

2nd EDITION,
UPDATED &
EXPANDED

A DECLARATION
of INDEPENDENCE
from WALL STREET

AGENDA FOR A NEW ECONOMY

From PHANTOM WEALTH
to REAL WEALTH

DAVID C. KORTEN



DISCUSSION
GUIDE

CHANGING OUR STORY

Each great social movement of our time began with a conversation among a small group of people centered on a perceived injustice and a vision of possibility. The conversation spread in ever expanding circles and ultimately challenged the false story. As the story changed, so too did history. It was accomplished through conversations that built a social consensus around a new story and through actions that gave concrete expression to the benefits of a different way of doing things. This in turn created an irresistible political demand for public policies supportive of the new vision.

—David Korten

Notes to Facilitators

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for organizing a discussion group based on the Second Edition of *Agenda for a New Economy: From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth*. “This book,” author David Korten suggests, “is for people who are looking upstream, not to place blame, but to find real solutions that fulfill a shared human dream of a world that works for all.” Now, as the economic system continues to unravel and the impacts increase in severity, it’s even more important that we share the New Economy story, work together to build the new reality in our communities, and mobilize to influence policy and hold our elected officials accountable.

One of the reasons, we’ve found, that “Agenda” resonates so deeply with readers is that David’s response to the economic crisis, as well as the insights, concepts, and alternatives he articulates, are inherently familiar to us – he is, in essence, reflecting what we already know.

This discussion guide is designed to provide opportunities to practice the art of telling our own stories, sharing our insights and ideas on critical issues, and asking the tough questions of ourselves and each other. We will explore the upstream, systemic causes of the economic collapse, consider the alternative New Economy vision, discuss the interventions necessary to replace the current system, and engage in the change process.

This Book Study Guide is a framework for conversations that will become the seedbeds for a new story about “the world we want” and the acceleration of a much needed transformation of our entire economic system.

STUDY GUIDE FORMAT

There are many ways to facilitate a deeper discussion of the ideas presented in *Agenda for a New Economy*; some groups will prefer a series of discussions and others will choose a workshop, or a single, open and unstructured conversation circle.

This Study Guide is divided into five sessions based on the five Parts of the book. It includes a synopsis of the major ideas within the chapters and discussion questions. Some questions are intended to explore understanding of the concepts put forth in the book, and others are intended to invite reflection, draw on participants’ experiences and evoke personal stories. Groups may choose to convene five sessions or combine any of the five Parts for fewer meetings.

We encourage local groups to adapt and adjust this guide to best meet their needs, and if you prefer, to develop questions that will produce the most stimulating discussion. Should you wish to include an audio/video presentation as part of a session, resources/links are included at the end of this guide.

Note: If you were involved in a discussion group for the first edition of *Agenda for a New Economy*, you’ll notice, like the second edition of the book, this Guide provides the opportunity to explore the content more deeply. Some questions are the same, some have been changed slightly, and some are new.



ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR

We recommend that two or three people share the responsibility for advance preparations and logistics, adapting the Guide, and setting up the meeting space. We also encourage a team approach to meeting facilitation to practice and demonstrate cooperative, shared leadership.

- **Be the timekeeper. Start and end on time.**
- **Make sure ground rules for discussion are respected.**
- **Make sure everyone has a chance to talk.**
- **Don't allow anyone to monopolize the discussion.**

SESSION FORMAT

This guide makes room for many possible approaches. Depending on the size of your group, you may decide to use some or all of the questions with the whole group or break into small groups or dyads. (Some of the more introspective questions might draw deeper expression in dyads.)

FIRST MEETING

In order to set a welcoming tone and create a safe place for rich, open dialogue, we suggest your first meeting include introductions and a presentation of the ground rules.

Introductions: Allow enough time for participants to share something about themselves, e.g., Where were you born, and what is your family's country of origin? What do you cherish about your family's heritage? Allow one or two minutes per person, depending on the size of your group.

Ground Rules: Ask for agreement on these or similar ground rules for conversation, adapted from Conversation Café. It may be helpful to write the ground rules on easel paper or white board to display at each session.

