

**Family and Demographic Behavior in
Central and Eastern Europe: Changing
Influence of Developmental Idealism,
Political Economy, and Intergenerational
Relationships**

Arland Thornton and Dimiter Philipov

Focus of the Paper

- 1. Central and Eastern Europe.**
- 2. Period after the Collapse of Communism: 1989 to the Present.**
- 3. Family and Demographic Change.**
- 4. Influence of Developmental Models and Motivations on Behavior.**

Phenomenon We Want to Explain

- 1. Declines or delays in fertility.**
- 2. Declines in abortion; increases in contraception.**
- 3. Declines in marriage rates and increases in age at marriage.**
- 4. Increases in unmarried cohabitation.**
- 5. Increases in nonmarital childbearing.**
- 6. Similar changes in beliefs, values, and attitudes.**

Several Existing Explanations

- 1. Promarriage and pronatalist policies were abandoned or weakened.**
- 2. Drop in standard of living.**
- 3. New uncertainty.**
- 4. Old institutions shattered and old norms weakened.**
- 5. New attitudes and values.**
- 6. Increased importance of education.**

Goals of this Paper

1. **Not to discredit existing explanations.**
2. **Present additional explanatory factors.**
3. **Discuss how the new models combine with the old ones to explain trends.**
4. **Solicit feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of our model.**

The Developmental Model

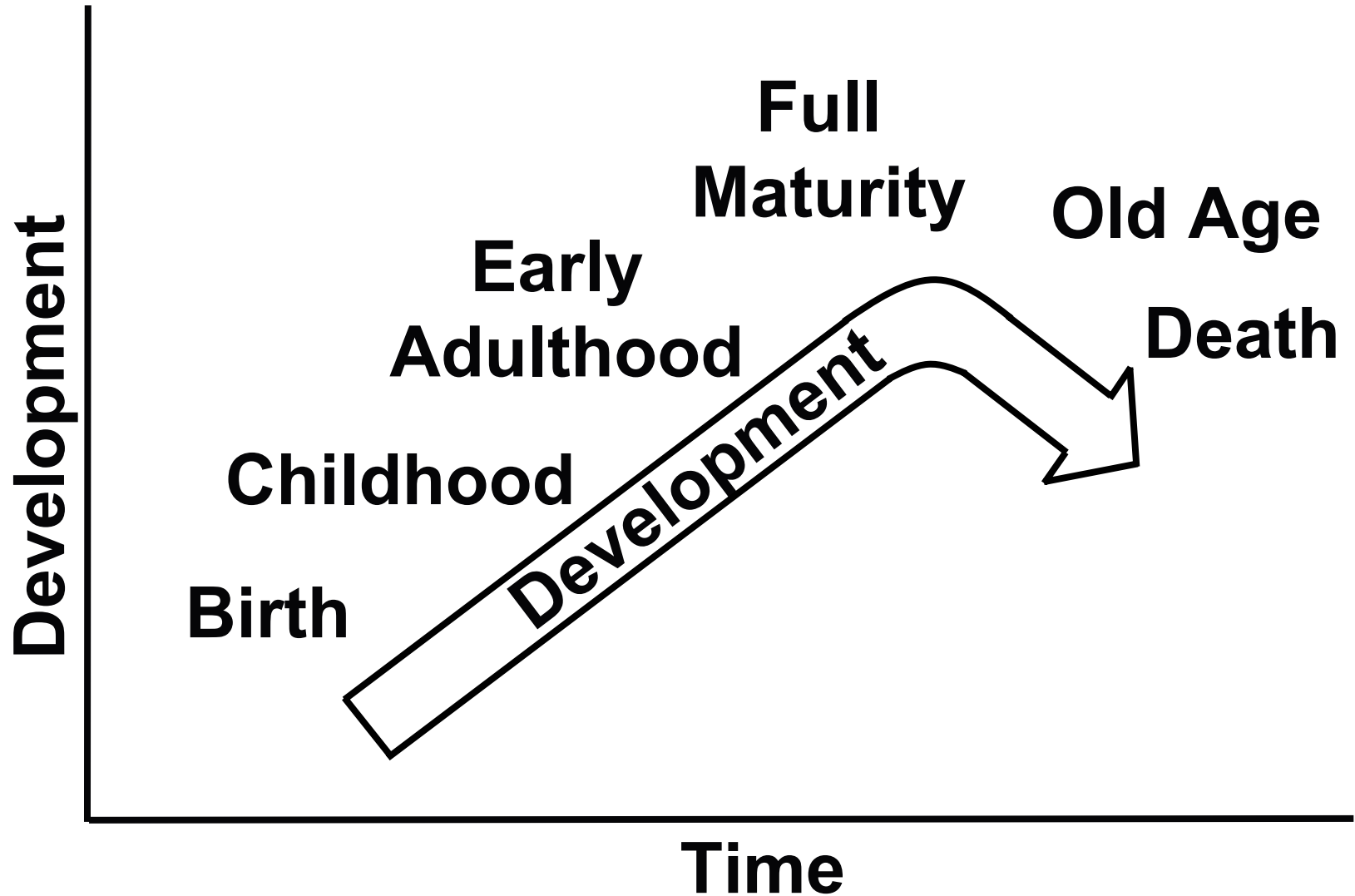
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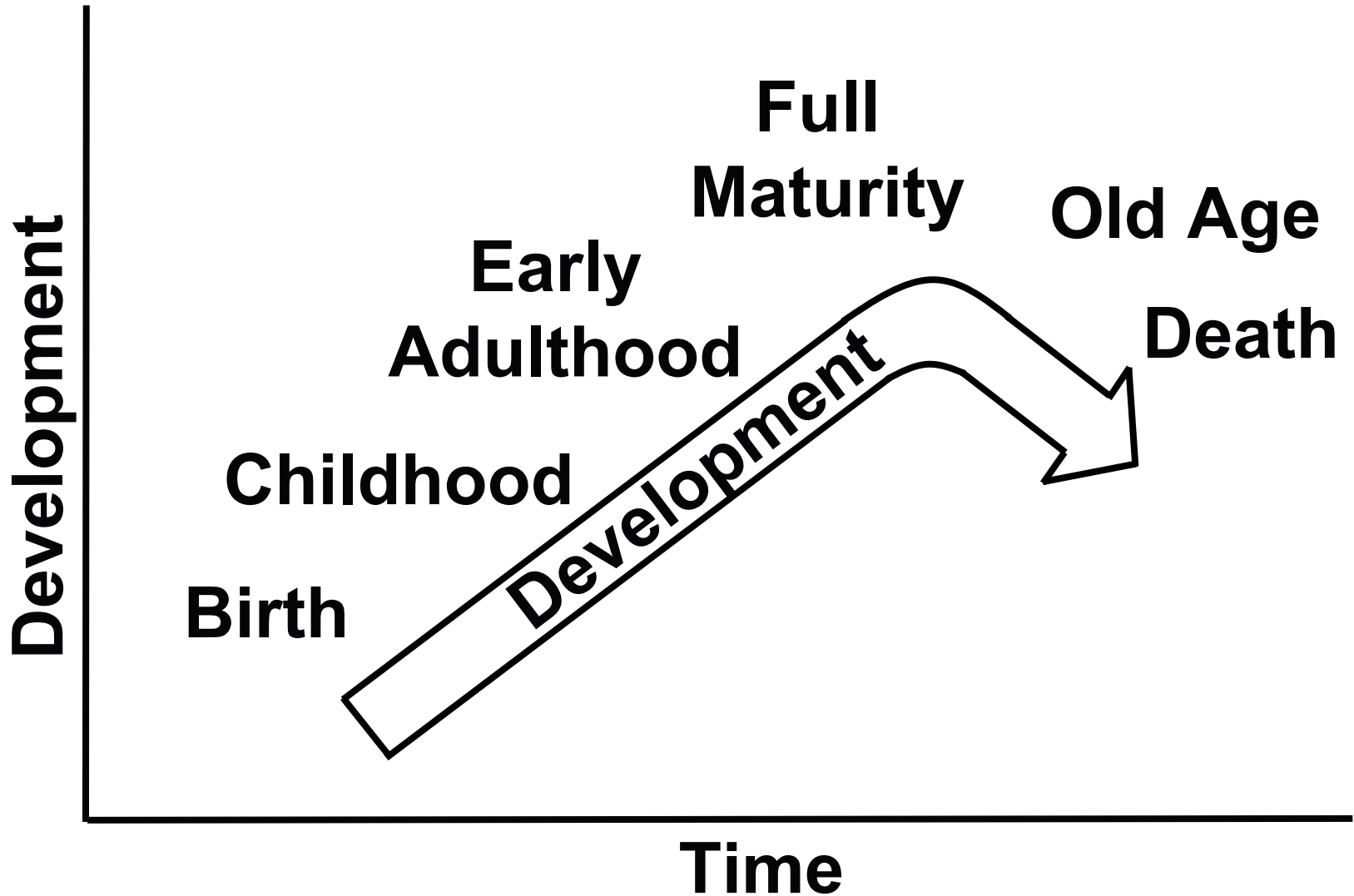
1. The developmental paradigm is a model of change.

