

POLITICS + ETHICS: READING LIST

Here are some books that might help you to gather information and statistics, or might give you ideas for the theme of your magazine.

Margaret Atwood - The Handmaids Tale

Atwood's dystopian novel, which has also been developed into a critically acclaimed TV series is a feminist masterpiece. It is set in a near-future New England in a patriarchal, totalitarian theonomic state known as the Republic of Gilead, which has overthrown the United States government.

If you are interested in novels about dystopian futures, Atwood's **Oryx and Crake** is the first part of a trilogy of books set in a future where genetic engineering rules the world.

Jon Ronson - Them: Adventures with Extremists

Guardian journalist, Jon Ronson explores how extremist ideologies develop. This is written in an often comical and always thought provoking way.

Also have a read of **You Have Been Publicly Shamed**, which looks at the negative impacts of social media and how it can support an environment of public bullying and shaming.

Akala - Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire

This is a 2019 book by the rapper Akala. It is part memoir, looking at his own life and experiences. The book provides race and class analysis of a variety of historical eras, also considering contemporary British society.

Naomi Klein - The Shock Doctrine

Naomi Klein's books challenge the impact of capitalism on society. The Shock Doctrine looks at how capitalism, and subsequently a wealthy elite, use disasters such as war or natural crises to benefit a capitalist agenda.

Also check out **No Logo** and **This Changes Everything**. No Logo looks into fast fashion and sweat shops. This Changes Everything considers how capitalism benefits from climate change.

John Lanchester - Whoops!: Why Everyone Owes Everyone and No One Can Pay

For those interested in the impact of economic systems and financial crashes, Lanchester picks apart how money really works in a humorous, but highly informed way.

You might also enjoy his novel, **The Wall**, which is set in a dystopic near-future Britain, where rising sea-levels and climate change have led to a breakdown in world-wide social and economic order. The title refers to a concrete fortification constructed along the entire British coast

Robert Tressell - The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists

Written in 1914, this classic novel explores class systems and poverty in the UK, and how those who are suffering often support political ideologies and systems that affect their lives negatively and how building communities and solidarity can improve lives.

Yuval Noah Harari - 21 Lessons for the 21st Century

A brilliant book, which features five sections about today's big issues and attempts to answer huge societal questions.

His books, **Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind** and **Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow** are amazing explorations of the moral issues that have historically affected society and the questions we will be asking as a species in the future.

J.G Ballard - High Rise

This novel is set in a high rise building on the outskirts of London. It is a dystopian metaphor for class systems, with the wealthy living at the top of the building and the poorest occupants at the base.

Owen Jones - Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class

This is a non-fiction work by the British writer and political commentator Owen Jones. It discusses stereotypes of sections of the British working class.

The Establishment: And How They Get Away With It is also a great read, looking closely at British societal issues.

Matt Taibbi - I Can't Breathe: A Killing on Bay Street

An in depth look at institutionalised racism, the Black Lives Matter movement and the killing of Eric Garner.

Johann Hari - Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention

Hari considers how people struggle to pay attention, looking in detail at the impact of social media and a fast paced consumer culture.

He has also written **Chasing The Scream**, which discusses the implications of drugs on society and **Lost Connections**, which explores societal causes of Depression. All three books are highly recommended.

Ray Bradbury - Fahrenheit 451

Fahrenheit 451 is a 1953 dystopian novel by American writer Ray Bradbury. It presents a future American society where books have been outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found.

Barbara Kruger - Remote Control: Power, Cultures, and the World of Appearances

Barbara Kruger is an acclaimed artist. In this book of essays she asks questions about "Who speaks? Who is silent? Who is seen? Who is absent? These questions focus on how cultures are constructed through pictures and words, how we are seduced into a world of appearances: into a pose of who we are and aren't."

George Orwell - 1984

The classic dystopian novel, where freedom is limited, the media lies and everything is made as neutral as possible, whilst 'Big Brother' looks over everyone, ensuring that anyone who dares to think freely is punished.

Animal Farm is also highly recommended. It tells the story of a group of anthropomorphic farm animals who rebel against their human farmer, hoping to create a society where the animals can be equal, free, and happy.

Aldous Huxley - Brave New World

Largely set in a futuristic World State, where citizens are environmentally engineered into an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific advancements in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation and classical conditioning that are combined to make a dystopian society.

George Monbiot - Out Of The Wreckage

Today, our lives are dominated by an ideology of extreme competition and individualism. George Monbiot shows how new findings in psychology, neuroscience and evolutionary biology cast humans in a radically different light: as the supreme altruists and cooperators. He shows how both democracy and economic life can be radically reorganised from the bottom up, enabling us to take back control and overthrow the forces that have thwarted our ambitions for a better society.

