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# Außenpolitische Rollentheorie: eine Forschungsagenda

Rollentheorie-Workshop  
Universität Heidelberg, 28.06.2013

# Fragestellung

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Welche Entwicklungsmöglichkeiten ergeben sich aus dem Stand der heutigen außenpolitischen Rollentheorie?

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# Außenpolitische Rollen: Konzeptentwicklung und Abgrenzung

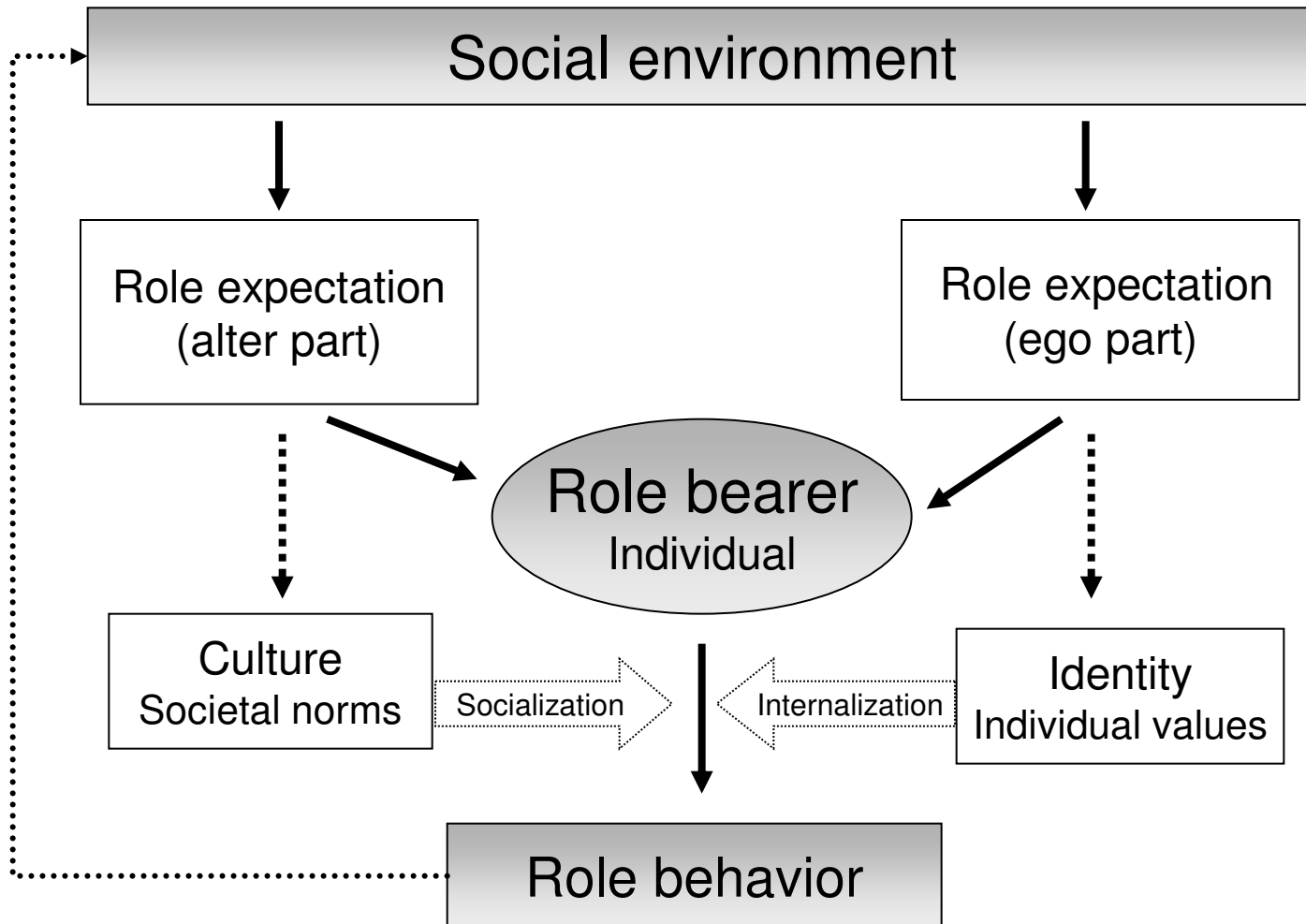
# International Roles: definition and explanation