- **Listen to and respect all points of view.**
- **Suspend judgment - or the expression of judgment - as best you can.**
- **Seek to understand rather than persuade.**
- **Question old assumptions, look for new insights.**
- **Speak for yourself about what has personal heart and meaning.**
- **Go for honesty and depth, but not on and on.**

ALL SESSIONS

Here is an example of how you might structure your time in each session:

Opening ritual (5 minutes): The ritual could be a few minutes of silence and/or a candle-lighting ceremony to honor the space you occupy and help participants become fully present.

Whole Group Discussion (45 minutes): Remind everyone of the group's agreement on ground rules. Select a few questions from the list provided to discuss as a large group. Your discussion can be conducted as a back and forth dialogue or by going around the circle for each person to express their ideas while others listen. You can also go "pop-corn" style, which allows people to speak when they are ready.

Dyad or Small Group Discussions (45 minutes): Dyads and small groups often feel safer for personal reflection, introspection and intimate sharing of personal stories. Ask the group to break into pairs or small groups of three to five, choosing different partners/groups each session. You might want to explore more deeply some of the questions the whole group discussed, select questions from the list below that are more personal in nature, or invite the small groups/dyads to choose questions that particularly resonate with them. In dyads, we suggest that this time not be for dialogue, but instead as a time of focused listening; allow at least five minutes per person, per question.

Debrief (20 minutes): As a whole group, use this time to invite participants to share what they learned from the discussion – new insights, "aha" moments, more questions to consider, etc.

Closing (5 minutes): End by sharing words of appreciation and closing the ritual you used at the beginning, e.g., a few minutes of silence and/or blowing out the candle.

Note: Consider playing (and singing and dancing to) Raffi's "No Wall Too Tall," recorded for the launch of "Agenda," before and/or after sessions – www.raffinews.com/feature/no-wall-too-tall.

PART I: The Case for a New Economy

Summary

Session One

If we look upstream for the ultimate cause of the economic crisis that is tearing so many lives apart, we find an illusion: the belief that money — a mere number created with a simple accounting entry that has no reality outside the human mind — is wealth. Because money represents a claim on so many things essential to our survival and well-being, we easily slip into evaluating economic performance in terms of the rate of financial return to money, essentially the rate at which money is growing, rather than by the economy's contribution to the long-term well-being of people and nature.

We can trace each of the major failures of our economic system to the misperception of money as wealth: the boom-and-bust cycles; the decimation of the middle class; families forced to choose between paying the rent, putting food on the table, and caring for their children; the decline of community life; and the wanton destruction of nature.

Once the belief that money is wealth is implanted firmly in the mind, it is easy to accept the idea that money is a storehouse of value rather than simply a storehouse of expectations, and that “making money” is the equivalent of “creating wealth.” Because Wall Street makes money in breathtaking quantities, we have allowed it to assume control of the whole economy — and therein lies the source of our problem.

Financial collapse pulled away the curtain on the Wall Street alchemists to reveal an illusion factory that pays its managers outrageous sums for creating phantom wealth unrelated to the production of anything of real value. They merely create claims on the real wealth created by others — otherwise known as counterfeiting, a form of theft.

Spending trillions of dollars trying to fix Wall Street is a fool's errand. Our hope lies not with the Wall Street phantom-wealth machine, but rather with the real-world economy of Main Street, where people engage in

the production and exchange of real goods and services to meet the real needs of their children, families, and communities, and where they have a natural interest in maintaining the health and vitality of their natural environment.

Ironically, it turns out that the solution to a failed capitalist economy is a real-market economy much in line with the true vision of Adam Smith. Building a new real-wealth economy on the foundation of the Main Street economy will require far more than adjustments at the margins. It will require a complete bottom-to-top redesign of our economic assumptions, values, and institutions.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

CHAPTER 1

“**Looking Upstream**,” spells out what it means to treat causes rather than symptoms and why restructuring the economy's most powerful institutions is essential.