2. Change is pictured as natural, uniform, necessary, and directional.

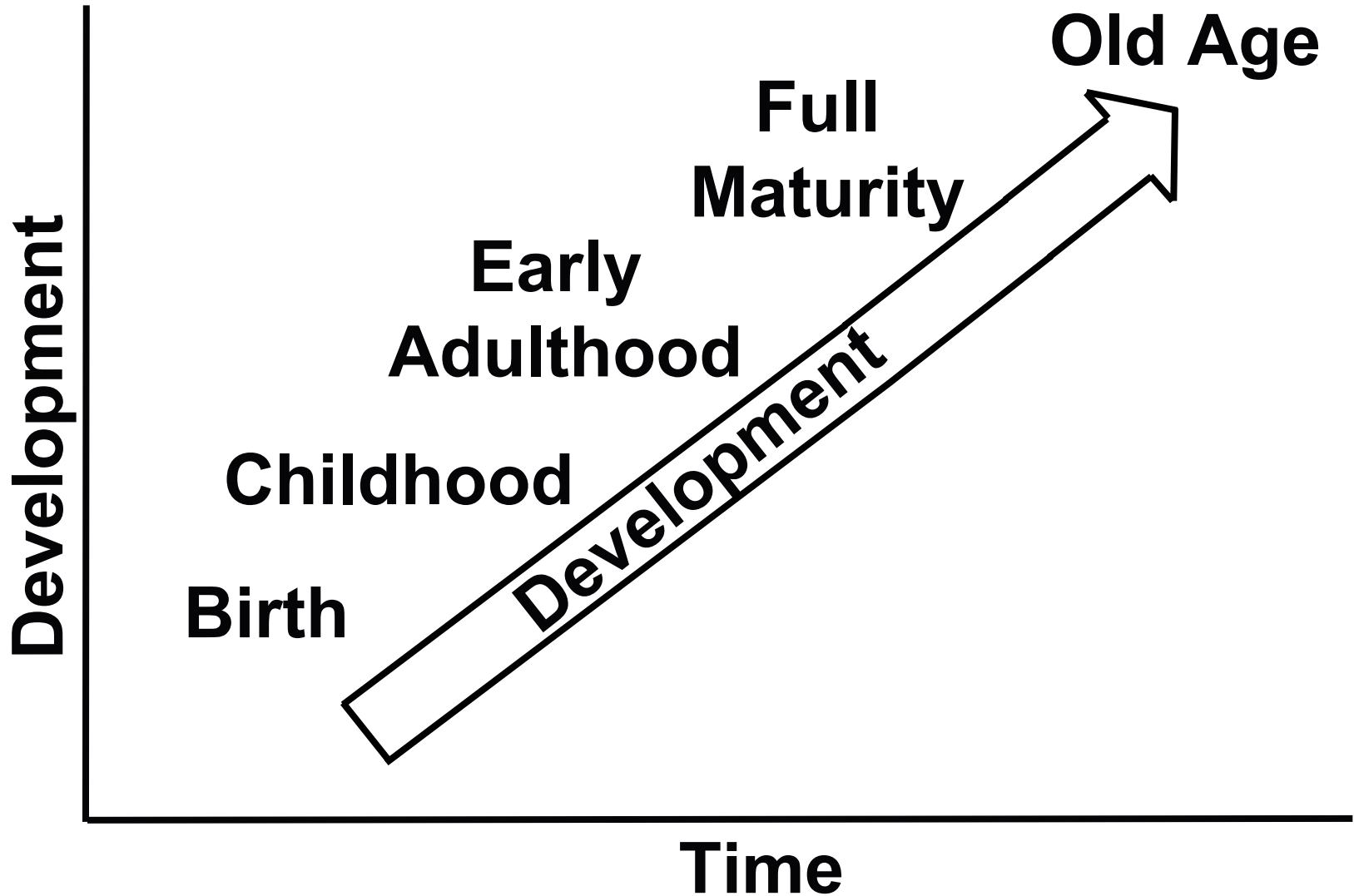
Individual Development



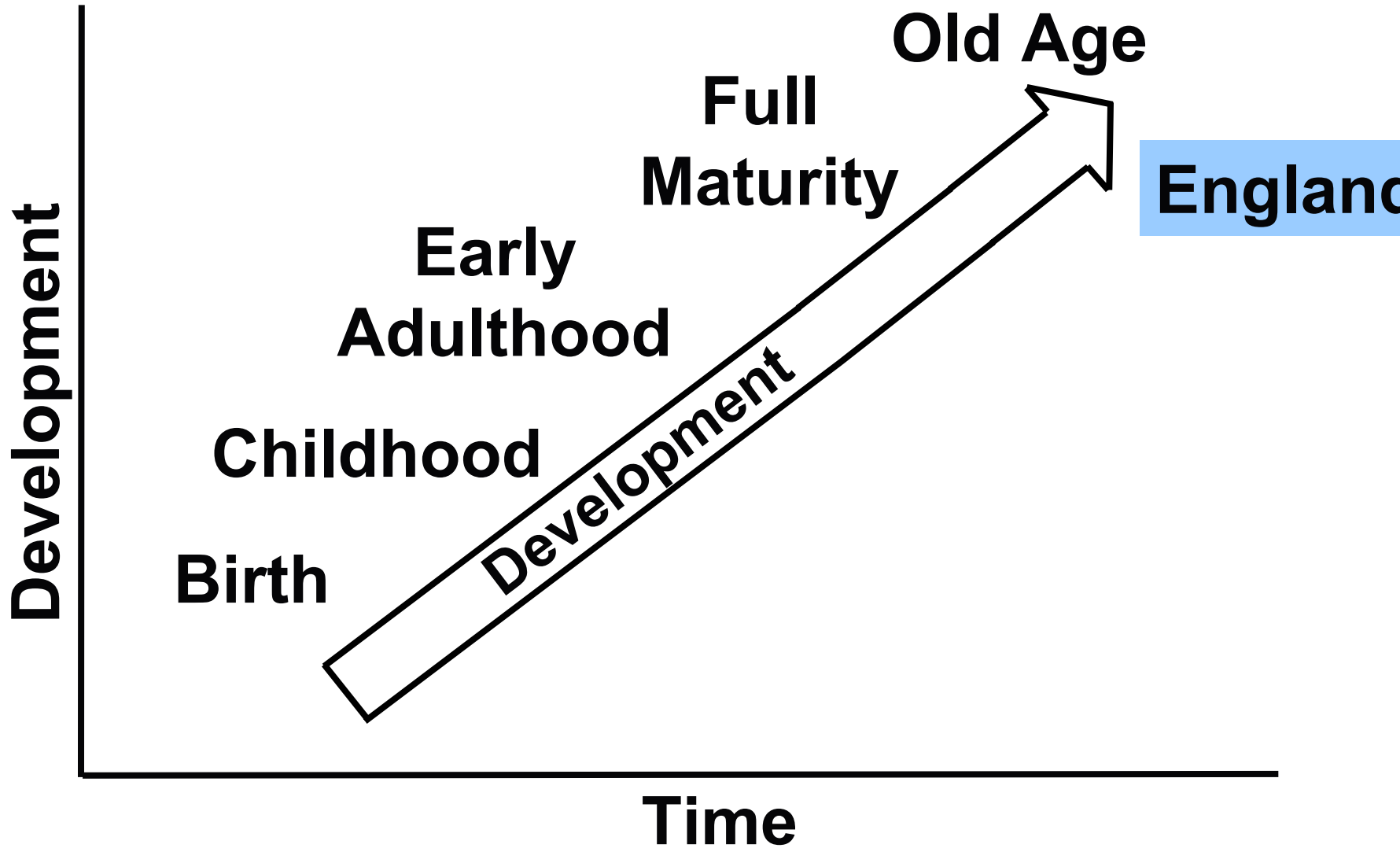