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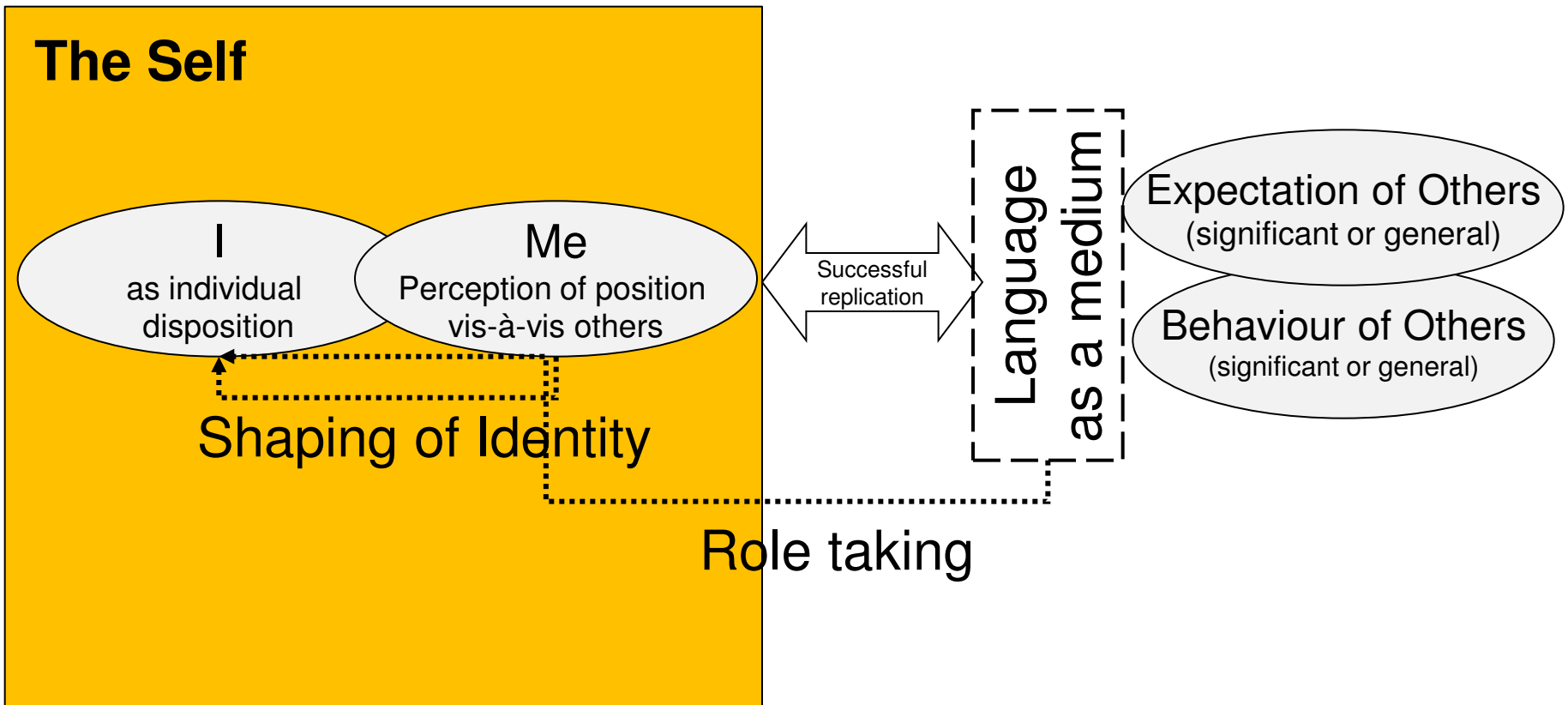
- In role theory, roles are typically recognized as social positions which are constituted by ego and alter expectations regarding the purpose of an actor in an organized group (cf. Thies 2010: 3-4; Andrews 1975: 529).

The position's function in the group is limited in time and scope and it is dependent on the group's structure and purpose. Whereas some roles are constitutive to the group as such, e.g. a recognized member of the international community, other roles or role sets are functionally specific, e.g. balancer, initiator etc.

# “Roles” in International Relations literature



# The Self: the process of self-identification



# The Other: constitutive for the „Self“

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- The generalized “other”: An imagined “other” which serves the “I” as a reference point to identify with a special identity (Chinese) or a social category (human being).
- The significant “other”: A concrete “other” in the process of “primary socialization” (in the family), i.e. parents or siblings. Attributes: small number, high degree of role casting by the “Other” (“ascribed role”).
- The organized “other”: is an institutionalized other, the functional specification of which demands a high degree of role expectations which are regulated and based on division of labor.

# Außenpolitische Rollen und ‚verwandte Konzepte‘

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- **Rollen:** roles are typically recognized as social positions which are constituted by ego and alter expectations regarding the purpose of an actor in an organized group

