

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR:**

# **THE NEXT AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**featuring Gar Alperovitz**

Is the American “system” in crisis, and if so, how can we tell?

What are some of the system’s trends, and are they responsive to political decision-making?

What is a good way to understand how an economic system is organized and where its power lies?

What is the standard liberal “reform strategy”? How does it address the economy’s tendency to concentrate wealth?

What is the institutional power base behind that strategy of liberal reform?

What might a strategy look like that goes beyond redistributing and managing inequality? What kind of system would operate to produce more egalitarian economic outcomes?

Which currently existing structures in the U.S. economy are the most democratic?

How can democratized economic institutions become more widespread?

In what ways can economic transformation connect with American cultural values?

Is the U.S. economic system likely to collapse, revive or stagnate? What would each of these possibilities entail for progressive strategy?

How did workers and communities attempt to respond to mass unemployment and de-industrialization in Ohio? What lessons can be learned from that effort?

What is developing in Ohio at present to democratize wealth? How is this effort tied to previous efforts, and how does it differ?

In what ways does Cleveland’s model offer ideas for larger-scale economic development?

How does this new economic strategy differ from classical strategies of revolution or reform?

What are the problems with the financial and health-care industries? What are some options for dealing with these problems which would actually redesign those systems?

What do community-based experiments suggest is possible at a national level? What are some historical precedents for this kind of “scaling up”?

What is the time frame for systemic change based on previous efforts in American history?

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