

Nodal Governance and Health Promotion

Susan P Mercado
WHO, Western Pacific Region
PROLEAD



What is governance?

- Governance can be seen as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. (**UNDP 1994**)



Core Characteristics of Good Governance

- Participation
- Rule of law
- Transparency
- Responsiveness
- Consensus orientation
- Equity
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Accountability
- Strategic vision



Where did it all begin?

- The treaty of Westphalia in 1618
- Hapsburgs were trying to consolidate various kingdoms of Europe
- Violent religious wars between protestants and catholics
- Resulted in the “peace of Westphalia” which created the notion of the “nation state” as we know it today



What was the treaty of Westphalia?

- ❑ The king is emperor in his own realm and is not subject to any other sovereign; all kings are equal
- ❑ The ruler determines the religion of his realm; no one can intervene on religious grounds
- ❑ Balance of power prevents hegemony or imposing power by any state by invading/conquering another

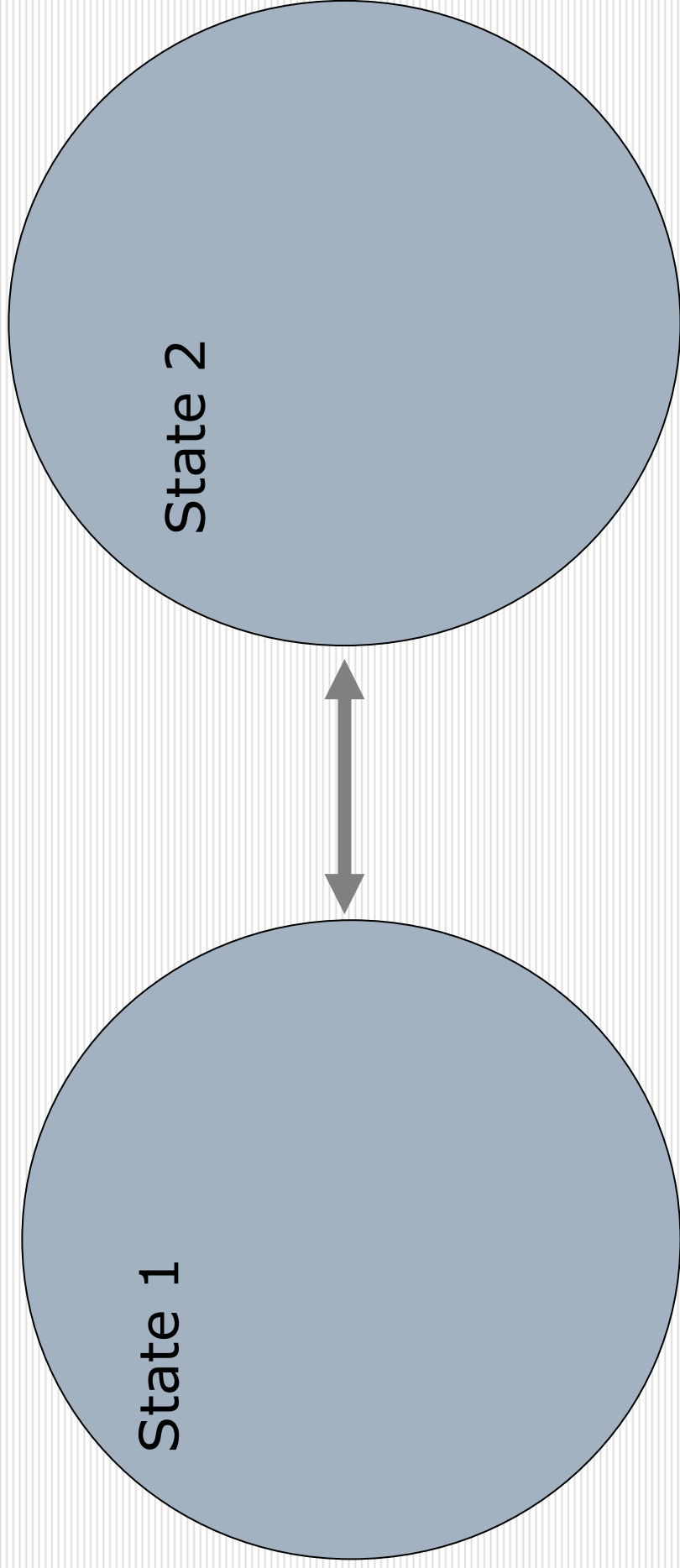


How relevant is the Westphalia model today considering....

