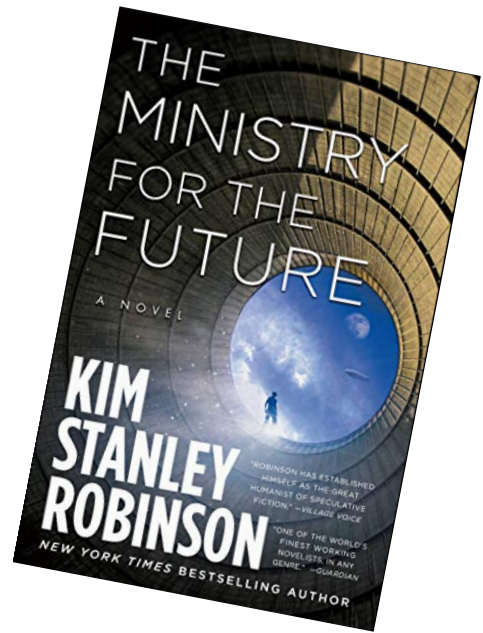


## The Flagstaff 3.5% Reading Action Groups

# DISCUSSION PROMPTS PAGES 100-200



*Reminder: the main objective is to learn from each other and ultimately to move us to take action. Kim Stanley Robinson's book is a medium for the bigger conversation! These are some suggestions for discussion, 100-200.*

Some Discussion Questions for pages 100-200, Ministry For the Future

1. A “black wing” of the Ministry for the Future! Badim, it seems, already had this underway. When Mary balks at its effectiveness, arguing that the damage is always tremendous, Badim asks, “What was the damage before? And did doing some of these things lessen the damage overall?” And then, on pages 135-137, we learn more about the Children of Kali. (pp. 110-115)

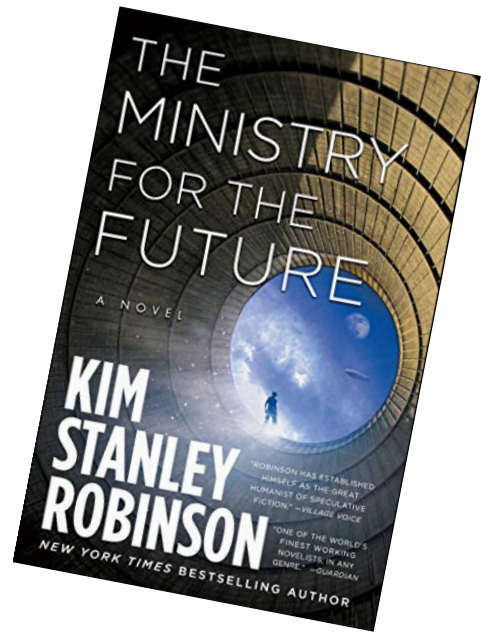
Where do you stand on the effectiveness of violence and/or the threat of violence when much is at stake? Are there rules or limits you believe should be practiced?

2. Each moment in history, says the cultural theorist Raymond Williams, has its own “structure of feeling.” How would you describe the “structure of feeling” of our time? How does it compare with what you recall of the structure of feeling in earlier times in your life? (p. 124)

3. The New India is described as nationalistic in a positive sense. It is described as a force for shaping an India that is no longer under the thumb of the colonialist legacy and that is committed to rebuilding India as an independent, self-sustaining economy. It is, you could say, a form of localism--of building resilience from the ground up (literally). This possibility contrasts starkly with the current rise of nationalism under Modi and its attendant discrimination against Muslims. What do you think are the pros and cons of a resurgence of nationalism as a strategy for responding to global climate change? (pp. 125-127)

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4. An brief article on wet-bulb temperatures and climate change: <https://medium.com/the-infinite-universe/wet-bulb-temperature-is-the-scariest-part-of-climate-change-youve-never-heard-of-8d85bef1ca98> (p. 140)

5. Unlike Mary who was deeply affected by her kidnapping, the folks in the Davos “reeducation” effort don’t seem to be likely to change their behavior. It raises the question about the extent to which education, even experiential education, can be effective in changing attitudes and behaviors. How much can we depend on education to shift the culture? And what other strategies for social change do we have? (159)

6. There are number of chapters addressing economic issues. The overriding question is, “How do we create an economic system that is good for the biosphere?” (166-172; 182-89)

Margaret Thatcher famously claimed, “There Is No Alternative” (TINA) to neo-liberalism. (She also declared that “There is no such thing as society!”) So, one of the questions we need to consider is “What are the alternatives?” And then, “Are we willing to embrace them?”

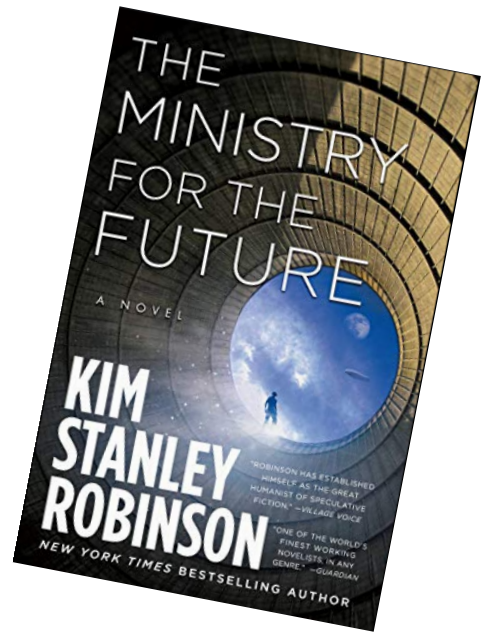
Delton Chen’s proposal of a carbon coin is touted by Robinson as a way to address “the tragedy of the time horizon” and the neglect of future generations. Here’s a very readable article about Chen and his idea: <https://mashable.com/feature/carbon-coin-climate-change-crypto>

And here’s a recent proposal, The Fossil Free Finance Act, just out this week, by two senators (Markey and Merkley) to keep banks from investing in fossil fuels:

[https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/05/markey-merkley-bill-would-stop-big-banks-throwing-money-dirty-fossil-fuel-projects?  
utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newslet  
ter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/05/markey-merkley-bill-would-stop-big-banks-throwing-money-dirty-fossil-fuel-projects?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

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7. Frank attends a meeting of the 2,000 Watt Society and finds their proposals very attractive. Here's their website: <https://www.2000-watt-society.org/what> (pp. 195-197)

Do you think it's possible for us to do what the population of Zurich did in 2008 when "three-quarters of the Zurich population voted in favor of learning about and achieving a 2000-Watt Society by 2050?" [Vancouver, Munich, Basel, and Geneva have all made the 200-Watt Society a goal or benchmark, too. And, as the website notes, "by no coincidence Zurich, Vancouver, and Munich were named some of the most livable cities in the world..."] How might we go about moving in this direction?

### **Some sources of inspiration and implementation**

Patti Smith: Power to the People ("We're all activists.") <https://vimeo.com/175482650>

The Drawdown Review: Climate Solutions for a New Decade:

(Strongly recommended by Christa Sadler)--an impressive set of technological proposals for stabilizing the planet

<https://drawdown.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/TheDrawdownReview%E2%80%932020%E2%80%93Download.pdf>