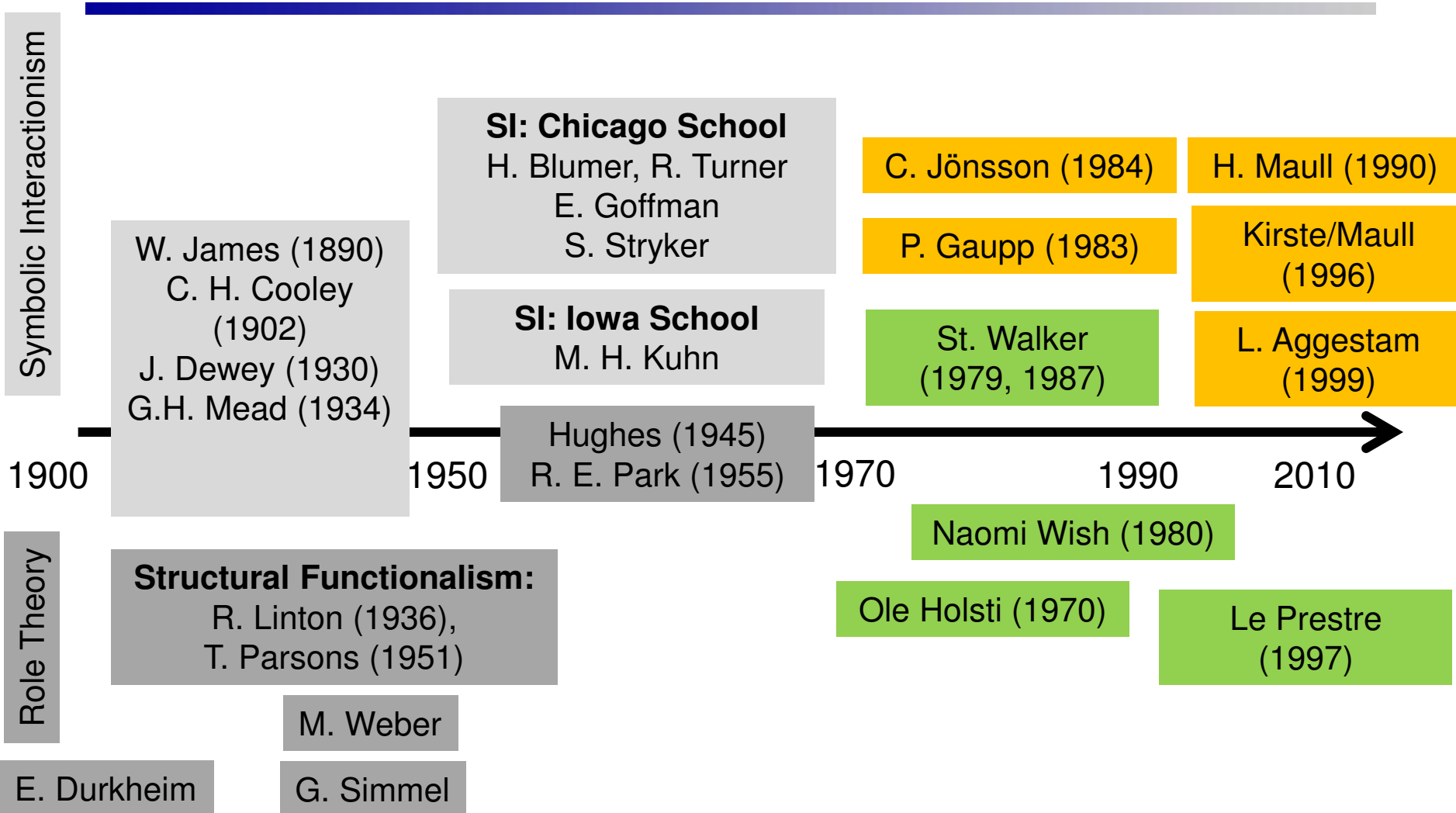
- **Identitäten:** sind Selbstbeschreibungen in Abgrenzung zu “bestimmten Anderen”. Sie beinhalten keinen funktionalen Gruppenbezug und sind als individuelle I. nicht übertragbar.

- **Status:** sind soziale Positionen in einem hierarchischen Gruppensystem. S. wird individuell angestrebt, aber von außen erteilt. Er ist nicht funktional ausdifferenziert und weniger temporär begrenzt.



