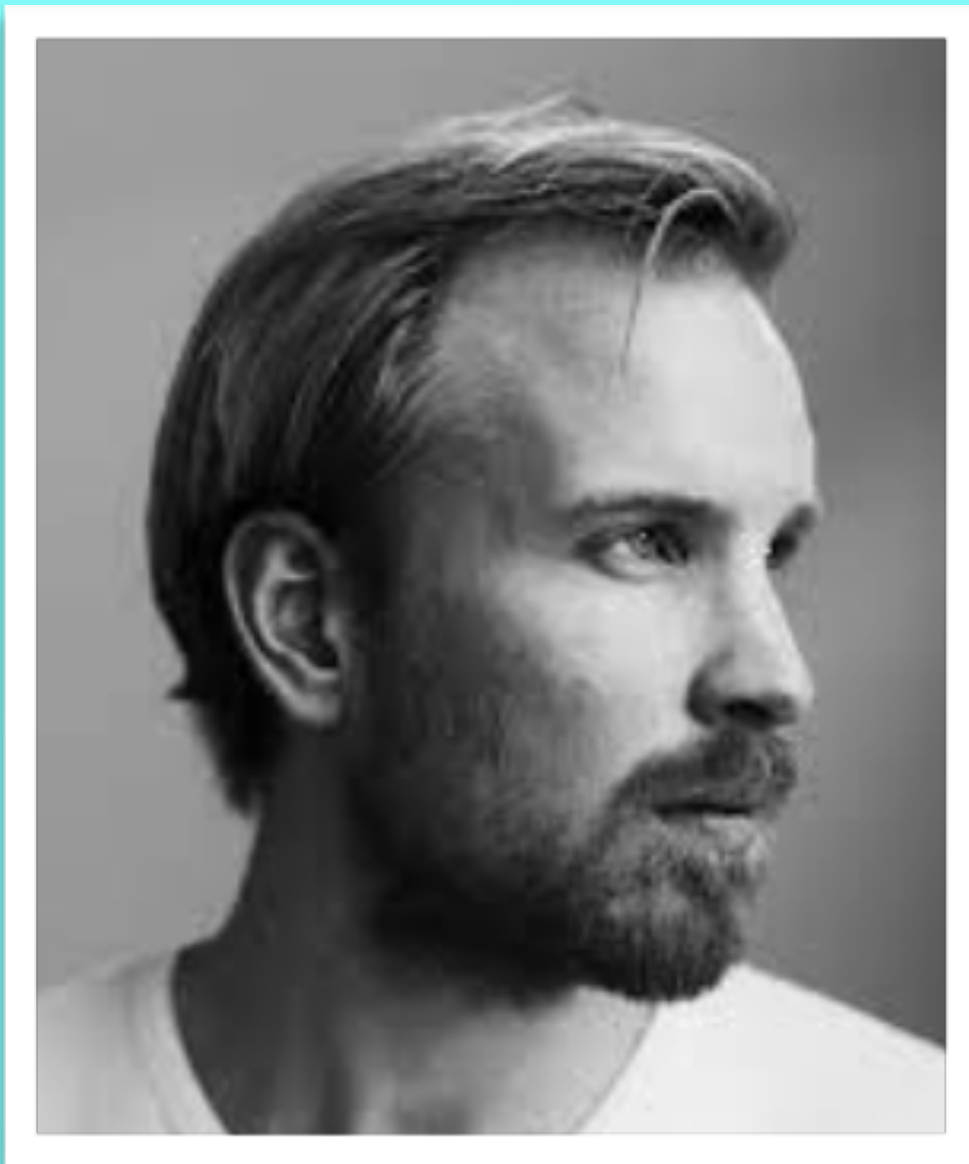


**ACTS PRESENTS
MONDAY NIGHT BOOK
STUDY 49-08**



Rutger Bregman

BEFORE WE BEGIN



Wayne Holst

*MONDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY
WITH
WAYNE, JOAN AND BRENDA
FALL SESSION 49-08*

OPENING WITH MIKE GRAMMER



49-08. November 14, 2022

Chapter 15 and Part Five: Turn The Other Cheek

Cynicism is just another word for laziness — don't punch Nazis.