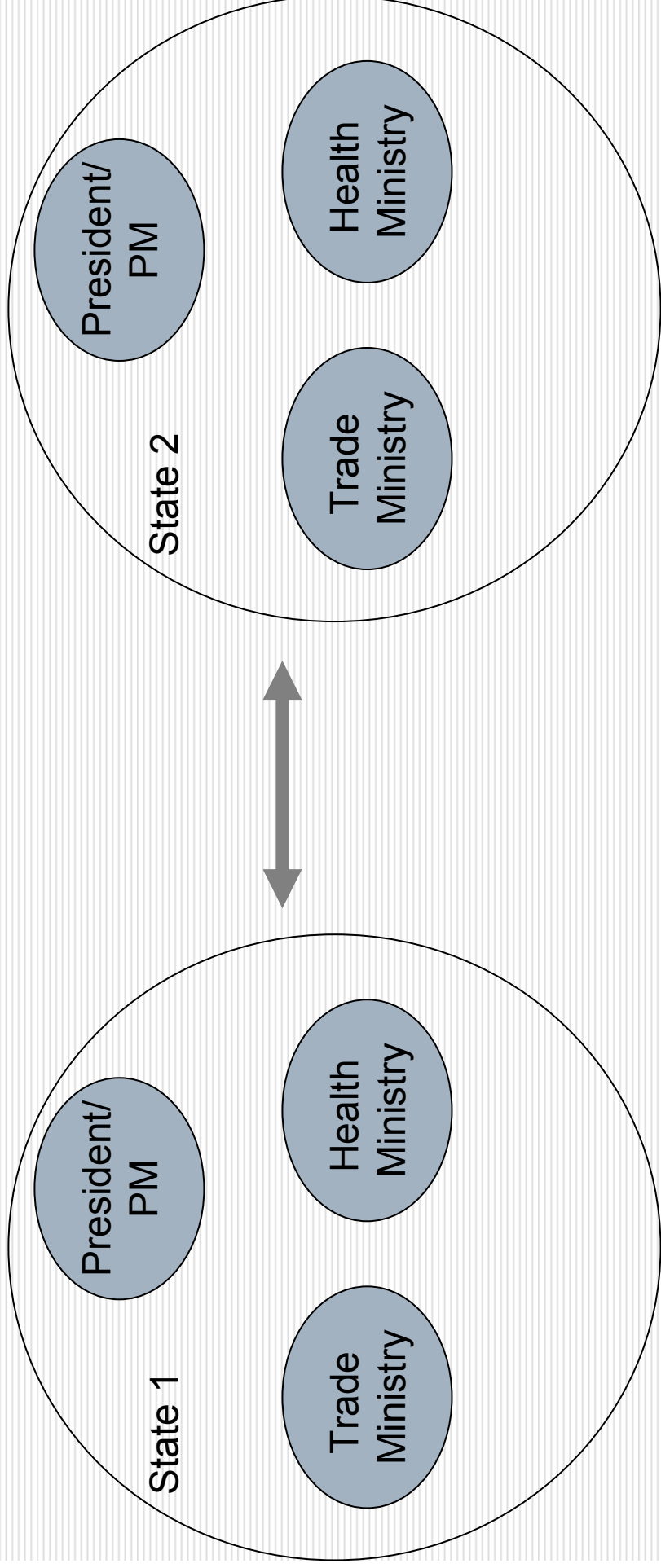
- There are numerous non-state actors
- Globalization has resulted in the rise of economies that can “drive” governance
- Governance now occurs in multi-levels with complex interconnections
- Burris, Shearing and Wood