CHAPTER 2

“**Modern Alchemists and the Sport of Money-making**,” looks at the reality behind Wall Street's illusions and the variety of its methods for making money without the exertion of creating anything of real value in return.

CHAPTER 3

“**A Real-Market Alternative**,” contrasts the Wall Street and Main Street economies and puts to rest the fallacy that the only alternative to rule by Wall Street capitalists is rule by communist bureaucrats.

CHAPTER 4

“**More Than Tinkering at the Margins**,” spells out why the “adjustment at the margins” approach favored by establishment interests cannot stabilize the economy, reduce economic inequality, or prevent environmental collapse.



PART I: The Case for a New Economy

Questions

Session One

1. What did you find particularly compelling or provocative about these chapters of Agenda?
2. What is the difference between treating the symptoms and addressing the root causes? How can root causes be addressed while in the midst of the crisis?
3. What effects of the ongoing economic crisis have you observed in your community – for local government, businesses, schools, etc.?
4. What is the relationship between the environmental and social crises/issues making the headlines today and the economic system?
5. How have the credit, mortgage, and/or investment crises touched you and your circle of friends and family? How have your personal decisions and approaches to finances, debt, and consumption changed?
6. When and how was your definition and experience of “capitalism” formed, and how has it changed, if at all, since the beginning of the economic collapse in 2008?
7. Table 3.1 (Page 51 of Agenda) contrasts the differences between Wall Street capitalism and a Main Street market economy. What, if anything, is appealing about the Wall Street approach and what would be difficult to let go? What is most appealing about Main Street markets? To which elements would you give highest priority for major transformation?
8. In what ways do you directly or indirectly rely on Wall Street? In what ways do these connections create contradictions in your value system? What can you do to reduce your dependence on Wall Street?
9. How do you respond to the position that regulation of the free market is an infringement on individual liberty?
10. How should the “public interest” or the “common good” get factored into decisions regarding financial/market policies and regulations?
11. Besides GDP, what indicators or indices are used in the mainstream media to portray the “health” or strength of the economy? What alternative measurements would reflect the true health of people and the planet?

In a true market system, democratically accountable governments provide an appropriate framework of rules within which people, communities, entrepreneurs, and responsible investors self-organize in predominantly local markets to meet their economic needs in socially and environmentally responsible ways. (Agenda, Page 52)

PART II: The Case for Replacing Wall Street

Summary

Session Two

Efforts to fix Wall Street miss an important point. It can't be fixed. It is corrupt beyond repair, and we cannot afford it. Moreover, because the essential functions it does perform are served better in less costly ways, we do not need it.

Wall Street's only business purpose is to enrich its own major players, a bunch of buccaneers and privateers who find it more profitable to expropriate the wealth of others than to find honest jobs producing goods and services beneficial to their communities. They walk away with their fees, commissions, and bonus packages and leave it to others to pick up the costs of federal bailouts, gyrating economic cycles, collapsing environmental systems, broken families, shattered communities, and the export of jobs along with the manufacturing, technology, and research capacities that go with them.

Even more damaging in some ways than the economic costs are the spiritual and psychological costs of a Wall Street culture that celebrates greed, favors the emotionally and morally challenged with outsized compensation packages, and denies the human capacity for cooperation and sharing.

Running out of control and delinked from reality, Wall Street has created an Alice in Wonderland phantom-wealth world in which prospective financial claims and the expectations that go with them exceed the value of all the world's real wealth by orders of magnitude.

We can no longer afford to acquiesce to a system of rule by those engaged in the pursuit of phantom wealth far beyond any conceivable need — and to no evident end other than to accumulate points in a contest for the top spots on the Forbes list of richest people.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

CHAPTER 5

“What Wall Street Really Wants,” explains why there is no limit to Wall Street greed and how its institutions use the economic and political muscle of their monopoly control of the creation and allocation of money to get what they want: Everything!

CHAPTER 6

“Buccaneers and Privateers,” provides an evocative history of the role that licensed pirates and chartered corporations played in the transition from rule by kings—who found them a cheap substitute for official navies and a useful means of circumventing parliamentary oversight—to rule by global financiers.