Societal Development



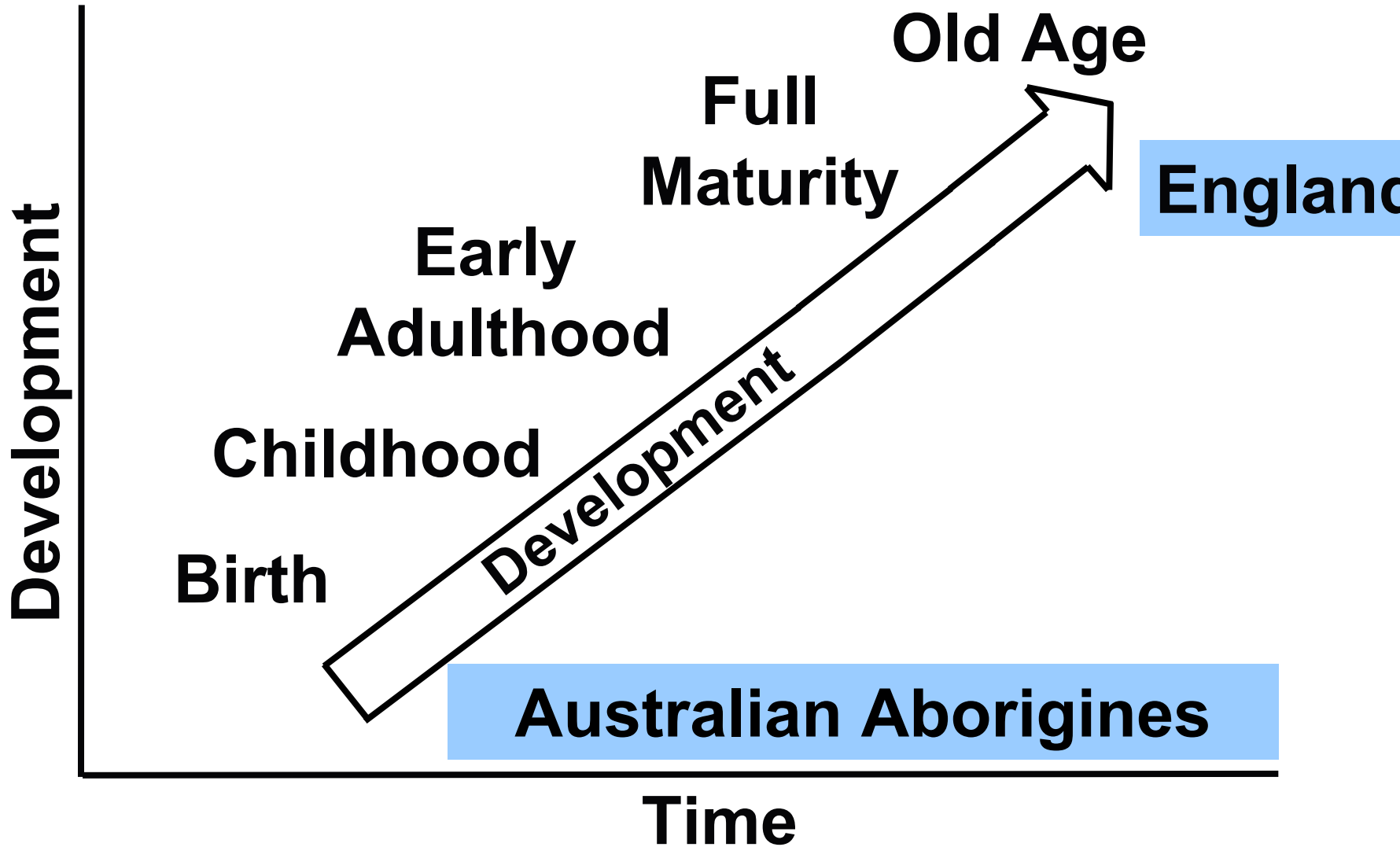
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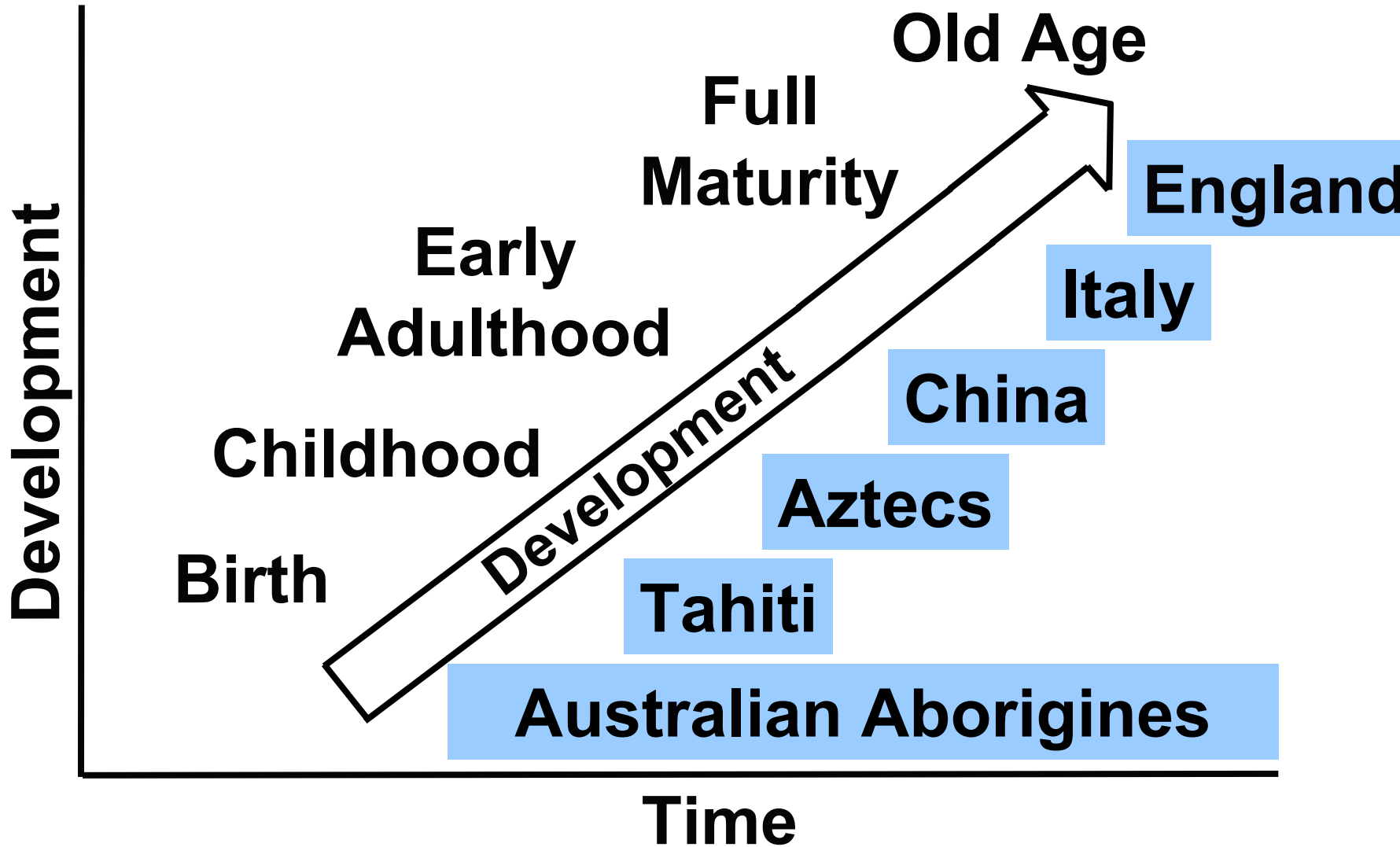
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Reading History Sideways

The scholars of the enlightenment used the developmental paradigm to create a reading history sideways methodology for describing change.