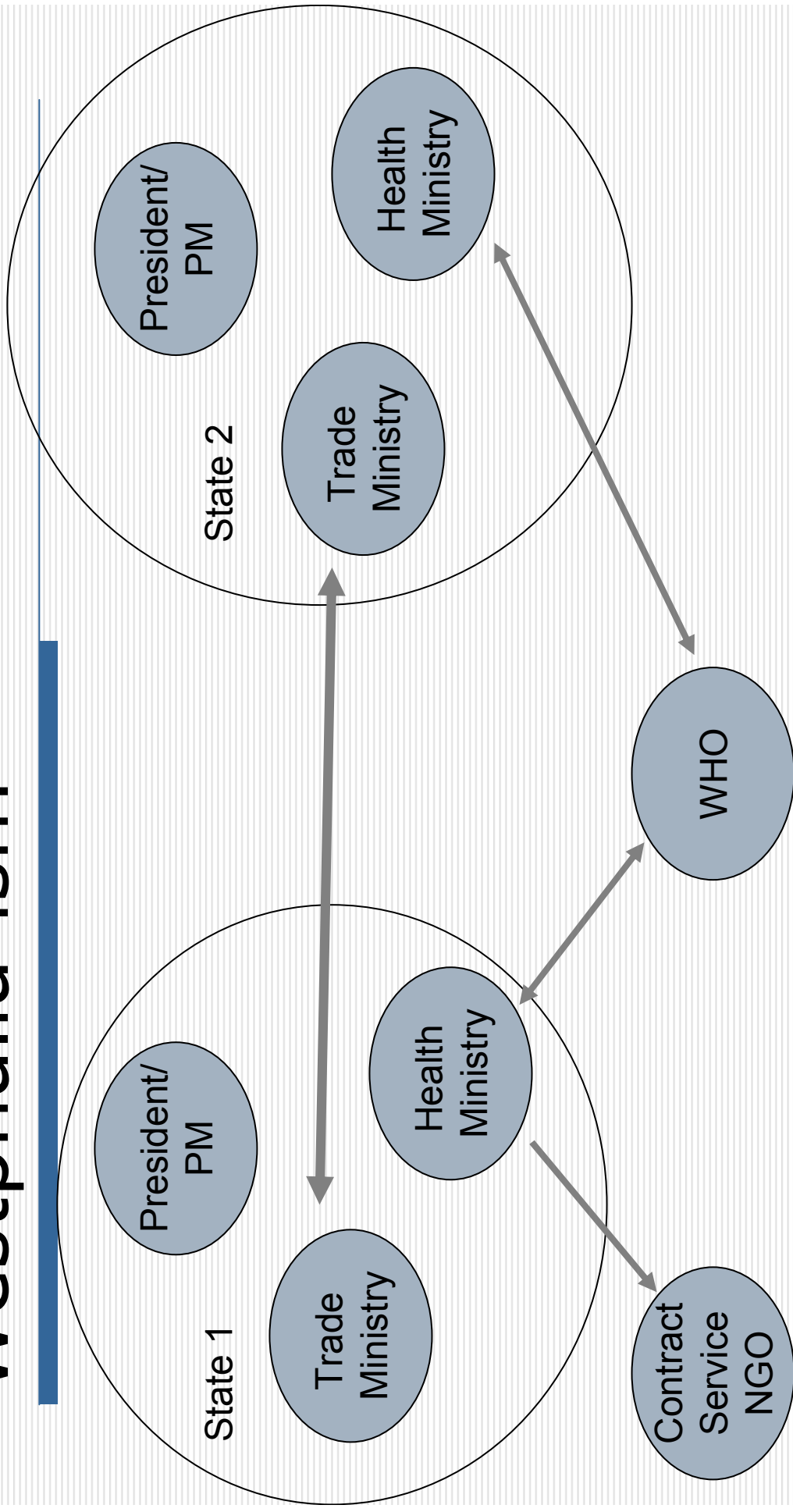
Classic Westphalia

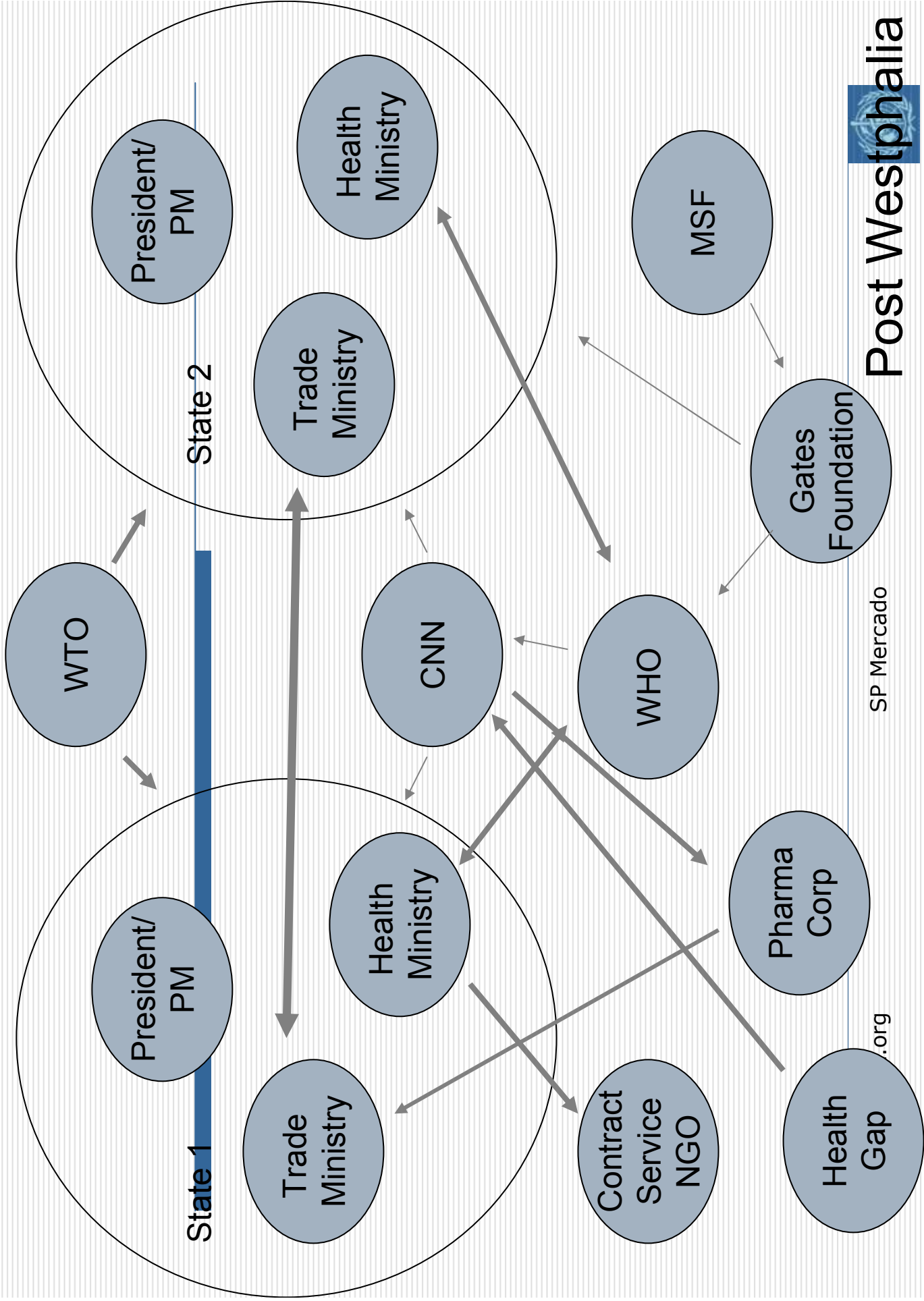


Westphalia Lite



Westphalia-ish?