# Rollentheorie & symbolischer Interaktionismus: historische Entwicklung

A. Smith



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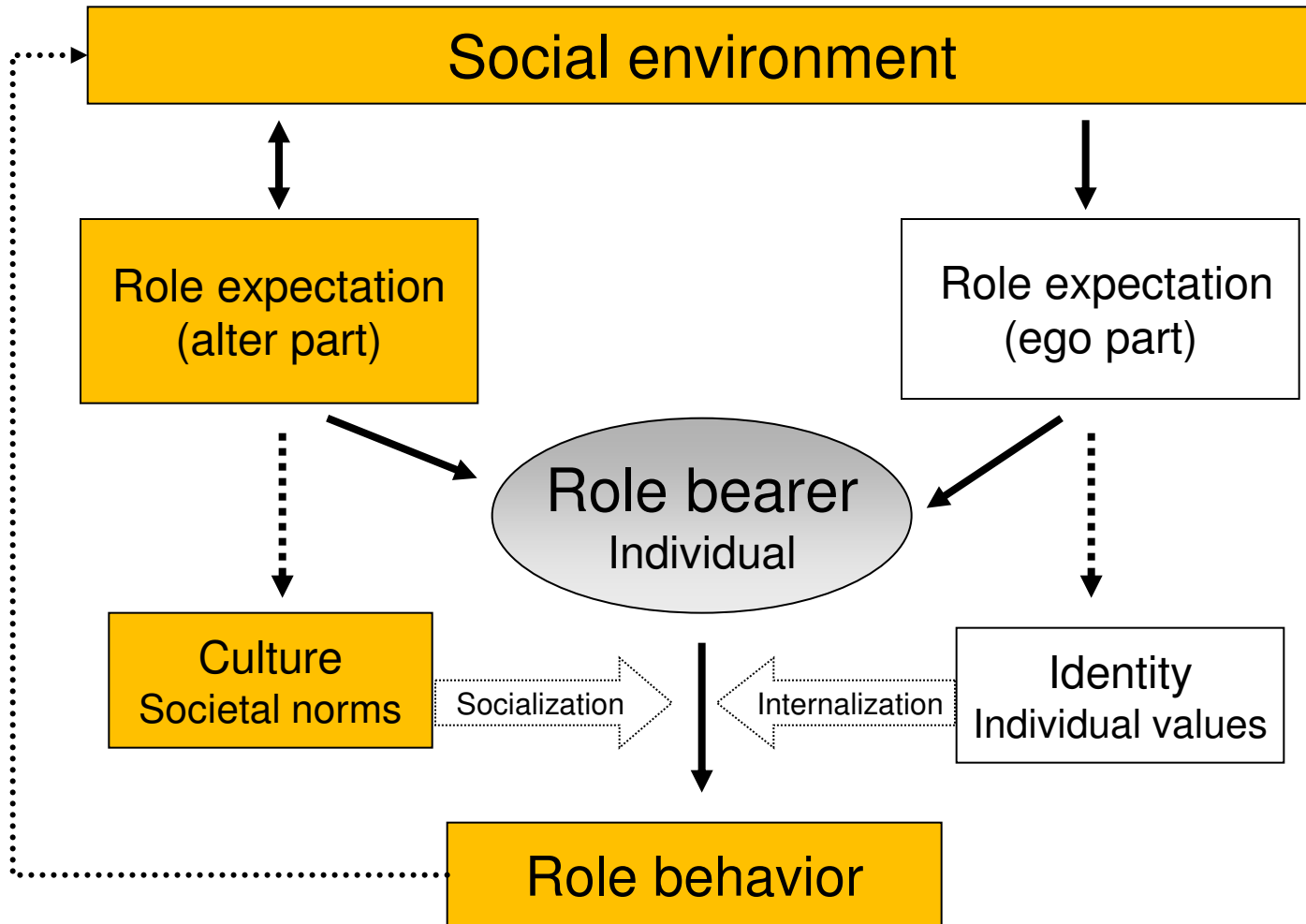
# Außenpolitische Rollen: Forschungsfelder

# Außenpolitische Rollentheorie: Forschungsfelder

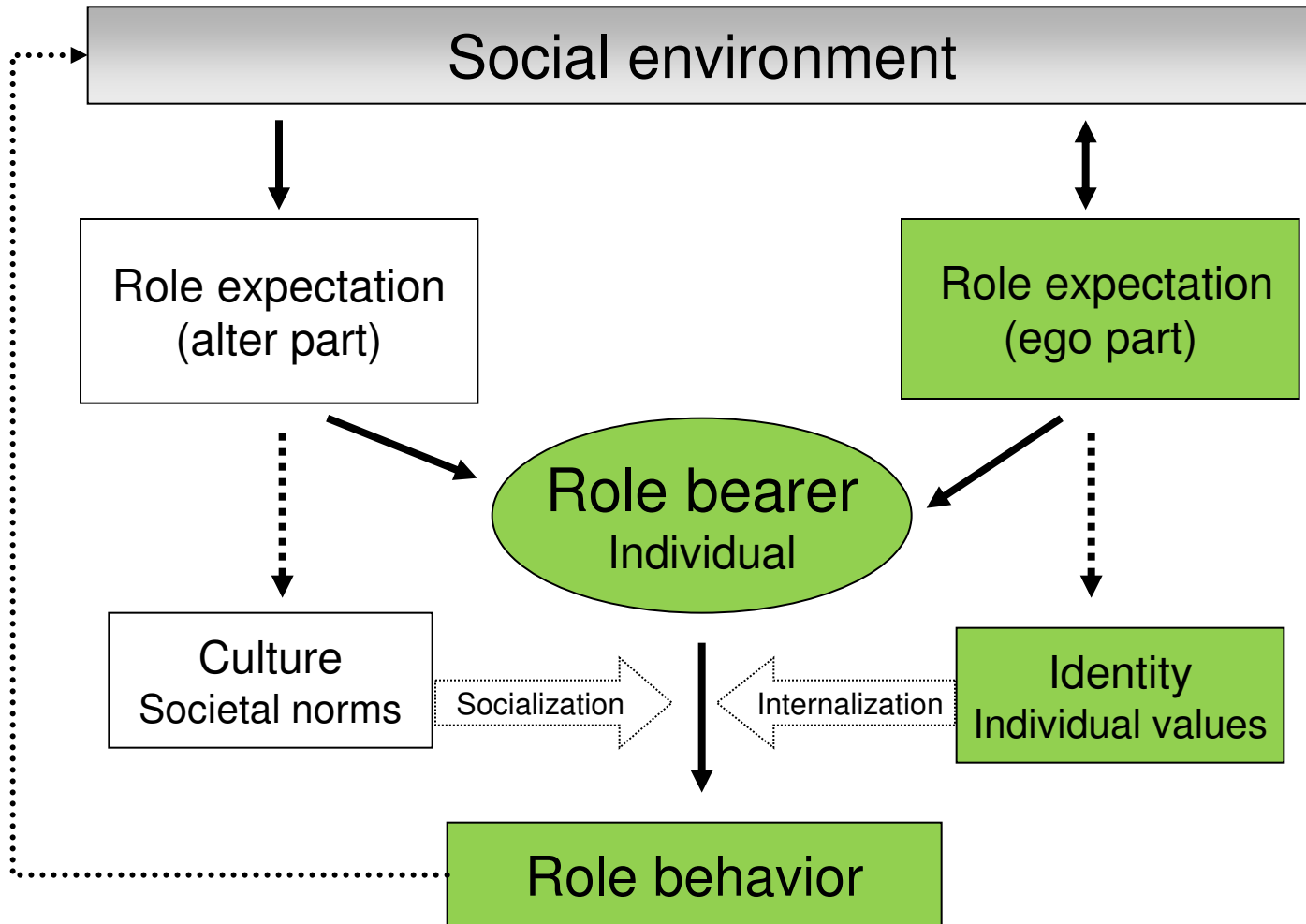
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1. Role taking and making and international social structural change (Baumann 2013)
2. Role typologies: enhanced typologies of functional roles as institutionalizations lead to further role specification: e.g. leadership roles (Harnisch 2013).
3. Roles and identities: which historical self-conceptualizations and historical roles allow for which contemporary role taking/making (Benes/Harnisch 2013; Harnisch/Baumann 2012, Harnisch 2013).
4. Foreign and domestic roles: how and how far do domestic roles of executives relate to their capacity to take on certain foreign policy roles (Harnisch/Weiss 2013; Harnisch/Schlomach, Artmann, Steiger 2013).
5. Role taking and Role making: how do they relate to regime type?

