

# The Politics of Hope

Ruth Levitas

University of Bristol

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Just a kid with a crazy dream

Democracy is coming to the USA



Sail on, sail on

O mighty Ship of State!

To the Shores of Need

Past the Reefs of Greed

Through the Squalls of Hate

Sail on, sail on, sail on.

Leonard Cohen: Democracy



Is there anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy? Tonight is your answer

This is our time ... to reclaim the American Dream....

Barack Obama



And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

.....

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a *dream* today!

Martin Luther King

# Reasons not to be hopeful

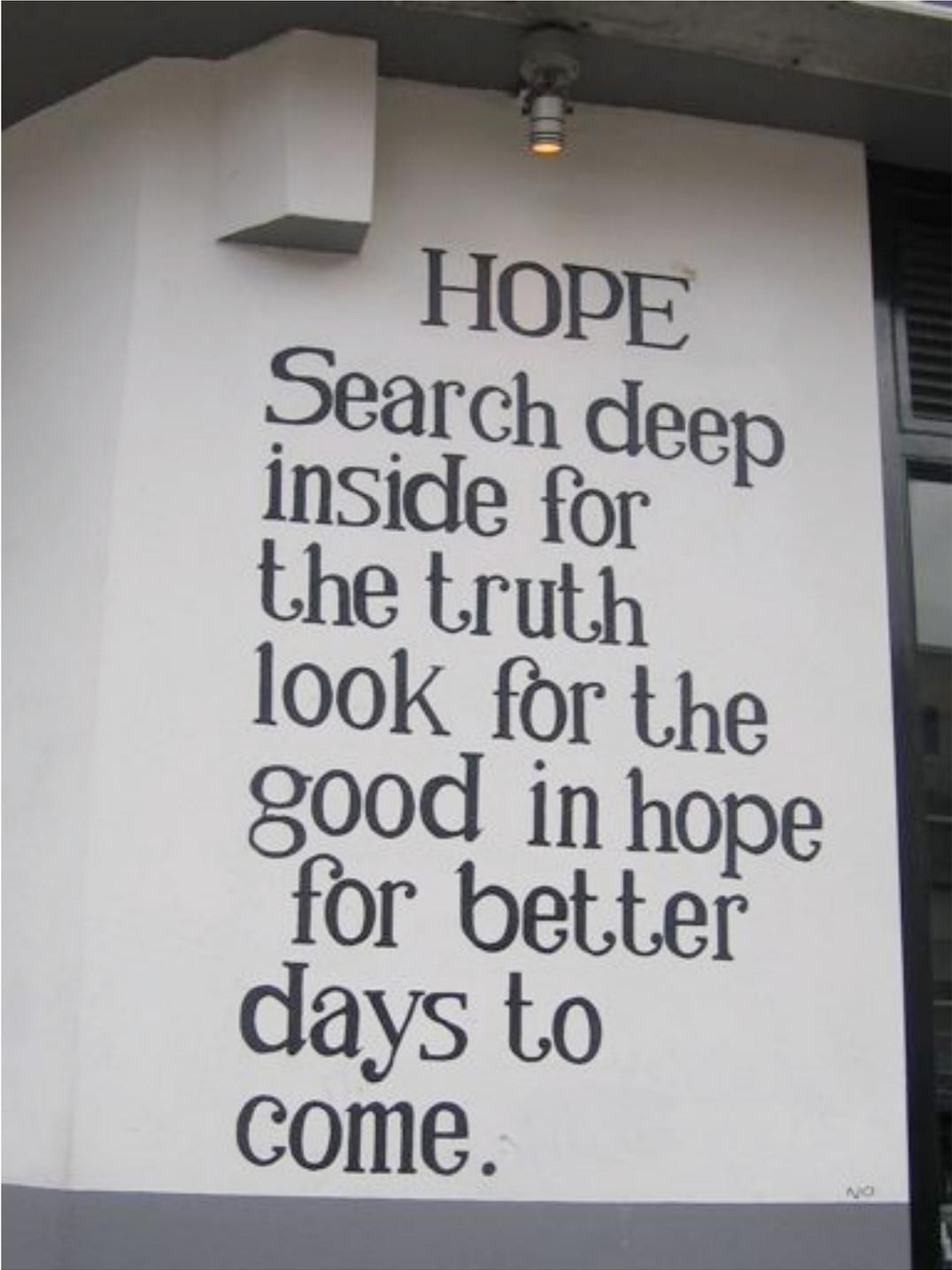
- Environmental disaster
- Credit Crunch
- Rising global inequality and rising sea levels
- Iraq War, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Congo, children stabbing each other on the streets of London .....

# Reasons to be hopeful

- Environmental disaster: the contradiction to end capitalism?
- Credit Crunch: the beginning of the collapse of capitalism?
- Barack Obama?

We cannot abstract desire: It is  
always desire for something  
specific, in specifically impelling  
circumstances

Raymond Williams



HOPE

Search deep  
inside for  
the truth  
look for the  
good in hope  
for better  
days to  
come.

