

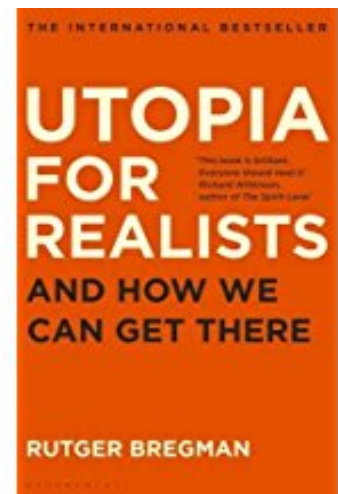
Report of meeting held at School of Economic Science, 11 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ
See Notes of ORG meeting on 19th April 2017: **OpenResearchGroup-170419**

Present: Janos, Paul, Ellena, Mary (notes)

The Great Moot on 22nd April 2017:

Mary reported on this one-day meeting in Nottingham for followers of the British Constitution Group: <https://www.britishconstitutiongroup.com/article/winchester-declaration> - billed under the heading of "THE RULE OF LAW CAMPAIGN: Putting The Winchester Declaration into Action". Rather than giving presentations from the stage, attendees were encouraged to gather in geographical groups in order to form regional networks, but in their brief opening and closing presentations, Justin Walker and Brian Gerrish alluded to corruption within the political process and suggested that those who have the ability might stand as independent candidates, at their own expense. Given that time was short for this in terms of the forthcoming election on 8th June, attendees were encouraged to ask awkward questions of the candidates in their constituencies and to spoil their votes with clear statements, as it was guaranteed that these would be read when counting votes. Donations were requested in order to fund basic expenses of the organisation. Mary felt that the message of this group, was not strong enough on its own, and there were too many different groups with similar aims none of whom as yet have sufficient profile to make much progress. Another such group is the Independent Constitutionals - who were making yet another attempt at building a website <http://www.icuk.life> - and Mary wondered by what process these groups might get together into some form of collaboration.

UTOPIA FOR REALISTS by Rutger Bregman, translated from Dutch. Janos enthused about this key book - the chapter he is reading documents interventions to solve poverty, e.g. providing free housing for rough sleepers. More soon next time. Meanwhile see: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/mar/13/utopia-realists-how-we-can-get-there-rutger-bregman-review>



The Great Leveller by Walter Scheidel - an end to inequality?
Mary had noticed Paul Mason's review of this book <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/mar/29/the-great-leveller-walter-scheidel-review-paul-mason> - The book's thesis is that the suppression of inequality has historically only occurred as a result of cataclysmic events. Paul Mason's view is more up-beat. His own recently published book is "Post-Capitalism", which received mixed reviews: <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/24878857-postcapitalism>

Moeen Yaseen of Global Vision 2000 and the Islamic Business Channel has been in touch about their new collaborative business network featuring a virtual trade show: <http://globalvision2000.com/> - see the video Ez-XP.