Seeding a Post-Capitalist Future
Capitalism is Bust; What’s Next?

VPT Land Stewards
Voluntown Peace Trust
539 Beach Pond Road
Voluntown, CT 06384

October 25, 2013
Videos & Discussion
Outline

1. Today's program
   - Motivation

2. Videos
   - Cornel West
   - Gar Alperovitz
   - Pam Warhurst

3. Dynamic Governance
   - Structure and Principles
   - Sociocracy: Literature Links

4. Circle Meeting: What's Next?
   - Circle Meeting
   - Decision-Making
   - Transition
Motivation

Bertrand Russell in *Political Ideals*: (http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4776)

*Political and social institutions are to be judged by the good or harm that they do to individuals.*

- *Do they encourage creativeness rather than possessiveness?*
- *Do they embody or promote a spirit of reverence between human beings?*
- *Do they preserve self-respect?*
Macro-Level Failure

- 60% of the discretionary budget for national “defense” (costofwar.com/media/uploads/security_spending_primer/discretionary_budget_m_vs_nm.pdf)
- Incarceration rate exceeds by an order of magnitude, Europe, Canada, Australia and Japan, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incarceration_in_the_United_States
- Vijay Prashad:

  Prisons and war are the rational extensions of the system in which we live.

See: Radical Futures: Noam Chomsky and Angela Davis:
1. vimeo.com/album/2193454/video/55457462 (yes, ... 2)
2. vimeo.com/album/2193454/video/55457461 (yes, ... 1)
John Buck:

I am supposed to be living in a democracy," I said, "but I spend much of my life at work in a basically feudal structure. There is

- a Duke of Operations,
- an Earl of Administration
- a Baroness of Personnel
- and so on

[...] the only vote I have is with my feet walking out the door."

We the People: Consenting to a Deeper Democracy (by John Buck and Sharon Villines)

http://www.governancealive.com/?s=creativeForces
Global Failure & Change

- Climate catastrophe
- Conclusion

*Capitalism and the wage system must be abolished; they are twin monsters which are eating up the life of the world.*

Bertrand Russell in *Political Ideals*: (http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4776)

- How do we get out of this mess non-violently and incrementally?
Mass incarceration part of:

- history of white supremacy
- empire in decline
- corporate greed
- paralysis of the Wall Street owned two-party system
- invisibility of the poor, domestic violence and childhood poverty
- drones dropped over “there” are tied over here to prison-industrial, military-industrial, government-corporate media complexes
Co-ops

http://vimeo.com/46379259 *Our Time in History*
- 25% of the American electric system is co-op or municipal, essentially socialized.
- Land trusts do development locally: profits accrue to the public or non-profit.
- California and Alabama using pension funds to finance
  - in-state investments
  - worker-owned companies
(RI’s “national model” cuddles hedge-fund managers!)

2. [http://whatthenmustwedo.org/](http://whatthenmustwedo.org/) *What Then Must We Do?*

Voluntown Peace Trust Land Stewards
Seedling a Post-Capitalist Future
Edible Landscapes

http://download.ted.com/talks/PamWarhurst_2012S-low-en.mp4

**Food:** a unifying language that cuts across age, income and culture to provide:

- a new way of living
- a different view of:
  - spaces
  - resources
  - human interactions
Worker owned co-op links

- [http://fertileunderground.com/p/Index](http://fertileunderground.com/p/Index) a communal garden grows into a worker-cooperative in Providence
- [http://www.geo.coop/taxonomy/term/210](http://www.geo.coop/taxonomy/term/210) Grassroots Economic Organizing: democratic participation, worker and community ownership, social and economic justice, and ecological sustainability
**Organization in Circles:** The organization consists of a hierarchy of semi-autonomous circles each with their own responsibility.
Double-Linking: Circles are connected to the next higher circle by a double link.

- Two linking representatives function as full members of both circles

- At the highest level, there may be a “top circle,” similar to a “board of directors.”
Sociocracy

Decisions: by principle of consent: no circle member has argued and paramount objection

Not: consensus: participants have to be “in favor;” consent requires “not against”

veto: no argument required; consent requires argument

consent: need argument and whether objection paramount or not

Elections: Individuals are elected to responsibilities following principle of consent.
Sociocracy Literature

- The Creative Forces of Self-Organization:

- Sociocracy (Dynamic Governance) for Not-For-Profit Organizations

- More over here:
Circle Meeting

1. Opening round: time to attune
2. Administrative: announcements, minutes, etc.
3. Content: various agenda items
4. Closing round:
   - was facilitator evenhanded?
   - decision making efficient?
   - were all prepared?
Decision-Making

1. What is the issue?
2. Generate proposal
3. Consent to proposal
   1. Present proposal
   2. Clarifying round — no discussion
   3. Reaction round
   4. Consent round — possible amendments
Proposal

- Schedule next round of discussions
- Elect somebody responsible for the program
- Possible “class” projects:
  - Co-optification of RI Future
  - Explore crowd funding: http://www.indiegogo.com/
  - …
Transition 2.0 http://vimeo.com/56154218
Grassroots Economic Organizing collective (http://www.geo.coop/),
Hour exchange in Windham/Willimantic CT https://hourworld.org/bank/?hw=1030
Source of small and beautiful ideas: http://www.positivenewsus.org/stories.html