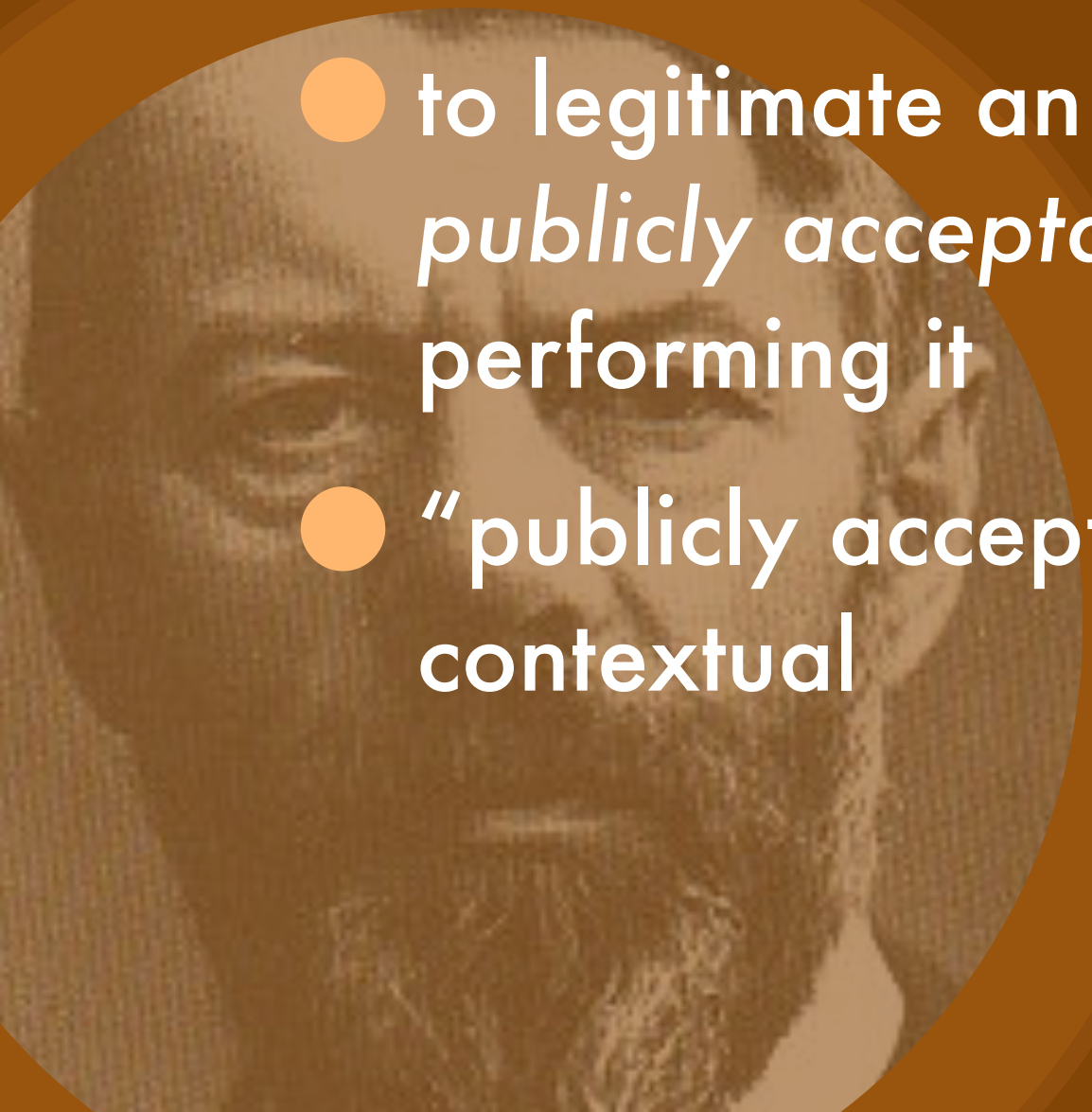
legitimation

legitimation



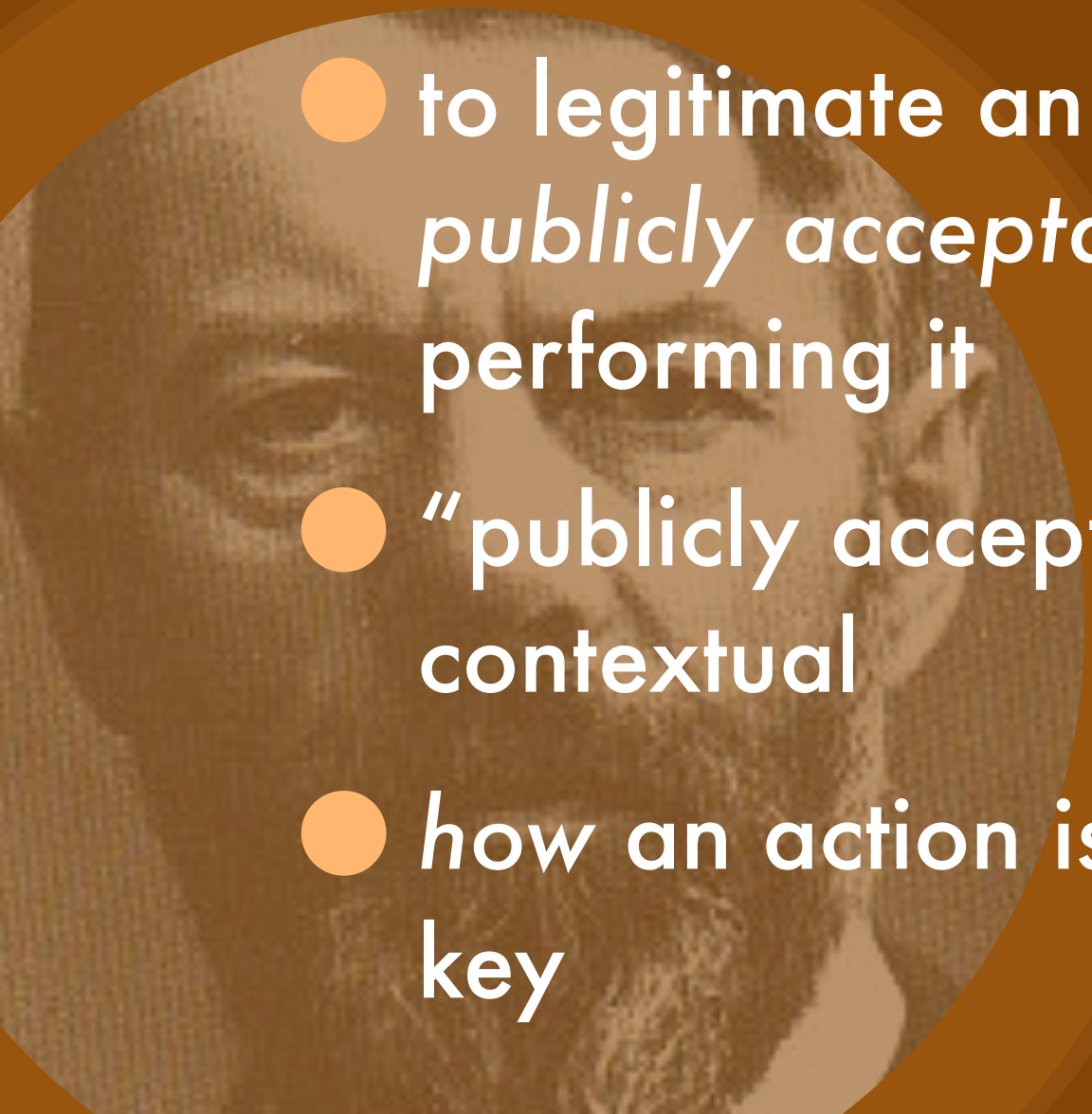
- to legitimate an action is to give *publicly acceptable reasons* for performing it