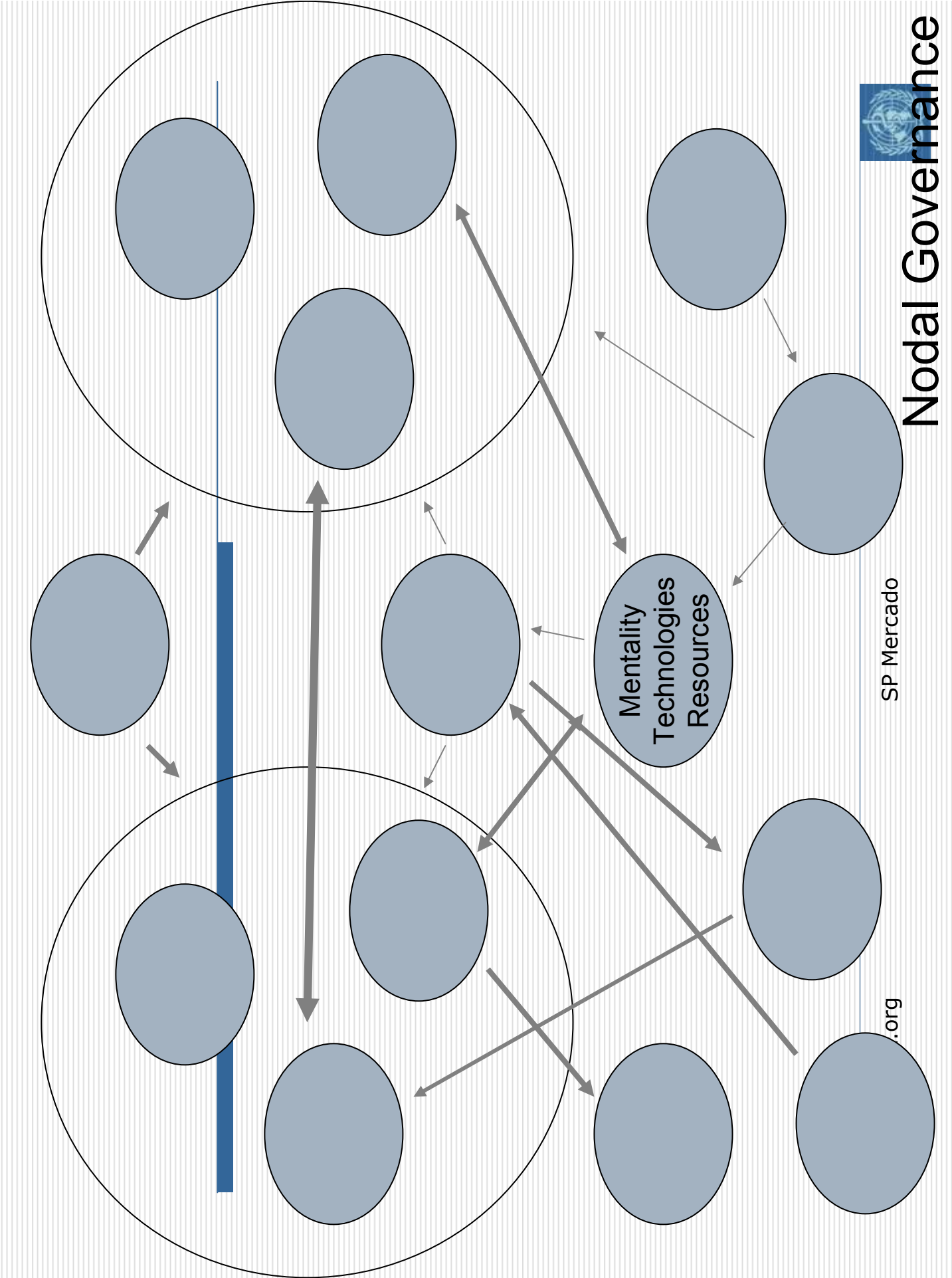




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Post Westphalia

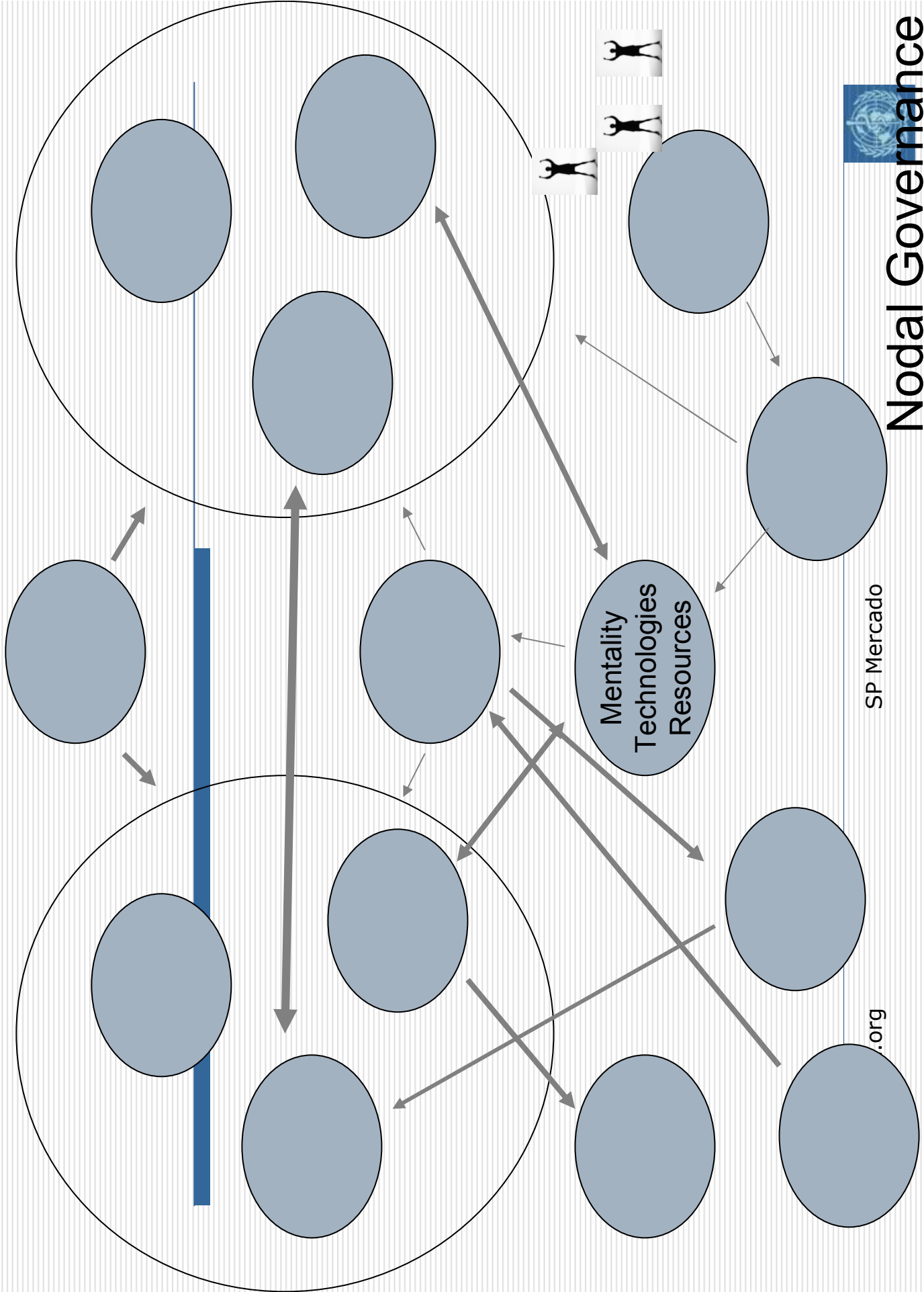




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Nodal Governance



