

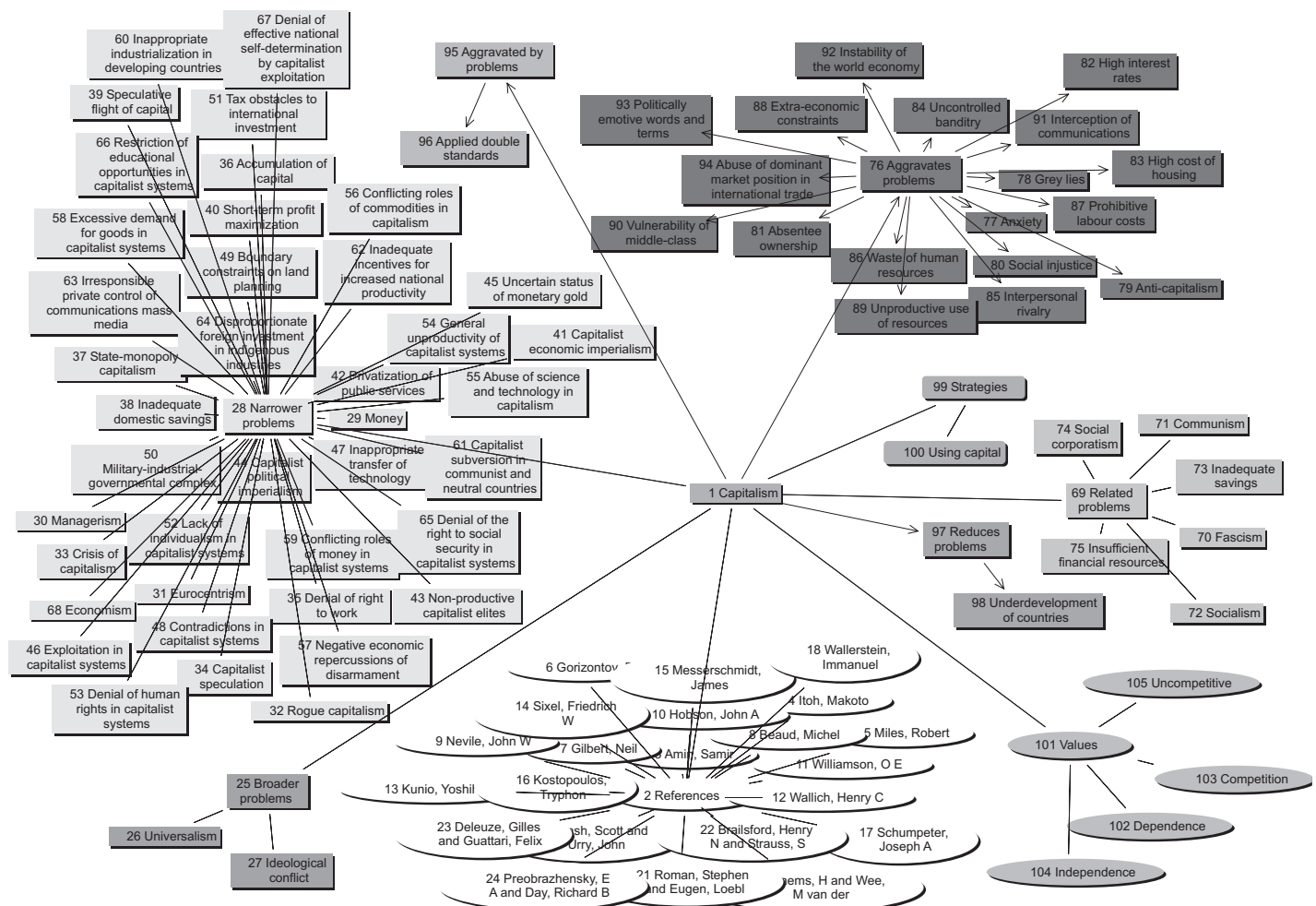
Figure 10.2.2.1. Capitalism

Database: World Problems and Issues

Link type: broader, narrower, related, aggravated by, aggravates, reduces, references, values, strategies

Network nodes: 105

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&DR=C0564> used in *Decision Explorer* (<http://www.banxia.com/>)



Capitalism is an economic and social system, the main attributes of which are: dominance of commodity-money relations and private property in the means of production; developed social division of labour; increasing socialization of production; and transformation of labour power into a commodity. The shaping of the globe into a single, coherent system built on exploitation is the direct consequence of the pursuit of the valorization of capital. The current catastrophic state of the world system is a product of both the exigencies of the valorization of capital and the degrees of resistance to it encountered or engendered in the course of the history of the modern period. Since its inception, the capitalist system has combined the pursuit of valorization with unrestrained geographical expansion. It is this physical, and where necessary militarily aggressive, conquest which has given capitalism its world-wide systemic character. In its process of development, monopoly capitalism evolves into state monopoly capitalism, which is characterized by the interlocking of the financial oligarchy with the upper echelons of the bureaucracy, the increased role of the state in all spheres of social life, the growth of the state sector in the economy, and increasingly active policies aimed at mitigating the socioeconomic contradictions of capitalism. When associated with imperialism, this engenders a profound crisis in bourgeois democracy, an intensification of reactionary tendencies, and the increased role of force in domestic and foreign policy. It is inseparable from the growth of militarism and military expenditures, the arms race, and tendencies towards the unleashing of aggressive wars. Advanced capitalism is characterized by contradictions, namely the emergence of conditions, through the very success of capitalism, which are fundamentally antagonistic to capitalism itself, intensify with time, and cannot be resolved within the capitalist framework. The development of capitalism produces changes that call into question the social desirability of the drive for profits. It becomes incompatible with the further development of human potential and capacities.