# Roles and structural change in International Relations



# Roles, Identity and the Historical Self



# International Leadership: definition and explanation

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- International leadership may be defined as a social role consisting of expectations of a group of states towards one or more group members to enhance the group's goals by means at the leaders disposal and compliance by following states. This regularly includes the partial transfer of national policy competences and power resources to the group leader (Harnisch 2013).

Leadership thus requires both hard and soft power, that is leadership through representing the interests of the group (input legitimacy of leadership) and effectively achieving the goals of the group (output legitimacy).

To pursue leadership functions, the role holder needs social capital among which trust is the most important one.

# Trust as an essential resource of international leadership

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- Trust is the belief that one will not be harmed when his or her fate is placed in the hands others (Hardin 2006: 29).

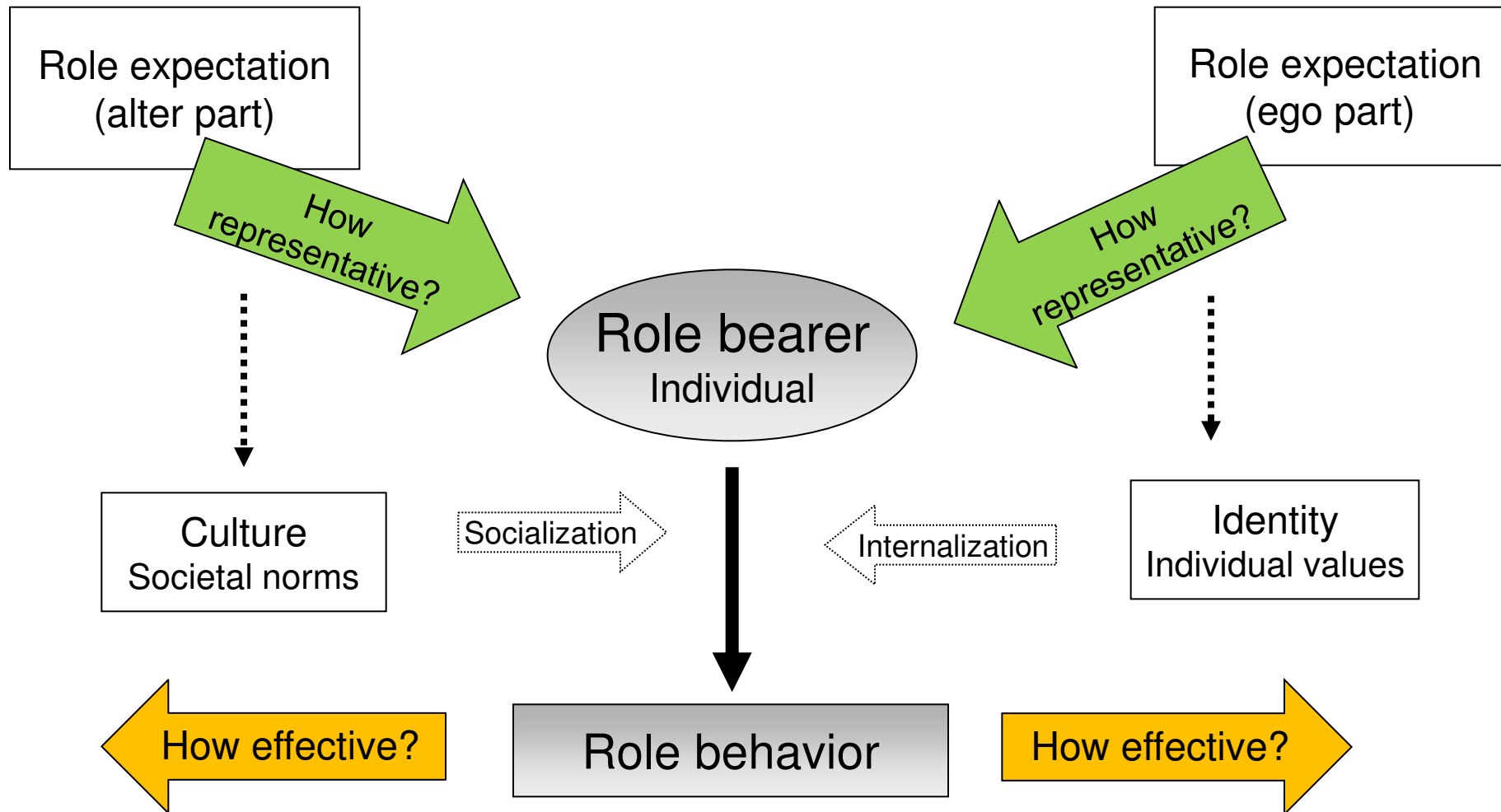
1. Trust always entails a combination of uncertainty and vulnerability as the trusting partner is exposed to potential opportunism.
2. Nicolas Luhman: „trust is paid ... as an advance on success“.
3. Ostrom/Walker: trust is not altruism but rather the expectation of reciprocity“.
4. Trust may be strategic/limited – both in scope and time – and generalized – diffuse reciprocity in kind and time.