49-09. November 21, 2022

Chapters 16, 17, 18

Come out of the closet — don't be afraid of doing good.

49-10. November 28, 2022

Epilogue and Summary Evening —

Be realistic.



HOUSEKEEPING

Bregman's Rule #8 of Rules to Live By

Cynicism is just another word for laziness — don't punch Nazis.



- If you believe most people are rotten, you don't need to get worked up about injustice.
- Beware the do-gooder who is into self-image.
- Just like bombing the Middle East is manna for terrorists, punching Nazis only reinforces extremists. It validates them in their worldview and makes it that much easier to attract new recruits.
- Turning the Other Cheek Strategy in Wunsiedel, Germany: "What your T-Shirt can do, you can do too. We can help you free yourself from the far-right." Whereas festival-goers came expecting confrontation, disgust and outrage, they got an outstretched hand (and a t-shirt that changed their message.)

THREE QUESTIONS THAT NEED REFLECTIVE THOUGHT

■ *What planet am I on?*

■ *What wolf am I feeding?*

■ *How can my Faith help me deal with a book like this?*



- "How can we restore trust in politics? Stem the tide of cynicism? Save our democracy?" (298)
- What if real democracy is possible? (298)
- "It's time for government by the citizens." (299)

CHAPTER FIFTEEN: THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE



CHAPTER FIFTEEN: THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE

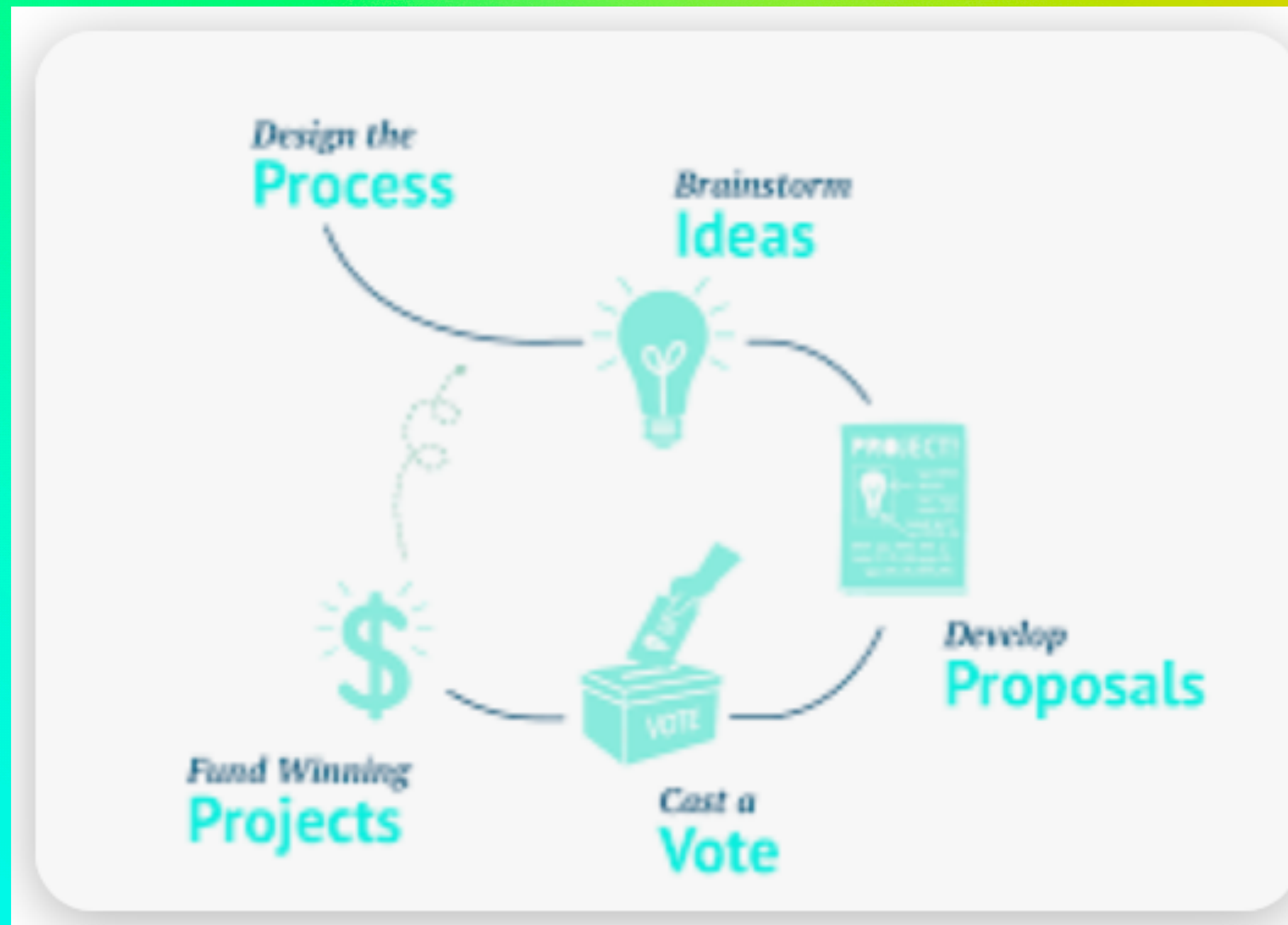
Some key points

The new democracy starts with minorities, the poor, the less educated. Surveys???

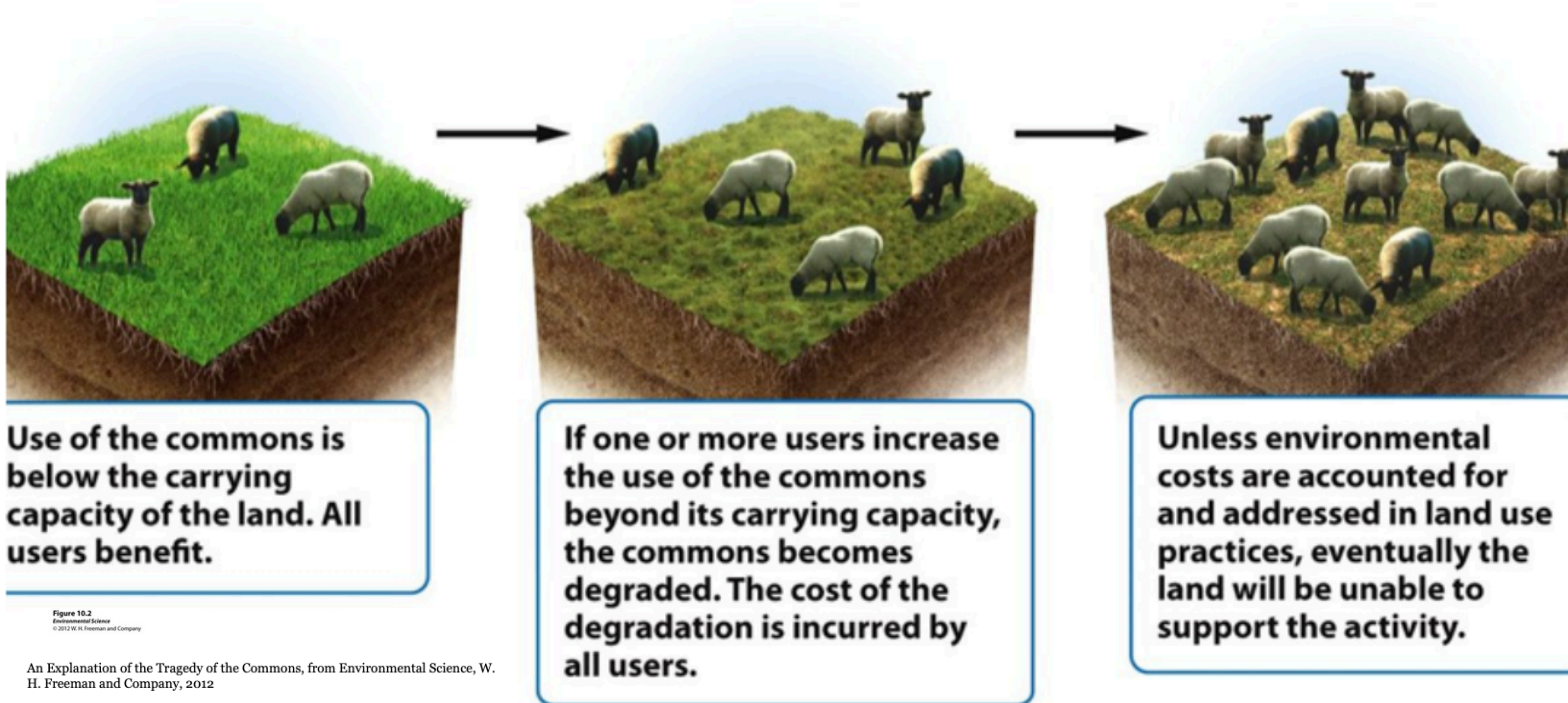
“What if there’s a constructive and conscientious citizen inside each of us?” (306)