CHAPTER 7

“The High Cost of Phantom Wealth,” describes how Wall Street players reap enormous financial rewards for creating phantom expectations through their use of complex financial instruments that defy understanding.

CHAPTER 8

“The End of Empire,” describes Wall Street's rule by the power of money as an extension of five thousand years of imperial rule by kings and emperors who wielded the power of the sword.

CHAPTER 9

“Greed Is Not a Virtue; Sharing Is Not a Sin,” looks at what events since the September 2008 crash reveal about the profound ethical issues before us and the inability of Wall Street to face up to its culpability and play a constructive role in a search for real solutions.



PART II: The Case for Replacing Wall Street

Questions

Session Two

1. What did you find most interesting or provocative about these chapters?
2. In your immediate experience, are most people inclined to be cooperative and concerned for the well-being of others? Or competitive and individualistic? Which behaviors does the existing economic system reward? Is the idea of an economy that encourages cooperation and service a realistic possibility? Or a naïve fantasy?
3. In what ways does Wall Street dictate the direction of the US economy, politics, and our lives? What values does Wall Street promote and reward?
4. For those who were part of the post-World War II ascendance of the middle class, what was it like living with the belief that we were a “classless society of opportunity for all who were willing to apply themselves and play by the rules?” When did you notice a different reality?
5. Does it matter that the richest two percent of the world’s people own 51 percent of the world’s assets? What are the implications?
6. How will innovation, entrepreneurship, and healthy competition flourish if markets and trade are regulated?
7. In what ways have you benefited from the Wall Street-controlled system and its member corporations and in what ways have you been negatively affected? What role do you play in sustaining the status quo? What are your options?
8. In what ways and regarding what policies have the ethics of your elected officials been compromised by Wall Street? What, as citizens, can we do to break up the Wall Street-Washington DC axis?
9. Is it possible to think or care about the impacts of the Wall Street fiasco on the planet and the peoples of the world while tending to personal struggles/challenges?
10. Think of a time in your own life when you felt particularly secure and happy with your personal economic and social situation. What was it like, and what guided your decisions about family, work, and finance? What are the relative contributions of money and community to your sense of security?

Most of the economic, social, and environmental pathologies of our time – including sexism, racism, economic injustice, violence, and environmental destruction – originates upstream in institutions that grant unaccountable power and privilege to the few and assign the majority to lives of hardship and desperation...the simple but profound truth is that economic democracy – the equitable distribution of economic power – is an essential foundation of political democracy. (Agenda, Page 111)

PART III: A Living-Economy Vision

Summary

Session Three

We humans are awakening to the reality that we are living beings and that healthy living systems self-organize to function as sharing, cooperative, dynamically balanced communities. Nature's closest equivalent to the corporate-driven global economy is the suicidal, malignant cancer that seeks its own unlimited growth without regard for the harm this does to the body that provides its nourishment. Our future depends on getting with nature's program and organizing ourselves to live in a dynamic, balanced partnership with Earth's biosphere.

This New Economy will look a great deal more like Adam Smith's version of a market economy in which local artisans, merchants, and farmers self-organize to meet the needs of their community than the Wall Street version in which global corporations compete to be the most efficient at converting real-wealth living capital into phantom-wealth money. In our time, Smith's vision translates into a planetary system of bioregional economies that mimic the fractal structure and dynamics of Earth's biosphere, with recurring patterns of self-organizing, ecologically balanced self-reliance on a progressive scale from the global to the local.

The full-scale, modern version of Smith's vision lies beyond the horizon of our experience. To navigate our way to its realization, we must form in our collective mind an image of its institutions and priorities, much as the ancient indigenous navigators of the South Pacific trained themselves to see in their mind unknown islands far beyond the horizon of their experience or normal vision.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

CHAPTER 10

"**What People Really Want**," cites evidence that the human brain is wired to support caring and sharing and that we humans have long dreamed of a world of vital, healthy children, families, communities, and natural environments: the world we must now create to secure our future.

