



**LEARN OR DIE**  
*The New American Revolution*

Marcello Tino

Conceptualization of Artwork  
Marcello Tino and Andrea Dalla Bona  
Illustrations by Andrea Dalla Bona

## **Learn or Die: The New American Revolution**

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ISBN: 978-0-578-79993-3

The Library of Congress Control Number: 1-9460190351

Thompson and Prince, Ithaca, NY

Key Words: American History, Politics, Economics, Political and Economic Theory, Democracy, Direct and Participatory Democracy, Capitalism, Free Market Capitalism, Globalism, Socialism, Anarcho-syndicalism, Mondragon, The New Deal, Neoliberalism, Co-determination, Mondragon, Revolution, The Federal Reserve, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organization, Economic Democracy, Political Democracy.

Logo designed by William Benson

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Book designed by [www.Delaney-Designs.com](http://www.Delaney-Designs.com)



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Distributors: Amazon.com, Ingram Book Company, Baker & Taylor

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## Author's Note

*Learn or Die: The New American Revolution* is a traditional study in the social science in the sense that the thesis is supported by thorough research, facts, data, reason, and logic. However, unlike most studies, *Learn or Die* has a heartbeat and journeys beyond reason to find meaning in the metaphors and images that reveal the human condition in all its multiplicity and mystery. *Learn or Die* is about you and me and about our children. It is about our hopes and dreams and the horror that America has become.

To highlight the fact that beyond the numbers and the data and the T accounts that they crucify us on there is a heartbeat, I created Charlie and Daisy. Charlie and Daisy are near the end of their life. Charlie fought in the Second World War and was awarded a Silver Star. Charlie is an ordinary man who like most ordinary people was capable of doing extraordinary things in extraordinary times. After the war, Charlie did what so many Americans did who lived through the abject poverty of the Great Depression and the horrors of the Second World War, he embraced romantic love. Charlie and Daisy have been together ever since, for better or worse.

Now, at the end of their life, they are lost. The home they took pride in is in disrepair, and Charlie's truck is rusted out. They worked hard all their lives, sometimes two jobs to make ends meet, and they have nothing to show for it. Daisy and Charlie do not have much hope of being new again, but what they fear the most is not their own future. They fear for the future of their children and their grandchildren. The America Dream seems dead for them, and they wonder, what happened to us? What went wrong.

*Learn or Die: The New American Revolution* is, in part, Charlie and Daisy's journey through the labyrinth of illusions and lies that keep us from the truth that will gore us all, but through the handwriting on the wall, they begin to understand where we have been, where we are now, and where we must go if we ever hope to get back to America again.

LEARN OR DIE: THE NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**Beware!**



Illustration #1



## PART ONE: Learn or Die

### Vampires are Real

#### *Vampire Capitalism – The Horror Story*

There is no mystery to why stories about vampires and the living dead are so popular in the United States. They are true stories about a horrible reality that we are too afraid to face except as harmless fantasies filtered through our mass media. Even the Vampires of Capitalism can't face their true image in the mirror. They have to distance themselves from the monstrous reality they create, and they are supported in their avoidance of the bloody truth by an army of for-hire-professionals who have bared their necks to their masters so that they too can feed off of the body politic and the host nation.



Illustration #2

## Trickle Down Blood

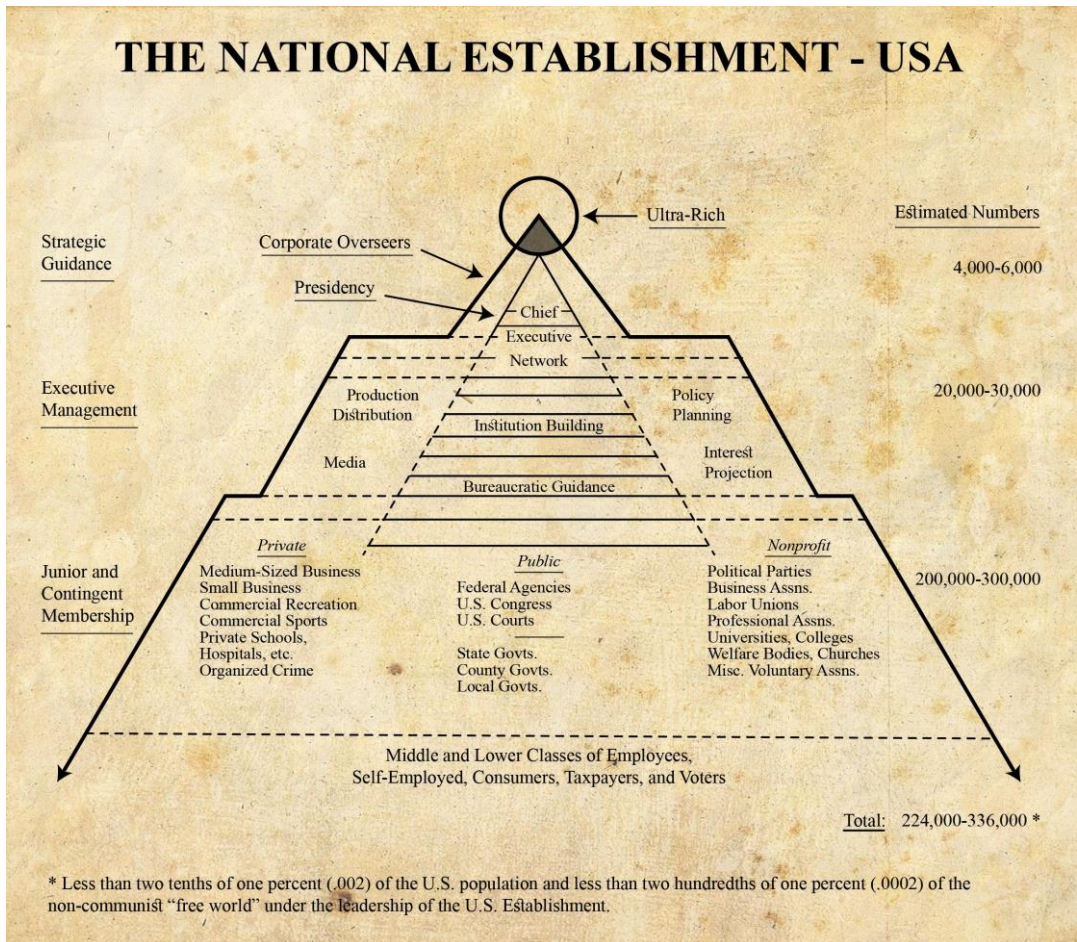


Illustration #3

As the above pyramid chart from Bertram Gross's book *Friendly Fascism* indicates, at the apex of the pyramid are the Ultra Rich and the Financial and Corporate Overseers. Included in this oligarchy of power is the President of the United States and those who assist him in his role as Commander-in-Chief and Chief Executive. The institutions and so-called experts responsible for making certain that the vast majority of blood flows to the top are centered around the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, and the leading Wall Street bankers, especially the investment banks. All these financial institutions both



domestic and international are supported by the pundits-for-hire at Harvard, MIT, and the MBA programs that train the corporate and the banking elite. As important are the hidden persuaders, the Madison Avenue advertisers and sellers of primitive totems that have turned every value, every virtue, and everything we have ever fought for including our democracy into a bad ad and a consumer-product-for-profit. Another major player in this horror story is the global media that create the stories that give our life meaning and value. (Gross 56)

They all wear a mask of respectability, but their job is to rationalize the irrational, sell us fairy tales of meaning, and abstract our pain and suffering by turning us into money, millions and billions of dollars that become electronic impulses on a computer screen, a far cry from the beating hearts of the victims of Vampire Capitalism. But make no mistake.

## **Money is Blood.**

It is our life blood, our hopes and dreams, our children's futures that circulates through the veins of the body politic as currency. No matter how much the so-called economic experts try to hide the truth behind obscure mathematical formulas that give the illusion of science, and no matter what they call it – “neoliberal economics,” “monetarism,” or “supply side economics,” – it is still the same old classic conservative free market economics that led us to the First Great Depression, nearly brought us to a Second Great Depression in 2008, and will bring America to a total economic collapse in the future. It is still the same old absurd gospel preached by the ministers of the God of Money, and the gospel goes like this - If we all pursue our own individual greed, we will somehow through the “invisible hand” of free market capitalism end up in Paradise.

This is not Paradise that we are going to. We are going to Hell, and as we descend into capitalist Hell, we see the emergence of the totalitarian state in America with a one-dollar-one-vote electoral system. We see a new aristocracy emerging in America of inherited wealth and power supported by a professional class who view themselves as part of a meritocracy in a nation that has little or no social mobility. So, where are we in this horror story?

