



*"After a lifetime of war-watching, I see war as an endemic human disease, and governments as the carriers."*

**-Martha Gellhorn** (1908-1998), US journalist and author

*"I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it."*

**-Dwight D Eisenhower** (1890-1969), US President and General



*'Die in' protest for ethical investment  
at Nottingham University 2007.*

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**\*Booklet produced collectively and non-hierarchically by NSPM 2008\***

## **Nottingham Student Peace Movement**



## **Introductory Guide**





Welcome! This booklet aims to give you a flavour of NSPM as a society and help you to find your feet in the world of student activism and campaigning.

## About NSPM

We are a group of students and academics committed to affecting change in society and bettering the world around us. We campaign on a range of social justice and peace issues, at the individual, local, national and global levels. NSPM works through encouraging dialogue, facilitating discussion, planning events and engaging with campaign groups and other organisations.

We aim to understand social, political and economic ideologies and structures; to challenge and confront the root causes of injustice, conflict and suffering.

## Our Objectives

1. To increase the awareness of Nottingham students on issues of peace and conflict, and social justice.
2. To provide a space for Nottingham students to discuss issues of peace and conflict, and social justice.
3. To encourage interaction between students from different cultural and political backgrounds.
4. To help Nottingham students join in with activities of other societies and external organisations, where they are consistent with our own aims.

## What We Do

We are involved in a range of social justice campaigns on and off campus, including ethical investment, environmental justice, ethical careers, and disaffiliation from the arms industry.

We produce a political journal 'ceasefire', hold a weekly film night 'cinema pacifico'; organise conferences on social and environmental justice and conflict issues; participate in cross-society networking, attend demonstrations, protests and actions.



## How We Work

NSPM works on the principles of 'horizontal' or 'non-hierarchical' organising. Planning meetings run on consensus decision-making principles and the society functions with an inclusive ethos.

Meetings are held in the Portland Building on University Park Campus, every **Wednesday at 4pm**. Room locations can be found on our website.

Join our **mailing list** to find out about up and coming events, and stay in the loop, send a blank email to:

[nspmannounce-subscribe@lists.riseup.net](mailto:nspmannounce-subscribe@lists.riseup.net)



## The World Around Us

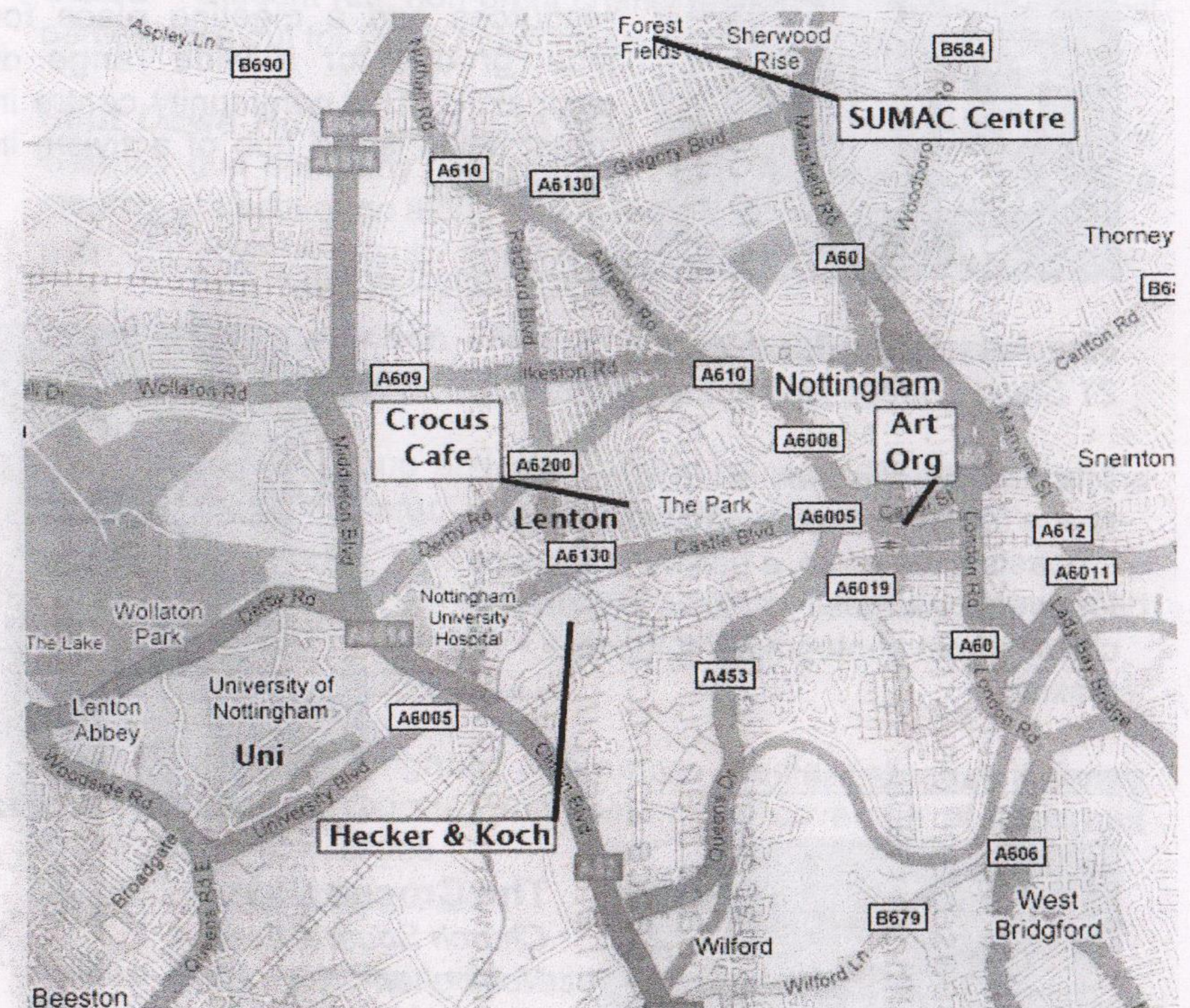
As students at a wealthy institution in the global north, most of us lead privileged, sheltered, comfortable lives. It is all too tempting for us to be complacent, ignorant or apathetic about the state of the world around us. However, our planet and species are in a woeful and worsening state that we cannot and should not ignore. NSPM proposes we seek an alternative society to one that has created the following problems, and positive solutions to them:

- Every day 24000 people starve to death or die of easily curable diseases.
- Approximately one third of the World's population is at war.
- US spending to date (Sept 2008) on the Iraq war is \$600 billion.
- Estimated annual cost of providing basic healthcare for the world's population: \$15 billion.
- In 2003, the US spent \$360 billion on its military. This is 33 times the combined military spending of the seven 'rogue states' (Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria)
- The estimated cost of replacing 'Trident', the UK's nuclear weapons system is £56 billion.
- In 2007, global military spending was over \$1.2 trillion.
- Within the past year, global food prices have risen by 75%. Between 2006 and 2007, profits made by ADM, one of the world's leading agribusiness firms, rose by 67%.
- A third of household food in the UK is thrown away.
- More than 150 countries use torture. That's more than two thirds of the countries of the world.

## Life Beyond Campus

Whilst at University you may become curious about the big bad city outside the bounds of the campus bubble. To help you explore, we've highlighted some of the stuff we believe is worth investigating. So, go forth and explore:

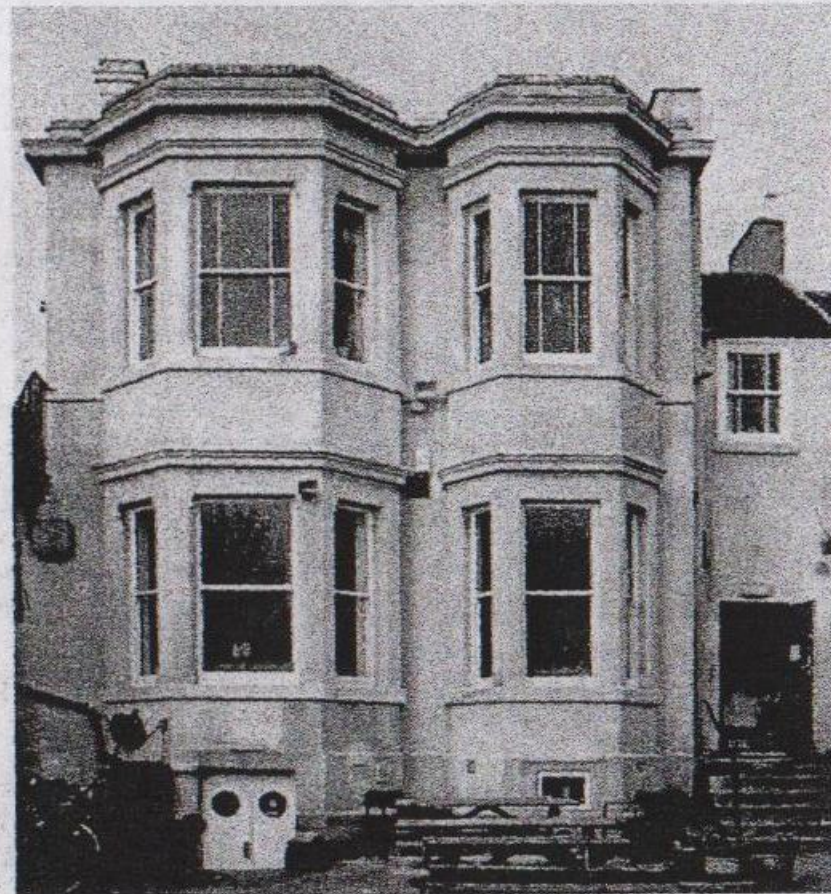
## Alternative Nottingham





## Top Places

Nottingham has a diverse alternative scene for activism, arts, food in the local community. Here are some places we recommend:



**The Sumac Centre**  
245 Gladstone Street,  
Nottingham, NG7 6HX

The Sumac Centre provides resources and a meeting place for local groups for a wide range of campaigns. This community centre in forest fields is the hub of activism in Nottingham.

[www.sumac.org.uk/](http://www.sumac.org.uk/)

## The Arts Organisation

21 Station Street, Nottingham NG2 3AJ.

The Arts Organisation is a community space for arts, events and social projects. It boasts a tea room, a gallery and space for events such as live music and diverse classes from photography to banner making.

[www.theartorganisation.co.uk](http://www.theartorganisation.co.uk)



## The Crocus Café

Church Square, Lenton,  
Nottingham, NG7 1SL

The Crocus Café is a volunteer run community café in the heart of Lenton. It provides cheap veggie for food for students and local people in a friendly



## Local Campaigns & Organisations

**Veggies** – The legendary Vegan Catering company. Mmm Somosas.

[www.veggies.org.uk](http://www.veggies.org.uk)