# Measuring International leadership

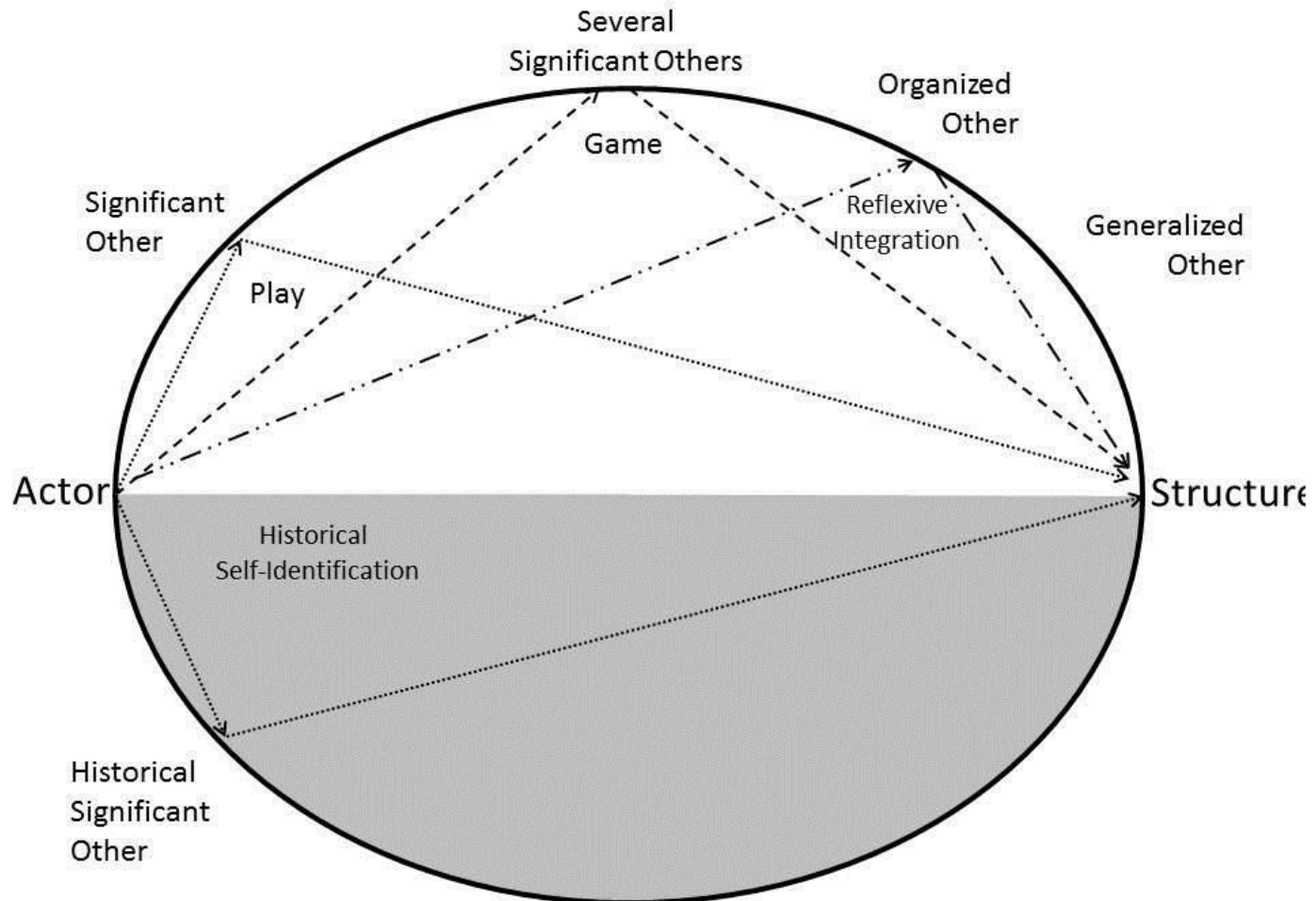
<b>Composition of leadership / Scope of constituency</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Collective</b>
Coalitional	Coalition of the willing	EU3+3
Inclusive	Germany in the Euro Crisis	EU/German leadership in UNFCCC



