

DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS – Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist by Kate Raworth

NO IS NOT ENOUGH – Defeating the New Shock Politics by Naomi Klein

These two books provide a very positive vision of how we can change the world for the benefit of ordinary people and our planet. I would like to recommend that all Sustainable Crediton subscribers read them!

Doughnut Economics begins with a detailed and very well researched explanation of why the economics taught in most universities and used by governments is outdated. Kate Raworth asserts that the models, illustrations and equations used and the use of growth in GDP as a goal have led to gross inequalities and the trashing of our planet.

She presents a new model – the ring doughnut with a hole in the centre. On the inside of the doughnut is the social foundation including food, water, housing, education, work and all aspects of human life and economy. On the outside are all aspects of the living planet including climate, oceans, biodiversity, air, extraction of minerals, waste, etc. The heart of the doughnut ring should be a safe and just space for humanity with social equality and no overburdening of the living planet [an ecological ceiling]. In order to achieve this vision a redistributive and regenerative economics is required.

Kate uses many illustrations to explain all this, so trying to put her vision into words is necessarily inadequate – you need to read it for yourselves. The seven ways to think, featured in the title, are:

- Changing the goal of economics from GDP growth to the doughnut model
- Embedding the economy in all aspects of life, not seeing it as a separate entity
- Seeing humans as sociable, adaptable beings rather than selfish individuals
- Recognising the dynamic complexity of economic systems
- Designing in distribution of wealth rather than expecting growth to even things up
- Designing in regeneration of natural systems rather than expecting growth to clean up the planet
- Stop being addicted to growth and become agnostic to it

Kate Raworth is an economist and Oxford academic who produces a clear, well referenced text, making her ideas easy to appreciate. I particularly liked all the examples of positive projects and actions happening at present, taking us in the 'doughnut economics' direction of a just and flourishing planet.

In '**No Is Not Enough**', Naomi Klein begins with a fascinating account of how Trump came to be president of USA. This follows on from her previous books 'No Logo' and 'The Shock Doctrine' using all the research carried out for those. She shows how this is a 'corporate coup' with a cabinet of the very rich governing for corporate interests. Trump is immune to scandal and his presidency is the ultimate in branding, with the value of his, and his family's businesses profiting from public office, she asserts. This is followed by an explanation of how things could get worse for ordinary people [the 'losers' in Trump's words] if we don't take action; eg trade deals are likely to be altered in favour of corporations and the rich.

The fourth part of the book is much more positive with many examples of how people have 'awakened' and got together to alter bad situations. There is a moving chapter about the action at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline and its threat to the water supplies of the indigenous people; this was as much about learning how life could be and gaining personal power as opposing the pipeline. The book concludes with a chapter about The Leap Manifesto. Leaders of all sorts of Canadian organisations, including unions, indigenous people, environmentalists and justice campaigners, met to unite around a common agenda – a 'people's platform'- for the national election. They agreed that radical, transformative change was needed [too late to tinker about with small changes] and that their manifesto should be based on values from which policies would stem. Klein outlines how equality can be paid for. The document resulting from their deliberations: 'The Leap Manifesto – A Call for a Canada Based on Caring for the Earth and One Another', which appears at the end of the book, was endorsed by over 200 Canadian organisations and thousands of Canadians across the political spectrum. It is not a long document. Other countries are now taking up the idea and it's about time we did that in the UK.