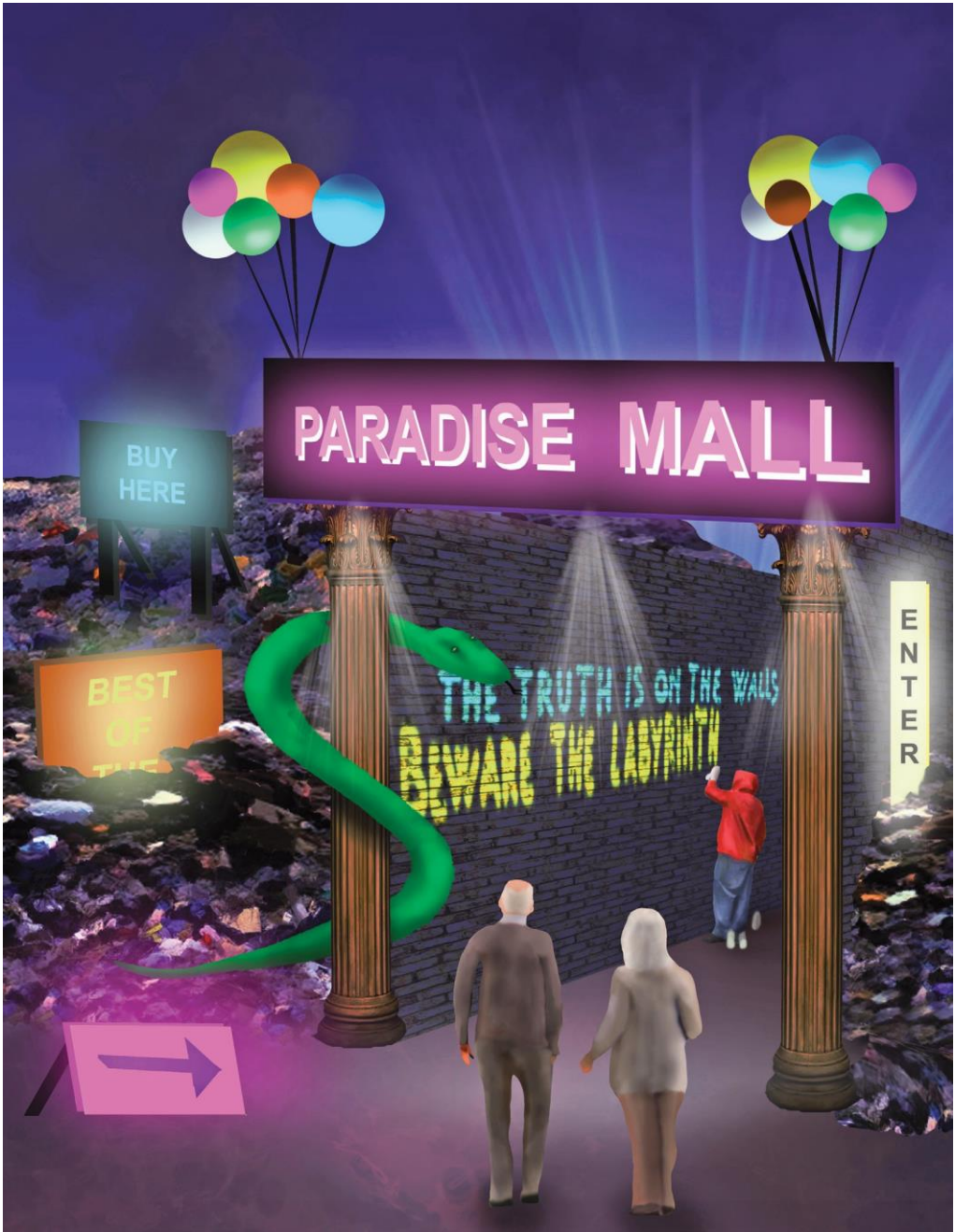
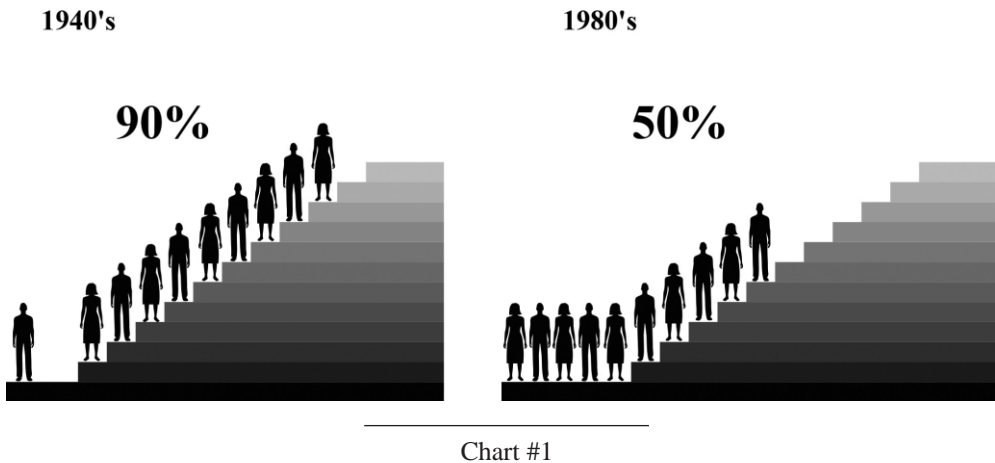


Illustration #4

*The Living Dead - Social Mobility in the United States*

## Social Mobility in the United States



The above is an infographic conveying the results of research into social mobility in the United States by Raj Chetty. It reveals that the probability of children attaining a higher income than their parents has dropped dramatically in the United States from more than 90% for children born in 1940 to 50% for children born in the 1980s.

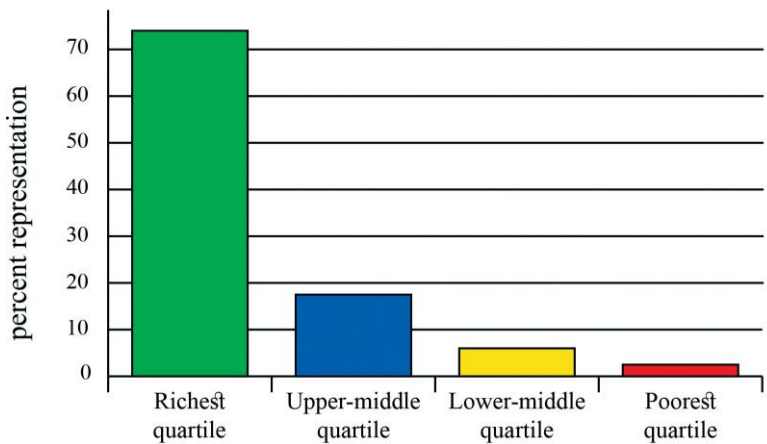
The fact is that social mobility in the United States is a myth. The United States has less social mobility than any other developed country in the world except the United Kingdom and Italy who are close behind us. The countries with more social mobility include Denmark, Australia, Norway, Finland, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Spain, France, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and even Pakistan. (Noah) I repeat.

**Social Mobility in America  
is a Myth!**



Illustration #5

## Economic Backgrounds of Students at 146 Top Colleges



"America's Untapped Resource: Low-Income Students in Higher Education".  
Century Foundation Press, 2004.

Chart #2

## *Income Inequality in the United States*

The United States not only has the lowest level of social mobility in the industrial world. It has the highest levels of income inequality. The poorest fifth of our population enjoy only 3.4% of the national income, while the richest fifth enjoy 50.3%.

Another way of saying it is that the richest 20% of the population in the United States has as much income as the remaining 80% of the population, and over the last 10 years 80% of the increases in income in the United States have gone to the top 20%. Or in other words, if we were to create a scale where the height of a man is calculated based on the average income of \$55,000 and the person with that income was 6 foot tall, the poorest 8 million people with an income of \$9,000 dollars or less would be 1 foot tall, and the richest few with an income of \$4.5 billion would be 90 miles high, higher than Mt. Everest! (Schweickart 90)

**Share of National Income by Class**

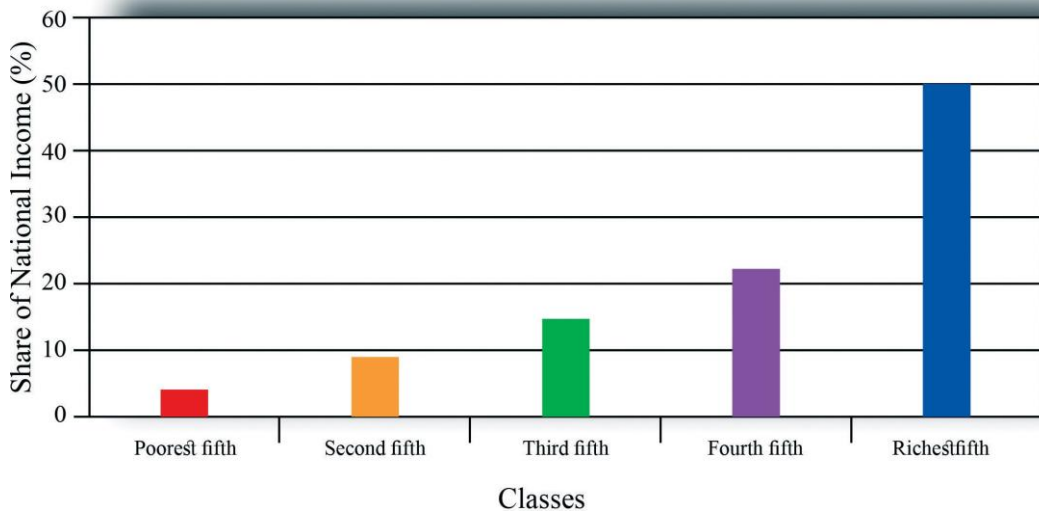


Chart #3



The chart below demonstrates that not only does the United States suffer from gross income inequality, but it also has the highest levels of income inequality in the industrial world.

