

SOCIAL STUDIES 30-1 SEMESTER LONG PROJECTS

You **MUST** complete this semester's THEME PLUS... 2 of the 8 assignments listed in the following pages. Failure to complete one or more will have a detrimental effect on your final grade. DO NOT complete these assignments a week prior to the diploma exam, unless you like mounds and mounds of stress.

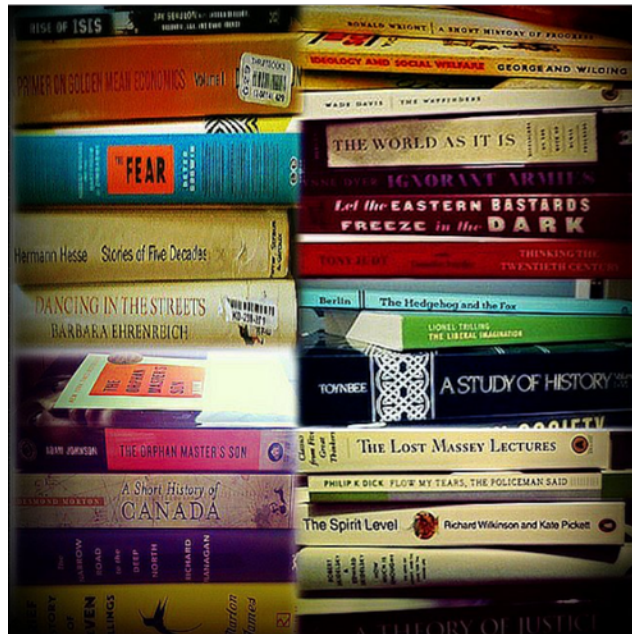
OPTION #1: NOVEL STUDY LIST

Read ONE of the following novels during the semester and complete a brief book report (see the [wiki](#) for more details). Check the appropriate box when you have decided which novel study you will complete.



- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Ideology and Social Welfare by Vic George and Paul Wilding | ☐ A Man Without a Country by Kurt Vonnegut |
| ☐ 1984 by George Orwell | ☐ The Open Society by Karl Popper |
| ☐ Animal Farm by George Orwell (more for 30-2) | ☐ A Theory of Justice by John Rawls |
| ☐ Future: Tense: The Coming World Order by Gwynne Dyer | ☐ The Polite Revolution by John Ibbitson |
| ☐ A Short History of Progress by Ronald Wright | ☐ The Blue Shift by John Ibbitson |
| ☐ Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury | ☐ The Great Divide by William Gardner |
| ☐ The Prince by Niccolò Machiavelli | ☐ The Unconscious Civilization by John Ralston Saul |
| ☐ The Ghost by Robert Harris | ☐ The Collapse of Globalism and the Reinvention of the World by John Ralston Saul |
| ☐ Brave New World by Aldous Huxley | ☐ A Fair Country: Telling Truths About CanadaThe Comeback by John Ralston Saul |
| ☐ Lord of the Flies by William Golding | ☐ How Much is Enough by Robert Skildelsky |
| ☐ Catch 22 by Joseph Heller | ☐ The Conscience of a Liberal by Paul Krugman |
| ☐ An Unjust Society by Harold Cardinal | ☐ Credo by William Sloane Coffin |
| ☐ The Rights Revolution by Michael Ignatieff | ☐ The Spirit Level by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett |
| ☐ The Wayfinders by Wade Davis | ☐ Gag Rule by Lewis H. Lapham |
| ☐ The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood | ☐ The World As It is by Chris Hedges |
| ☐ Swastika Night by Burdekin, Katharine | ☐ A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn |
| ☐ Native Tongue by Elgin, Suzette Haden | ☐ Understanding Power by Noam Chomsky |
| ☐ If This Goes On— by Heinlein, Robert A | ☐ Dispatches from the Global Village by Derek Evans |
| ☐ Never Let Me Go by Ishiguro, Kazuo | ☐ Thinking the Twentieth Century by Tony Judt |
| ☐ A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini | |
| ☐ The Subprimes by Karl Taro Greenfeld | |
| ☐ The Fat Years by Koonchung Chan | |
| ☐ The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson | |
| ☐ Jailbird by Kurt Vonnegut | |

