



Report of meeting held at School of Economic Science, 11 Mandeville Place, London [W1U 3AJ](#)
Notes of Open Research Group meeting on 28th June 2017: [OpenResearchGroup-170628](#)
Present: Janos, Ellena, Mary (notes), Paul.

We were looking at <http://www.themap.org.uk> and discussing where local currencies fits in. Mary is happy to put those which are vouchers for sterling currency in the “mitigation” box but she considered that those using the mutual credit model were an “alternative” paradigm.

Ellena was talking about an interview shown on Russian TV with someone who survived atrocities in the Congo, his wife was shot, and he was left bringing up the children. He felt that the UN was not getting to the root of the problem, it was complicit, and without working on this, the future would always be slavery: <https://www.rt.com/shows/documentary>.

Yanos’s emphasis was that the M.A.P. approaches are not separate, but would connect with each other. Ellena also recalled Tim Harford’s Fifty Things that Built the Economy, and the fact that some apparent technological improvements, such as air cooling would have a downside: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04b1g3c/episodes/downloads>

From last week’s discussion Janos reflected on the origins of Islam. Mohammed was a wealthy trader, he came from Mecca, he mixed with other traders and started complaining about other religions. Eventually they reacted, so Islam had to become a militant religion – the message was that big problems can develop from small mistakes. In Christianity the message was “love your enemy, do good to them that hate you”.

Paul talked about hierarchy in muslim societies, causing a feeling of powerlessness, which is the reason why males muslim are so angry. The Turks perfected the system of conquering the Christian world by using the children against their own people. The girls would be raised for the hareems, and the boys trained to become soldiers - when they sent the child back, the families were defenceless against them. There is archeological evidence from the ancient sites that people migrated from the Ukraine towards Mesopotamia, where the Sumerian culture appeared and collapsed and was replaced by the Assyrian culture – in what is now Syria AND Iraq. In the modern world, consciousness going towards enlightenment is most evident in Yogic, Buddhist and Shamanistic cultures, in Central and South America. Cultures based on Islam have become hidebound with rules, and at the other extreme, cultures encouraging individuality make it more difficult to go beyond the egoic states and rationality, and both mitigate against transcendence. Sufism pre-dates Islam and is under attack in some areas.

Mary mentioned a BBC1 documentary on Monday 3rd July and a drama “Three Girls” about the abuse of teenage girls in Rochdale: – <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/tv/0/three-girls-does-start-really-happened-rochdale-sex-abuse-scandal/> – featuring court cases in 2012 and 2016 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08xdh9r/the-betrayed-girls?suggid=b08xdh9r>
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