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**Report of meeting** held at School of Economic Science, 11 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ  
Notes of Open Research Group meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017: **OpenResearchGroup-170830**  
**Present:** Ahmet, William, John McCone, Ellena. Paul, Mary (notes). Apologies Janos (Hungary).

**John McCone** showed us a paper he has written entitled “Georgism – the answer to everything” and in reply to his question about the School of Economic Science’s involvement in Georgism and whether the Open Research Group group also supports Georgism – this paper provides some history on SES – <http://www.ethicaleconomics.org.uk/2010/03/in-search-of-truth>. Mary briefly described the history of the Global Table, when John Courtneidge and Sabine McNeil, co-founders of the Campaign for Interest-Free Money - <http://www.interestfreemoney.org> – were introduced to Peter Challen, chair since 1998 of CCMJ (which was founded in 1963), and he adopted Global Table as an outreach from CCMJ – [www.ccmj.org](http://www.ccmj.org).

The Table used to meet in Golden Square, then moved to Friends House Euston before it came to SES. Sabine McNeil also co-founded, with Peter Challen acting as Secretary, the Forum for Stable Currencies - <http://forumforstablecurrencies.org.uk> - which held a series of meetings in the House of Lords - while John Courtneidge continues as coordinator of the Occupy Economics Working Group, which has adopted the The Plan for Co-operative Socialism: <http://www.co-operativesocialism.org>, so the answer was that CCMJ and the Global Table have supported a wide range of ideas for monetary reform, and also send delegates to meetings at SES. Peter Challen, is no longer able to attend but continues collating information for and sending out Matters in the Air – see: <http://www.globaltable.org.uk> - which provides regular background information for our discussions: and we upload notes of our weekly sessions to the website and link to them from the page each week.

**Mary** heard a Radio 4 programme about Thames Water <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04xnzfq> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b02146xf#playt=0h08m41s> - the fact that they are using the mechanism of “gearing” to increase their profits, whilst failing to ensure that the water is properly treated, which led to a discussion on the Tools of Predation and Democide, and arming the police.

**Ellena** said that predatory Capitalism means “maximising profit by any means fair or foul”, in terms of wages, environmental damage, Capitalism=competition, Socialism = co-operation. William stated that the opposite of capitalism is self-sufficiency. Capitalism is mostly about centralisation and developing a centralised power-base that destroys competition. Ellena also reported that she had been attending the Stop the Arms Fair camp: <https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/>

**Paul** said that state capitalism is different, John asserted the real dichotomy is between choice and centralisation. Mary suggested that monopolies such as Google - who have recently bought YouTube - and Facebook – who on the face of it provide individual choice – actually have more power than governments - William added that they were able to expand because of low interest-rates.

**Paul** talked about the Roman Empire, the term fascism, an alliance between the state and the large companies of the day – mercantilism – what we have now is like Mussolini’s fas-cism. We’ve gone further in that the corporations are more powerful than the state, a fascistic takeover of the western world.

**Ahmet** talked about Islam and the Cold War instrument, studying the soviet and western ruler's backgrounds. In the 1950s Islamic countries accepted soviet ideas. Mosaddegh (Iran) influenced the traditional left idea, the green belt project started by the UK rejected nationalisation. Anglo-Iranian oil became BP, so it was a soviet-inspired move. Iran had an elected democratic government, was deposed by an intervention carried out by the CIA, MI6 was also involved in the anglicisation of Iranian-owned oil companies, they wanted to prevent that nationalisation – it was Arab nationalism in a soviet form. There was an attempt to bring the same principles into Iran – today it's the communism party in Iran has 40% support: - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad\\_Mosaddegh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Mosaddegh)

**William** said that if you challenge Islam you can get assassinated, the problem is with Christianity, Islam is not against centralised power, they have the idea of a Caliphate. Paul says it was a christian region ruled by a muslim elite, part of the process was that there were murderous campaigns, eg in 1915 Armenians in Russian Territories, the Assyrians were assassinated, but if you adopted Islam you were safe, so over one thousand years, Arabia as a region which had been dominated by Christianity, changed to Islam. Only 100 years ago, the middle-east was still 25% Christian. Istanbul was the capital of the Byzantine Empire, a christian city with a few muslims, since the end of the Ottoman Empire.

**Paul** added that in Turkey only 5% are actually of Turkish descent, the rest of them are descendants of people of the region who have adopted Turkish identity, because if you were Armenian you could be assassinated. At the beginning of WW1 the process that happened was that the Armenians were conscripted into the Turkish Army, the Ottoman regime was suspicious that they were going to help the Russians, the Russians made the beginnings of a move to invade north-eastern Turkey, then the Armenians were rounded up and assassinated. And the women were force-marched into the desert where they died, what is now called Armenia is the few tens of thousands who survived. Also the whole southwest of what is now called Turkey, Christian population, are hugely ethnically and religiously mixed, so the idea that Turks are ethnically muslim is a fabrication. Ahmet and Paul went on to discuss the fact that Turkey only came into being after the Turkish War of Independence in 1923 led by Ataturk – and that in the 1970s they still found skeletons of people massacred and lying on the ground – see background information here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa\\_Kemal\\_Atatürk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustafa_Kemal_Atatürk).

**Ahmet** mentioned Sharia Law, and John summarised by saying “Islam is an Islamic cult for Arab Supremacy”. Mohammed's mother was a Jew, his grandfather had married a young woman. Islam was based on sexual slavery, whereas the purpose of Western slavery was to get workers. In the Ottoman empire, they had Janitories, and used the technique of kidnapping children, the girls went into the harims, the boys were trained as soldiers then sent back to invade the places they had come from, and their families recognised them by their tattoos, which made it impossible for them to resist.

**John** recommended, for background reading, the book “Devil's Game – how the USA helped unleash fundamentalist Islam ” by Robert Dreyfuss (2006) – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil%27s\\_Game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devil%27s_Game) and • <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Devils-Game-United-Unleash-Fundamentalist/dp/0805081372>

Other relevant books: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/No-Go-Zones-Spreading-America/dp/1621576809>

**Ellena** reported that she had just attended an event organised by the Stop the War Coalition and was keen to do more – see website for forthcoming meetings: <http://www.stopwar.org.uk>