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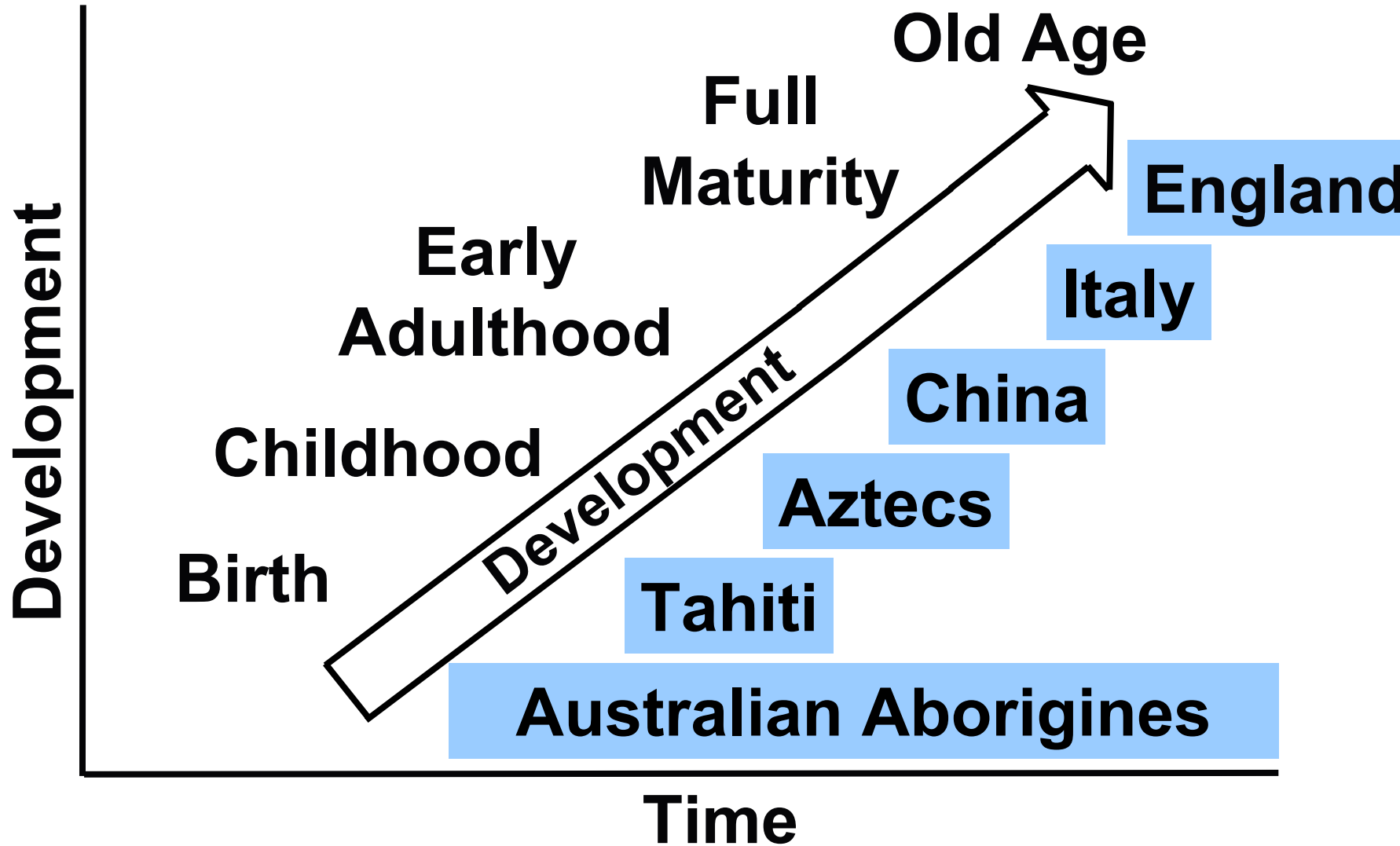
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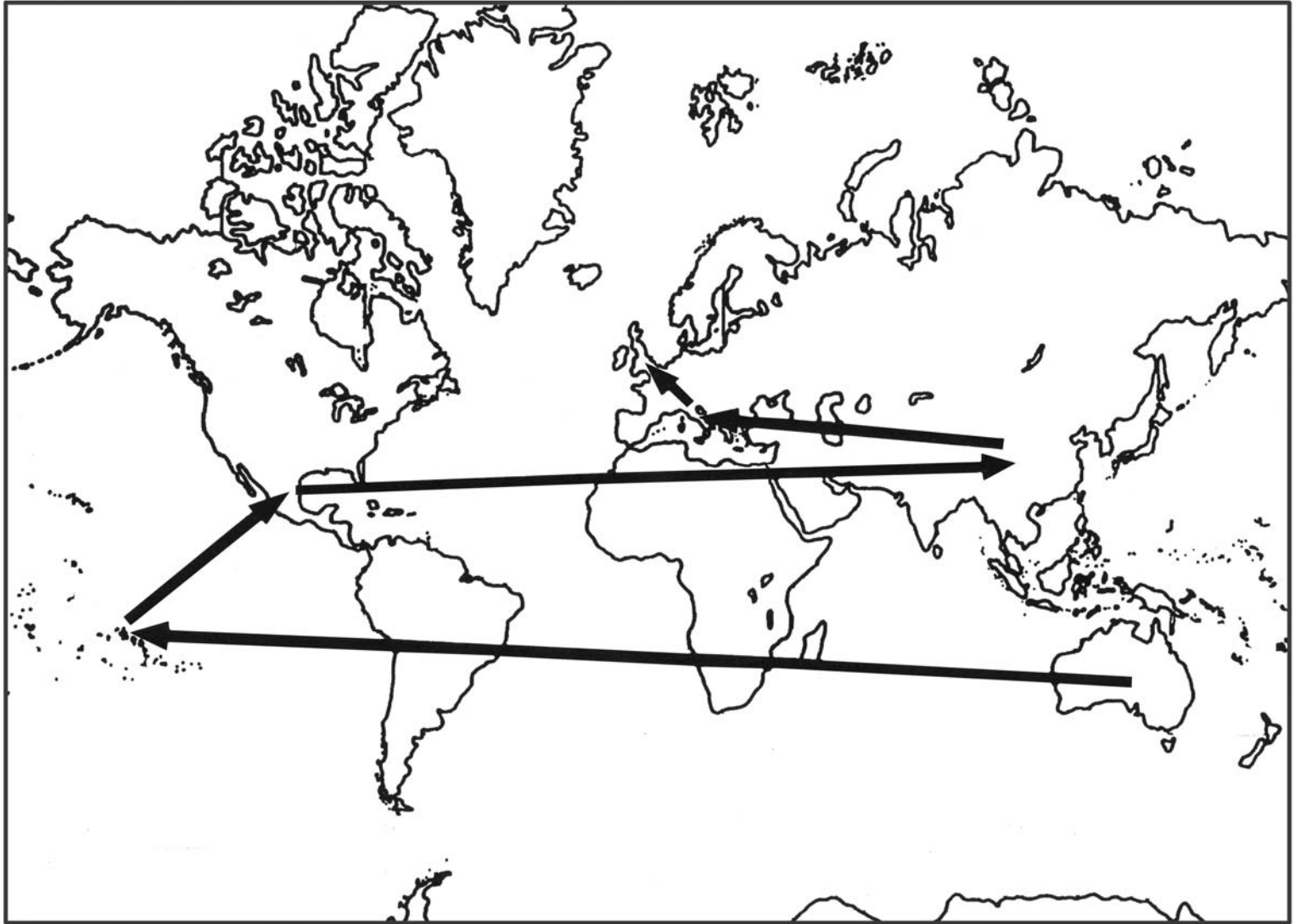
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b. They substituted variations across space for variations across time.