legitimation



- to legitimate an action is to give *publicly acceptable reasons* for performing it
- "publicly acceptable" is contextual

legitimation



- to legitimate an action is to give *publicly acceptable reasons* for performing it
- "publicly acceptable" is contextual
- *how* an action is legitimated is key

examples

examples

- search warrant

examples

- search warrant
- slavery

examples

- search warrant
- slavery
- sovereign territoriality

discoursevs.interpretation

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- monist description explicates meaning

discourse vs. interpretation

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- discourse connects language and outcomes

discourse vs. interpretation

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- monist description looks for a coherent whole

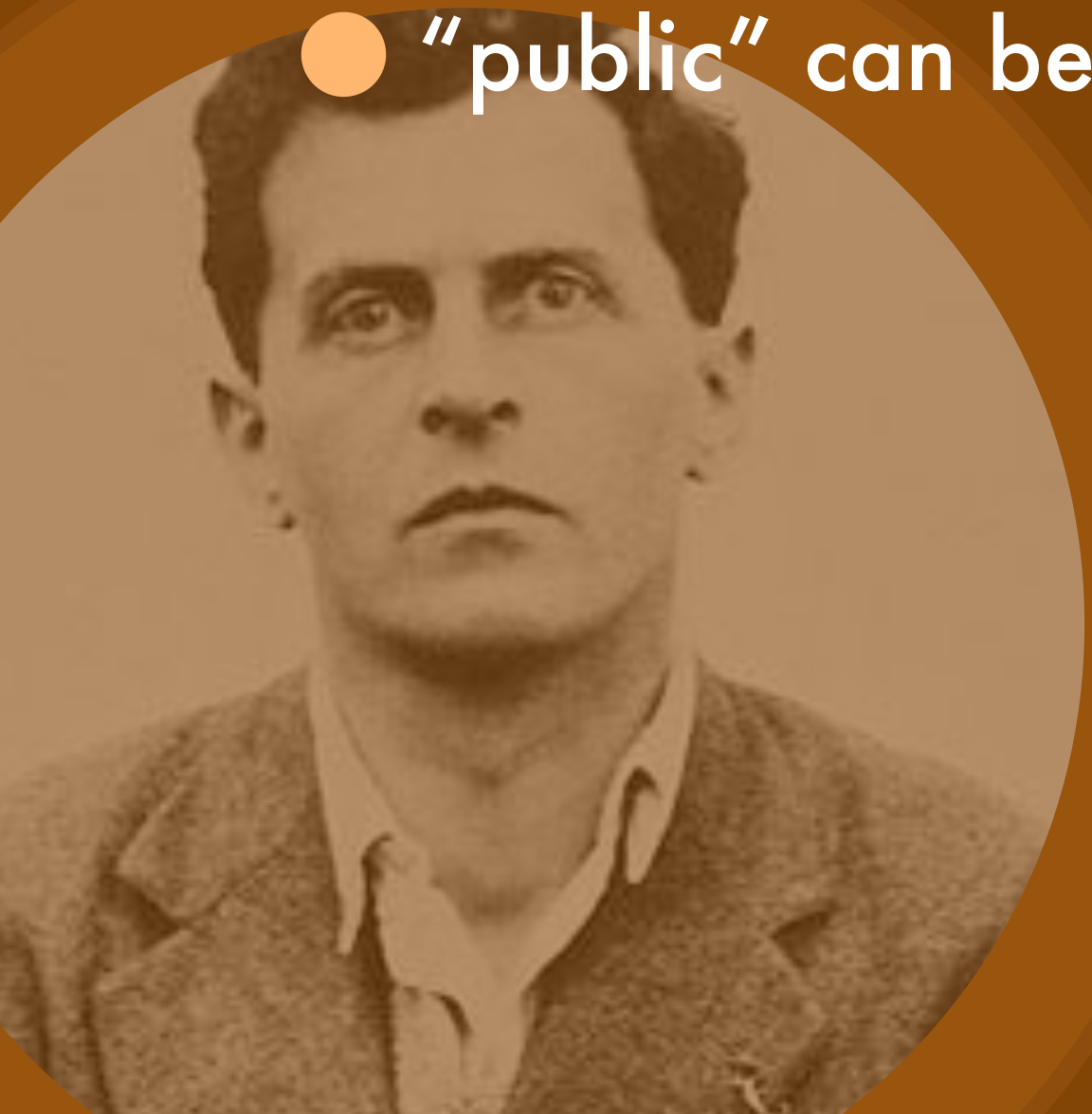
discourse vs. interpretation

- monist description explicates meaning
- discourse connects language and outcomes
- monist description looks for a coherent whole
- discourse is about *contention*