### Ranking of the United States in Income Inequality

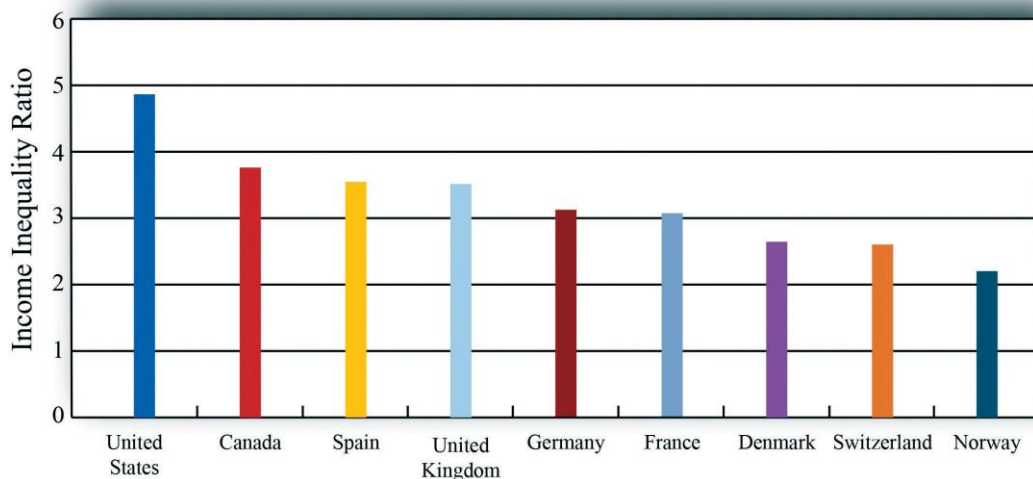


Chart #4

### *Wealth Inequality in the United States*

For our purposes, in economic terms, when we refer to wealth, we are referring to net worth or the value of assets owned minus the value of liabilities owned at a point in time. Assets refer to personal property such as your home and automobile less what you owe on them as well as monetary savings and capital wealth such as real estate, stocks, bonds, and the net worth of any business you may own etc.

As of 2013, the top 1% (upper class) of households owned 36.1% of all the privately held wealth, and the next 19% (the managerial, professional, and small business stratum) owned 52% of all the privately held wealth, which means that just 20% of the people in the United States own an astounding 89% of all the privately held wealth in the nation leaving 11% of the wealth for the bottom 80% who live pay check to pay check.

Chart #3

LEARN OR DIE: THE NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION

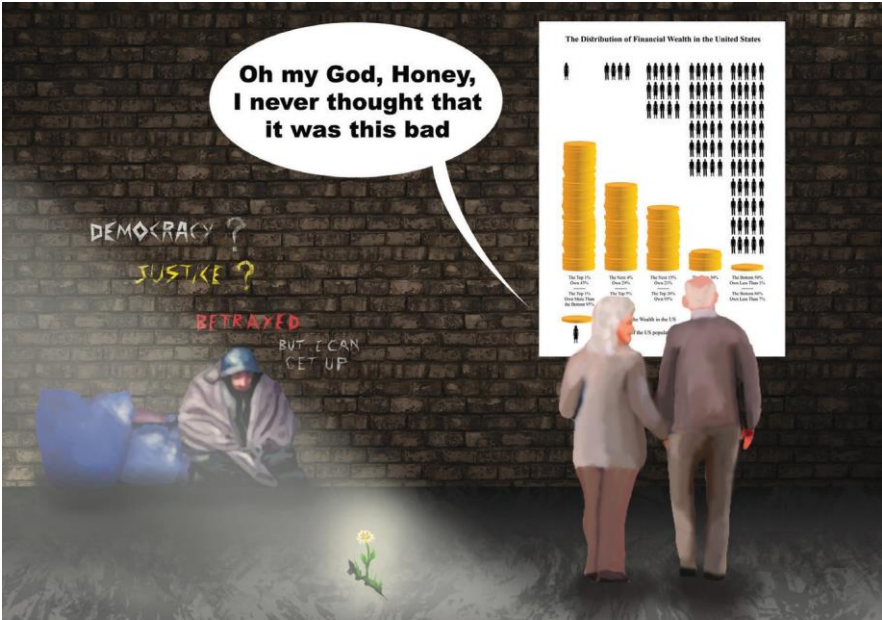


Illustration #6

The Distribution of Financial Wealth in the United States

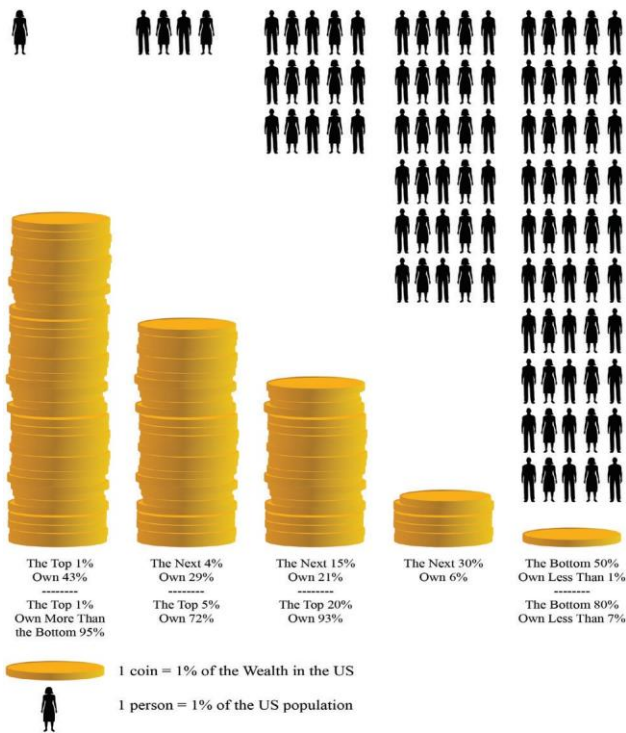


Chart #5

## If US Land Was Divided Like US Wealth

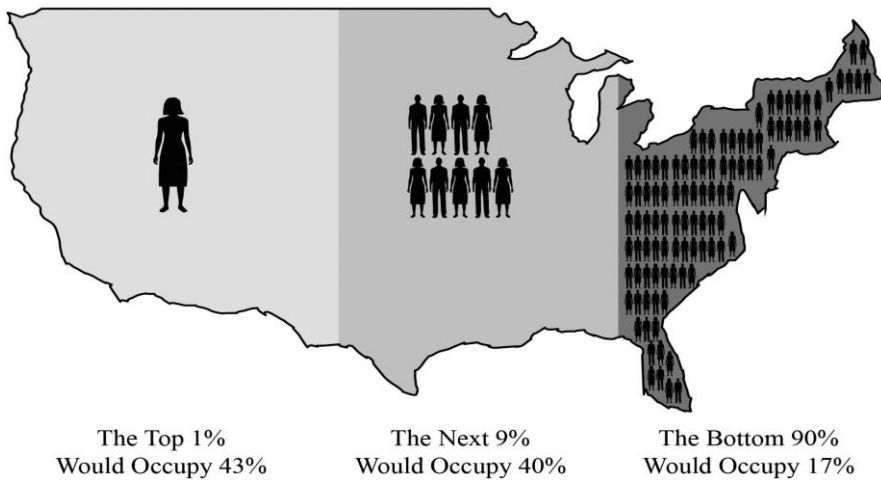


Chart #6

### **The fact is that 10% of the American people own this country!**

Very few Americans know that we have the highest levels of income and wealth inequality of all developed countries in the world, and, at the same time, have the lowest levels of social mobility. Very few Americans know that 10% of the American people own this country. For example, a study by (Norton and Arealy 2010) reveals that Americans have no idea how much wealth is concentrated on the top. When they were shown three pie charts that represented three different distributions of wealth, 90% or more of the 5,522 respondents – whatever their gender, age, income level, or party affiliation – thought that wealth distribution in the United States most resembles the pie chart in which the top 20% has about 60% of the wealth where, in fact, the top 20% control 89% of the wealth. Americans from all walks of life were also united in their vision of what the “ideal” wealth distribution would be, one in which the top 20% owned between 30 and 40% of the privately held wealth which is radically different than the 89% that the top 20% actually own. The American people are far more equitable in their vision of America than the Madison Avenue vision of an acquisitive society would lead us to believe.

Chart #5

Below is a chart illustrating the discrepancies.

