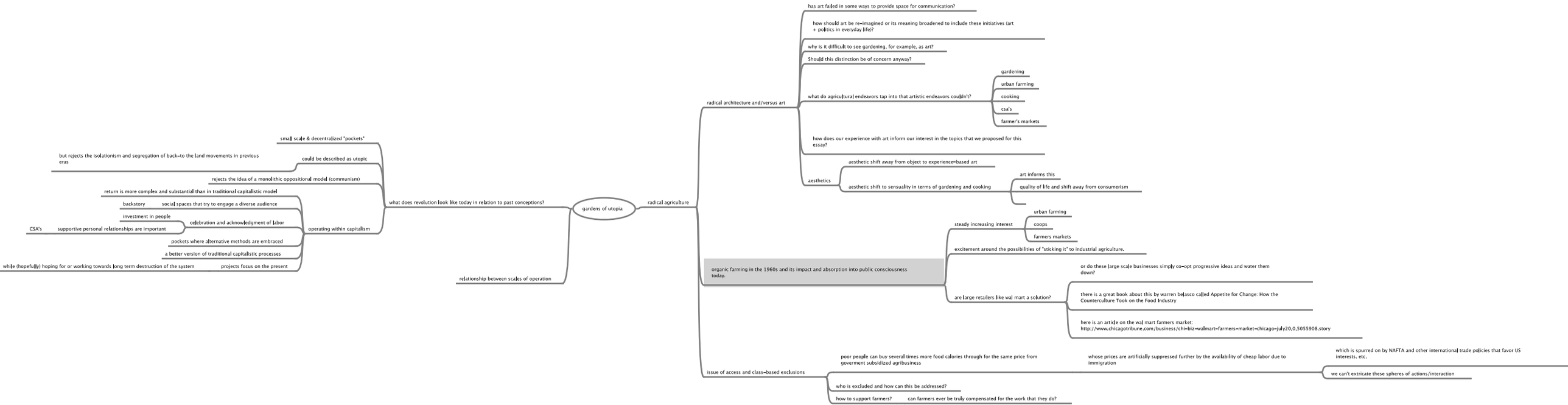
gardens of utopia
radical agriculture
radical architecture and/versus art
has art failed in some ways to provide space for communication?
how should art be re-imagined or its meaning broadened to include these initiatives (art + politics in everyday life)?
why is it difficult to see gardening, for example, as art?
Should this distinction be of concern anyway?
what do agricultural endeavors tap into that artistic endeavors couldn't?
gardening
urban farming
cooking
csa's
farmer's markets
how does our experience with art inform our interest in the topics that we proposed for this essay?
aesthetics
aesthetic shift away from object to experience-based art
aesthetic shift to sensuality in terms of gardening and cooking
art informs this
quality of life and shift away from consumerism
organic farming in the 1960s and its impact and absorption into public consciousness today.
steady increasing interest
urban farming
coops
farmers markets
excitement around the possibilities of "sticking it" to industrial agriculture.
are large retailers like wal mart a solution?
or do these large scale businesses simply co-opt progressive ideas and water them down?
there is a great book about this by warren belasco called Appetite for Change: How the Counterculture Took on the Food Industry
here is an article on the wal mart farmers market: http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-biz-walmart-farmers-market-chicago-july20,0,5055908.story
issue of access and class-based exclusions
poor people can buy several times more food calories through for the same price from goverment subsidized agribusiness
whose prices are artificially suppressed further by the availability of cheap labor due to immigration
which is spurred on by NAFTA and other international trade policies that favor US interests, etc.
we can't extricate these spheres of actions/interaction
who is excluded and how can this be addressed?
how to support farmers?
can farmers ever be truly compensated for the work that they do?
relationship between scales of operation
what does revolution look like today in relation to past conceptions?
small scale & decentralized "pockets"
could be described as utopic
but rejects the isolationism and segregation of back-to the land movements in previous eras
rejects the idea of a monolithic oppositional model (communism)
operating within capitalism
return is more complex and substantial than in traditional capitalistic model
social spaces that try to engage a diverse audience
backstory
celebration and acknowledgment of labor
investment in people
supportive personal relationships are important
CSA's
pockets where alternative methods are embraced
a better version of traditional capitalistic processes
projects focus on the present
while (hopefully) hoping for or working towards long term destruction of the system