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AND OTHER ECONOMIC THEMES

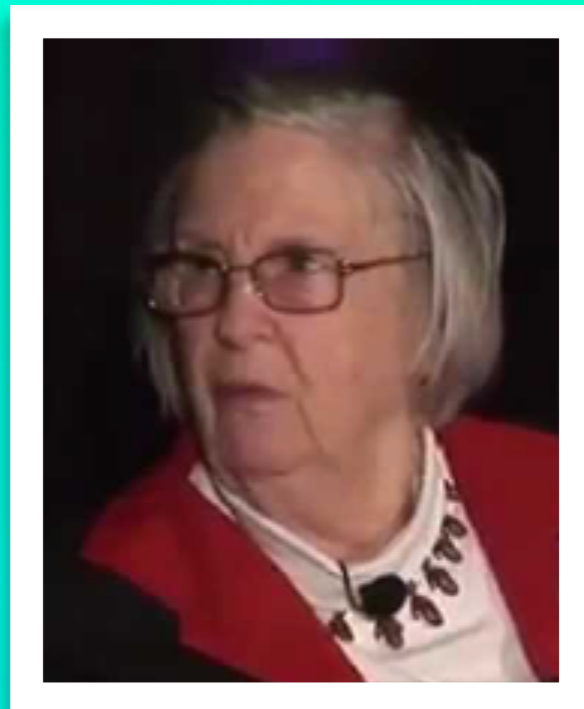


The Tragedy of the Commons



Tragedy of the Commons (Garrett Hardin, 1968; William Foster Lloyd, 1832)

- There is a potential or tendency for common property resources to be overused
 - The private cost of using a bit more of a resource is (nearly) zero.
 - **The social cost (imposed on other users) from using a bit more of the resource is significant.**
- **Garrett Hardin vs. Elinor Ostrom**
 - Private property vs community solutions
 - “Sure a commons can fall victim to conflicting interest or greed, but that’s far from inevitable.” (Bregman, p. 312)



Beyond Chapter 15... **Humankind, a Hopeful Future?!**

Tragedy Averted?

- **Earth's Oceans**
 - **Overfishing**
 - **Global garbage dump**
- **Earth's Atmosphere**
 - **Climate Change**

Questions: Markets vs. Missing Markets

1. **Should individuals, firms and/or governments be allowed to emit greenhouse gasses for free?**
2. **If not, who should they pay?**

"The commons" -
the things we share
(309)
- design principles
for a workable
"commons"



■ "The question is not how to motivate others, but how we shape a society so that people motivate themselves." (278)

■ "Mankind is essentially a cooperative being." (314)

■ "We need to go beyond left and right, market and state, capitalism and communism." (317)

PART FIVE: THE OTHER CHEEK

"You have heard that it was said 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' But I say to you, do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also..." Matthew 5:38/9

Jesus was advocating a quite rational principle. Modern psychologists call it non-complementary behavior.(323)
- discuss

What if we assume the best not only about our children, our co-workers and our neighbours, but also about our enemies?

