

FAQ

THE ZEITGEIST MOVEMENT

what is 'the zeitgeist movement'?

'Zeitgeist' is a German word that translates literally as 'ghost of time', which alludes to the soul or the intellectual/cultural climate of an era, and the term 'movement' indicates motion or change, therefore 'the zeitgeist movement' could be defined very simply as an organization that promotes a cultural change. More precisely, it is «an organization that urges change in the dominant cultural, moral and intellectual climate of the time, specifically the values and practices to better serve the well-being of the whole of humanity regardless of race, religion, creed or any other form of contrived social status».

what is a 'resource-based economy'?

It is a new social design where the economic system utilizes resources - rather than money - to provide an equitable method of distribution in the most humane and efficient manner. It is a system in which all goods and services are available to everyone without the use of money, credits, barter, or any other form of debt or servitude.

The aim of this economic model is to free humanity from repetitive, mundane, or arbitrary occupations that are irrelevant to social development while also encouraging a new incentive system based on self-fulfillment, education, social awareness and creativity.

what is 'the scientific method'?

It is the methodology used to arrive at conclusions through the observation.

In very basic terms, It involves having an idea – theory – and putting it to the test in such a way that results can be measured, contrasted and reproduced.

Strictly speaking, the scientific method has to meet the following conditions:

1. Statements and conclusions must be backed up with evidence – claiming that something is a fact does not make it a fact
2. Measurements must be done objectively, not being guessed subjectively
3. The samples that you take must be sufficient and representative
4. Whenever possible, use blind tests
5. All your observations must be contrasted to 'control samples'
6. Sources of information must be cited and be reliable, verifiable and backed up by evidence
7. Do not bare false witness (don't cheat)

what is 'technological unemployment'?

The term refers to the fact that technology is substituting human labour in more and more of what are considered to be 'human activities'.

Two hundred years ago over 90% of the population worked in agriculture. Then, with the industrial revolution and the mechanization of agriculture, most of them had to emigrate into cities and work in factories and the like. These in turn became more and more mechanized so a new industry – the services industry – had to be created in order to provide people with jobs so as to maintain their purchasing power. Nowadays, even the services industry is being replaced by computers and robots which in turn is leaving behind a huge trail of unemployment and a lack of purchasing power, which is one of the reasons for the unrest we are experiencing these days.

There is no reason why it should not be like that for we understand that the advancing technology is now phasing out the role of humans in the economic labour force and that this paradigm shift needs to be embraced so as to achieve a new social system which does not require human servitude for income.

what is the structure of the movement?

The movement is divided in what are called 'chapters', which are organized in a 'reverse hierarchy' form. This means that we first have local chapters which may have teams focused on specific areas or projects and reach consensus among themselves; then, the information of what goes on there gets fed onto the upper regional chapter, then national, continental and ultimately the international chapter.

what are the general goals of the movement?

- Making the population understand the root causes of the corruption and how to move away from it through the intelligent application of science and technology for social and environmental concern.
- Overcome outdated and hence degenerative modes of conduct and association through education and social action.
- To revise our world society in accord with present day knowledge on all levels, not only creating awareness of social and technological possibilities many have been conditioned to think "impossible" or against "human nature", but also to provide a means of overcoming those elements in society which perpetuate these outdated systems.
- Once there is sufficient number of people joining hands in common pursuit of a dramatical social shift, this will put pressure on nations to move away from the current monetary structure.
- The ultimate goal of the movement is to achieve Global Unity, Equality and Sustainability through the implementation of a resource based economic model.

so, what is the plan?

We have envisioned a strategy divided into 3 different phases:

phase 1: awareness phase

Getting the movement's information out and finding identification with other groups of individuals across all races, religions, and ethnicities. It also consists of, but is not limited to, forming teams to create the infrastructure of the movement site, a communication team and a development team. Another aspect of phase 1 is forming international chapters which are needed for creating the infrastructure for communication on a global level.

phase 2: project phase

This phase focuses on expansion of the teams, which will lead to an expansion of the group and the creation of a functional organization. The aim of phase 2 is the interconnection of these groups with interrelated and interdisciplinary focuses. Chapter projects are shared with the community. This collective understanding is needed for a synchronized approach for projects such as knowledgeable lecturers. This is also the phase for organized awareness projects which are anticipated to lead to the incubation of offshoot projects such as ending world hunger, disarmament (by choice, not force), and anti-militarism.

phase 3: action phase

Phase 3 is where more assertive forms of activism will occur such as boycotts, fund-raising

for city construction and possibly instigating direct interaction with corporate and political organizations in the form of bio-social pressures.

what strategies are in place that work towards achieving these goals?

The path of this movement is to first create grassroots awareness on a global scale through activism that exposes monetary frauds and social corruption. To do so, we must all work together, so communication coupled with peaceful rebellion is key.

