

### **Neoliberalism (We will do more work on this during the second weekend):**

- The current phase of capitalism we are in, which began in the early 1970s. Neoliberal policies were crafted to decrease the power, organization, and wealth of people of color and the working class, and to increase the power, organization, and wealth of the ruling class on a global level. Neoliberalism is characterized by: 1) eliminating regulations of private industry, including regulations that protect workers and the environment. 2) cutting of public services like healthcare, welfare, education, unemployment benefits and job training and investment in public works such as transportation. 3) privatization of public services such as healthcare, water, education, snow clearing, transportation, libraries etc.; public space, such as parks; and shrinking or eliminating the parts of the government that used to coordinate these services. 4) shrinking the amount of taxes that rich people and corporations pay 5) an increase in policing, imprisonment, and the military. 6) a set of ideas that is extremely individualist, and that believes that the free market will solve all of our problems

### **Austerity:**

- While austerity is a technical economic term, it generally refers to drastic budget cuts of government programs that benefit working people, including but not limited to: pensions or other retirement funds, healthcare, public utilities programs, education, welfare or other income support, etc. These cuts are done in the name of economic shortages, but they often follow tax cuts for wealthy people, and budgets for military, policing, and imprisonment are rarely cut during these times. In many Third World countries who receive loans from the International Monetary Fund or World Bank, austerity was forced on them as a condition of getting loans or having a better repayment plan.

### **Oligarchy:**

- When a very small number of people, usually very wealthy and/or in military power, runs the government and economy. According to wikipedia: "Such states are often controlled by families who typically pass their influence from one generation to the next...Throughout history, oligarchies have often been tyrannical, relying on public obedience or oppression to exist."

### **Misogyny:**

- Misogyny literally means the hatred of, contempt for, or prejudice against women or girls. Importantly, the word refers to the structural and systemic outcomes of this hatred, and not just the interpersonal consequences. This includes sexual, physical and emotional violence, discrimination, economic exclusion, separation of families, state violence, objectification, and harassment and the social and

economic devaluing of “women’s work” such as cooking, cleaning, raising children, healing trauma, giving emotional support, building relationships, and caring for elders, sick people, and people with disabilities. Misogyny is deeply intertwined with other systems of oppression, including racism, classism, ableism, transphobia, and homophobia. As Ramos notes, it is also accompanied by aggressive and violent hypermasculinity, often in the form of military threats and violence.

### **Reconstruction:**

- Ramos says the threats to human and civil rights we face right now is possibly more severe than anything we’ve seen since backlash to Reconstruction. Reconstruction refers to the period following the Civil War when Black people in this country had more political power and actual governmental positions of power than they’d ever had before or since. This resulted in the establishment of public education, the expansion of many social programs, and progressive reforms to prison systems. Terrified of the power of 4 million free Black voters, white people and especially the elite planter class encouraged a backlash of widespread white supremacist violence such as campaigns of lynching and sexual assault, using terror to repress Black organizing and voting. White people still in government power also passed laws and policies targeting Black people and Black people’s ability to get into and hold office. Within 20 years white backlash ended Black Reconstruction and returned governmental power to white hands.

### **Handmaiden:**

- Technically a female servant, or something whose essential function is to serve or assist. When Ramos calls the Religious Right the “Handmaiden” of neoliberalism, he is suggesting that the religious right assisted, and essentially birthed, neoliberalism coming into power, by providing the mass base of support.