CHAPTER 11

"**At Home on a Living Earth**," makes the case that our future depends on a conscious collective choice to transform the culture that frames our understanding of our individual and shared priorities.

CHAPTER 12

"**New Vision, New Priorities**," summarizes the foundational design principles that the culture and institutions of a planetary system of living, real-wealth economies must honor and outlines opportunities to reallocate real resources on the path to a New Economy.



PART III: A Living-Economy Vision

Questions

Session Three

1. What, for you, were the highlights of Part III?
2. If our species is truly hard-wired to care, share, and cooperate for the common good, how can it be that the quest for money and wealth has such a powerful hold on us?
3. In what ways does Wall Street propaganda play to our fears and fantasies to entice us to make choices contrary to our higher nature and well-being? How can we act individually and collectively to resist the cultural trance and advance the process of cultural awakening?
4. What experiences have you had with other cultures, living or working in other parts of the country and/or in other countries? What have you learned about people and what they really want and appreciate in life? In what place(s) did you sense that people were living, authentically, in a way that reflects our caring and cooperative nature?
5. To what extent is your community “self-reliant?” How far beyond the borders of your community must you go to meet basic food and energy needs?
6. Brainstorm: Make two lists - one of decisions/policies (local, regional, and/or federal) making recent headlines that favor community, local economies, and the environment, and another that favors Wall Street corporations. What do these lists imply about policymaking and power?
7. How do the institutions of the Wall Street economy separate us from one another, inhibit cooperation, and limit our capacity for healthy family and community life?
8. What other “institutions” have potential to influence policy decisions in the direction of living economies and the common good?
9. In what ways does the role of “citizen” change in a Living Democracy?
10. What difference can one person make in the monumental task of reallocating resources from wasteful, harmful uses (e.g., war, unbridled growth and consumption) to uses that support living in harmony with Earth and with each other.

Living economies can come into being only through self-organizing, bottom-up processes of learning and emergence. Fortunately, the cultural transformation required to align our cultural stories with our higher human nature and our shared vision of the world we want is under way. (Agenda, Page 164)

PART IV: A Living-Economy Agenda

Summary

Session Four

The life-serving market system we want and the life-destructive capitalist system we have feature very different structures and operate by very different rules. A healthy market system is designed to facilitate the beneficial self-organizing exchange of goods and services in response to people's self-defined needs. The capitalist system, by contrast, is designed to concentrate economic power to support the expropriation of wealth for the exclusive private benefit of the system's most powerful players.

The rules formulated and enforced by government ultimately favor one or the other of these competing systems. The tension between them defines the political struggle of our time. Government makes the rules that determine the economy's structure and priorities. Its choices commonly favor Wall Street capitalism over Main Street markets, because Wall Street controls the money and the media that drive Washington politics. The public rarely hears about options supportive of a healthy Main Street market system, and such options do not find their way into the platforms of the major political parties.

To shift the political balance, we the people must articulate a compelling and holistic New Economy policy agenda for a planetary system of market-based Main Street living economies, bring it to the forefront of public attention, and compel the major political parties to make it a centerpiece of their legislative agendas. The three chapters of part IV provide an initial framework and identify focal points for strategic intervention.

Note that the focus here is on the substance of the legislative and administrative action needed from government. Mobilization strategies are addressed in part V.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

CHAPTER 13

"**Seven Points of Intervention**," presents a seven-point policy agenda for liberating Main Street and banishing the Wall Street phantom-wealth casino to the dustbin of history.

CHAPTER 14

"**What About My . . . ?**" reveals how the financial "services" promoted by Wall Street are organized and managed to con the buyer. It then outlines public agendas for addressing the need for consumer credit, mortgage, insurance, retirement, and equity financing in ways that are at once more effective and more fair.

CHAPTER 15

"**A Presidential Declaration of Independence from Wall Street I Hope I May One Day Hear**," provides a synthesis of the New Economy policy agenda in the form and style of a presidential economic policy address. It also sets a political marker for civil society. We will know we are at a breakthrough point on a path to success when we have created a political context that compels a sitting U.S. president and other heads of state to deliver the equivalent of this address.