How is nodal governance relevant to health promotion?

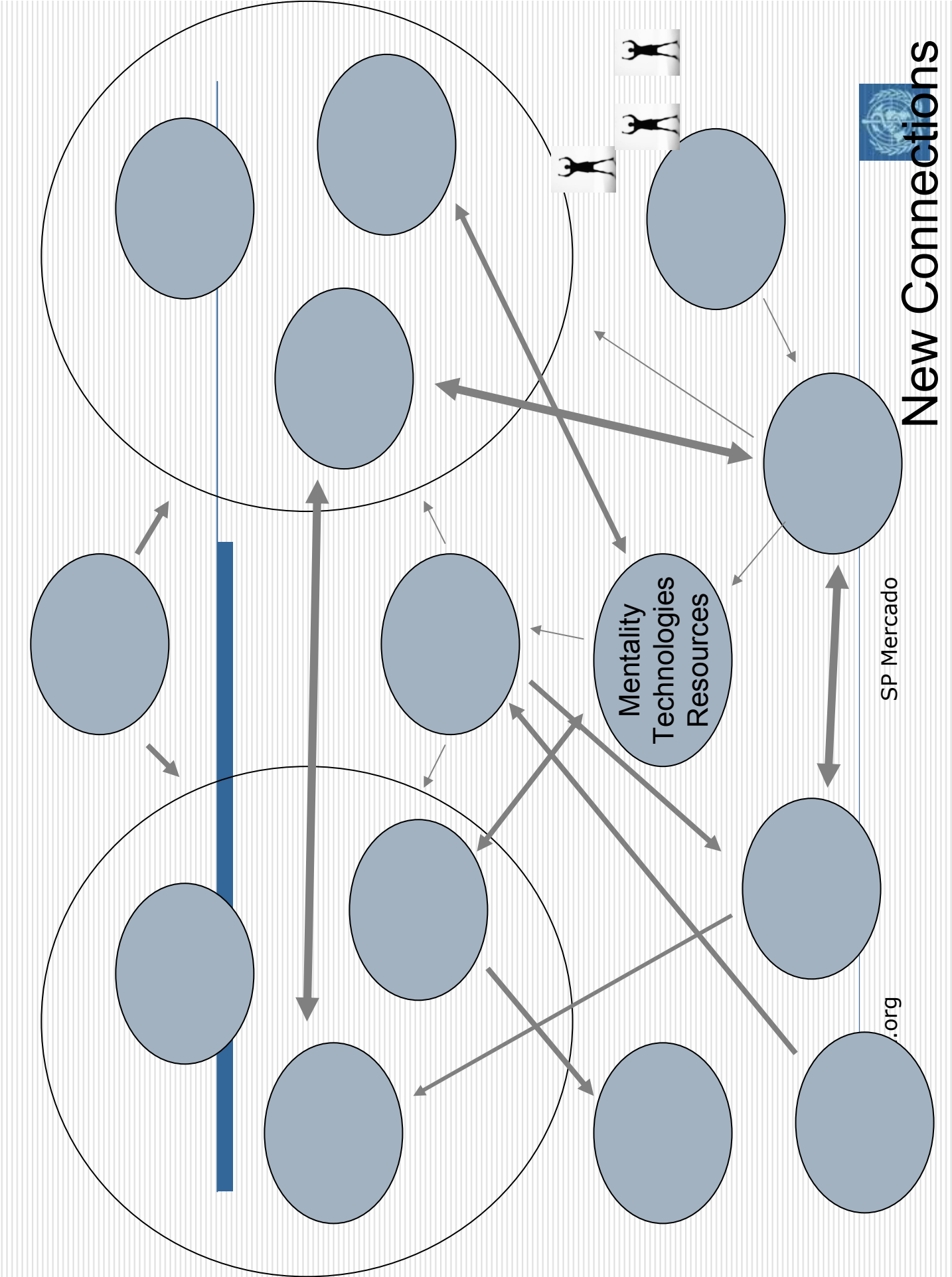
Communities that suffer relatively poor health (and other problems, like crime) when they cannot effectively manage the course of events in their place and time.