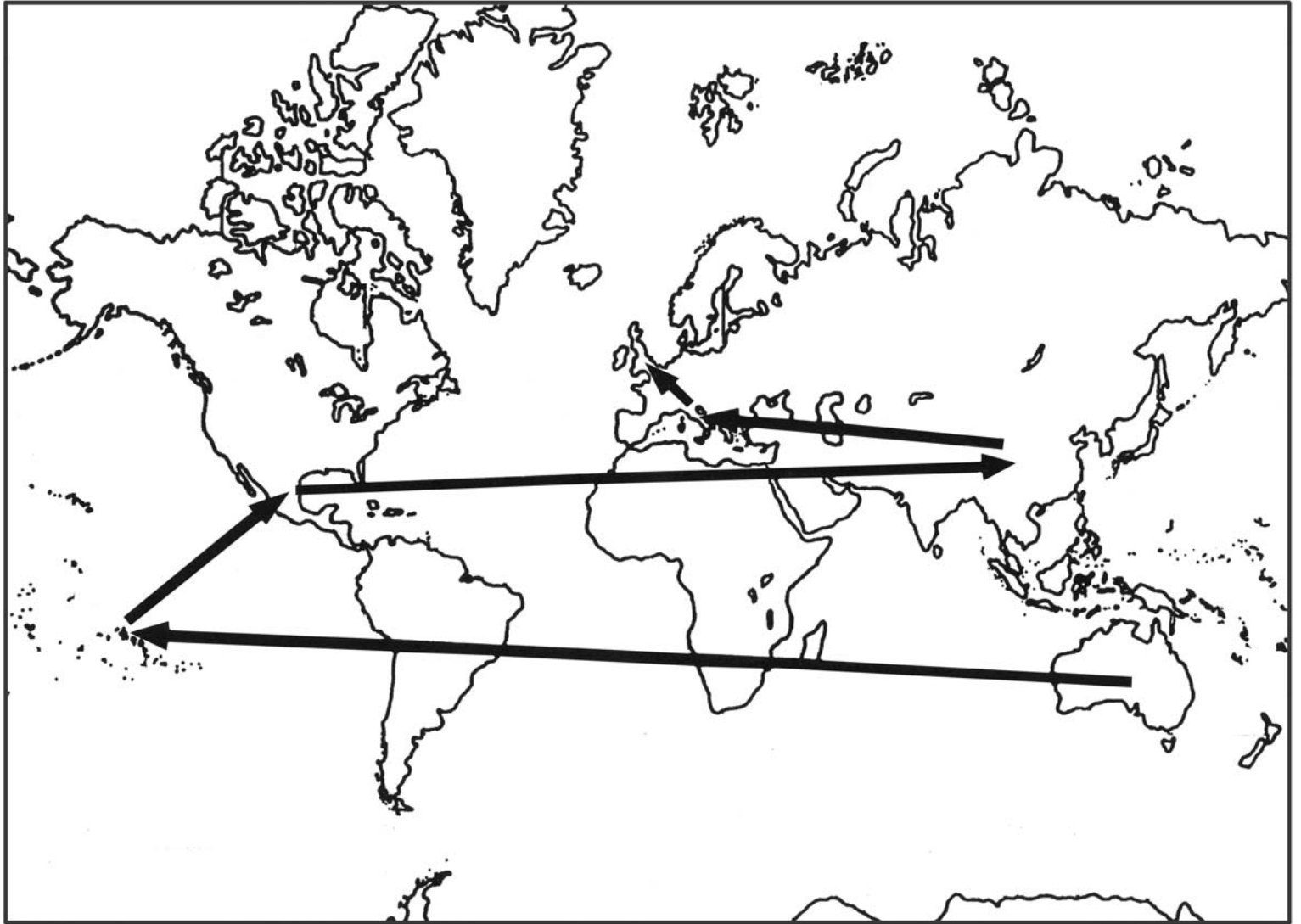
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Reading History Sideways on a Trip Around the World



Reading FUTURE Sideways on a Trip Around the World



Disclaimer

- 1. NOT presenting the developmental paradigm or reading history/future sideways to advocate them as research or policy tools.**
- 2. Instead, reject them as models for research and practice.**
- 3. Present them here ONLY to show their widespread and influential use.**

Cross-Sectional Differences in Family System

Non-Northwest Europe

Family Organized

Family Solidarity

Extended Households

Young Marriage

Parental Authority

Arranged Marriage

Gender Hierarchy

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Northwest Europe

Less Family Organized

Individualism

Nuclear Households

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Marital Courtship

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Marital Courtship
Gender Egalitarianism

The Great Family Transition


Traditional

Family Organized
Family Solidarity
Extended Households
Young Marriage
Parental Authority
Arranged Marriage
Gender Hierarchy

Modern

Less Family Organized
Individualism
Nuclear Households
Older Marriage
Youthful Autonomy
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Gender Egalitarianism