PART IV: A Living-Economy Agenda

Questions

Session Four

1. What did you find most interesting or provocative about these chapters?
2. Which of the Seven Intervention Clusters are most crucial, and why? Which will be most challenging to implement, and what barriers will need to be overcome?
3. What non-financial indicators would you include in your “Healthy Living Economy Index?”
4. How does extreme inequality affect a community? How would a more equitable distribution of economic power and resources change your life? What about the argument that advocating equality is socialist?
5. What enterprises might better serve workers and the public by becoming nonprofits or cooperatives?
6. At what points in your life have you experienced a struggle with finances? What is your relationship with money now?
7. What fears or concerns do you have about your credit/debt, mortgage, retirement, and/or health care/insurance? What changes have you considered related to how you handle each of these? How much can we do individually? To what extent do solutions require changing public policies?
8. What are your dreams and highest hopes for a “real wealth” future for you, your family and community? What will it take to realize your dreams?
9. What conditions would be required to enable a U.S. president to deliver the Declaration of Independence from Wall Street?

To shift the political balance, we the people must articulate a compelling and holistic New Economy policy agenda...bring it to the forefront of public attention, and compel the major political parties to make it a centerpiece of their legislative agendas. (Agenda, Page 166)

PART V: Navigating Uncharted Waters

Summary

Session Five

Barack Obama was swept into the U.S. presidency on a promise of change. On the economic front, he pushed through a stimulus package, but his efforts to rein in Wall Street have been tepid and sporadic at best. This is due only in part to Wall Street's political power. More relevant to the theme of this book is the extent to which actualizing the New Economy vision outlined here requires navigating uncharted waters.

For President Obama or any future president to provide the leadership we need, we not only must generate popular demand from below that is too powerful to ignore but also must produce the required charts, navigational instruments, and senior officers familiar with their use.

Our current situation as a nation and a species has instructive parallels to that of early American settlers who mobilized to win their independence from a distant king. There was no model for the democratic processes and institutions to which their rebellion led. They learned and advanced the arts of political democracy through invention and practice as they set in motion the historic process of dismantling the institutions of Empire while creating the institutions of a new nation.

We the people of our time must mobilize to carry the process forward by learning and advancing the arts of economic democracy as we declare our independence from Wall Street in both word and deed. The power of popular movements resides in their ability to act on three fronts. They must:

1. Challenge and change the cultural stories that frame the collective life of the society.
2. Create new cultural and institutional realities from the bottom up in the communities where the members live.
3. Use the power of their numbers to demand that politicians change the rules to favor real markets and real democracy.

Although they work below the media radar, millions of people are engaged on each of these fronts, which is a reassuring cause for hope.

Part V addresses the challenge before us. There is no magic-bullet solution to a human crisis five thousand years in the making.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

CHAPTER 16

“When the People Lead, the Leaders Will Follow,” spells out why leadership for deep change necessarily depends on popular action and identifies parallels between the self-organizing resistance movements of the earlier colonists who achieved their independence from British rule and we, the subject colonists of our day, who through our actions are declaring our independence from Wall Street.

CHAPTER 17

“A Visionary President Meets Realpolitik,” identifies the reasons President Obama did not — indeed, could not — capitalize on the Wall Street crash to move forward a New Economy agenda, and spells out what we as citizens must do to create a political context that makes such action politically imperative.

CHAPTER 18

“Change the Story, Change the Future,” examines how culture shapes individual and collective behavior and how social movements can use the power of authentic cultural stories to turn the course of history.

CHAPTER 19

“Learning to Live, Living to Learn,” frames the threefold strategy by which millions of people are living the New Economy into being through a process of learning by doing. It then outlines the contributions needed from media, education, religion, and the arts and provides guidance for people from all walks of life who seek to contribute.

EPILOGUE

“The View from 2084” describes the world we may yet leave to our grandchildren if we succeed — a world defined not so much by dazzling new technologies as by the opportunities it offers for meaningful fulfillment.