# Measuring International leadership: the input and output dimension



# Das historische Selbst als Kontingenz für den Prozess der Selbstidentifikation



# Korrespondenz zwischen historischer und aktueller Selbstidentifikation/Rollenübernahme

Table 1: German and Czech role types: Dimensions of role expansion

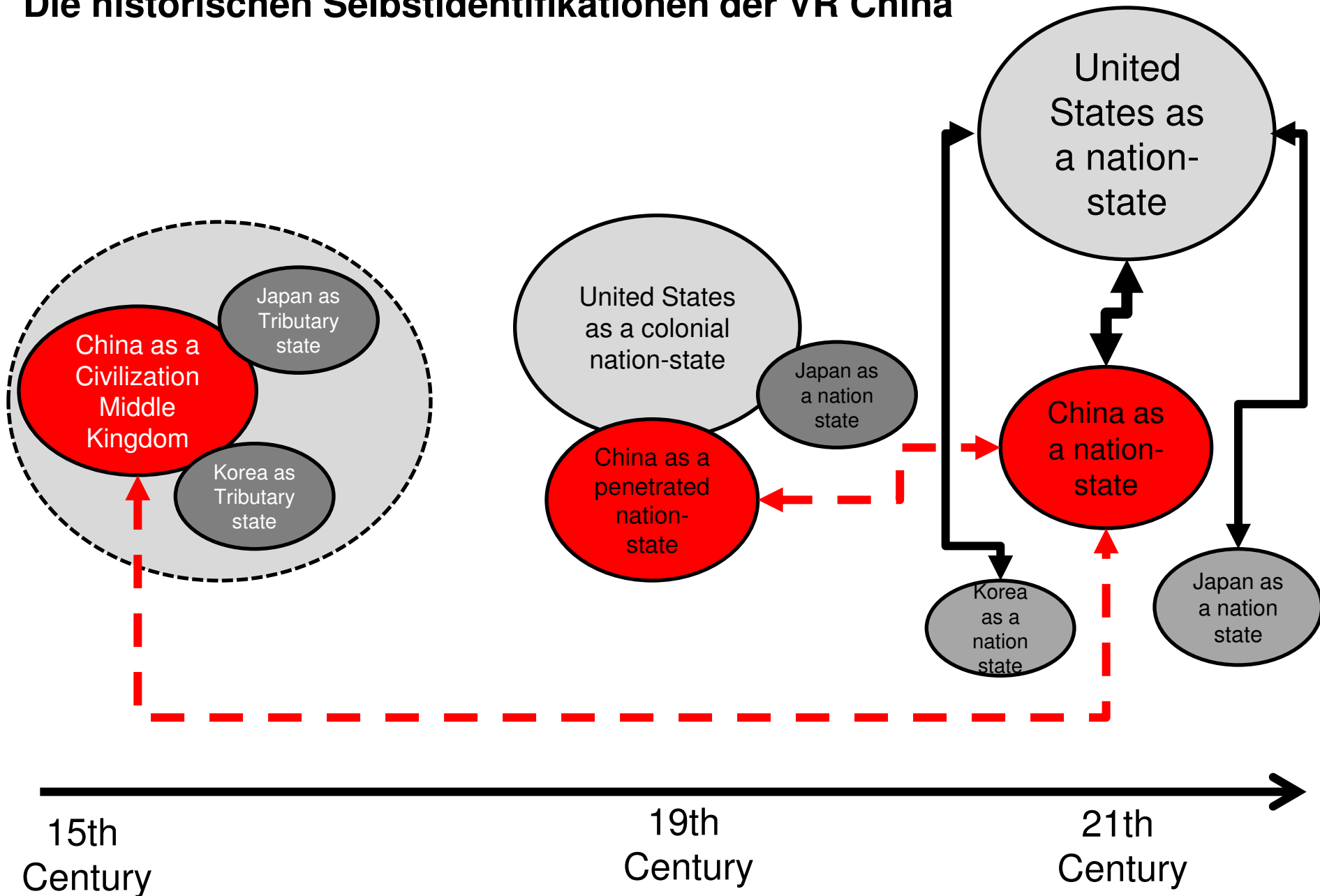
	Composition of the Self	Significant others	Organized Other / Commitment
<b>Germany</b>	Negative ego-part demarcation Positive alter-part attribution	Split European-/ Transatlantic othering	Strong domestic + external commitment
<b>Czech Republic</b>	positive ego-part attribution negative alter-part demarcation	Evolution of negative othering vis-à-vis great powers	Growing domestic + weak external commitment??

