Debt and Finance Reading Group
Spring 2022, Date and Time
Facilitation by Michael Brennan & Ashley Burke
Sponsored by Metro DC DSA

Have you ever wondered what debt is, where it came from, and how it came to underpin American political economy? We’ll try to answer these questions and more in the Debt and Finance reading group. The group will meet on Zoom every two weeks to discuss readings on the origins of debt, the rise of our current monetary system, the implications of the monetary system for liberatory projects in the U.S., and the role of debt in creating the U.S. empire. We’ll also use this reading group to begin considering opportunities for debt and finance organizing, such as canceling student debt and forms of mutual aid.

Feel free to drop in if you’re interested in a particular session but don’t have time to attend them all, everyone with an interest in debt, money, and finance is welcome!

The only text to purchase is Stephanie Kelton’s *The Deficit Myth* (2020) for sessions 3-5. All others will be provided as PDFs.

**Session 1: The Origins of Debt**

  David Graeber, Debt: The First 5,000 Years, On the Experience of Moral Confusion and The Myth of Barter

**Session 2: The Origins of Modern Money**

  Christine Desan, Making Money: Coin, Currency, and the Coming of Capitalism, Introduction


**Session 3: The Deficit Myth Part 1**

  Introduction: Bumper Sticker Shock

  Chapter 1: Don’t think of a Household

  Chapter 2: Think of Inflation

**Session 4: The Deficit Myth Part 2**

  Chapter 3: The National Debt (That Isn’t)

  Chapter 4: Their Red Ink is Our Black Ink

  Chapter 5: “Winning” at Trade

  Chapter 6: You’re Entitled!

**Session 5: The Deficit Myth Part 3**

  Chapter 7: The Deficits that Matter
Chapter 8: Building an Economy for the People

https://prospect.org/culture/books/mmt-can-we-create-all-the-money-we-need/

https://lpeproject.org/blog/the-deficit-myth-banking-between-the-lines/

Session 6: Debt and Empire


David Graeber, Debt: The First 5,000 Years, (1971–The Beginning of Something Yet to Be Determined)

Fadhel Kaboub, Green and Just: How to Finance a Green New Deal that is Truly Global,

Luke Herrine, Cancelling Student Debt Via Executive Action Would Build Working Class Power,