PART V: Navigating Uncharted Waters

Questions

Session Five

1. What stands out for you in these final chapters of Agenda?
2. What are the greatest challenges facing President Obama in the midst of the economic crisis? What needs to happen for the government to break free of Wall Street power and control?
3. Who are the leaders and institutions/organizations who serve (or could serve) as catalysts for the movement to transform our economy? Where are there opportunities in your work and community to build alliances to strengthen and expand the movement?
4. What Old Economy stories had particular influence in your life and in what ways? What are the corresponding New Economy stories by which you now live and in what ways have they reshaped your life?
6. What changes have you made in consumption, shopping habits, banking, and investments, for your household and your business, to support a living economy? What additional steps might you consider?
7. For each of the Seven Intervention Clusters (Chapter 13, Page 169), discuss how empowered citizens can influence change at local and national levels.
8. Where do you find truth in media? Where do you find evidence that a cultural awakening is spreading and a New Economy is beginning to emerge?
9. Where do you see opportunities to reframe the study of economics in educational settings, raise economic justice as a moral imperative in religious institutions, and discover the power of art as catalyst and expression of our creativity and imagination?
10. If you were to write your own story/blog or create visual or performance art to convey your vision and/or experience of a New Economy, what would you include? What would be the plot line, the tone, the setting, the design...the choreography?

Wrap-Up

DISCUSSION SERIES WRAP-UP AND FEEDBACK

1. Select and read a quote from “Agenda” that you consider essential and powerful, and explain why the quote is particularly meaningful and important to you.
2. What are you taking away from this experience? How has your view of the world, your community, the economy and your part in it changed as a result of having participated in these conversations?
3. We encourage you to consider forming a Common Security Club to explore living economies even more deeply and personally. You’ll find more information at the end of this Guide.

Thank you, again, for being part of this discussion group. Stories of what this experience has meant to you and others, as well as comments and feedback on this Discussion Guide, are welcome; please send to info@greatturning.org.

RESOURCES

For Further Exporation

DAVID KORTEN'S WORK

If you wish to include audio/video presentations as part of a study session, or suggest additional reading, David Korten's website provides an abundance of current and archived resources, including links to blog posts for YES! Magazine, articles, speeches, interviews, and videos. Stay in touch by visiting his website often and following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Website: www.davidkorten.org

Blog: New Economy Blog for YES! Magazine – www.yesmagazine.org/blogs/david-korten

Facebook: www.facebook.com/davidkorten

Twitter: www.twitter.com/dkorten and www.twitter.com/thegreatturning

NEW ECONOMY CONNECTIONS

New Economy Working Group (NEWGroup) - www.neweconomyworkinggroup.org
NEWGroup is a partnership of the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) in Washington DC, YES! Magazine, the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), and the People-Centered Development Forum, co-chaired by David Korten and John Cavanagh (IPS). Their mission is to put forward a bold vision and implementing strategy for a New Economy.

NEWGroup Partner Websites:

Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) - www.ips-dc.org

YES! Magazine – www.yesmagazine.org

Business Alliance for Local Living Economy (BALLE) - www.livingeconomies.org

Common Security Clubs - www.commonsecurityclub.org

New Economy Network (organizations aligned with NEWGroup) - www.neweconomynetwork.org

YES! MAGAZINE

YES! Magazine offers numerous ways to explore new economy ideas and practices. Sign up for their e-newsletters: YES! This Week, YES! for Educators, and YES! en español at www.yesmagazine.org.