## Comparison of an Actual, Estimated, and Ideal

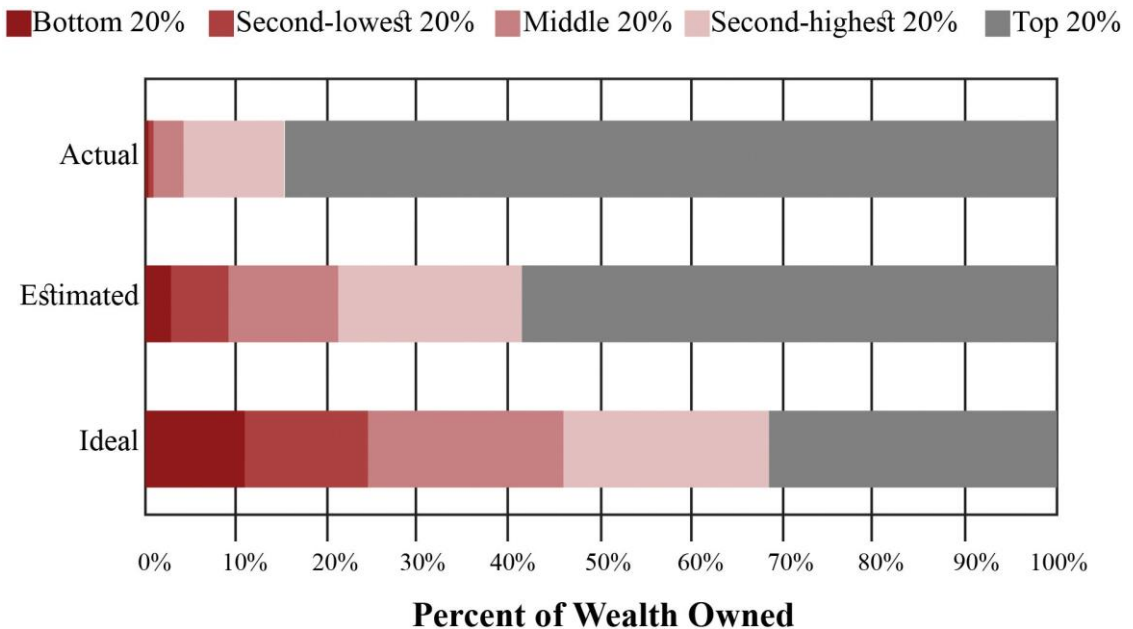


Chart #7

## We Need to Wake Up!

We have no job security, nor can we look forward to a day that we can retire and reap the benefits of a life of hard work. Pensions are something of the past for most Americans. Our saving and social security are inadequate, and our children face a life of work until they die, while at the same time, we see a partnership of state capitalism and neo-fascism, a marriage in hell, characterized by (1) a contempt for democracy, (2) a glorification of the nation-state and imperial wars, (3) a perverted sense of manhood and a twisted concept of Social Darwinism that takes pleasure in inflicting pain and suffering on the innocent, (4) a regression into primitive forms of tribalism, racism, and brutality, (5) and an amoral economic system where it is a virtue to take more than you give. The results are staggering when we view it from the perspective of American history and what we have fought and died for.

## *We Lost the American Revolution*

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance,” those words by Thomas Jefferson ring true today probably more than they ever have since our first revolutionary war because with the elimination of estate taxes, the creation of “dynasty trusts”, and the accumulation of vast amounts of wealth and power in the hands of the few, we have lost the American Revolutionary War that we fought in 1775 against the oppression of a privileged aristocracy and the corporations that owned America as a franchise from the king, and with the rise of racism and neo-fascism in America, we have also lost the American Civil War and the Second World War. I repeat.

**We have not only lost the American Revolution, but we have also lost the American Civil War, and the Second World War!**

Where are the Americans who fought and died by the millions throughout our history, throughout the world believing that they fought for democracy, a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people, a promise, in fact, never fulfilled, a dream shattered by the vampire capitalist and their minions who have destroyed the American Dream and turned it into a nightmare. However, the greatest horror of all is that we have embraced our oppressors, embraced the fairy tales that we are told by the corporate controlled media that glorifies selfishness, narcissism, and wallows in sadomasochism and enjoys inflicting pain and suffering on the weak, the innocent, and the vulnerable.

We allow ourselves to be sacrificed on the Alter of Money where we are dissected while we are still alive. We are turned into objects, body parts, hired hands, eyes to supervise. The faculties of our minds are compartmentalized to perform specific functions while the rest of our mind is left to die. Even our mouths are separated from our brains, and we are programed to year after year to say the same things over and over again. “Thank you, thank you, thank you,” we say. “Have a good day,” we say. “Yes, sir,” we say, when you really want to say, “Fuck you!



I've had enough of this!" But we don't. Out of fear we bare our necks. Often, we do so just to survive on a minimum wage or less, often at the expense of working two jobs, just to stay above the poverty line with both parents working. We have no time to properly raise our children or simply go to our child's baseball game. There is no vacation time except for alcohol and drugs, so we take our vacation from the truth, and we enjoy the illusion of feeling good, like a cancer patient on his death bed, but we wake of the next day and the next day, year after year; we wake up and go to work in a totalitarian state that we called the "workplace" run by the bosses where we have no rights or freedoms and there is no escape, at least for us. So, we sacrifice for our children, and they go off to college. We all hope that this will mean that they will have a better future, only to see them come home after graduation owing so much money to the banks that they have become indentured servants for most of their lives.

This is not the American Dream, but this is the America we live in today. It is a horror story that has come true, a horror story where every human value is left silent before the God of Money. Every human value that in a civilized society is viewed as having a value in itself or is viewed as something that is unique and of spiritual value - equality, economic justice, love, empathy, friendship, community, civic responsibility - they are all viewed as sacrilege to the God of Money, of absolute no worth, unless they can be turned into a commodities to be bought and sold and to be exploited for personal gain and profit, especially by you and me, because we have nothing else left to sell, except our souls.

**So, Where Does this God Dwell?**

## LEARN OR DIE: THE NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Illustration #7

## *The Federal Reserve and the Temple of Human Sacrifice*

On Constitutional Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Street in Washington, DC stands the Eccle Building, home of the Federal Reserve System. The granite four-story building is an austere building stripped of all nonessentials with massive iron doors, and the official Federal Reserve System web site describes the duties of the Federal Reserve as:

1. Oversee the federal reserve system
2. Conduct monetary policy
3. Provide financial system stability
4. Supervise and regulate financial institutions and activities
5. Foster payment and settlement system safety and efficiency

This sounds well and good, but beyond the façade and the massive iron doors of the temple dwells the God of Money cloaked in mystery and secrecy, for it is here at the Federal Reserve that we find the heart of the vampire system. It is here at the Temple of the God of Money that the priests of the temple determine the flow of our blood through the system – how much, at what price, and to whom. This priesthood of banking is organized into three branches, the Federal Reserve Board, the Regional Federal Reserve Banks, and the Federal Open Market Committee.

At the top of the Federal Reserve System are the seven governors of the Federal Reserve Board who are headquartered in Washington at the Eccles Building. They are appointed by the President of the United States with approval of the Senate to staggered fourteen-year terms of office to make it exceedingly difficult for the President to dominate the Board with his own appointees.

The seven governors share their power with the presidents of the twelve regional Reserve banks that serve the commercial banks in their region. The regional presidents of the Reserve are not appointed in Washington. They are elected by each regional board of directors for that regional bank. Six of the nine members of each board of directors are elected directly by the members of the commercial private banks, and three of the members of the board of directors are appointed by the Federal Reserve Board of Directors in Washington.

The third branch of the Federal Reserve System is the Federal Open Market Committee. The Open Market Committee is a hybrid of the Federal Reserve Board and the Regional Reserve Banks. The governors of the Federal Reserve Board have seven votes and the regional presidents of the Regional Reserve banking system have five votes. The regional representatives are rotated annually so that all the regional banks will be represented. The one exception is the New York City Regional Bank in the heart of Wall Street that has a permanent seat.

So how does our blood, our lives, our hopes, and our workflow through the heart of the system? There are two major control valves for the blood to flow through the body politic. One way is the Discount Window at each of the twelve Federal Reserve Regional Banks where commercial and depository institutions day to day borrow hundreds of million and even billions of dollars a day to make up for temporary shortages in their reserve requirements. Essentially, the Discount Window determines the interest rate at which the regional banks will loan to commercial bank and depository institutions which in turn will determine mortgage interest rates, credit card interest rates, and interest rates on personal and business loans etc. The regional banks in coordination with the Federal Reserve Board in Washington determine the rate at the Discount Window and depending on the rate they charge, the Federal Reserve can encourage or discourage borrowing and the flow of money to the private sector and at what cost.

The second way that the Fed controls the flow of money is the Open Market Window where the Fed buys and sells from \$500 million dollars to several billion dollars of government securities a day on the open market. It is here in coordination with the Discount Window that the Fed can determine how much blood will flow through the government into the body politic. It is at the Open Market Window where the important decisions about the economy are made, and it is here that the priests of the temple cloak the truth in secrecy and mystery.