publicarticulations

publicarticulations

- "public" can be small or large



publicarticulations

- "public" can be small or large
  - no articulation is completely private…

publicarticulations

- "public" can be small or large
  - no articulation is completely private…
  - …but some are more public than others

publicarticulations

- "public" can be small or large
  - no articulation is completely private…
  - …but some are more public than others
- claims tendered in a debate are particularly important

wheretolook

wheretolook

- campaigns

wheretolook

- campaigns
- speeches

wheretolook

- campaigns
- speeches
- public hearings

wheretolook

- campaigns
- speeches
- public hearings
- websites

wheretolook

- campaigns
- speeches
- public hearings
- websites
- wherever people are forced to give *public reasons* for their actions

commonplaces

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- synonyms: topoi; themes; threads; tropes; symbols

commonplaces

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- by definition, *common* to speaker and audience(s)

commonplaces

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- by definition, co*mmon* to speaker and audience(s)
- weakly shared

commonplaces

- synonyms: topoi; themes; threads; tropes; symbols
- by definition, *common* to speaker and audience(s)
- weakly shared
- afford actions

motivesareirrelevant

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- whether *anyone* believes what they are saying or doing makes no difference

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- articulations do their work on their own

motivesareirrelevant

- whether *anyone* believes what they are saying or doing makes no difference
- articulations do their work on their own
- *social* sustainability is key

findingcommonplaces

finding commonplaces

- no magic formula (sorry)

finding commonplaces

- no magic formula (sorry)
- indeed, no final specification of all relevant commonplaces!

finding commonplaces

- no magic formula (sorry)
- indeed, no final specification of all relevant commonplaces!
- instead, a "good enough" basis for capturing "interesting" aspects of an articulation

rhetoricaltopographies

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- a kind of "map" of commonplaces deployed in some situation

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- ideal-typical, not descriptive

rhetoricaltopographies

- a kind of "map" of commonplaces deployed in some situation
- ideal-typical, not descriptive
- captures the "limits of the possible" in a given situation

causation

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- rhetorical topographies are static

causation

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- they are *flattened*, like a social network diagram/matrix

causation

- rhetorical topographies are static
- they are *flattened*, like a social network diagram/matrix
- causal research does more than draw maps

twoposibilities

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- go backwards: *specific history* of particular commonplaces

twoposibilities

- go backwards: *specific history* of particular commonplaces
- go forwards: *deployment* of commonplaces in a legitimation contest

twoposibilities

- go backwards: *specific history* of particular commonplaces
- go forwards: *deployment* of commonplaces in a legitimation contest
- can be combined

construction

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- delineate commonplaces empirically

construction

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- be sensitive to variation

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- “textual ethnography” can help here

construction

- delineate commonplaces empirically
- be sensitive to variation
- “textual ethnography” can help here
- there are also formal techniques

specifichistory

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- a commonplace's power comes from its past

specifichistory

- a commonplace's power comes from its past
- seeking an account of formation and past deployment

specifichistory

- a commonplace's power comes from its past
- seeking an account of formation and past deployment
- beware the genetic fallacy!

deployment

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- commonplaces have to be deployed in order to be effective

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- how they interact is crucial

deployment

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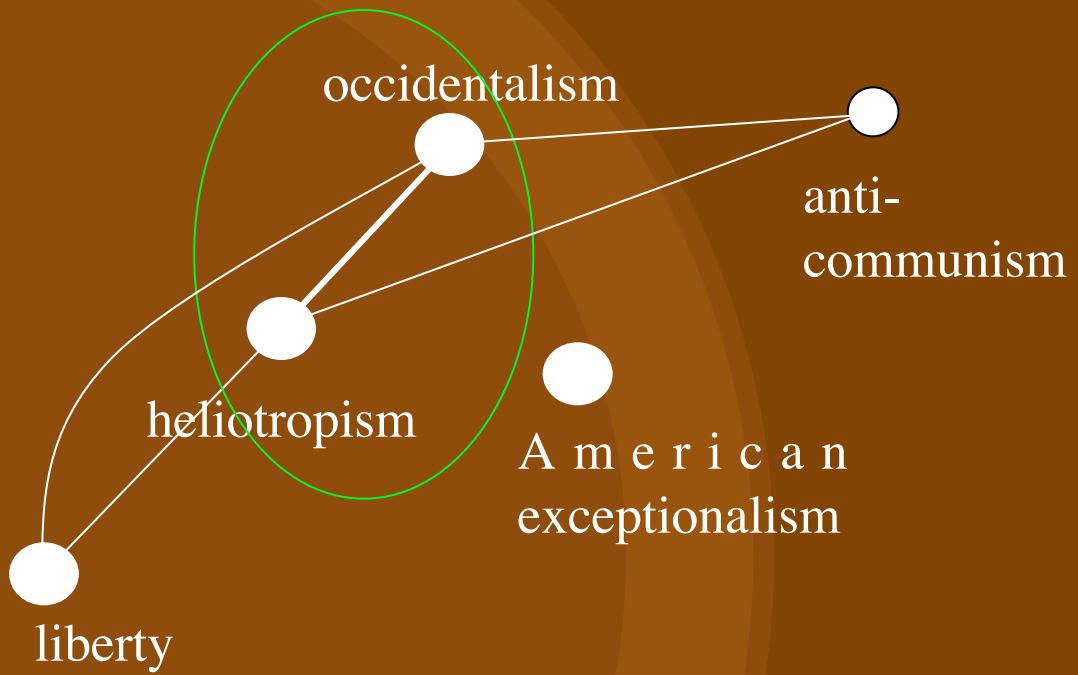
- be alert for “outflanking” and “rhetorical coercion”

deployment

- commonplaces have to be deployed in order to be effective
- how they interact is crucial
- be alert for “outflanking” and “rhetorical coercion”
- there can also be overall changes in the map

analyzingamericanidentity



"multilateralism" in the United States during the Cold War
(oval = "leader of the West / free world"
[where "free world" means the West and its allies])