- ☐ Ill Fares the Land by Tony Judt
- ☐ Ignorant Armies by Gwynne Dyer
- ☐ The Essential Hayek by Donald Boudreaux
- ☐ How the Scots Invented the Modern World by Arthur Herman
- ☐ The Shock Doctrine by Naomi Klein
- ☐ A Power government cannot oppress by Howard Zinn
- ☐ The Jungle by Upton Sinclair
- ☐ The Fear by Peter Godwin
- ☐ Griftopia by Matt Taibbi
- ☐ The Good Earth By Pearl S. Buck
- ☐ Conscience of a Conservative: A Rejection of Destructive Politics and a Return to Principle by Jeff Flake
- ☐ Bananas: How the United Fruit Company Shaped the World by Peter Chapman
- ☐ The Future of Liberalism by Alan Wolfe
- ☐ Retrotopia by Zygmunt Bauman
- ☐ What We Do Now: Standing Up for Your Values in Trump's America by Dennis
- ☐ The Return of History: Conflict, Migration, and Geopolitics in the Twenty-First Century by Jennifer Walsh
- ☐ Insane Clown President: Dispatches from the 2016 Circus by Matt Taibbi
- ☐ The Best Laid Plans by Terry Fallis
- ☐ What's Happened to Politics? by Bob Rae



You may read a novel NOT on this list with permission from your teacher.

Questions and activities to be completed throughout your novel study. Questions and activities can be completed in any format. Be creative.

1. Characterize a character's ideology.
2. What is the author's view of an ideal society?
3. Describe the evolution of the ideology presented in the novel.
4. Discuss the symbolism throughout the novel.
5. What do agree with most/least with the author/character from the novel?



OPTION #2: DOCUMENTARY FILM LIST

Watch ONE of the following documentaries during the semester and complete a brief film report (see the [website](#) for more details). Check the appropriate box when you have decided which novel study you will complete.

Unit One: Active and engaged citizenry

***Pete Seeger- The Power of Song:** Interviews, archival footage and home movies are used to illustrate a social history of folk artist and activist Pete Seeger. **Big River Man:** Follows Martin Strel as he attempts to cover 3,375 miles of the Amazon River in what is being billed as the world's longest swim.

Mississippi Burning: Two FBI agents with wildly different styles arrive in Mississippi to investigate the disappearance of some civil rights activists.

Ghosts of Mississippi: The widow of murdered civil rights leader **Medger Evers** and a district attorney struggle to finally bring the murderer to justice.

Freedom Summer (American Experience): over 10 memorable weeks in 1964 known as Freedom Summer, more than 700 student volunteers from around the country joined organizers and local African Americans in a historic effort to shatter the foundations of white supremacy in what was one of the nation's most viciously racist, segregated states.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/freedomsummer/>

Greenwich Village: Music That Defined a Generation: Explores the music scene in Greenwich Village, New York in the 60's and early 70's. The film highlights some of the finest singer/songwriters of the day.

The Yes Men Fix the World: is a screwball true story about [two gonzo political activists](#) who, posing as top executives of giant corporations, lie their way into big business conferences and pull off the world's most [outrageous pranks](#).

Unit Two: Ideologies and Me

***Promises:** follows the journey of one of the filmmakers, Israeli-American B.Z. Goldberg. B.Z. travels to a Palestinian refugee camp and to an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, and to the more familiar neighborhoods of Jerusalem where he meets seven Palestinian and Israeli children.

***The Tillman Story:** Pat Tillman never thought of himself as a hero. His choice to leave a multimillion-dollar football contract and join the military wasn't done for any reason other than he felt it was the right thing to do. The fact that the military manipulated his tragic death in the line of duty into a propaganda tool is unfathomable and thoroughly explored in Amir Bar-Lev's riveting and enraging documentary.

Unit Three: Classical Liberalism to Modern Liberalism in Politics

The F Word: Who Wants to be a Feminist?

<http://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/doczone/video.html?ID=1827955896>: Canadian documentary celebrates the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day by asking *feminists* to take a stand.

The Trap: We Will Force You to Be Free: focusses on the concepts of positive and negative liberty introduced in the 1950s by Isaiah Berlin.