**Sprout** - is a Nottingham wide scheme offering young people the opportunity to run, and get funding for their own environmental projects. [www.sproutnottingham.org](http://www.sproutnottingham.org)

**DEMO** – Student run, non-profit charity club night. Awesome ethical parties, look out for DEMO club nights at Blueprint, Radford.

**Shut Down H&K** – Campaign shut down the Nottingham office of German gun company 'Heckler & Kock'. Get along to one of the monthly protests or go along to a meeting to find out more.

[www.shutdownhk.org.uk](http://www.shutdownhk.org.uk) / <http://nottsantimilitarism.wordpress.com>

**Eastside Climate Action** – Nottingham-based climate action group.

[www.eastsideclimateaction.org.uk](http://www.eastsideclimateaction.org.uk)

**Defy-ID** – Local group actively working to resist ID cards and the National Identity Register. [www.nottingham-defy-id.org.uk](http://www.nottingham-defy-id.org.uk)

**No Borders** – Local group working to oppose boarder controls and deportations of asylum seekers and refugees.

[www.nobordersnottingham.org.uk](http://www.nobordersnottingham.org.uk)

**Indymedia** – Nottingham alternative media collective offering grassroots, non-corporate, non-commercial coverage of important social and political issues.

<http://notts.indymedia.org.uk>

**Riseup Radio** – community based podcast from Nottingham, UK. Reports on stuff that didn't make other local media, music from local artists and bands and chatting about stuff that matters.

<http://riseupradio.wordpress.com/>



## Some Terms. What is....?

Bellow are some terms that you might hear used at meetings or events. Many of them are complex subjects and have had books and mountains of essays dedicated to them; so the bellow definitions are only intended to give you the most basic outline understanding.

**'Anarchism'** - a political philosophy encompassing theories and attitudes which support the elimination and rejection of all forms of coercive control and authority (eg. governments). Defined by The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Politics as "the view that society can and should be organized without a coercive state."

**'Capitalism'** - the prevalent current economic system, in which the means of production are owned by private persons, and operated for profit; and where investments, distribution, income, production and pricing of goods and services are predominantly determined through the operation of a 'free market'.

**'Socialism'** - the politico-economic theory of social organization advocating that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be regulated or owned by the community and/or state.

**'Skipping'** - Salvaging unwanted goods (ie food, furniture) free of charge, from skips and commercial dustbins.

**'Terrorism'** - the use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, often for political purposes. Reminds you of the Iraq war doesn't it?