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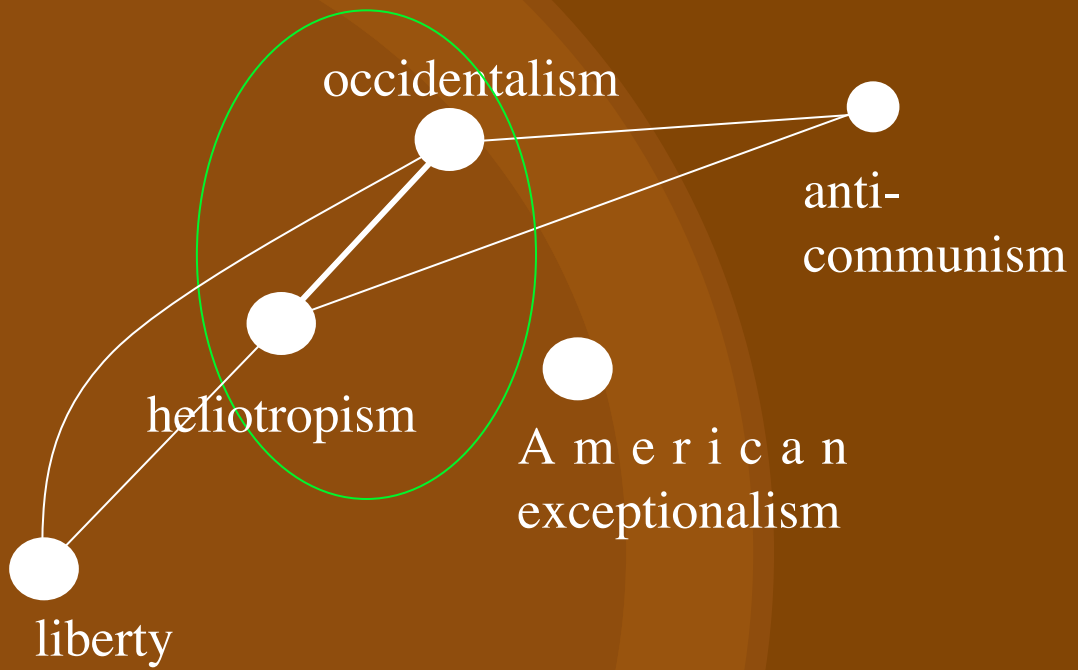

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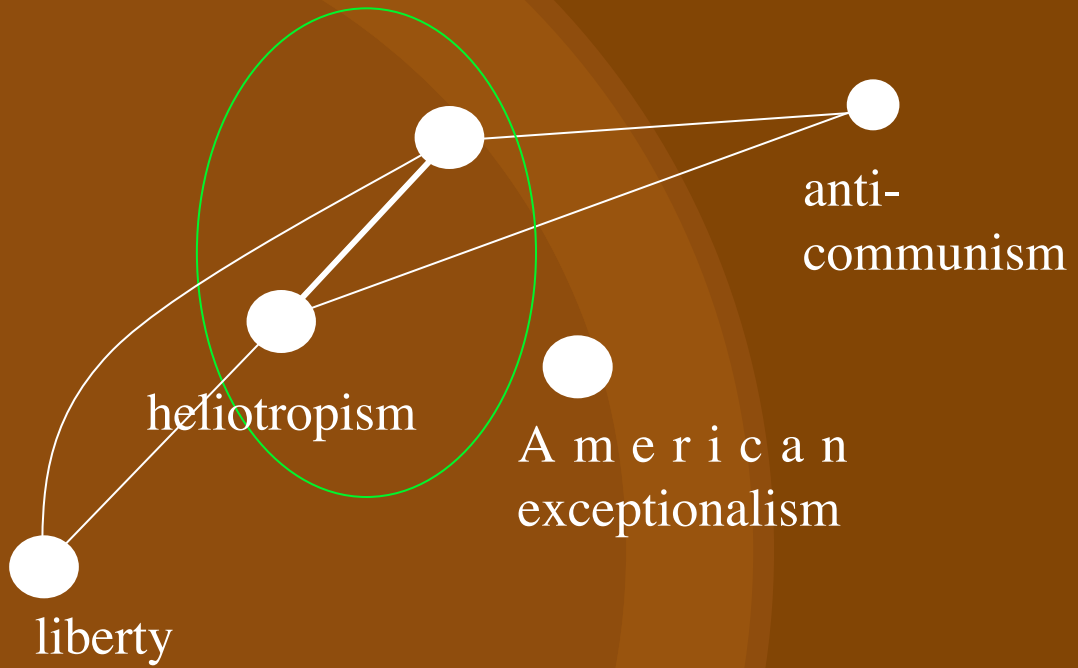

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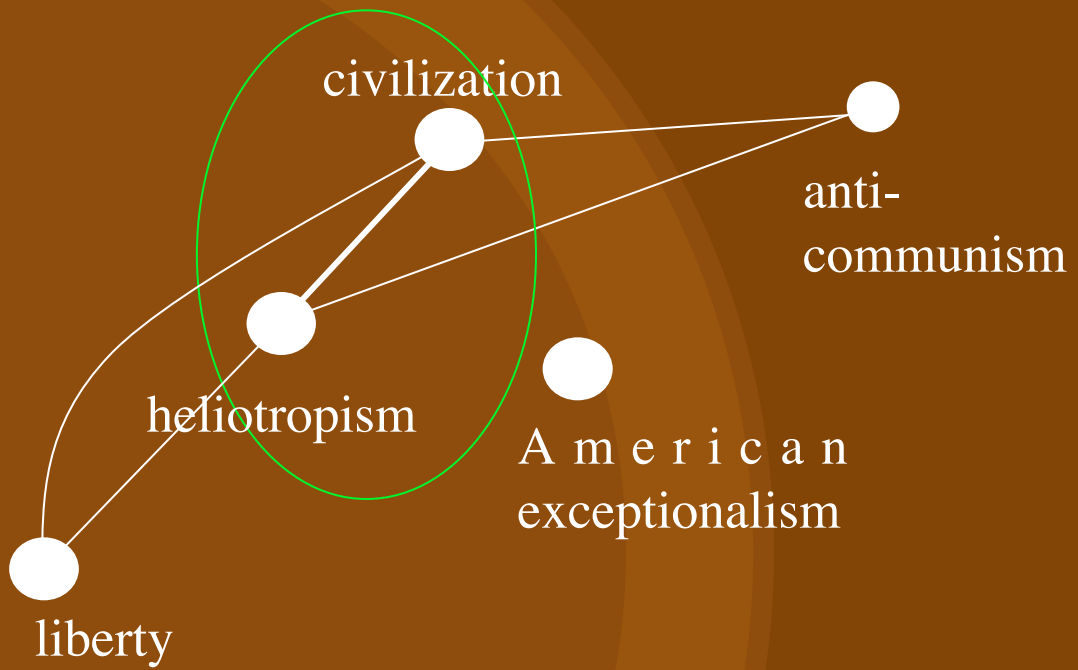