Recall that health promotion is the process of enabling individuals to increase control over and improve their health.

- Nodal governance postulates that governance is health, and interventions that promote new forms of “microgovernance” are a potentially important tool for dealing with the health problems of poor communities.
- It is postulated that nodal governance promotes institutions that enable collective efficacy.





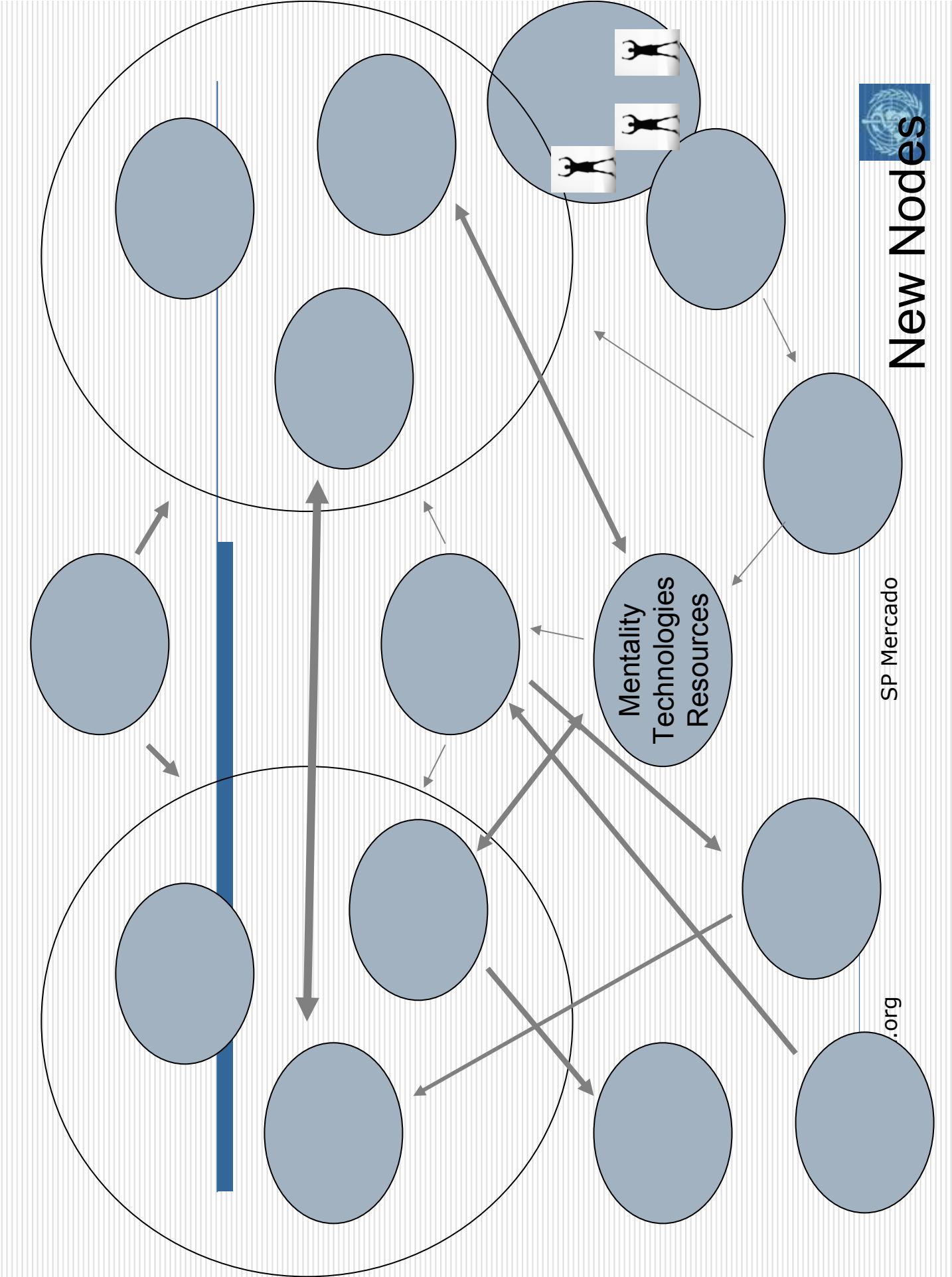
New Connections



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Mentality
Technologies
Resources