In order to achieve a more efficient way of communication there are multiple teams in place at different levels:

global level

- **Linguistic team** → dedicated to make all the material available in 60+ different languages
- **Developers team** → facilitating applications and automation tools to further enhance the functionality of the Movement's websites and related communication technology and projects
- **Newsletter/press release team** → periodic publications for public/member review
- **Technology team** → inform about the current advancements and capabilities of science and technology
- **Media project team** → intellectual and aesthetically related content and media management
- **Chapter coordinators team**
- **Web admin team**
- **Legal team**

local level – london

- **Finance and admin team** → manages TZM London Chapter finances, inc. accounts and donations; Organises and coordinates fundraising initiatives and organises purchase (if required) and supply of materials (information, T-shirts, etc)
- **Street activism team** → Organises and coordinates activities such as stalls, flashmobs, etc. to engage the public directly on the street.
- **Public speaking team** → Organises and coordinates specific TZM public speaking and information-sharing events, e.g. Town Hall meetings, lectures, and organises and coordinates TZM speakers for non-TZM events and functions (working with the External Organisation Liaison Team).
- **TZM education team (london)** → Organises, coordinates and provides presentations and exhibitions at schools and other educational establishments (Universities, Further Education Colleges, etc.). It also sends information packs and other material on TZM and TVP to educational establishments (if presentations are not possible)
- **External organization liaison team** → Makes contact with other organisations, institutions and communities who share some or all of the aims, values and direction of the movement and organises and coordinates shared events with other organisations, institutions and communities to pool/share resources, inc. volunteer requests for specific events under its remit.
- **Personal development team** → Organises and provides opportunities for volunteers who want to either gain more confidence in skills such as public speaking or engaging the public at street level, or who want to learn and develop these as new skills

- **External volunteer team** → Organises and coordinates TZM volunteers to support external organisations, institutions and communities at their own events, and therefore increasing awareness of the movement and delivering its aims, values and direction
- **Media and arts team** → Scans news and mainstream and independent media for potential TZM-friendly events to attend in London; organises and coordinates appearance at events, e.g. Concerts; organises and coordinates TZM film screenings, e.g. Zeitgeist Moving Forward; liaises with management/publicists for groups, media celebrities etc. to introduce the movement to them and participate in their events and activities; coordinates filming and photography at events and activities (in conjunction with other Teams as and when required)
- **ICT and general technology team** → Organises and maintains communications avenues; it is the team in charge of TZM London Chapter Website design, creation and maintenance/updating and coordinates volunteers for projects related to ICT and other technology.

what happens during a chapter meeting?

TZM chapter meetings are an opportunity for TZM members to get together regularly and allow for updates on what is presently going on with the movement on an international, national or local level followed by a discussion on the matters arising from those updates and other activities being organized.

what sort of activities are being undertaken?

Here is a non-exhaustive list of present activities (as of 19/08/11):

- Enter Shikari's UK tour
- Zeitgeist day (every year in March)
- Zeitgeist Media Festival (September the 11th)
- Screening of Zeitgeist movies
- Monthly screening of relevant, thought provoking videos
- Designing and producing relevant promotional material
- Town Hall and Chapter meetings
- Monthly stall
- Monthly handouts of DVDs of both documentaries outside C4 headquartes
- Designing of the London Chapter's website
- TZM events/nights – live music, artistic expression, open mike, by conscious performers including non ZM Members
- Online campaign through social networks
- Folku's Festival
- Participation in demonstrations
- Freeze/flash-mobs

i'm interested, how can i contribute?

It is worth mentioning that in this movement there is **no membership scheme** or anything like that to sign up for. You just need to understand the material and be willing to help make this paradigm shift.

Here's a non-exhaustive list of things you can do as of now:

- Educate yourself (read the Activist and Orientation Guide).
- Participate in chapter meetings and become active in whatever team/s are most relevant to your experience.
- We're all researchers, so figure out a way to communicate your findings (have a youtube account, wordpress blog, become active in facebook..., whatever works for you that helps spread the voice)

when do chapter meetings happen?

Face to face chapter meetings occur once a month, normally on the second Saturday of the month, and online meetings happen every Monday at 8pm on TeamSpeak

what happens if i disagree with some of the ideas that tzm stands for?

Nothing at all. It is actually good to bring new ideas and points of view to the discussions. Who knows, maybe you point out something we all have missed.

what is teamspeak?

TeamSpeak is a freeware computer application that allows for conference talking. At present, it is the application of choice for all TZM members to meet online. You can find more about it and how to set it up on <<http://www.thezeitgeistmovementuk.com/site/teamspeak>>.

Resources

a good place to start your education

- Main TZM website → www.thezeitgeistmovement.com
- TZM blog-talk radio → <http://tinyurl.com/3pgjd2f> (really worth going through as many as you can stomach)
- V-Radio → <http://v-radio.org/>
- Activist Orientation Guide (it needs updating but is mostly valid)
[www.thezeitgeistmovement.com/The Zeitgeist Movement.pdf](http://www.thezeitgeistmovement.com/The_Zeitgeist_Movement.pdf)
- Peter Joseph lectures → <http://tinyurl.com/3wgvv37>
- Ben McLeish Vimeo channel → <http://vimeo.com/user3541570>
- TZM education → <http://tzmeducation.org/>
- London Chapter:
Meetup group → <http://tinyurl.com/6xsqv38>
Facebook page → <<http://tinyurl.com/4y4hyjf>>

- TeamSpeak tutorial → <www.thezeitgeistmovementuk.com/site/teamspeak>. Please note that the main server address has changed to **ts.zmdev.net** Password: **tzm** Port: 9987