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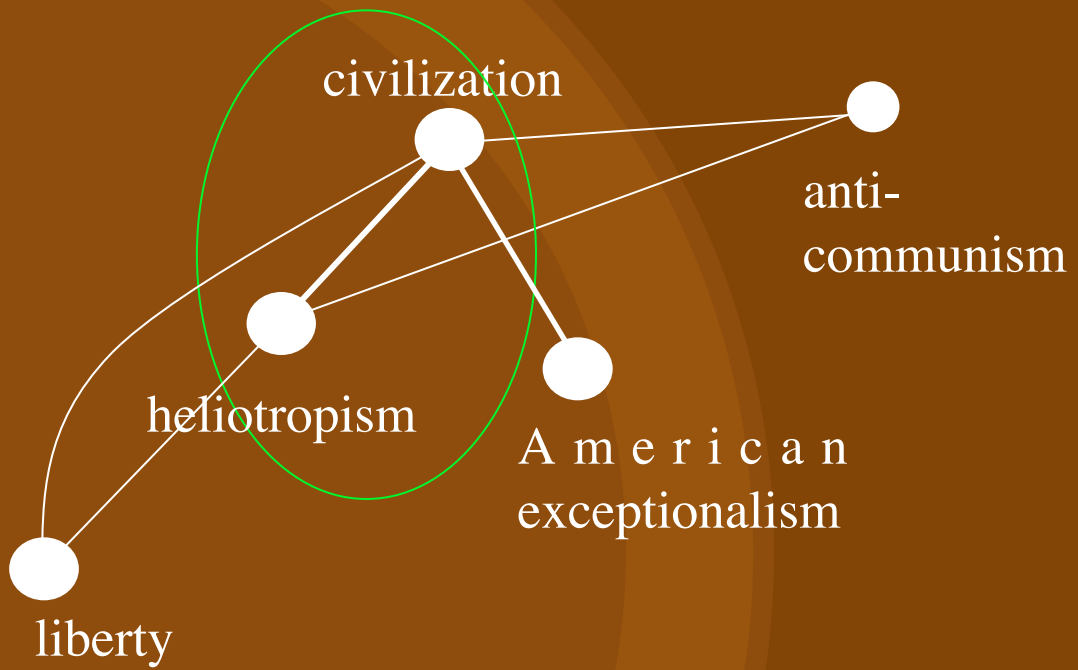

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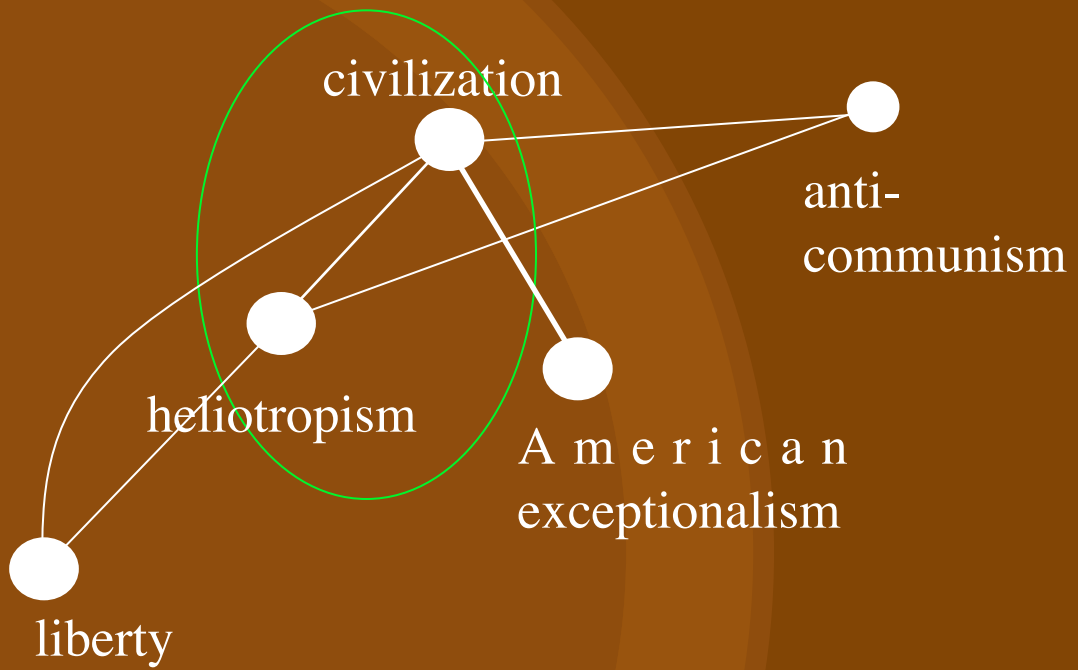

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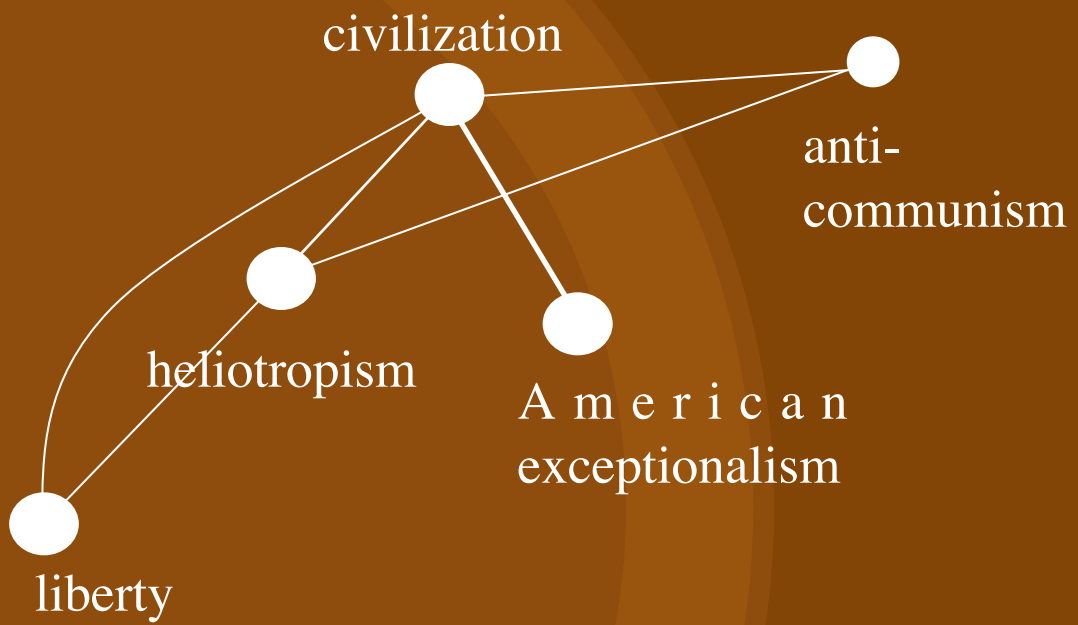