The Federal Open Market Committee meets to deliberate on the money supply eight to ten times a year, but the decisions are made in secret. Only six to ten weeks after the decisions are made is a brief report presented. The internal reports and memos and the economic analysis that supports the decisions made by the Committee are kept confidential for five years and the full transcript of the meetings are never released.

As William Grieder noted in his book *Secrets of the Temple*, “No other agency of government, not even the CIA enjoys such privacy.” He also cited a quote from Henry Ford Sr. on the mystery of the Federal Reserve where Henry Ford Sr. says, “It is well enough that the people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system for, if they did, I believe there would be a revolution tomorrow morning.” (Grieder 55)

This is true. Behind the vault like temple doors, the priests of the God of Money perform blood sacrifices of such a magnitude that when the veil of illusion, secrecy, and mystery are swept away, and we understand what is happening to us, we will have no choice but to fight back. The bloody truth is quite simple. The prime reason that the Federal Reserve exists in its present form is to protect the value of money for the wealthiest classes in America. Essentially, we are talking about the vampire capitalists who make money off money, and at the top of this list of clients for the Federal Reserve are the bond holders who own America’s debt. They are a very select group evidenced by the fact that the top 10% of the American families own 72% of the corporate and federal bonds and 86% of the state and local bonds. (Grieder 372)

To put it another way, they own America. They are the loaners not the borrowers, the creditors not the debtors; they are the wealthy individuals, banks, and financial institutions that make money off interest. It is this group that the priests of the temple serve, and to illustrate the extent to which the Fed will go to protect this group, we will look at how America was slaughtered during the Reagan Era.

### *The Reagan Era & Trickle-Down Blood*

In the 1980s, in response to a decade of double-digit inflation and Ronald Reagan’s policies of tax reduction and deficit spending, the Fed cut the flow of money and raised interest rates. For example, twenty-year government bonds averaged only .6% when inflation was soaring in 1979 (well below the historical expectations of a fair return of 2% or less).

In contrast, After the Fed implemented its hard money policies and raised interest rates, the real rate of long-term bonds jumped



to 5.1%, roughly double the historical return. (Grieder 404) In addition, starting in 1997 when the Fed began to push up interest rates, commercial banking entered the most profitable era since World War II. Banker's net operating income increased 10.3% in 1980, grew another 9% in 1981 while large sectors of the economy were being destroyed and liquidated. (Grieder 411)

Essentially, the blood was flowing upward to the Fed's true clients, the financial sector. In comparison Professor Gerald Epstein, an economist at the New School of Social Research, calculated that the before-tax-profits of the corporate sector, excluding finance, declined to an average 10.7% for the recession years of 1979 -1982 compared to the long term average of 15.9% profit for the years 1960 -1978. Commercial banks on the other hand, during the same period increased their average return on equity to 13.2% up from the long-term average of 10.4% (Grieder 412)

The businesses and industries most affected by the increase in interest rates were those that relied heavily on being able to borrow money on a routine bases, i.e. the auto industry, the oil business, the consumer credit industry, agrobusiness, the building and housing industry, and real estate etc. Also affected by the increase in interest rates and the resultant deflation of the economy and the hardening of the value of the dollar were businesses that depend on exporting its product and services, and companies sensitive to competition from abroad. Essentially, hard currency affected the international exchange market and made exports more expensive and imports cheaper. Agrobusiness exports were severely affected as were other exported. Imports nearly gutted the auto industry and the steel industry. Essential the American economy was sacrificed to the God of Money, and the priests of temple ripped the heart out of the body politic and ate it raw while it was still beating. Stocks were liquidated, farms were liquidated, real estate was liquidated, and whole industries were liquidated in the bloodletting.



Illustration #8

As for American labor, at the peak of the recession in December 1982, twelve million people were out of work, whereas, only 4.4 million of those out of work were drawing unemployment and a group just as large were working only part-time. In all, the dislocation totaled as many as 20 million American workers.(Grieder 455) Dr. M. Harvey Brenner of John Hopkins University calculated that 45,900 people died prematurely due to the swollen unemployment of 1974 -1975, casualties in a liquidation process that was less severe than the one that occurred in 1982. (Grieder 458)

The priests of the temple argue like the physicians in the middle ages who used blood suckers to purge their patient of their own blood. They argued that bloodletting is healthy for the body, and they call it “creative destruction,” and when the vampire capitalist want to really be creative - they let the monster that dwells deep within their vaults free to roam beyond the temple doors, and they call it – war. War is the ultimate bloodletting for the vampire class because everyone, on both sides of the war, must borrow massive amounts of money to wage the war, and everyone must pay, winners and losers alike. Millions upon millions of lives are sacrificed, billion and billions of dollars are wasted and spilled on the battlefield, but that is not the end, after they have reduced whole countries to ruin, they make more money reconstructing what they destroyed.

# Hiroshima Then and Now



Illustration # 9

## *The New Deal and the Band-Aid That Didn't Work*

During the Great Depression the New Deal implemented a socialist overlay to a predominately capitalist economy, and by doing so saved us from the vampire capitalists who had brought us to the brink of disaster, the same vampire capitalists who are now dismantling the New Deal and will lead us, this time, to an economic apocalypse. The right-wing neo-liberals like to argue that the New Deal did not save us from the Great Depression. World War Two did. However, a stronger argument could be made for the fact that the war saved capitalism. Without the war we may have realized that we had not gone far enough and that we should have eliminated the capitalism at the core of our economy. We would have realized that we should have replaced it with an economic system where money circulated through the body politic in a way that nourishes everyone.

The thesis also ignores the fact that it was this socialist government during the war that created the greatest industrial war machine in history, defeated Japan and Germany in a two front war, and after the war instituted the G.I. Bill that made it possible for the working class people who fought in America's war to buy a home, start a business, or go to college. It also created a social-economic safety net to ameliorate the excesses of capitalism and protect its citizens against unemployment, secure their well-being when they grew old, and opened higher education to all our children.

Central to the New Deal's reforms of capitalism and its implementation of a mixed economy was its attempt to create a balance between big business, big government, and big labor; and it was the unions empowered by the New Deal that forced big business to offer pensions, fair wages, safe working conditions, and health plans to their employees. Even if a company wasn't unionized, it was the unions that caused the employer to offer these benefits to keep the unions out. In the process, America experienced the most prosperous period in its history and created the largest middle class in the world.

The globalization of manufacturing, finance, and the labor markets has broken down the balance that the New Deal attempted to create between business, labor, and government, and now the giant corporations that we created and subsidies have become global Leviathans in the service of the vampire class, economic imperialism, and the New World Order.



LEARN OR DIE: THE NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Illustration #10



## *The Leviathans of the New World Order: The Monster Grows*

We have turned institutions that were created to serve us into monstrous Leviathans. Two hundred large transnational corporations now tower above the United States and the global economy. Comparing the gross national product of nation states to the annual sales of corporations, 69 of the 100 largest economies in the world in 2015 were private corporations.

Amongst this group, Walmart is the largest company in history. They employ 1.6 million people worldwide, most of which can't speak English. In 2012 Walmart registered \$444 billion dollars in sales which is \$20 billion dollars more than the Gross Nation Product of Austria.

Each week Walmart serves over 200 million customers at more than 10,400 stores in 27 countries. China's exports to Walmart account for an 11% growth in the total United States' trade deficit.

The Walton family own 50% of Walmart's stock. The family includes Helen, the widow of the late Walmart founder Sam Walton, and their four children, Alice, Sam, Jim, and John. The Walton family is worth over \$102.7 billion dollars. Their estimated income from dividends is \$880 million dollars a year, or \$75 million for each of the Walmart heirs. This year the Walton family will receive \$3.2 billion dollars in Walmart Dividends. If they actually worked for their dividend checks, they would be paid \$1.56 million dollars per hour. Meanwhile Walmart workers start at \$9/hr. and are routinely denied full-time work. (Making Change at Walmart)

This is your modern American aristocratic family of inherited wealth and power who pass your life blood on from one generation to another, feeding off us even when we die, alive like Zombies but dead. However, the Walton family are not an anomaly in America.