Benes/Harnisch 2013

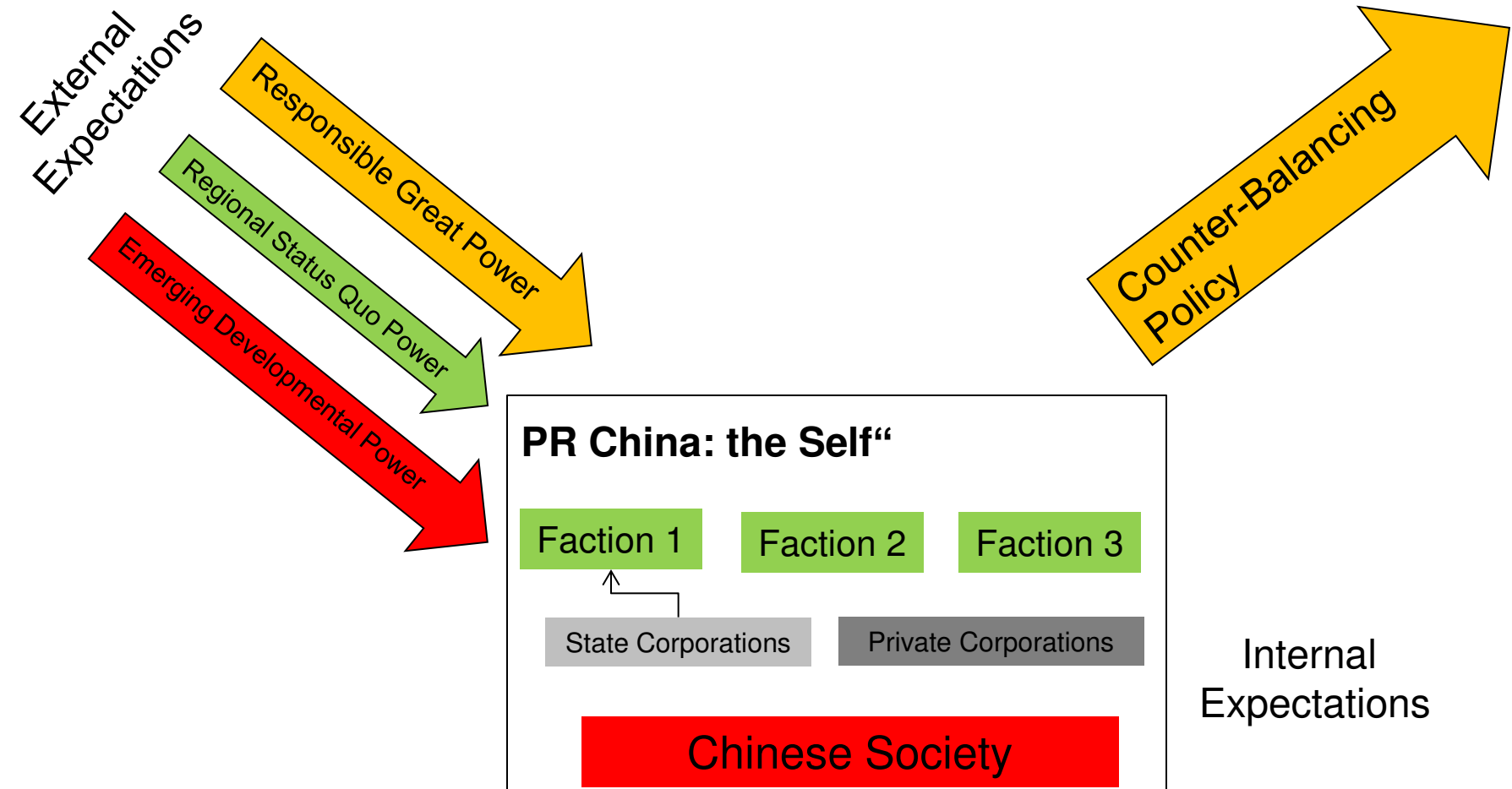
# Post World War II Role taking process by PR China

The „Other“	Soviet Union <b>Primary Socializer</b>	Bandung Group (77) <b>Primary Socializers</b>	Soviet Union <b>Primary negative Socializer</b>	Soviet Union / USA <b>Primary negative Socializers</b>
<b>Post WW II Period</b>	<b>1949-1954</b>	<b>1954-1957</b>	<b>1958-1965</b>	<b>1966-1970</b>
The Historical „Self“	China as a Victim (of capitalist domination)	China as a Victim (of capitalist domination)	China as a Victim (of colonial domination)	China as a Victim (of colonial domination)

# Die historischen Selbstidentifikationen der VR China



# The institutional structure of the „Self“: Integrating Comparative Politics and Role theory



# Politikwandel als doppelter Rollenwandel

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