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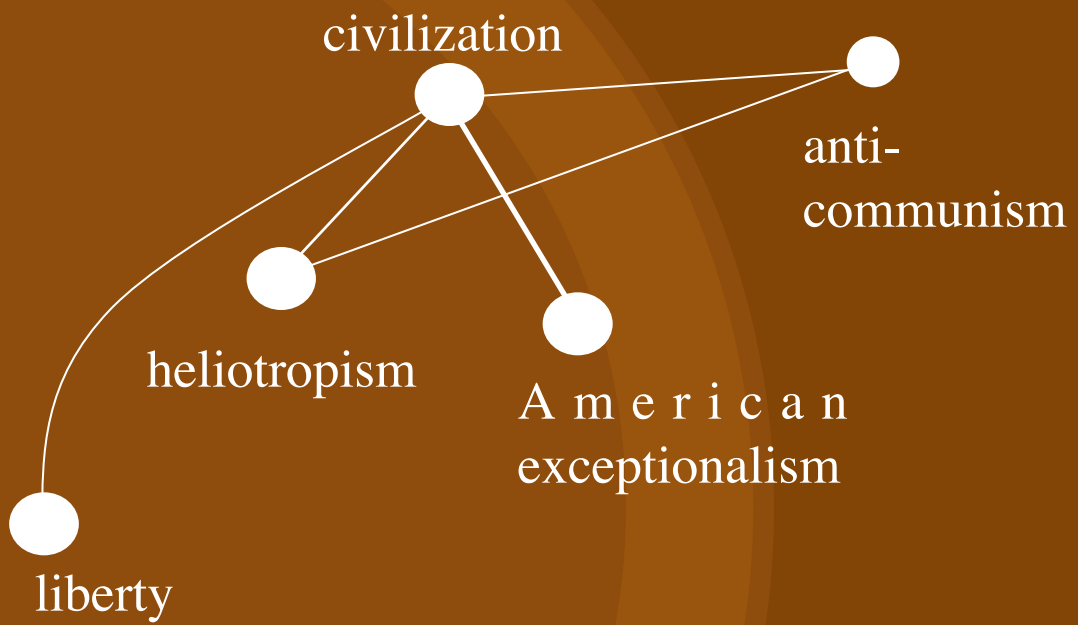

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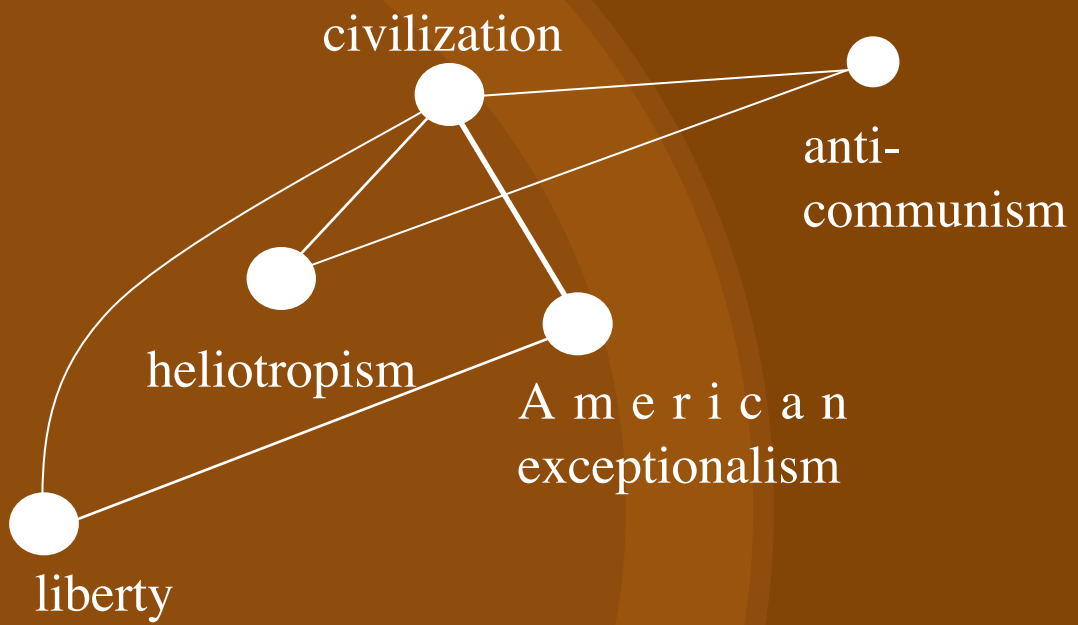