Unit Four: Contemporary Political Liberalism

BIG IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD: Tony Benn looks at how the concept of democracy developed and spread across the world over the centuries from its beginnings in Ancient Greece. Particularly considers the impact of extending the vote to more people in 19th century Britain and the state of democracy in 20th century Britain

Unit Five: Liberalism and Economics

The One Percent: is a 2006 [documentary](#) about the growing [wealth gap](#) between [America's](#) wealthy elite compared to the overall citizenry. It was created by [Jamie Johnson](#), an heir to the [Johnson & Johnson](#) fortune.

PBS: Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire:

<http://video.pbs.org/video/1817898383/?starttime=3190000>

Made in Bangladesh (Fifth Estate):

<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/episodes/2013-2014/made-in-bangladesh>

The Commanding Heights: 6 hours long! attempts to trace the rise of free markets during the last century, as well as the process of globalization. Go here for clips:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/index.html>

The Motel Kids of Orange County: A documentary that explores the world of children who reside in discounted motels within walking distance of Disneyland, living in limbo as their families struggle to survive in one of the wealthiest regions of America. The parents of motel kids are often hard workers who don't earn enough to own or rent homes. As a result, they continue to live week-to-week in motels, hoping against hope for an opportunity that might allow them to move up in the O.C.

Mon oncle Antoine: examines life in the Maurice Duplessis-era Asbestos region of rural Québec prior to the Asbestos Strike of the late 1940s. Set at Christmas time, the story is told from the point of view of a 15-year-old boy coming of age in a mining town. The Asbestos Strike is regarded by Québec historians as a seminal event in the years prior to the Quiet Revolution. Not a documentary and brief nudity alert!

Unit Six: The Rejection of Liberalism

Syrian Children on the Frontline: The story of five young children whose lives have been changed forever by the civil war in Syria.

Forbidden Voices: Their voices are suppressed, prohibited and censored. But Yoani Sánchez, Zeng Jinyan and Farnaz Seifi are not frightened of their dictatorial regimes. These fearless women stand for a new, networked generation of modern resistance fighters. In Cuba, China and Iran their blogs shake the foundations of the state information monopoly - putting their lives at risk thereby.

Unit Seven: Illiberalism

Profunc: Enemies of the State (The Fifth Estate): Conceived in the early days of the Cold War, the top-secret plan called "Profunc" was to be enacted if Canadian national security was threatened. The fear was stoked by the outbreak of the Korean War, which looked as if it might become the precursor to WW3.

<http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/episodes/2010-2011/enemies-of-the-state>

Eight Fire (CBC): With its energetic pace and stunning HD landscapes, 8TH FIRE propels us past prejudice, stereotypes and misunderstandings, to encounters with an impressive new generation of Aboriginal Canadians who are reclaiming both their culture and their confidence.

Unit Eight: The Cold War: Battle of Ideologies

Children: Forty years ago Romania's former dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, introduced a "forced breeding" policy - compared by some to the Nazi's eugenics programme - to create a new generation of true socialists.

White Light Black Rain: looks at the reality of nuclear warfare with first-hand accounts from those who survived and whose lives were forever changed by the atomic bomb.

Why We Fight: Is American foreign policy dominated by the idea of military supremacy? Has the military become too important in American life? Jarecki's shrewd and intelligent polemic would seem to give an affirmative answer to each of these questions.

Fog of War: A film about the former US Secretary of Defense and the various difficult lessons he learned about the nature and conduct of modern war.

Unit Nine: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities of Liberalism

The Age of Stupid: A future archivist looks at old footage from the year 2008 to understand why humankind failed to address climate change.

Surviving Progress: about the risks we pose to our own survival in the name of progress; connecting financial collapse, growing inequality and global oligarchy with the sustainability of mankind. Based on the lecture by Ronald Wright titled, A Short History of Progress.

***Escape from Suburbia:** Gregory Greene address the coming energy crisis caused by peak oil. He outlines potential solutions with interviews with individuals from across the continent who were brave enough to challenge their communities toward change.

My Doukhobor Cousins: *My Doukhobor Cousins* is a quest by three modern-day cousins to solve the mystery of their roots and find answers to questions that have puzzled them throughout their lives. Why did the adults around them speak Russian in hushed tones? Why did people keep disappearing? Why were RCMP officers keeping constant watch over their communities? All through their youth, Janice Benthin and her cousins, Lance and Marilyn, were kept ignorant of the events that shaped the lives of their relatives, members of the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors.

Questions to answer and hand in.