1. Daphne Greenwood and Edward Wolf have estimated in the study, "Changes in Wealth in the United States 1962-1983" that 50-70% of the wealth of households under age 50 was inherited. (Greenwood 5)

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2. Laurence Kotlikoff and Lawrence Summers in their study, “The Role of Intergenerational Transfers in Aggregate Capital Accumulation” estimated that as much as 80% of personal wealth came either from direct inheritance or the income on inherited wealth. (Kotlifoff 89)
3. A study published by United for a Fair Economy in 1997 titled “Born on Third Base” found that of the 400 on the 1997 Forbes list of the wealthiest individuals and families in the United States, 42% inherited their way onto the list, another 6% didn’t quite inherit their way onto the list but inherited wealth in excess of \$50 million dollars, and another 7% started life off with a measly million. (Collin 61)

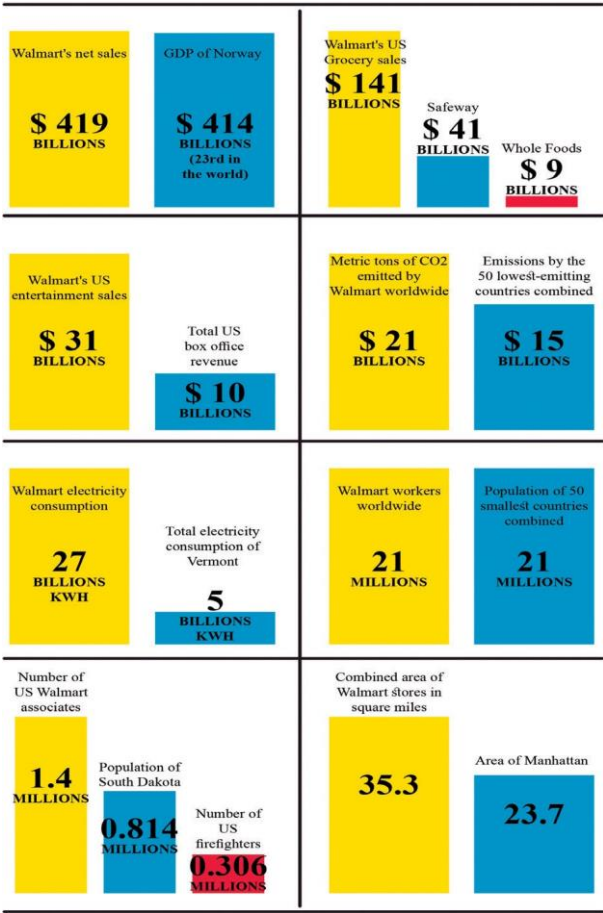


Chart #8

As noted earlier in the book, 10% of the population own America, and the top 20% of the population own 80% of the wealth. The rest of us are workers, and on the job, we are property with no rights or freedoms. We are a human resource like coal or oil or electricity, a human appendage to the cancerous growth of global corporations that have transcended their masters like a Frankenstein monster. These aberrant mutations to the body politic and our economic system are immortal. They continue to live through the bylaws of their charters from one generation to another into the indefinite future. On the other hand, you and I are mere mortals who live and die, as they go on growing larger and larger. Yet, despite their size and the fact that they dwarf the average American citizen, they are by law in the United States designated as “legal persons” with all the rights and freedoms of you and me without any of the responsibilities.

In the 1886 case of *Santa Clara v Southern Pacific* (118 US 394, 1886), Chief Justice Waite of the Supreme Court orally directed the lawyers that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of equal protection under the law clause guaranteed constitutional protections to corporations in addition to national persons, and the oral argument should focus on other issues in the case. (Calvert 656) Bancroft Davis noted, in the hand notes to the opinion that Chief Justice Morrison Waite began oral arguments by stating, “The court does not wish to hear argument on the question whether the provisions in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, which forbids a State to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law, applies to corporations. We are all of the opinion that it does.” (118 US 394, 1886)

While the headnote is not part of the Court’s opinion and thus not precedent, two years later, in *Pembina Consolidated Silver Mining Co v Pennsylvania* -125 US 181, 1888, the Court clearly affirmed the doctrine holding, “Under the designation of ‘person’ there is no doubt that a private corporation is included in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Such corporations are merely associations of individuals united for a special purpose and permitted to do business under a particular name and have a succession of members without dissolution.” Official Court Syllabus in the United States Report, (Calvert, 650).

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At this point in history the corporate Leviathans became legal persons with the rights of an individual person, just like us, but that is merely a mask to hide the monster behind a legal fiction. This 'person' is not human. It is inhuman, and it has a singular pursuit and only one objective, and that is to maximize profit at any cost. A corporation-as-a-person is incapable of feelings, and it is totally devoid of empathy and a sense of responsibility to others. Quite simply, in human terms, corporations, as 'persons', are certifiably insane psychopaths capable of mass murder and unspeakable crimes.

Even the crime of mass murder is irrelevant to this monster if the cost of committing the crime is less than the profit to be made being a murderer on a scale that would horrify us if a single person did it or even if a country did it in the act of war. For example, In a law suit in which a car slammed into the rear end of Patricia Anderson's car and caused the gas tank to explode, it was revealed that General Motors determined that the cost of correcting the flaw in the design of the vehicle in the following way: (1) They multiplying the 500 fuel-fed-fire fatalities occurring each year because of their faulty design by \$200,000 dollars, the estimated cost to General Motors in legal damages for each potential wrongful death suit. (2) They then divided that figure by the 41 million cars that they estimated were on the road with that fatal design and determined that it would cost them \$2.40/ fatality if they did nothing and just let people die. However, to redesign the cars and correct the flaw in the cars that were on the road, they estimated that it would cost them \$8.59/car. This meant that the company saved \$6.19/car if they simple allowed people to die year after year, or, in other worlds, it was cost efficient to commit mass murder.

GM is not an isolated case. Corporate crimes dwarf street crime. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that the cost yearly of burglaries and robberies in the United States amounted to \$4.5 billion dollars in 2014, but just the savings and loan fraud of the 80s alone cost the American taxpayer an estimated \$300-\$500 billion dollars. Added to that is an estimated \$40 billion dollars a year in repair fraud, \$15 billion dollars a year in deceptive financial practices, and billions upon billions of dollars stolen and robbed in cheating depositors, overcharging customers, food contamination, adulterated medication, illegal marketing, failure to report safety defects, workplace hazards,

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sanitation violations, air pollution, ocean dumping, climate denial, price fixing, foreign bribery, and wage theft, but that is not the worst of their crimes.

Corporations commit violent crimes against living human beings that reach a scale of horror compared to the horrors of war. For example, compared to the 14,000 Americans murdered every year in America as estimated by the FBI and the 58,220 Americans killed in the Vietnam War, it is estimated that 54,000 Americans die every year on the job or from occupational diseases, and tens of thousands of Americans fall victim every year to the silent violence of pollution, contaminated food, hazardous consumer products, and hospital malpractice. (Mokhiber)

I repeat. These monsters, by charter, have only one imperative - to maximize profit. All other qualities that we define as human – love of family, a sense of community, national pride, civic responsibility, empathy for the suffering of others, common decency – they are all irrelevant and meaningless to the bottom line. In fact, if as the head of a corporation you were to express any of the above human qualities in a way that would undermine the prime imperative - maximizing profit, you could be sued by the stockholders for violating the corporate charter. This was the case of Henry Ford.

In the case of Dodge versus Ford Motor Company 170N.W.668 (Michigan 1919) the Michigan Supreme Court held that Henry Ford had to operate the Ford Motor Company in the interest of its shareholders. He could not operate it in any way that would benefit the employees and/ or customers and/or community and nation-at-large at the expense of the shareholders unless he could demonstrate that it improved the bottom line. So, who are these stockholders? Eighty-four percent of all stocks owned by Americans belong to the wealthiest 10% of households and that includes everyone's stakes in pension plans, 401(K)'s, and individual retirement accounts, as well as trust funds, mutual funds, and college savings programs like 529 plans.

The stockholders argue that they have a right to their shares in the profits because they risk their capital by investing in our corporations and their future. In fact, the only time that the so called “investors” in stocks actually invest in a company is at the initial offerings when the company goes public. It is only then that the money directly goes to the company. Statistically 1% of the money in the market goes to direct investment in initial offerings and 99% to speculation, but when you include in the equation the corporate buybacks that corporations institute so as to protect themselves from corporate raiders and hostile take-overs, the amount of money directly invested in corporations is less than 0% - which is to say more money is going out of the market than is going into it. Or as Marjorie Kelly wrote in *The Devine Right of Capital: Dethroning the Corporate Aristocracy* “Rather than capitalizing companies, the stock market has been decapitalizing them. Stockholders for decades have been an immense drain on corporations.” (Kelly 35)

So, let’s be clear, the stock market is not about investment. It is a game of casino economics, and for the most part, the stockholders are like the aristocrats of old that we fought against. They do nothing for their money. For the most part, they are passive absentee owners and largely an unproductive body of constantly changing speculators whose sole function is to feed off of the global corporate Leviathans whose sole purpose is to maximize profit and feed off of us. These Leviathans are not “persons.” They are not like a normal healthy human being that has growth periods and periods of decline that are part of the cycle of life of death and rebirth. They do not seek stability and the harmony of its parts where blood as money nourishes all the parts, each and every cell, each and every one of us, for the well-being of the whole. These monsters were not created to serve the common good. They are a cancerous growth that is spreading throughout the globe.