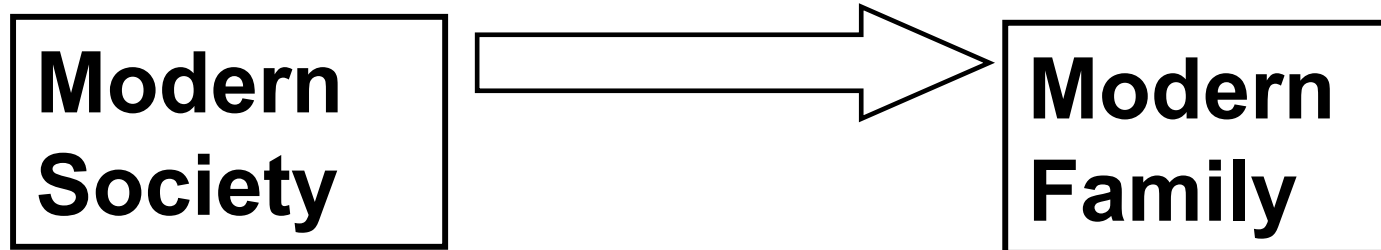
Development



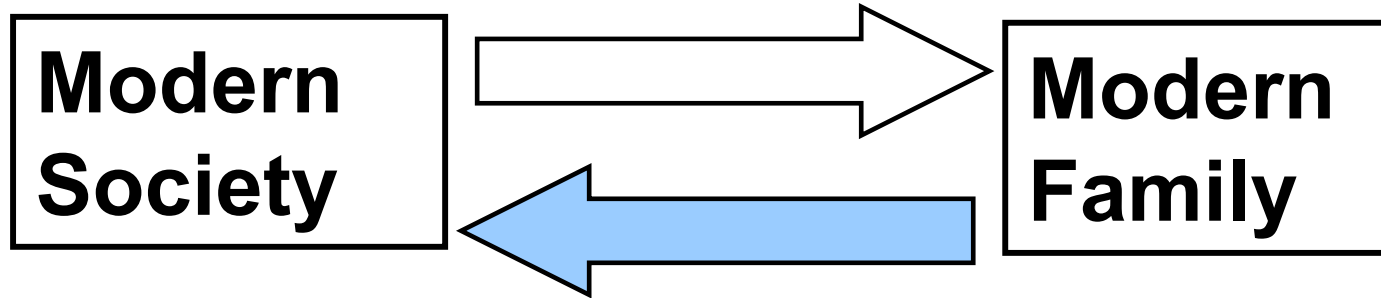
Modern Society

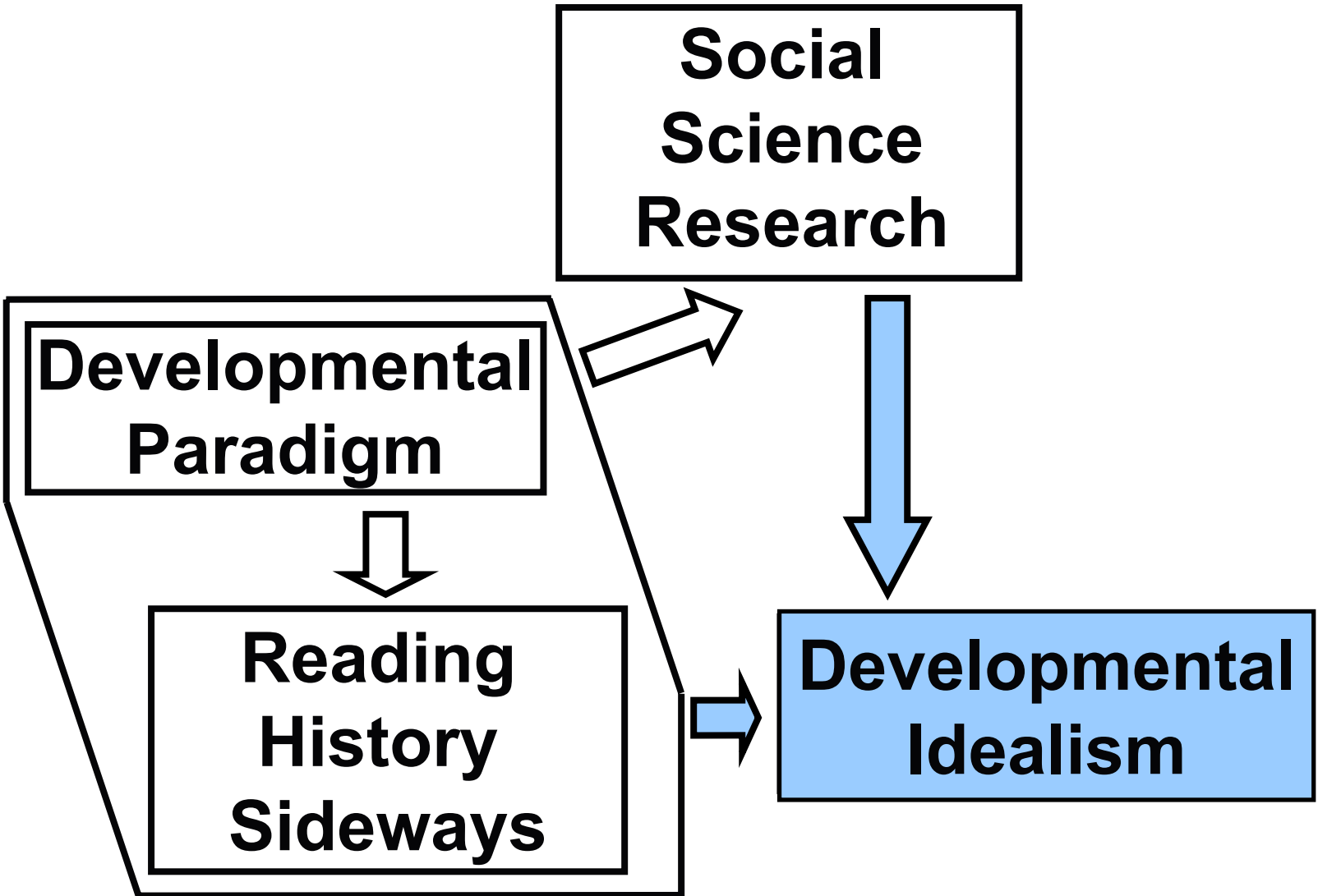
- Industrialized**
- Urbanized**
- High Levels of Education**
- High Consumption and Mobility Aspirations**
- Democracy**
- Religious Pluralism and Secularism**