1. What is the principle subject of this documentary?
2. What is its principle purpose of the documentary?
3. What are the main arguments of the film?
4. What kind of impact does it seek to achieve with - and upon - its intended audience?

Option #3: State of the World Portfolio



Keeping up with Current Events (Contemporary issues), or the State of the World, is an important task for any historian. Social Studies students must always ask this very important question: Is there a relationship between the historical events/people we are learning about and the state of the world today? Asking and answering this question forces us to connect the present with the past and makes history more relevant.

To accomplish this, you have the choice to embark on a semester-long project to become knowledgeable about current events and what is happening in the world today. Every week you will complete the following assignment:

1. Find and cut out two interesting articles about **international, national, provincial or local** news.
 - a. On a separate sheet of paper, type a **brief summary** of what the article is About? What happened? Who is being affected? What will happen as a result and the link to liberalism and ideology?
2. Find one political cartoon and provide a brief analysis about the implicit and explicit message of the cartoon and the DEVICES used as well as the perspective of the cartoonist. This process is to be repeated each and every week of the semester
3. Use a journal or a scrapbook to organize your materials in an orderly yet creative fashion.
4. You will complete this exact assignment every week for the remainder of the semester.

Option #4: Daily Arguments Journal

- buy yourself a **Hilroy notebook** (or the equivalent).
- record/list, when applicable, **arguments** (topic sentences) that you would use on the PART A: WRA II diploma exam. Ideally, after each class lecture/assignment/debate, you should reflect on that day's arguments and cite the argument(s) you would use on a WRA II or in casual conversation with someone.
- you must have a list of arguments for each unit of study. With each argument, you should have potential case studies that prove the argument as well. This can be done while you cite your arguments, or at a later date and time.
- at the end of the semester, you should be able to use this Daily Arguments Journal to study from for your **PART B: WRA II** of the diploma exam.

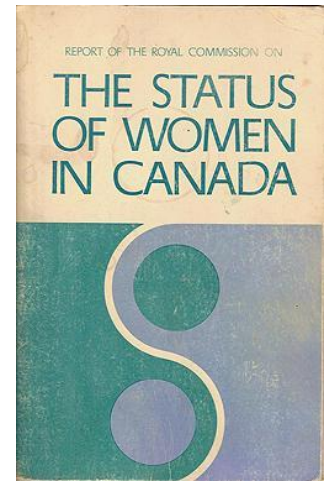


Option #5: Royal Commission Report Challenge

Governments are frequently presented with issues and problems that are both serious and complex. Policies and laws often need to be developed to address these issues, but both the executive branch and the members of the legislative branch need quality information if they are to come to an informed decision on how to address issues and concerns.

Elected representatives, however, have a great deal on their plates. They are busy people who must juggle, among other things, attending meetings with constituents, attending public functions, sitting on committees, responding to letters and telephone requests, and familiarizing themselves with proposed legislation prior to votes.

With all these tasks to carry out, gathering sufficient information and public input to make an informed decision on a complex issue is not always easy. In some cases, governments may choose to pass this task on to a single individual, providing them with the time and resources to investigate the issue and make recommendations. In Canada, research of this nature often takes the form of a **royal commission**. A royal commission is a public inquiry into an issue of significant importance to a population.



For this optional assignment, you will:

#1. **research** ONE of the following royal commissions in Canada:

Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism 1963-1967
Royal Commission on the Status of Women 1960-1970
Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples 1991-1996
Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada 2000-2002 and

- a. cite the reasons for the royal commission
- b. detail the recommendations
- c.. detail the short and long term effects of the commission

#2... investigate a problem that currently affects Canadians. Such as:

- a. voter apathy/potential for mandatory voting
- b. electoral reform (FPTP vs. PR)
- c. oil sands issues such as a carbon tax or the royalty regime
- d. climate change
- e. long term effects of residential schools

Your report must:

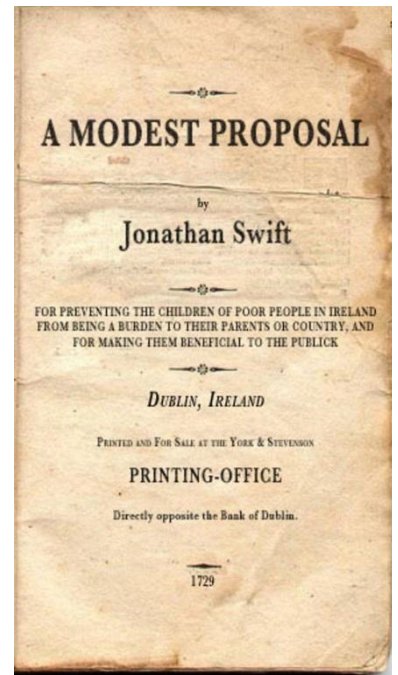
- a. **evaluate the problem:** detail the problem and its seriousness and identify potential consequences that could result if the problem persists.
- b. **identify the causes of the problem:** it is your duty to delve into the root of the problem and explain causes so that the elected representatives using your report will have a clear understanding.
- c. **make recommendations for action:** draw conclusions regarding how serious the problem is and make recommendations for actions the government can take, if required, to improve the situation.

Option #6: Satirical Essay

-Read and study the handout titled, *Satirical Voices: A Modest Proposal*. Ask Mr. Kruk for this handout.

1. write a quick summary of the handout
2. write a quick synopsis of Jonathon Swift's essay, *A Model Proposal* and give your opinions/musings on the satirical piece (a critique of sorts).
3. write your very own satirical essay on the topic of your choice using the same format as Swift's essay:

- title
- byline or tagline
- your name
- background/context
- your satirical essay



sat·ire

/ˈsɑːtᵻ(ə)r/

noun

the use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.

synonyms: [mockery](#), [ridicule](#), [derision](#), [scorn](#), [caricature](#); [More](#)

- a play, novel, film, or other work that uses satire.

plural noun: **satires**

"a stinging **satire** on American politics"

synonyms: [parody](#), [burlesque](#), [caricature](#), [lampoon](#), [skit](#); [More](#)

- a genre of literature characterized by the use of satire.



Translations, word origin, and more definitions

OPTION #7 We Didn't Start the Fire Lyrics

"We Didn't Start the Fire" is a song by Billy Joel. Its lyrics include brief, rapid-fire allusions to more than 100 headline events between 1949, the year of Joel's birth, and 1989. Your assignment is to interpret/explain the 20 bolded headline events/people from Billy Joel's version, then write your own lyrics from your date of birth to 2021.

Harry Truman, Doris Day, **Red China**, Johnnie Ray
South Pacific, Walter Winchell, Joe DiMaggio
Joe McCarthy, **Richard Nixon**, Studebaker, Television
North Korea, **South Korea**, Marilyn Monroe
Rosenbergs, H-Bomb, Sugar Ray, Panmunjom
Brando, The King And I, and The Catcher In The Rye
Eisenhower, Vaccine, England's got a new queen
Marciano, Liberace, Santayana goodbye

We didn't start the fire
It was always burning since the world's been turning
We didn't start the fire
No, we didn't light it, but we tried to fight it

Joseph Stalin, Malenkov, **Nasser** and Prokofiev
Rockefeller, Campanella, Communist Bloc
Roy Cohn, Juan Peron, Toscanini, Dacron
Dien Bien Phu Falls, "Rock Around the Clock"
Einstein, James Dean, Brooklyn's got a winning team
Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis Presley, Disneyland
Bardot, Budapest, Alabama, Khrushchev
Princess Grace, Peyton Place, **Trouble in the Suez**

Chorus

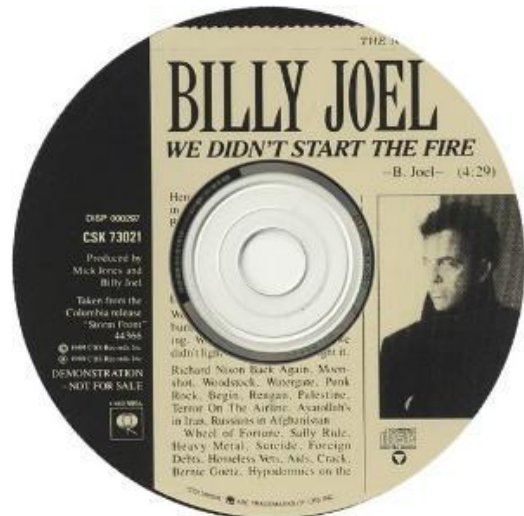
Little Rock, Pasternak, Mickey Mantle, Kerouac
Sputnik, Zhou Enlai, Bridge On The River Kwai
Lebanon, Charles de Gaulle, California baseball
Starkweather Homicide, Children of Thalidomide
Buddy Holly, Ben-Hur, Space Monkey, Mafia
Hula Hoops, Castro, Edsel is a no-go
U-2, Syngman Rhee, payola and Kennedy
Chubby Checker, Psycho, Belgians in the Congo