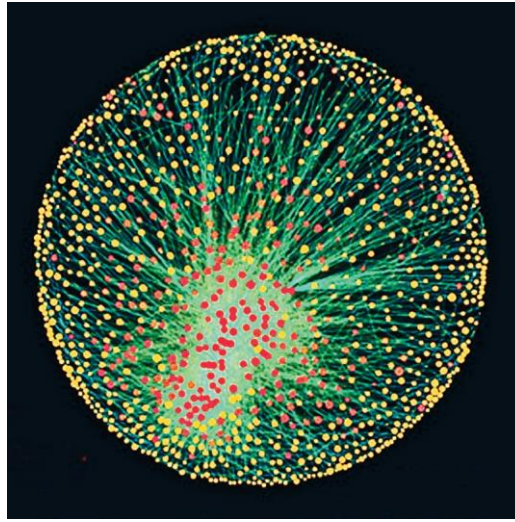


Chart #9

## Global Reach

### *Global Reach: The Cancer Grows*

The above illustration is from a study by theorists at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. In the study of transnational companies world-wide, they identified 1318 (in yellow) corporations with interlocking ownership as the core network of global power. The 1318 corporations identified generated 20% of the global operating revenues, and they owned a majority of the shares in the world's largest blue chip and manufacturing firms, which accounts for additional 60% of the global revenues. The research group was able to further untangle the web of power and reduce it to 147 corporations (in red) that are so tightly networked together. They control 40 percent of the total wealth of the network. (Coghlan)

Over the past quarter century, the growth of global corporations has accelerated. In 1970 there were about 7000 parent transnational corporations, but, today, the study above done by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich approximates the number of transnationals to be more like 47,000. Approximately 90% of these transnationals are based in the industrial world, but they have 207,000 foreign subsidiaries world-wide. However, the large number of transnational global corporations can be misleading because it is calculated

that the 300 largest global corporations own and/or control at least 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the world’s total productive assets worth approximately \$5 trillion US dollars, and as noted in the study done by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, basically, “in effect, 1% of the companies were able to control 40 percent of the entire network of transnationals, and most of them were financial institutions.” Or, in other words, the blood banks are at the heart of the New World Order, and they control the flow of blood throughout the world.(Coghlan)

The Blood Banks








1		ICBC (China)	\$ 2.95 trillion	18,000 outlets 108 branches globally
2		HSBC Holdings (UK)	\$ 2.68 trillion	6,600 offices 55 million customers
3		Deutsche Bank (Germany)	\$ 2.60 trillion	2,963 branches 46 million customers
4		Crédit Agricole (France)	\$ 2.58 trillion	60 countries 21 million clients
5		BNP Paribas (France)	\$ 2.51 trillion	
6		Mitsubishi UFJ (Japan)	\$ 2.49 trillion	
7		Barclays PLC (UK)	\$ 2.41 trillion	
8		JPMorgan Chase (US)	\$ 2.39 trillion	
9		China Constr. B. (China)	\$ 2.36 trillion	
10		Japan Post Bank (Japan)	\$ 2.12 trillion	

Chart #10

*The Financial Institutions That Govern the New World Order*



Illustration #11

The transnational banks and the global financial institutions that are emerging are at the core of the New World Order of vampire capitalism, and if the vampire capitalist have their way, through the banking and financial institutions and the Leviathans they have created, they will control the flow of blood throughout the world and transform nation-states into corporate states, feudal fortresses to protect the new global aristocracy of wealth and money.

In the New World Order, there are three major global financial institutions that have become global economic governing institutions that transcend the nation-state and are usurping their power. These three global institutions play a major role in controlling the flow of our life blood globally. They are the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. They are non-democratic institutions dominated by major banking, corporate, and financial interests from around the world. The same vampires that are sucking us dry at home are taking our blood, our hopes and dreams, and exporting them as investments and loans to new host nations. The host nations are usually underdeveloped countries dominated by its own elite class of vampire capitalist who are usually not hindered as we are in the United States by the shredded remnants of a representative government, and they can rule by absolute terror and fear. These domestic vampires can usually ensure that there will be no laws, regulations, taxes, or labor unions to hinder their bottom-line appetites, and there will be an unlimited supply of cheap and child labor to feedoff.

The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization came out of the Bretton Wood Conference in 1944, and their original intent was to stabilize the world economy in opposition to the economic chaos that existed prior to the Second World War, an economic chaos that was believed to be one of the major causes of the war. That was then, but this is now, and even though institutions like this could still serve the common good if they were truly representative of the people, they are not.

### *International Monetary Fund*

Originally, the stated goal of the International Monetary Fund was to stabilize currency rates and balance of payment deficits, or in other words, prevent more blood from going out of the nation than was coming in. However, over time, as the IMF has embraced the free market neo-liberal ideology of the

vampire capitalists, the terms for loaning money to desperate underdeveloped and less developed countries have become more and more oppressive. Rather than the conditions and terms of repayment benefiting the debtor country and the global economic community as a whole, the terms of repayment exposed the veins of the debtor nation to the vampire capitalists who then bleed the host nation, especially the poor.

For example, as a condition for obtaining a loan, (1) the IMF requires the reduction of tariffs so as to open up the domestic market to an increased influx of foreign products and services thereby undermining the efforts of the host nation to create domestic alternatives and diversify its industrial and economic capacities. (2) The IMF demands an increase in interest rates to cool the economy and reduce inflation to protect the value of the money owed. This discourages domestic investment and borrowing, and the only winners are the financial institutions and banks that get to charge the increased interest rates. (3) The IMF also pushes for the privatization of government assets that insiders then can purchase at bargain basement prices, and, at the same time, they demand cutbacks in government services and programs, programs and services that reduce poverty, improve health care, and support education.

Basically, the supposed intent of the International Monetary Fund was to repair an economic system that was losing more blood than it was taking in, but, in fact, the IMF turns the leaks in the economy into puncture holes.

### *The World Bank*

Like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank was originally well intended. Established along with the IMF at Bretton Wood in 1944, it established five financial institutions, two of which we will focus on here as most relevant of the five in tracking where the blood goes. They are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association. The IBRD makes development loans, guarantees loans, and offers analytical and advisory services. It borrows at low interest rates by selling bonds in private capital markets in First World countries, and it then makes near-market interest loans to 'credit worthy countries' in the Third World and elsewhere. It has made about \$360 billion in loans over its lifetime and currently loans \$10.5 billion a year for some ninety new operations in



thirty-six countries. (World Bank) The International Development Association gives loans to countries that are ‘usually not credit worthy’ in international financial markets. IDA loans carry no interest, but a 0.75 percent administrative charge is paid every year. The IDA, averaging \$6 million a year in lending to the poorest countries, is funded from member governments’ national budget. (World Bank)

Like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank in 1944 was established with good intent. The original purpose of the World Bank was to facilitate investment of capital for productive purposes in less developed countries by infusing the endemic countries with more blood to increase productivity and the health and prosperity of the country. They planned to accomplish this goal by promoting, coordinating, and participating in loans with private investors. This sounds all well and good, but, once again, that was then and this is now, and if you tear away the mask of respectability and pseudo economic science that the priesthood of the temple have embraced, we see, as with the International Monetary Fund, that the World Bank imposes the same predatory economic structural adjustments and conditions for obtaining a loan and rescheduling and refinancing loans in arrears. Even when they do finance a public project, it often turned out to be just another way for the domestic vampires can get in on the feast. They do this by causing the government that they dominate and control to take out loans for public projects that end up as sweetheart deals for themselves and the transnationals that they partner with. To compound the evil, in many instances, the projects are never finished or their value to the community is questionable and often disastrous for the people of the country because they are left with the debt that has to be paid with their blood.

For example, in Kenya, the World Bank has invested some \$29 million in the Bura irrigation scheme. But when President of Kenya, Daniel Arap Moi, inspected the site, he found “eroded irrigation canals, abandoned plots, poor crops, tumbledown and unsanitary housing, zebra grazing on irrigated land, and an air of general desolation and decay.”(Gunnell 18) According to Gunnell “a confidential World Bank mid-term evaluation report at the beginning of 1985 reported that Bura’s tenants, aside from being so disaffected that a fifth of them had deserted their plots, suffered mortality and morbidity rate several times higher than the national average.” Even though the project had invested almost \$50,000 per family to be benefited, the bank report found severe



malnutrition widespread among the beneficiaries. Correspondent Barbara Gunnell concluded, “The real loser is the Kenyan government, or as President Moi pointed out, future generations of Kenyans who will go on paying World Bank interest on the loan. Loan repayments will be just as high as if the World Bank’s economic appraisal that the scheme could expect a 13 percent rate of return had been correct.” (Gunnell 18).

The bottom line is, rather than the conditions and terms of repayment benefiting the debtor country and the global economic community as a whole, the terms of repayment exposed the veins of the debtor nation to the vampire capitalists who extract payment at the expense of the host nation leaving it poorer than it was when it reached out for a helping hand. Even the World Bank’s own experts know this, but they are afraid to look in the mirror and see the blood on their lips. For example, the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review (SAPRI) was created by the World Bank and a network of 250 Non-Government Organizations to improve the understanding about the impact of the loan and adjustment policies implemented by the World Bank and the international banking and private financial institutions that worked in cooperation with the World Bank. The group concluded that “Many of the predicted gains in efficiency, competition, savings, and revenue from privatization and the implementing of neoliberal economic policies have failed to materialize, quite simply, everything that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank has done, in terms of structural adjustment and in terms of conditions for obtaining a loan, has been a total failure.” (Peet p 161-162).