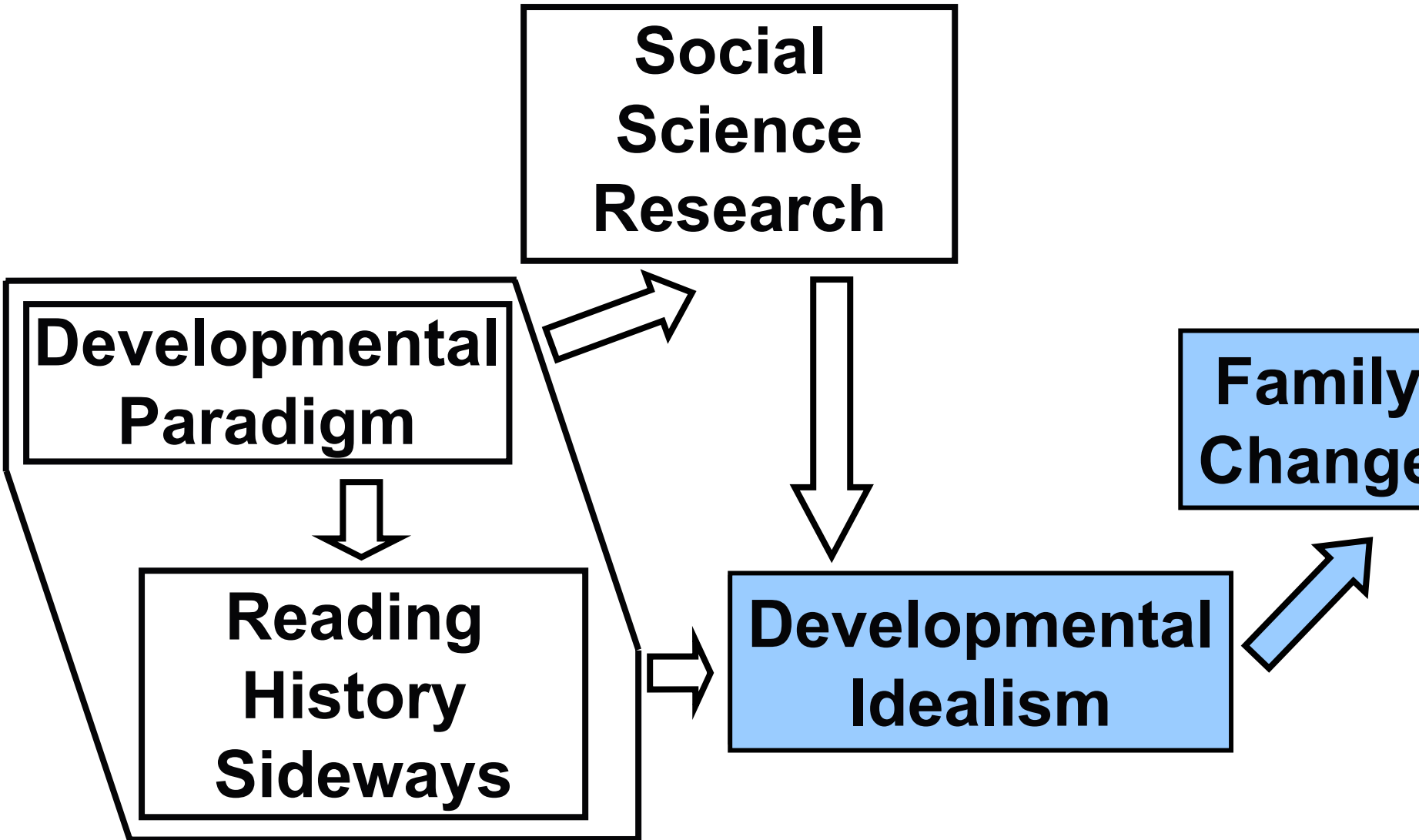
Explaining the Family Transition



Explaining the Family Transition







Elements of Developmental Idealism

1. Modern society is good and includes:

- Industrialized
- Urbanized
- Highly Educated
- Highly Knowledgeable

Elements of Developmental Idealism

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2. Modern family is good and includes:

- Individualism
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- Old Age at Marriage
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1. Modern society is good.

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- Nuclear Households
- Old Age at Marriage
- Youthful Autonomy
- Courtship in Marriage
- Gender Egalitarianism
- Family Planning
- Low Fertility

Elements of Developmental Idealism

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2. **Modern family is good.**
3. **Modern family is a cause and effect of a modern society.**

Elements of Developmental Idealism

- 1. Modern society is good.**
- 2. Modern family is good.**
- 3. Modern family is a cause and effect of a modern society.**
- 4. Individuals have the right to be free and equal and have their relationships based on consent.**

Spread of Developmental Idealism

- Writings of scholars**
- Mass education**
- Mass media**
- Christianity**
- Colonization**
- Democratic movements**
- Communism**
- United Nations**
- Non-government organizations**
- U.S. foreign policy**
- Civil rights**
- Women's rights**
- Family planning**

Points About Developmental Idealism

1. Point is Not whether the elements are true or false, good or bad.
2. Point is whether they are accepted, rejected, or modified.
3. Point is whether they motivate new behavior.
4. We argue that their acceptance can lead to family and demographic change.

For Centuries Model Known and Accepted in Central and Eastern Europe

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- 5. How did that happen?**

Start with the Soviet Era

- 1. Authoritarian and repressive government.**
- 2. Communism had a developmental model promising rapid economic growth.**
- 3. But, the economy stagnated.**
- 4. Malaise of aspirations.**
- 5. Limited flow of information and ideas from the outside.**

After the Transformation

- 1. West became a beacon and model for Central/Eastern Europe.**
- 2. New flows of information and people.**
- 3. Adoption of democratic governments.**
- 4. Adoption of market economies.**
- 5. Movement to join NATO and the European Union.**

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Future Research

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- 2. Do people in the region see modern societies and modern families as good?**
- 3. Do they see family and society as causally connected?**
- 4. How do such beliefs and values influence current and future behavior?**

We welcome

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- 5. Other material at:
<http://developmentalidealism.org/>**

Thank You

Arland and Dimiter