Summary Question

■ What about the rest of us? Are you and I capable of turning the other cheek? Can we make it work on a large scale? (323)





Rutger Bregman — It's about Plutocracy vs Democracy



**Elinor Ostrom on the
Myth of the Tragedy of the Commons**

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A HOPEFUL HISTORY

Break out Rooms — Some things to discuss

- * How can my Faith help me deal with a book like this?
- * How do we restore trust in politics? What about participatory budgeting?
- * “Cynicism is just another word for laziness — don’t punch Nazis. ” Plus and minus!!
- * What do you think about the importance of non-complementary behaviour?
- * Are we capable of turning the other cheek?
- * Hardin versus Ostrom: Speculation versus Fact
- * Heritage Trust Fund and Alaska Permanent Fund

FEEDBACK AND SUMMARY

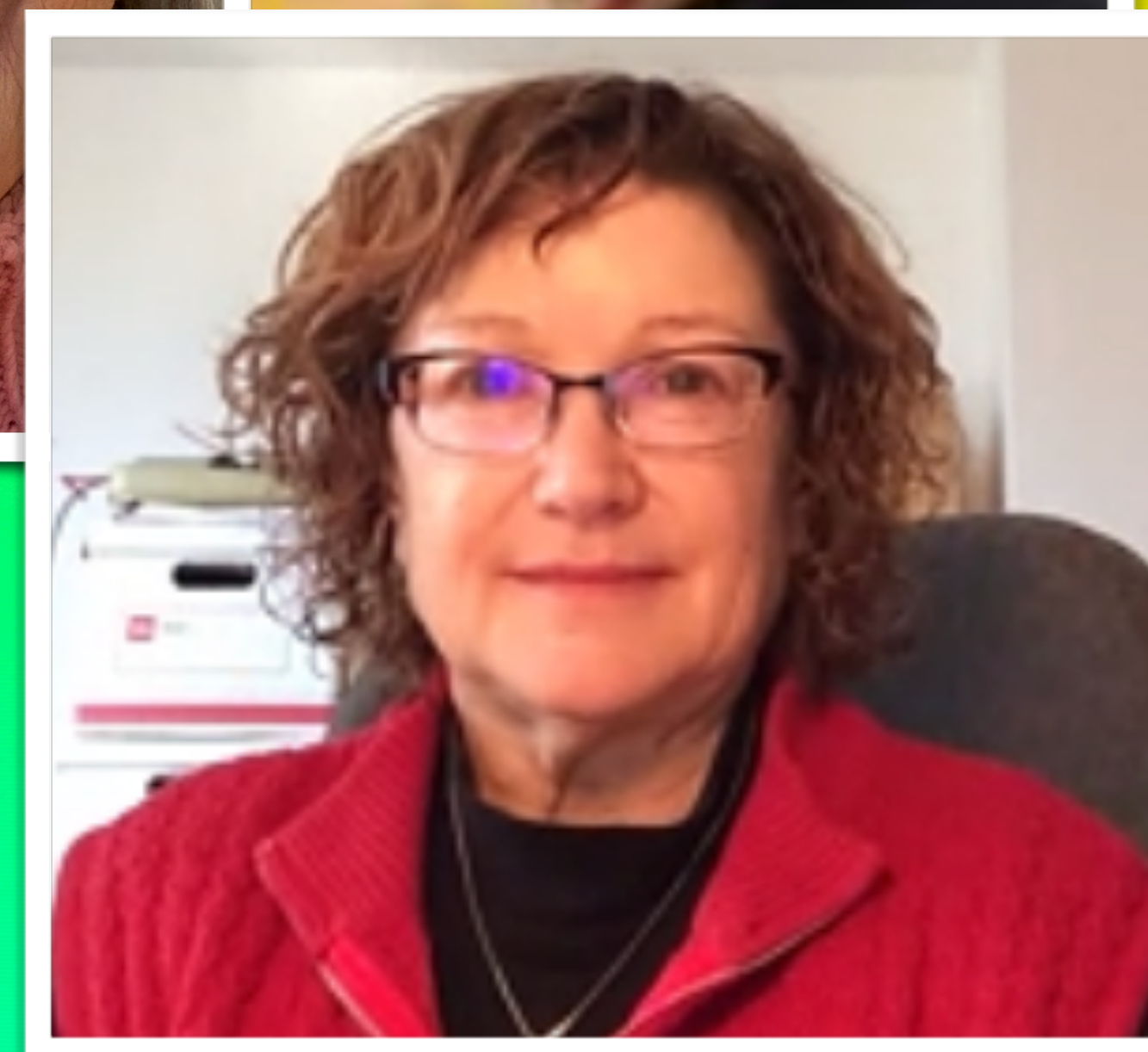
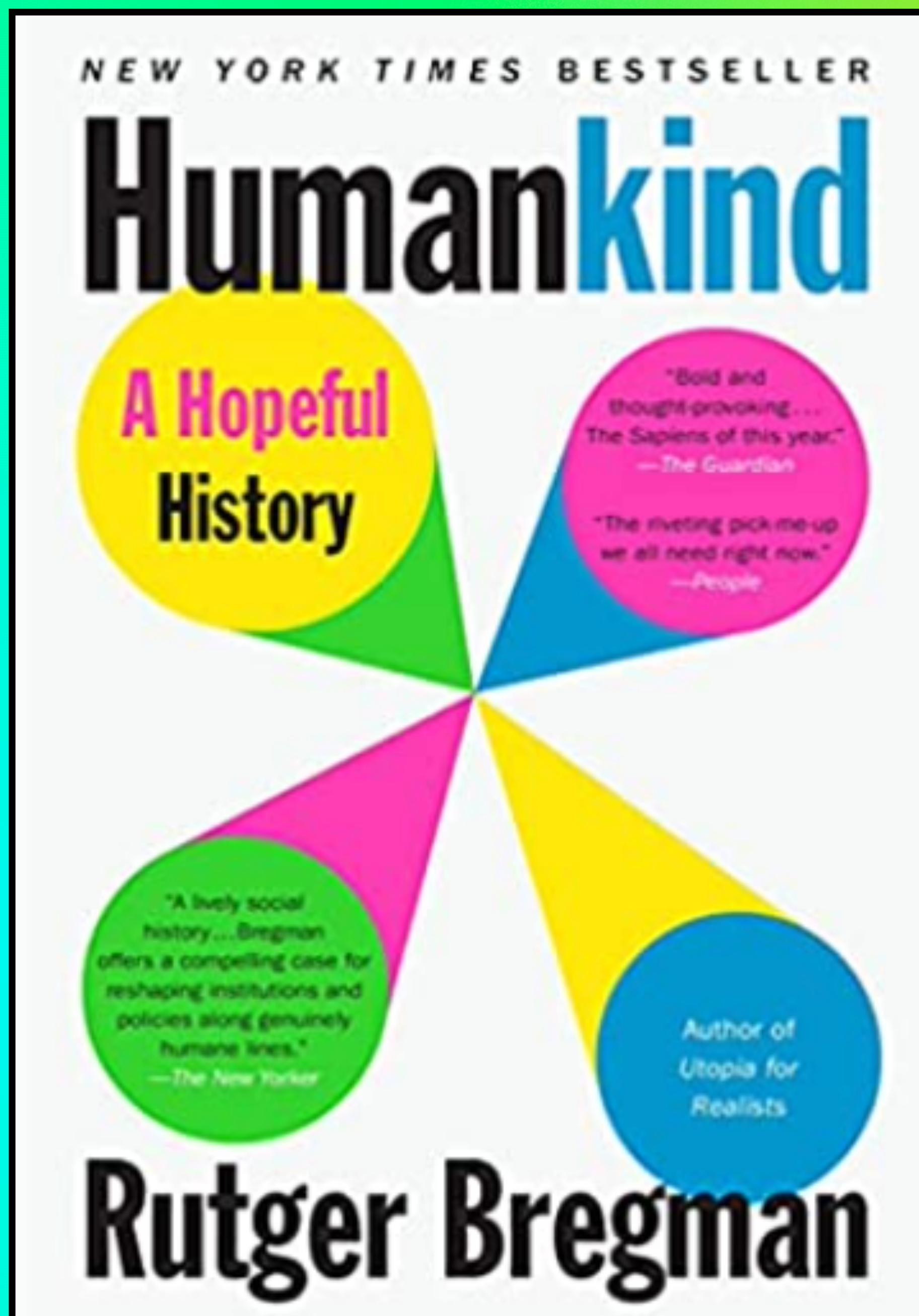
STORIES/ IDEAS THAT NEED TO BE SHARED

**Next Week:
November 21, 2022
Chapters 16, 17, 18
Come out of the
closet — don't be afraid
of doing good.**





**Closing with
Deb Charnuski**



**ACTS PRESENTS
MONDAY NIGHT
BOOK STUDY 49-08**