**'Counter Terrorism'** - Action or strategy intended or seen to counteract or suppress terrorism; sadly this usually consists of using 'terrorism' to fight 'terrorism', much like trying to put out a fire with a petrol fire-extinguisher.

**'NVDA' (Non-Violent Direct Action)** - political action to challenge or remedy a problem at it's source by direct means; ie physically getting in the way, affecting or preventing something. Direct action may violate criminal law, though not necessarily.

## Acronym Buster

Sometimes during meetings, people may suddenly break into acronym-speak. Confusing at first for some, everyone comes to understand and use them eventually. So if you're new to these abbreviations, here are some of the basics to get you started:

**BAE** - 'British' Aerospace - Multinational Weapons Corporation. We don't approve of their war-profiteering, to say the least.

**RR** - Rolls Royce - Similarly, an Engineering corporation involved in the production of engines for battleships, warplanes, nuclear subs and many other unwholesome endeavours. The company are very influential at this University, incidentally.

**H&K** - Heckler & Kock - German small arms company with an office in Nottingham.

**CAAT** (Pronounced 'cat') - Campaign Against the Arms Trade

**BNP** - British National Party - the fascists. Boo hiss.

**SWP** (Sometimes referred to as 'swappies') - the Socialist Worker Party. You're sure to encounter these guys.

**SU** - The Students Union - The student body to which our society is officially affiliated and through which we operate

**CND** - Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

**UDHR** - Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**WTO** - World Trade Organisation - Organisation of senior economic and political figures that seeks to demolish trade restrictions in favour of a 'free market', often violently and/or at the expense of individual and local cultures and wellbeing, in a nutshell.

**IMF** - International Monetary Fund - Organisation that collaborates with the World Bank, frequently using loans and national debts, particularly in developing nations, to push the free market agenda/crusade.



## Some Useful Websites and Organisations

[www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) The Campaign Against Arms Trade

[www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org) Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

[www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk) The people that organise the marches

[www.climatecamp.org.uk](http://www.climatecamp.org.uk) Direct action movement taking on the root causes of climate change

[www.defy-id.org.uk](http://www.defy-id.org.uk) Resisting the Police State

[www.campacc.org.uk/](http://www.campacc.org.uk/) Campaign Against Criminalising Communities

<http://ceasefiremagazine.co.uk> NSPM's very own political journal

[www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org) Grassroots, non-corporate, non-commercial coverage of important social and political issues.

[www.schnews.org.uk](http://www.schnews.org.uk) Brighton-based independent news.

[www.peacenews.info](http://www.peacenews.info) written and produced by and for activists, campaigners and radical academics.

[www.ukwatch.net](http://www.ukwatch.net) Daily review of radical comment and analysis

[www.chomsky.info](http://www.chomsky.info) For a bit of bedtime reading.

[www.corporatewatch.org](http://www.corporatewatch.org) A really useful site for facts and figures.

[www.riseup.net](http://www.riseup.net) project to create democratic alternatives and practice self-determination, controlling our own means of communications.

*\*For a more comprehensive list of useful websites, visit:*

**[nspm.wordpress.com](http://nspm.wordpress.com)**

## NSPM Reading List

### Fiction

An Inspector Calls - J.B. Priestley\*

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley\*

Catch 22 – Joseph Heller\*

Darkness At Noon- Koestler\*

Infinite Jest- David Foster Wallace\*

The Dispossessed- Le Guin\*

The Drowned World- J G Ballard

We- Yevgeny Zamyatin\*

Why Globalization Works- Martin Wolf\*

### Non Fiction

A People Betrayed – L R Melvern\*

American Fascists- Chris Hedges

As Used on the famous Nelson Mandela- Mark Thomas

Civil Disobedience- H.D Thoreau

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man – John Perkins

Deer Hunting With Jesus- Joe Bageant

Empire- Hardt & Negri\*

Enemy Combatant – Moazaam Begg

Heat- George Monbiot\*

Hegemony Or Survival- Noam Chomsky\*

How to Re-Imagine The World- Anthony Weston

Marx for Beginners- Rius\*

No Logo- Naomi Klein\*

One No, Many Yeses- Paul Kingsnorth

Real England- Paul Kingsnorth

Society Of the Spectacle- Debord\*

Temporary Autonomous Zone - Hakim Bey\*

The New Rulers of the World – John Pilger\*

The Party's Over- Richard Heinberg

The Shock Doctrine – Naomi Klein\*

Unpeople – Mark Curtis

7/7 The London Bombings, Islam & The Iraq War – Milan Rai

*\* Available from University Libraries*