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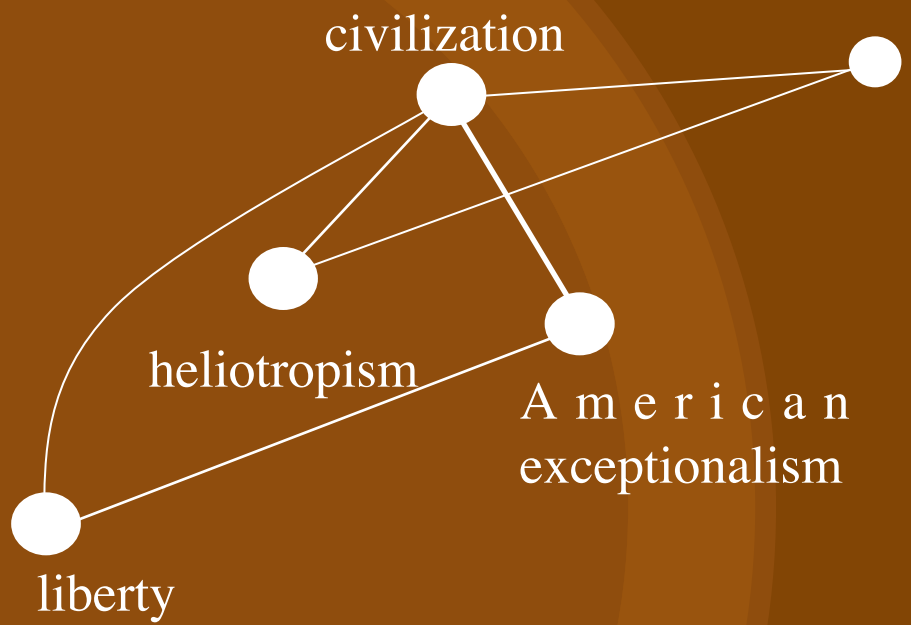

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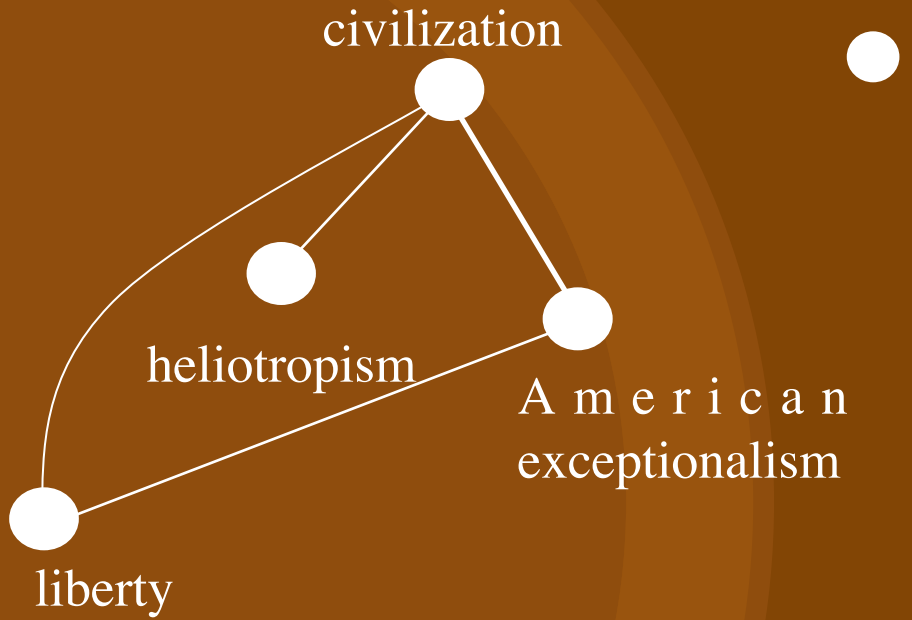

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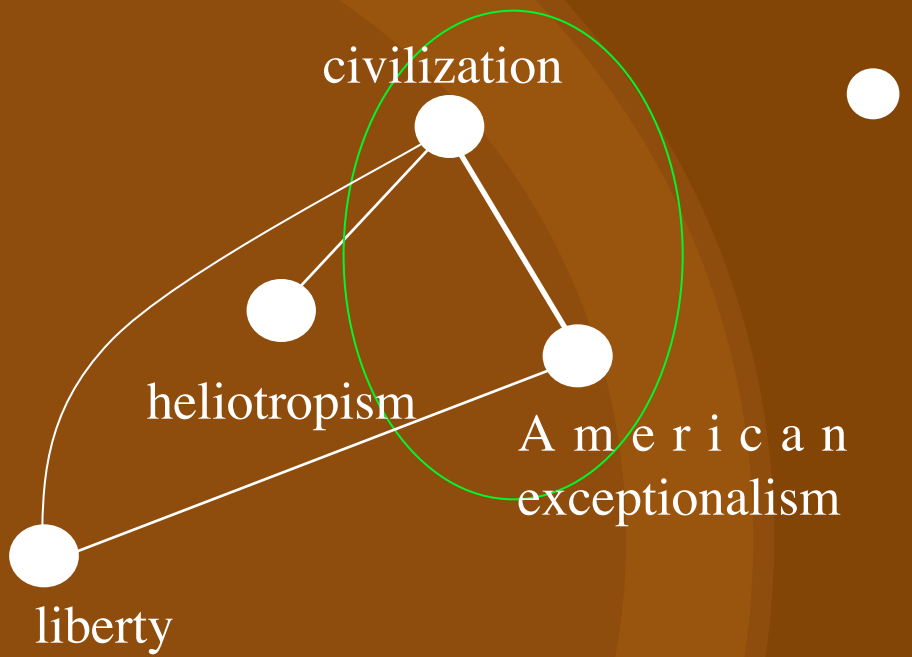

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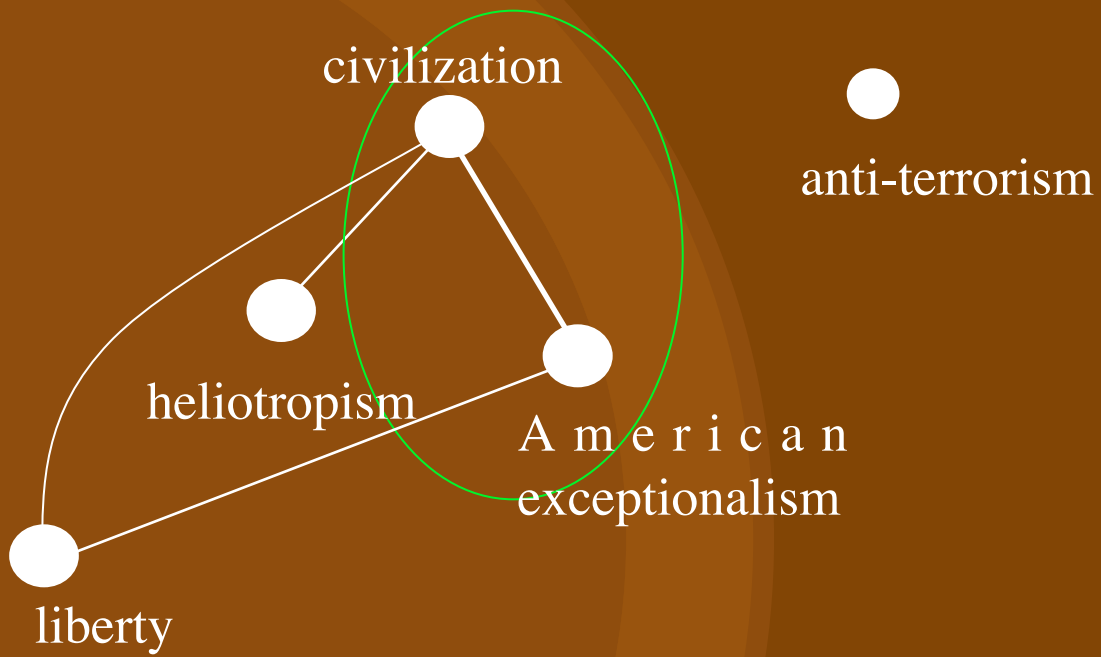