YES! Magazine Summer 2009 issue, with multiple articles on Paths to a New Economy - www.yesmagazine.org/issues/the-new-economy

YES! Discussion Guide for the Summer 2009 issue - www.yesmagazine.org/issues/the-new-economy/discussion-guide-the-new-economy

YES! Magazine on-line focus on New Economy - www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy

RESOURCES

For Further Exporation

VIDEOS

“**Money as Debt**” and “**Money as Debt II**” videos by Paul Grignon - www.paulgrignon.net/firms.com/MoneyasDebt (to purchase or on-line viewing)

“**The Story of Stuff**” video series on “Stuff,” “Bottled Water,” “Cap & Trade,” and “Cosmetics” by Annie Leonard - www.storyofstuff.com

“**What’s the Economy For, Anyway,**” by John de Graaf and Dave Batker - www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/wefa.html

“**Money & Life**” (in production August 2010), by The Spirit of Money Collaborative - Trailer at <http://spiritofmoney.net/media/media/moneyandlife.html> and featured interviews - <http://vimeo.com/10619793>

“**The Money Fix,**” Movie by director Alan Rosenblitz - www.themoneyfix.org

“**Money Fix Podcast #1 with Hazel Henderson**” - 10 minute YouTube - www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JhjmV0iLpk

NETWORKS, DIALOGUE AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

BALLE (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies) – www.livingeconomies.org

AMIBA (American Independent Business Alliance) - www.amiba.net

Conversation Café - www.conversationcafe.org

World Café - www.theworldcafe.com

Awakening the Dreamer Initiative - www/awakeningthedreamer.org

SmartMeme - www.smartmeme.org

Everyday Democracy, Ideas and Tools for Community Change, including Discussion Guides - www.everyday-democracy.org

“We can, if we choose, replace cultures and institutions that celebrate and reward the pathologies of our lower human nature with cultures and institutions that celebrate and reward the capacities of our higher nature. We can turn as a species from perfecting our capacity for exclusionary competition to perfecting our capacity for inclusionary cooperation. We can share the good news that the healthy potential of our human nature yearns for liberation from cultural stories and institutional reward systems that have long suppressed it.” (Agenda, Page 273)



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Common Security Clubs

Coming Together to Prepare for Economic Change

These are uncertain times. The economic crisis has reminded us of our vulnerabilities: Debt. Foreclosure. Evaporating Savings. Rising Costs. Job Insecurity. We can face these changes alone – or come together.

What is a Common Security Club?

A place to come together to enhance our personal security in a rapidly changing world by:

- Courageously facing our economic and ecological challenges, learning together about root causes.
- Rediscovering the abundance of what we have and recognizing the possibility of a better future.
- Building relationships that strengthen our security and taking concrete steps for mutual aid and shared action.
- Seeing ourselves as part of a larger effort to create a fair and healthy economy that works for everyone.

Three Components of a Club

LEARNING TOGETHER: Through popular education tools, videos and shared readings, participants increase their understanding of the larger economic forces on our lives. Why is the economy in distress? How did these changes happen? How does this connect to the global economy? What are the ecological factors contributing to the changes? What is our vision for a healthy sustainable economy? How can I reduce my economic vulnerability? How can I get out of debt? Can I down-scale and reduce my consumption and ecological footprint and save money? How can we defend the commons and our commonwealth?

MUTUAL AID: Through stories, examples, web-based resources, a workbook and mutual support, participants reflect on what makes them secure. How can I help my neighbor facing foreclosure or economic insecurity? What can we do together to increase our economic security at the local level?

SOCIAL ACTION: Many of our challenges won't be solved through personal or local mutual aid efforts. They require us to work together to press for larger state, national and even global changes. Coming together, how can we become politically engaged to reclaim our country from the casino capitalists? What state and federal policies will increase our personal security? What programs will truly address the economic and ecological realities of our time?

Structure of a Common Security Club

One of the primary goals of Common Security Clubs is to convene a public process for participants to challenge their feelings of isolation and helplessness. Clubs are self-managing; participants take on responsibilities to help coordinate, schedule and host meetings. Participants also help the facilitator prepare for and lead the initial series of six meetings. After that series has been completed, a Club can decide whether it wants to continue meeting – with volunteers taking over facilitation responsibilities. Some Clubs may form self-organizing sub-groups to pursue specific activities and interests.

The Common Security Club Network

The Common Security Club Network is a project of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies and On the Commons.

Learn more at: www.commonsecurityclub.org