DEBT: THE FIRST 5,000 YEARS BY DAVID GRAEBER – READING GROUP PART 5 CHAT

00:21:02   Yuki Whitley: I'd like to share segments from a page that stood out to me - "In a human economy, each person is unique...Each relation is unique...money is a way of acknowledging that the debt cannot be paid."

00:23:46   Tom Schatteman: Rereading this chapter, it struck me that the concept of "scarcity" came up several times. Which is a basic concept in economics.
I'm not sure though whether the scarcity is "created" or "natural". Younger women are coupled to older men, so creating a shortage of women for young men.

00:25:42   Sid Arora: https://www.youtube.com/@museumofcare9559/videos

00:26:50   Zachary Weisser: I think it's called "Self in the world: connecting life's extremes" - Keith Hart

00:26:51   Yuki Whitley: there is an observation about Mesopotamia that seems relevant to present day - "an explosion of debt that threatened to turn all human relations - and by extension, women's bodies - into potential commodities." it brings to mind for me the therapy profession's functional replacement for previously nonmonetized social-emotional relations, and the new conception of feminity/womanhood as a performance/suite of services instead of inherent personal identity

00:29:15   Mark Fuller: I agree, Simona, about this chapter. It was the first time that I really felt strongly the violence behind slavery...

00:30:49   Yuki Whitley: "...a handful is all it takes" chilling observation in the section Simona is describing

00:31:33   Joseph Turner: Thank you Sid and Zachary for the video with Keith Hart

00:31:51   Zachary Weisser: Michael Hudson is fond of saying that the "Near East" had a system which involved both (i) debt and (b) jubilee, but that "Rome" only implemented (i) debt, which is what contributed to creating a perpetually creditor (bank)-run economy

00:35:37   Mark Fuller: Beautifully said, Simona

00:37:56   Mark Fuller: Shock doctrine...

00:38:47   nika dubrovsky: @Zachary Weisser: Hudson realizes that if they do not begin to cancel the endlessly accumulating debts, the whole structure will disintegrate.
David did not care about preserving existing "civilization. I think he would agree with Simona, Steven and Keith Hart, who coined the very term - human economy.

00:42:31   Zachary Weisser: the "It is value that brings universes into being" essay is about how "infra-values" (that is, the _means_ by which people think one should go about achieving one's ends) can become thought to be the most important _ends_ -- i mention this because Steven talked about "efficiency", which Graeber introduced as the quintessential example of neoliberalism taking a _means_ (Efficiency, say, in distribution of resources) and making that itself the _end_ goal (ignoring the previous _end_, for instance, making sure everyone has food and shelter)

00:43:24   Zachary Weisser: thanks @Nika, I agree with that -- I just wanted to source/cite something I remembered about that train of thought

00:49:23   Christian Walter: we talk a lot about freedom. the chinese hate us because we have freedom and so on. it seems the more a concept like freedom or morality gets hyped up in the media the less this Thing discussed exists in reality - bit like in Orwell

00:54:24   Christian Walter: just an addendum: there is a lot of sex in there it is just packed into the fertility and control of Women's wombs
00:55:20   Mark Fuller: @Michael: weren't the examples of pawns qua young women about both sex and death?
00:55:22   nika dubrovsky: 2Christian Walter: by "us" you mean that we are free in Western societies?
00:55:47   Christian Walter: supposedly :)
00:57:04   nika dubrovsky: I think many people will disagree with this.
00:57:09   Christian Walter: i do too
00:57:21   Christian Walter: it's just how this is often framed
00:58:01   Mark Fuller: I was born into a social contract I never assented to.
00:59:18   nika dubrovsky: 2Christian Walter very annoying way to show us to be free (just be happy that you are not living in China or North Korea)
00:59:26   Michael Reinsborough: @Mark: yes about sex perhaps, although some were about care labour/slavery/reproducing the household and children. How are they about death.
01:00:28   Christian Walter: @nika yes
01:00:48   Mark Fuller: @Michael pawns were also used as wergeld, if I recall
01:01:45   Michael Reinsborough: @Mark: OK, yes, I read that bit of the chapter a while ago and had forgotten
01:02:54   Christian Walter: btw regarding the freedom Quote: in the middle ages in Germany people who stood outside the law were called "vogelfrei" free as a bird. These people stood out side of any Bondy of society and not tied down to any norms. This also meant that anybody was free to kill them without having to fear punishment. They were free because they had lost their place in society
01:04:13   Michael Reinsborough: Can we talk about 'turning chickens into cows' ? I am now convinced the title 'games with sex and death' is relevant but I think the barrier between different forms of exchange is relevant to the overall argument.
01:05:14   nika dubrovsky: Christian Walter vogelfrei" free as a bird - it is about pirates too.
01:05:33   Michael Reinsborough: p 147 'turn chickens into cows' Tiv saying
01:06:02   Christian Walter: yes - the had also lost their place in society. they said they came from the sea not any particular nation any more
01:14:35   Michael Reinsborough: Gambling as a part of 'speculation'. Wasn't crypto a recent 'gamble' and it collapses. Can we derive a theory of speculation/gambling from Graeber?
01:15:34   Christian Walter: gambling is a way out of debt that you cannot pay - cortez made a massive gamble to get out if his unpayable debts
01:19:28   Barbara Gabriella Renzi: gambling is also an addiction....so it is using weaknesses...
01:21:38   Michael Reinsborough: addictions are often forms of capital accumulation. Tobacco in the atlantic slave trade. Sugar /rum in the atlantic slave trade. Opium in the british conquest of China. Heroin/Cocaine in different CIA fuelled wars of American imperialism at the end of twentieth century
01:22:17   Paula Maas: I am interested in hearing your thought, Michael, around cows to chickens, I agree with your conclusion, it seems relevant.
01:23:34   Barbara Gabriella Renzi: it is a gamble a desperate act too: when you cross the see to escape war.

01:24:02   Paula Maas: People willing to die for something are redeeming their lives, or their slavemaster/warmongers redeem their lives for them.

01:25:14   Michael Reinsborough: @Paula: I think it was interesting that they had a striated economy so somethings can not be priced in other things (like we would say we would not sell our mother no matter what the price in money). So seemingly the TIV economy or the Iroquois economy had this striated system. But they did talk about how it might be manipulated, self aware of the decay of putting a single price (money) on everything

01:26:53   Mark Fuller: @Michael: how do we create a striated system?

01:27:05   Tom Schatteman: was the violence between these villages something like schismogenesis?

01:27:19   nika dubrovsky: Ao interesting chat. Should we publish It on the page of the reading group?

01:28:36   Christian Walter: if you think it adds value

01:29:03   Paula Maas: @Michael - striation here, now: cash vs credit, block chain, cbdc, barter ...

01:29:10   Christian Walter: bad turn of phrase, sorry

01:29:15   Sid Arora: Article 13 of UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

01:29:16   Michael Reinsborough: @MArk: Yes, great question! But talking about does everything really have a price is something. we should discuss this more in future reading groups discussions

01:30:37   Tom Schatteman: bye

01:30:37   bruno Van den Bosch:thank you

01:30:49   Barbara Gabriella Renzi: thank you!

01:30:54   nika dubrovsky: Than you everyone!

01:30:57   Mark Fuller: thanks!

01:31:02   Sid Arora: thanks & see you next year!

01:39:21   nika dubrovsky: Send an email to museum-of-care-subscribe@lists.riseup.net