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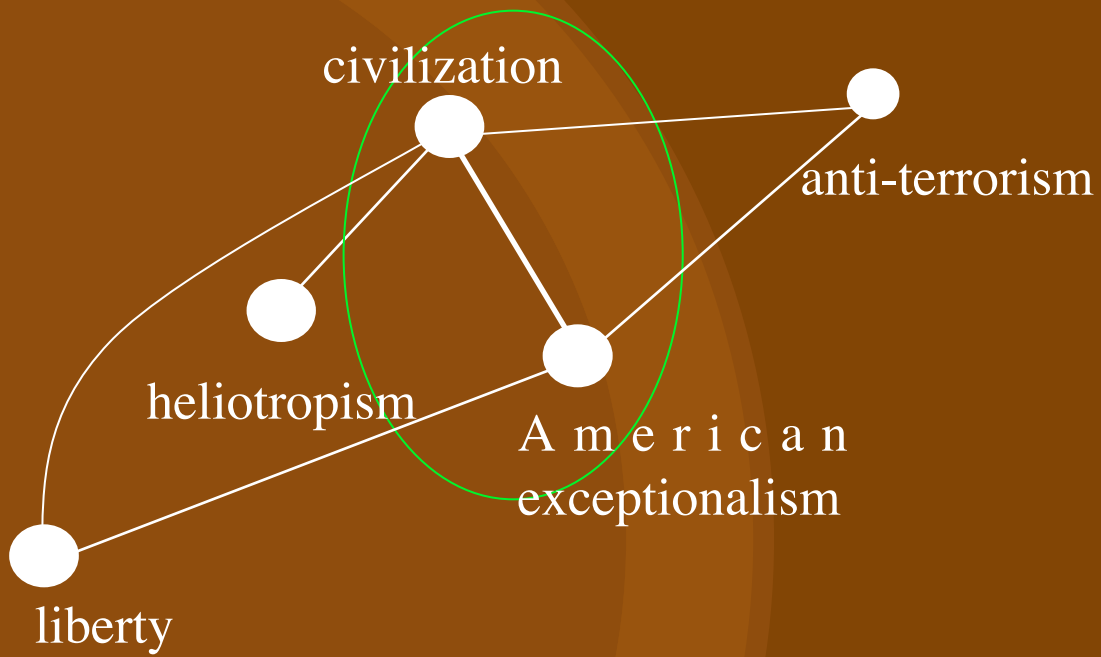

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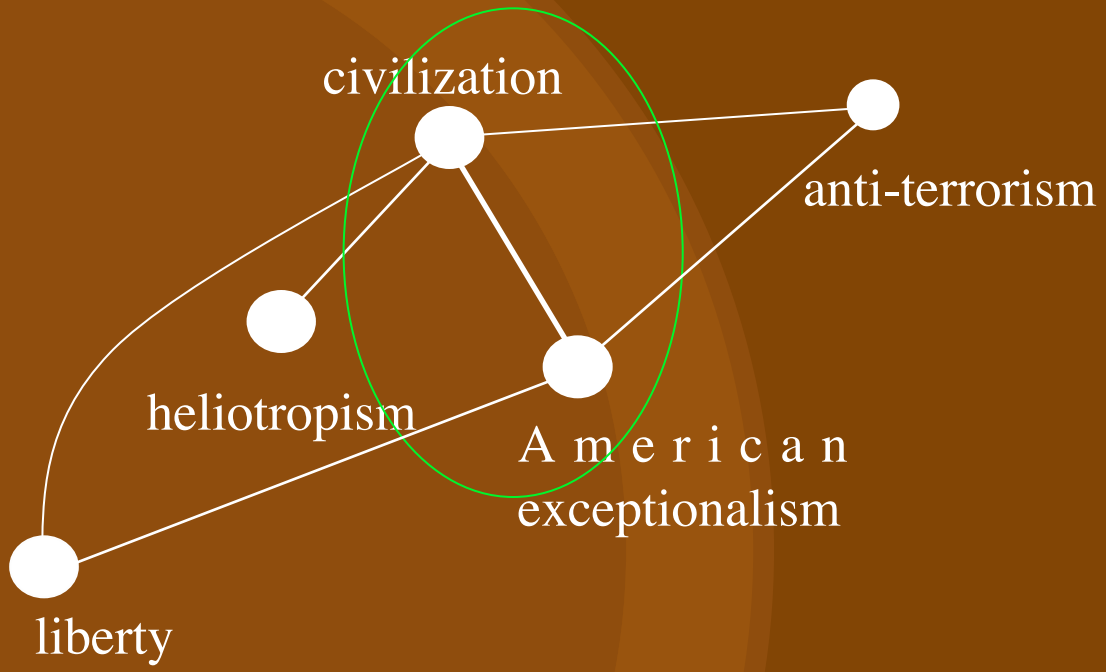

"imperial unilateralism" in the United States during the War on Terrorism
(oval = "this is civilization's fight")

proposals

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1. research question (“how”)

proposals

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2. initial guess, *including factors if a configurational project*

proposals

1. research question (“how”)
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3. population definition

proposals

1. research question (“how”)
2. initial guess, *including factors if a configurational project*
3. population definition
4. data sources