NO

DREAM  
When one  
endeavours  
to follow  
ones dream,  
reality  
becomes an  
illusion and  
the dream  
becomes  
the life - CARTRAIN

TRAIN FOR  
A  
CAREER IN  
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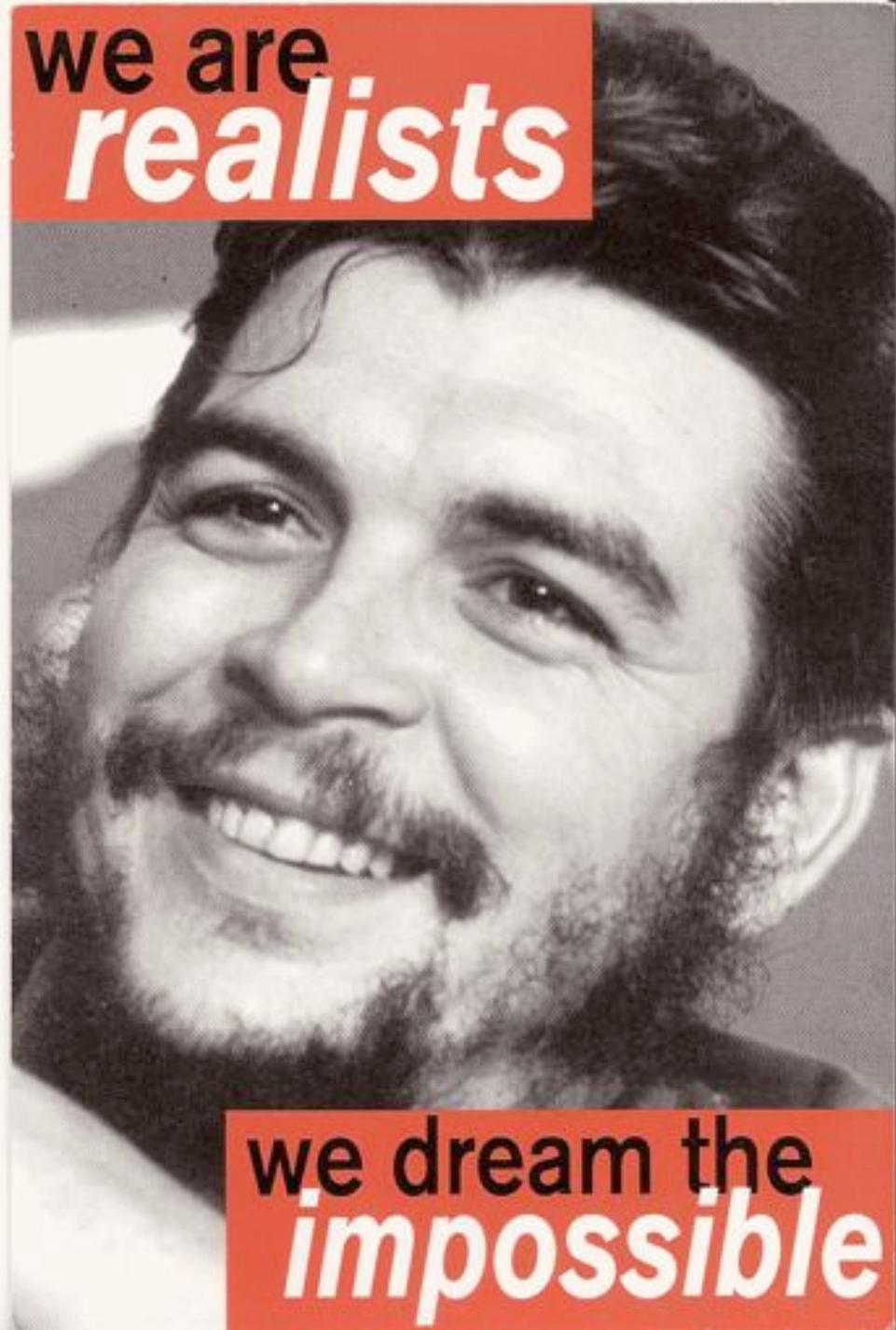








we are  
*realists*



we dream the  
*impossible*



**be realistic:  
demand the  
impossible**

There is tenderness only in the coarsest demand: that no-one shall go hungry any more.

Theodor Adorno, *Minima Moralia*





**FOOD IS GOOD  
AT  
THE HOPE  
WORKERS CAFE**

**DINING**

**111**

... the creation of utopias – and  
their exhaustive criticism – is the  
proper and distinctive method of  
sociology

the free market is not an end in itself. It is just one means among others to further the development of a utopian democratic society

I think the Left should get back into the business of piecemeal reform within the framework of a market economy. This was the business the American Left was in during the first two-thirds of the century

Richard Rorty

A first hallmark of democratic perfectionism is the belief that a free society has an institutional formula that, once discovered (as it supposedly was by the founders of the American Republic and the framers of the American constitution), needs to be adjusted only in rare moments of national and world crisis and, even then, only to adapt its enduring truths to changed circumstances. This ... amounts to a species of idolatry

Roberto Unger

The detailed image of an alternative is an insufficient condition, but it may also be a necessary one. The builders of an alternative will need such an image both to resist the gravitational pull of the dominant conceptions and to work out the operational logic of the institutions they establish

Roberto Unger

The visionary intimation of a reordered social world, with its poetic attempt to connect present personal experiences to hidden social possibilities, helps right the scales of risk by enlarging the imaginative terrain on which the debate takes place. As the consequences of reforms for the understanding of interests and ideal become manifest, the boundary shutting the instrumental off from the visionary begins to open. Then history makes more room for imagination.

Roberto Unger



Just a kid with a crazy dream



Your servant here, he has been told  
To say it clear, to say it cold:  
It's over, it ain't going any further  
And now the wheels of heaven stop  
You feel the devil's riding crop  
Get ready for the future:  
It is murder.

Leonard Cohen: The Future