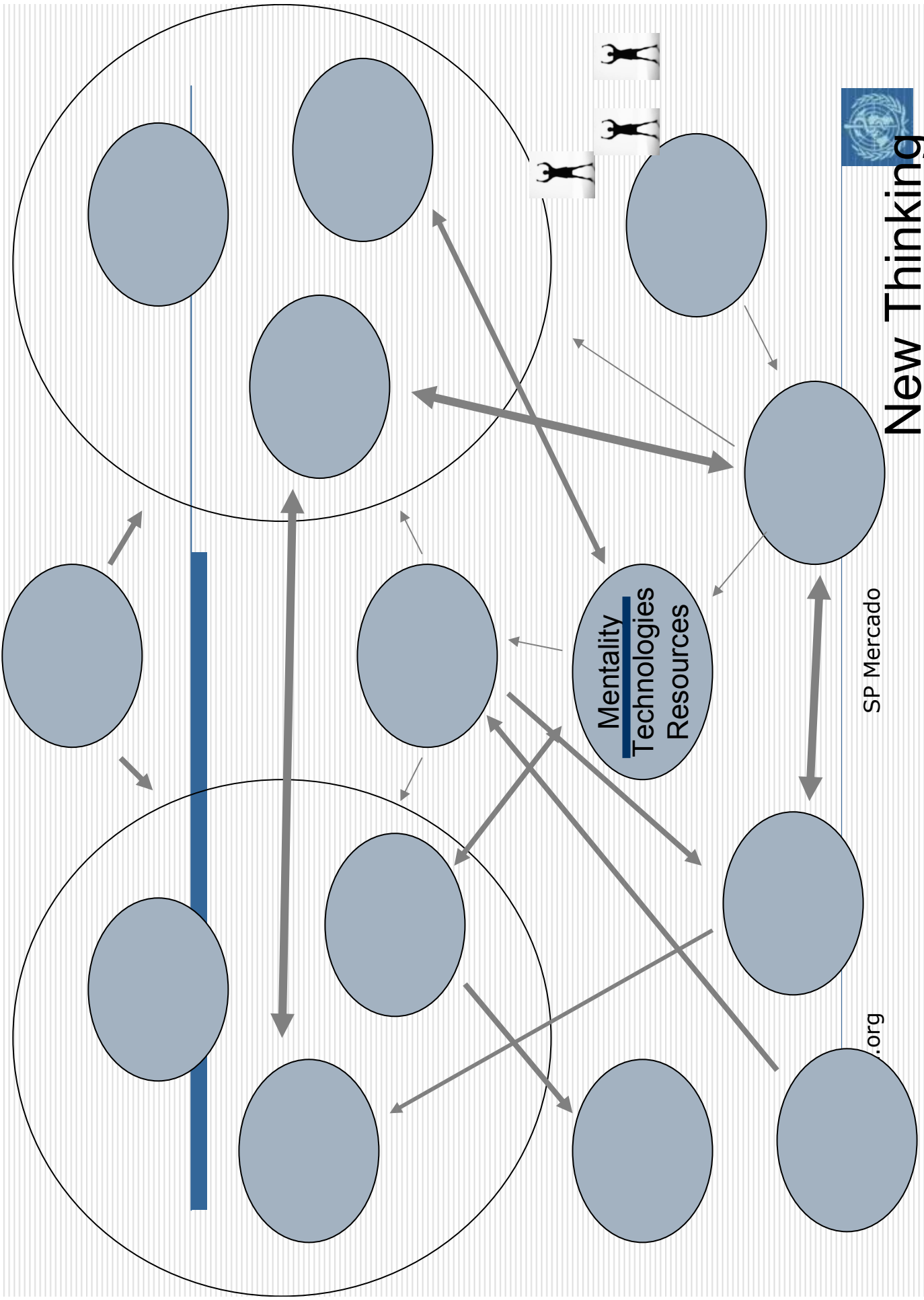
New Nodes

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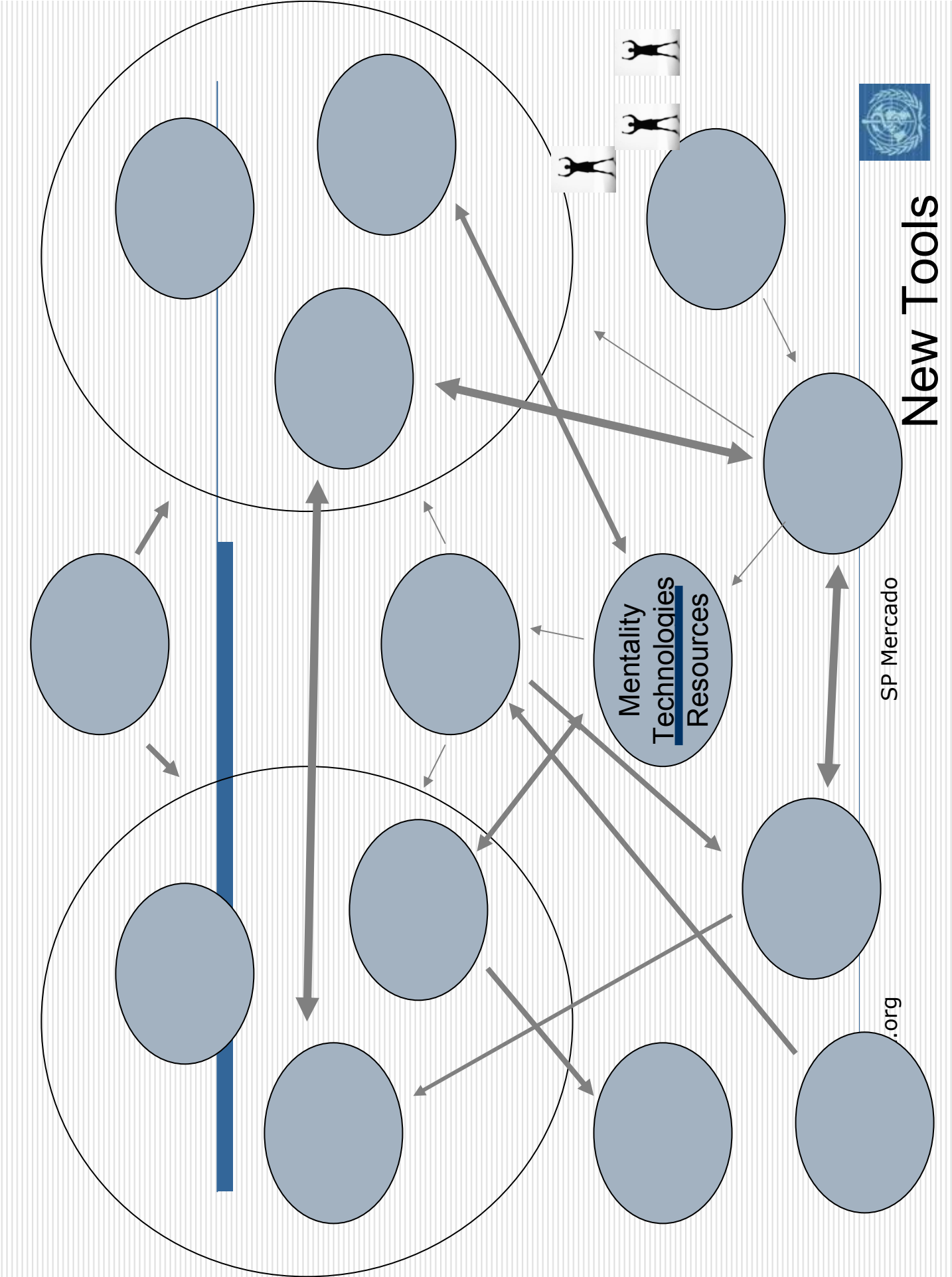
New Thinking



Mentality

- Ways of thinking about the matters that the node has emerged to govern
- Refers to the culture of the node;
- A mentality operates to bring coherence and enable longevity and collective action within the node





Technology

- The methods for exerting influence over the course of events
- Police departments use violence, the threat of punishment, patrol.
Lawyers use laws, contracts, lawsuits,
Lobbyists use money and information.



Resources

- Resources support the operation and the exertion of influence
- The object, number and strength of network connections are important sources of a node. Nodes with many and strong connections, or connections to particularly strong nodes, are more significant regulators than those with fewer resources.



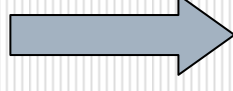
Implications for Health: Collective Efficacy and Microgovernance

- Collective efficacy
 - “the linkage of cohesion and mutual trust with shared expectations for intervening in support of neighborhood social control” (Sampson et al 1997)
 - a health-promoting community characteristic
- Microgovernance
 - The seeding of communities with new nodes that mobilize local capacity and knowledge



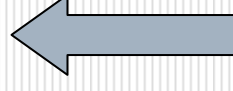
Governance and Health

□ The “big game” is access to resources, global goods for health – i.e., global governance



But at the same time

□ All health is local: collective efficacy at the community level is essential to well-being at virtually all levels of wealth



Governance and Health

- Thinking globally = health is part of the debate over the management of the global social and economic system
- Acting locally = promoting collective efficacy/democratic decisionmaking at the community level is just as important to health as providing specific services

