

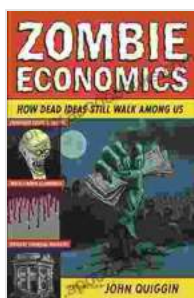
# How Dead Ideas Still Walk Among Us: Exploring the Zombie Ideas That Shape Our World

## The Power of Zombie Ideas

Zombie ideas are powerful because they tap into our deepest fears and anxieties. They offer simple explanations for complex problems, and they promise to protect us from the dangers of the world.

For example, the idea that the world is a dangerous place is a zombie idea that has been around for centuries. This idea is used to justify everything from war to the death penalty to the surveillance state.

It is an idea that is easy to believe, especially in times of crisis. But it is also an idea that is false. The world is not as dangerous as we think it is. In fact, the world is getting safer all the time.



## Zombie Economics: How Dead Ideas Still Walk among Us by John Quiggin

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

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Another zombie idea is the idea that people are inherently selfish. This idea is used to justify everything from economic inequality to social Darwinism to the lack of compassion in our society.

It is an idea that is easy to believe, especially when we see examples of selfishness all around us. But it is also an idea that is false. People are not inherently selfish. In fact, people are capable of great altruism and compassion.

Zombie ideas are also powerful because they are often reinforced by our institutions and our culture. For example, the idea that the world is a dangerous place is reinforced by the media, which constantly bombards us with stories of crime and violence.

The idea that people are inherently selfish is reinforced by our economic system, which is based on competition and individualism.

Zombie ideas can be very difficult to kill. But they are not immortal. We can overcome them by developing a critical awareness of the ideas that shape our thinking. We can challenge their claims and expose their fallacies.

We can also create new ideas, ideas that are based on hope, compassion, and cooperation. These new ideas can help us to build a better world, a world that is free from the grip of zombie ideas.

## **How to Fight Back Against Zombie Ideas**

The first step to fighting back against zombie ideas is to become aware of them. We need to be able to identify zombie ideas and challenge their claims.

Here are some tips for identifying zombie ideas:

- **Look for ideas that are based on fear, anger, or prejudice.** Zombie ideas often appeal to our emotions, rather than our reason.
- **Look for ideas that are simplistic and offer easy solutions to complex problems.** Zombie ideas often promise to solve all of our problems, but they are usually too good to be true.
- **Look for ideas that are supported by little or no evidence.** Zombie ideas are often based on hearsay or superstition.

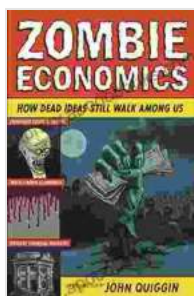
Once you have identified a zombie idea, you can challenge its claims. Here are some tips for challenging zombie ideas:

- **Ask for evidence.** Ask the person who is promoting the zombie idea to provide evidence to support their claims.
- **Point out fallacies.** Zombie ideas are often based on logical fallacies. Point out these fallacies to the person who is promoting the zombie idea.
- **Offer alternative ideas.** If you can, offer alternative ideas that are based on evidence and reason.

You may not be able to convince the person who is promoting the zombie idea to change their mind. But you can plant a seed of doubt. You can help them to see that the zombie idea is not as strong as they think it is.

Zombie ideas are a powerful force in our world. But they are not invincible. We can overcome them by developing a critical awareness of the ideas that shape our thinking. We can challenge their claims and expose their fallacies. We can also create new ideas, ideas that are based on hope, compassion, and cooperation.

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