Chorus

Hemingway, **Eichmann**, Stranger in a Strange Land
Dylan, Berlin, **Bay of Pigs invasion**
Lawrence of Arabia, British Beatlemania
Ole Miss, John Glenn, Liston beats Patterson
Pope Paul, **Malcolm X**, British Politician sex
J.F.K. blown away, what else do I have to say?

Chorus

Birth control, **Ho Chi Minh**, Richard Nixon back again
Moonshot, Woodstock, **Watergate**, punk rock
Begin, Reagan, Palestine, Terror on the airline
Ayatollah's in Iran, **Russians in Afghanistan**
Wheel of Fortune, Sally Ride, heavy metal suicide
Foreign debts, homeless Vets, AIDS, crack, Bernie Goetz
Hypodermics on the shores, **China's under martial law**
Rock and Roller cola wars, I can't take it anymore



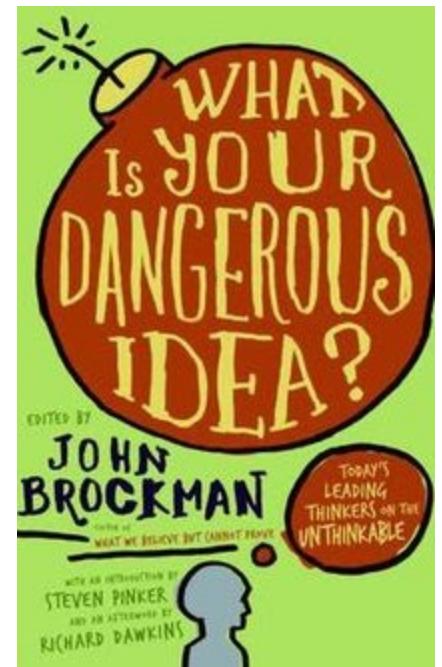
OPTION #8: Dangerous Idea

What Is Your Dangerous Idea?: Today's Leading Thinkers on the Unthinkable is a book which deals with "dangerous" ideas, or ideas that some people would react to in ways that suggest a disruption of morality and ethics. Scientists, philosophers, artists, and various other groups of people have written in to the online salon called the Edge, where thinkers in several areas post and discuss their ideas.

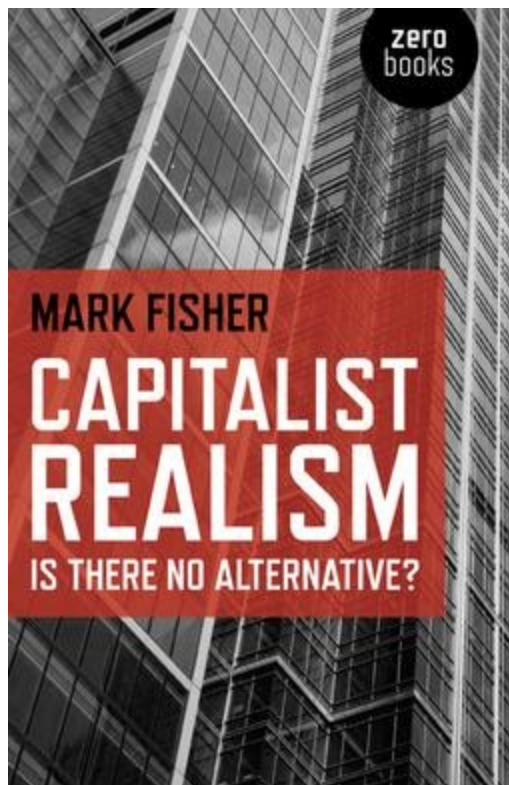
<https://www.edge.org/contributors/what-is-your-dangerous-idea>

Answer the following question using whatever format you would like:

What is your dangerous idea?



OPTION #9: Is there no alternative?



For this year-long project, in your opinion, imagine an alternative to capitalism that is not some throwback to discredited models of state control.