

Richard Murphy, "Neoliberalism is Dying: What's Next?":
[posted on YouTube here](#), and on R. Murphy's [blog page here](#).

1. Summary: The End of Neoliberalism

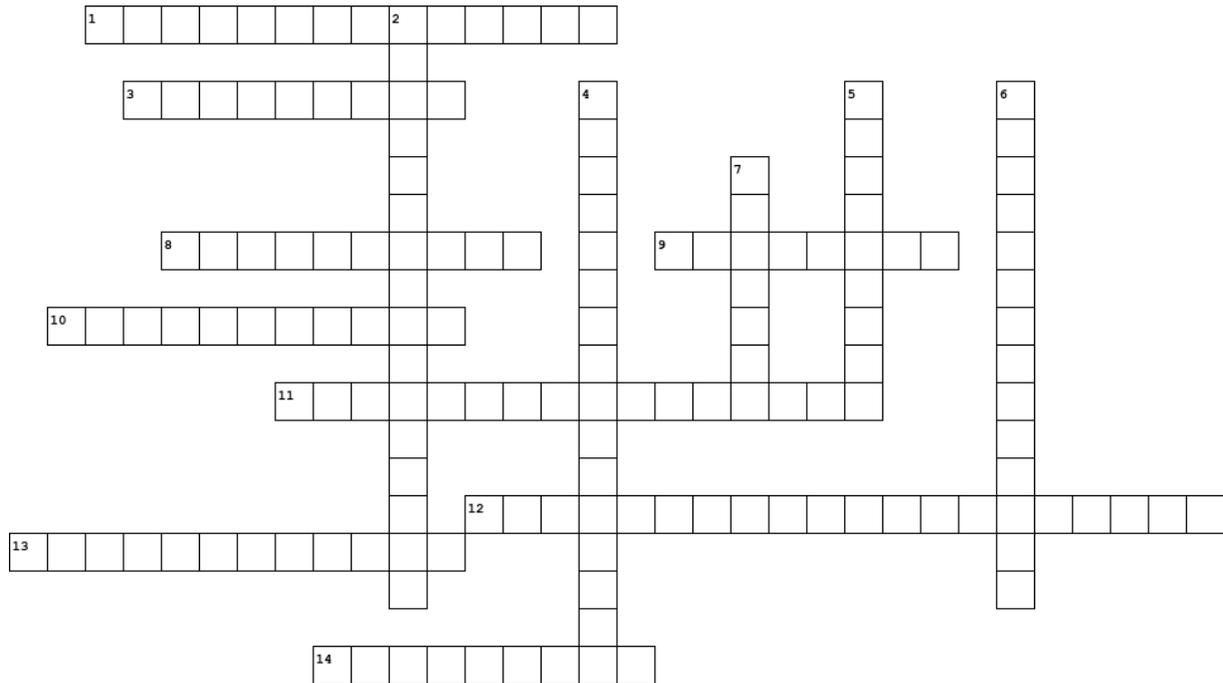
1. **Neoliberalism's Collapse:** The era of neoliberalism—a 45-year political-economic project—is ending, as its core promises (freedom through markets) have failed to deliver for most people.
2. **Designed Ideology:** Neoliberalism was not accidental but a deliberate construction by thinkers like **Friedrich Hayek** (anti-state politics) and **Milton Friedman** (pro-market economics), promoted through networks like the **Mont Pelerin Society**.
3. **False Promises:** It claimed markets would bring freedom and prosperity, but instead created **inequality, precarity, and rent extraction**—where wealth and power are concentrated in the hands of a few.
4. **Tax Havens as Weapons:** Neoliberalism used tax havens to undermine democratic governance, reduce fair taxation, and reward greed, weakening public services and collective well-being.
5. **1970s Turning Point:** The oil crisis and geopolitical shifts destabilized the post-war Keynesian consensus, allowing neoliberalism to gain traction by blaming government for economic failures.
6. **Destruction of the Welfare State:** Neoliberalism redefined welfare as “dependency,” regulations as “red tape,” and unions as “enemies,” prioritizing profit over social good.
7. **Rent Extraction Economy:** Modern capitalism under neoliberalism focuses on **extracting rents** (e.g., housing, subscriptions, financial fees) rather than creating value, locking people into permanent payments.
8. **Financialization Over Innovation:** Neoliberalism prioritized financial complexity and speculation over real innovation, contributing little to societal progress (e.g., the internet predates neoliberalism).
9. **Social Consequences:** It has led to **social anger, instability, and weakened democracy**, with wealth inequality and precarity becoming the norm for most people.
10. **AI and Neoliberalism's Death Throes:** AI exemplifies neoliberalism's failure—it threatens jobs without offering progress, exposing the ideology's lack of solutions for the future.
11. **The Choice Ahead:** As neoliberalism collapses, society faces a binary choice: **authoritarianism** (oppressive state control) or a **politics of care** (state-led well-being, regulation, and fairness).
12. **Call for Change:** Murphy argues for **taxing wealth and rents**, restoring public services, and rebuilding democracy to replace neoliberalism with an economy that serves people, not power.

2. Suggested Discussion Questions

- How does Murphy define “rent extraction,” and why does he see it as a central feature of neoliberalism?
- What historical events does he cite as turning points for neoliberalism's rise and fall?
- Do you agree that neoliberalism is “dying”? Why or why not?
- What might a “politics of care” look like in practice?

This summary ensures students grasp the **critical tone, historical context, and key arguments** before engaging with the full text or video.

Crossword: The [online version is available here.](#)



Across

1. (two words, 4 and 10) The practice of generating income not by creating new wealth or value, but by exploiting existing resources or systems
3. A set of economic policies aimed at reducing government budget deficits through spending cuts or tax increases
8. outcomes Results that are less than the best possible or most efficient, often due to flawed systems or incentives
9. Unexpected or sudden financial gain, often used to describe profits that are not earned through regular business activities
10. The term for dollars earned through the sale of petroleum, which gained global significance in the 1970s
11. (6 and 10) The unity and mutual support within a group or society, often emphasized in collective welfare systems
12. (9 and 11) The use of complex financial instruments and strategies to manage risk, create value, or manipulate markets

13. (8 and 4) The additional cost incurred when producing one more unit of a good or service
14. (3 and 6) Jurisdictions that offer minimal tax liability to foreign individuals and businesses, often used to avoid taxation in home countries

Down

2. A form of government characterized by strong central power, limited political freedoms, and suppression of dissent
4. The increasing dominance of financial markets, institutions, and motives in the operation of economies
5. behaviour Actions taken by individuals or entities to exploit others for personal or financial gain, often at the expense of fairness or competition
6. A state of existence marked by uncertainty and vulnerability, often lacking stability or security
7. capitalism An economic system where wealth is generated not through production or innovation, but through ownership and control of assets