### *World Trade Organization*

The World Trade Organization was founded in 1995. Its stated purpose was to insure open and equal market access and nondiscrimination in the trade of products, services, ideas, and capital. Like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the WTO masks its real intent behind high sounding words, and it would have us believe that they serve the common good, but the International Trade Organization, like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, does not represent the people or the common wealth. It does not represent the American people, or the host nation, or the global community at large. Like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank it is a nondemocratic institution that makes important decisions about international

trade and domestic policies out of the public view and in secret. “It has no written-by-laws, makes decisions by consensus. It has never taken a vote on anything. It holds no public hearings and has never opened its processes to public view. Its meeting rooms do not even have a section for the public to observe its activities, and the court-like-rulings on trade are not made by United States style due process.” (Wachtel 37)

What is most horrifying about the World Trade Organization is that it has become a nondemocratic global economic governing body. It has judicial and enforcement powers far beyond any other international institution including the United Nations, and it represents, as the protestors in Seattle claimed in a press statement in 1999, the greatest transfer of political and economic power from a nation-states to a global institution in history. The WTO has the power to rule on a nation’s right to pass legislation, enforce regulations and environmental standards, and implement economic governmental policies that WTO adjudicates as standing in the way of free trade. What is defined as “free trade” is decided on by the WTO tribunals that have the power to impose severe sanctions on the offending state, and these sanctions are enforced by over 153 nations that are members of the WTO, and they represent 100% of the world trade. Quite simply, the WTO is not about democracy. It is about controlling and regulating democracy, and despite what many people would like to believe, when we are talking about the reality of “globalism” in the capitalist world that exists today, we are not talking about a world where we all come together to work for the common good. We are not talking about reaching across borders of language, race, and class conflict. We are not talking about ridding the world of ethnic cleansing, the wars of nations, religions, and all the other forms of “isms” and identity politics that create walls of meaningless babel between us, nor are we talking about ridding the world of poverty and starvation. We are talking about Vampire Capitalism on a global scale, and its goal is to create open borders so that it can feast on each and every one of us world-wide. We are talking about a cancerous growth that must be stopped because it can’t stop itself. Having said this, we have now come to the final depths of the Capitalist Hell and the final truth.

**Capitalism must continually grow,  
or it will die.**

## *Learn or Die*

Capitalism must grow and continually find new investments to absorb capital and pay off the compound interest that is at the core of the need for more. This need for continuous growth is estimated to be 3%, a figure that reflects the prime interest rate on average for a healthy investment and banking system to sustain profit and continually loan out money. This is the engine of capitalism, and it is what makes it a dooms-day-machine. Like the monster machines in the movie *The War of the Worlds* that gobble up human beings and use their blood for fertilizer, the corporate Leviathans in the real story hidden behind the science fiction horror are not aliens from without. They are the aliens from within that are spreading the cancerous growth of run-away-capitalism throughout the world at an accelerated rate.

In 1820 (based on 1990 dollars) Angus Maddison calculated that the total output of goods and services in the capitalist world economy was worth \$694 billion dollars. By 1913 it had raised to \$2.7 trillion dollars, and by 1950, it reached \$5.3 trillion dollars. In 1973 it stood at \$16 trillion, by 2003 it was \$41 trillion dollars, and by 2009 it was at \$56.2 trillion dollars and rising. (Harvey 26) Globalization has accelerated this growth and the depletion of our natural resources and the pollution of our air, water, and soil. Forests are shrinking, water tables are falling, vast expanses of soil are eroding, wetlands are disappearing, fisheries are collapsing, range lands are deteriorating, rivers are running dry, coral reefs are dying, plant and animal species are disappearing, temperatures are rising, global climate change is accelerating, and the world's population keeps growing to keep up with capitalism's need for more consumers. An ecologist, John Terborgh, after a trip to a small African country, described the acceleration of resource depletion in the global era.

“Everywhere I went, foreign commercial interests were exploiting resources after signing contracts with the autocratic government. Prodigious logs, four and five feet in diameter, were coming out of the forests, oil and natural gas were being exported from the coastal region, offshore fishing rights had been sold to foreign interests, and exploration for oil and minerals were under way in the interior. The exploitation of resources

in North America during the five-hundred-year post-discovery era followed a typical sequence –fish, furs, game, timber, farming virgin soil – but because of the hugely expanded scale of today’s economy and the availability of myriad sophisticated technologies, exploitation of all the resources in poor developing countries now goes on at the same time. In a few years, the resources of this African country and others like it will be sucked dry.” (Terborgh)

### *Harbingers of Doom*

Twenty-five years ago, The Union of Concerned Scientists and more than 1700 independent scientists including most living Nobel laureates in the sciences, penned the 1992 “World Scientists’ Warning to Humanity.” It was a call to end environmental destruction, and it warned that “a great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided.” On the twenty-fifth anniversary of their call for change, 15,364 scientists from 184 countries have looked back to that period compared to today, and they see that the problems that they saw then have gotten much worse. Here are some of the alarming changes which have taken place in the last 25 years.

1. The amount of fresh water available per head of population worldwide will be reduced by 26%.
2. The number of oceans “dead zones” - places where little can live because of pollution and oxygen starvation – will increased by 75%.
3. Nearly 300 million acres of forest will be lost, mostly to make way for agricultural land.
4. Global carbon emissions and average temperatures will show continued significant increases.
5. Human population will rise by 35%.
6. Collectively the number of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish in the world will fall by 29%. (Ripple 1026-1028)

## *They're Devouring Our Planet*

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity is a global institution based in Geneva, Switzerland at the International Environment House and is hosted by the United Nations Environment Program. The TEEB's mission is to analyze and measure global problems of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in terms of economic and human welfare. The following chart projects into the future our path of self-destruction and the devouring of our planet.



Illustration #12

## The Impending Disappearance of World's Natural Resources

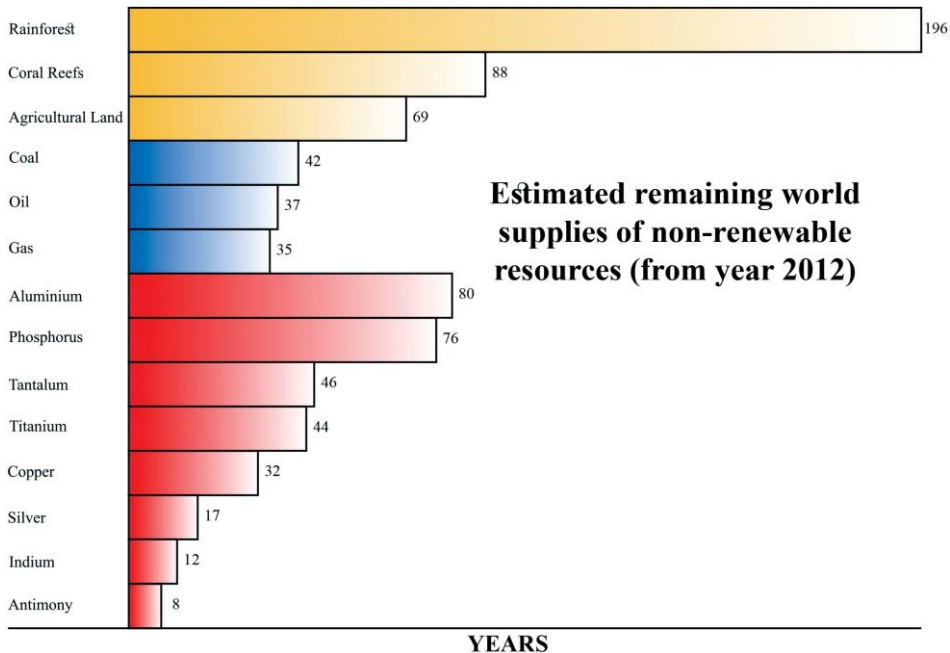


Chart #11

According to the above chart it is estimated that,

1. By 2030 the Arctic will be ice-free in the summer.
2. By 2050 a third of the land plants and animal species will be extinct due to climate change.
3. In 75 years, the Indonesian Rainforest will be gone.
4. In 196 years, the Brazilian Rainforest will be gone.
5. In the next 35-42 years gas, oil, and coal will be gone.
6. In the next 7-45 years key rare earth minerals will be gone.

And, finally, in 2060 the dangerous 2 degree C warming threshold will likely be reached. Carbon concentrations have not been this high since the Pliocene period between 3 million and 5 million years ago when global average temperatures were 3 degrees or 4 degrees Centigrade hotter than today. During that period, the Arctic was ice-free, sea levels were about 40 meters higher, jungles covered northern Canada, and Florida was under water along with coastal locations we now call New York City, London, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Sydney and many others.



LEARN OR DIE: THE NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION

# The End of the Journey



Illustration #13

LEARN OR DIE: THE NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Illustration #14

What are we looking at here? Is this the end of the journey for a society that has nurtured vampire capitalism and glorifies narcissism, a society where we all pursue our own individual greed, where we take more than we give, and we ignore the consequences of our acts? Is this a society where deep in the darkness of our collective unconscious this monstrous reality has grown? What is it that we are looking at? Has the vampire capitalist created something far more evil than they could ever imagine, something that now has a life of its own? Is this what we mean by the Devil, or is it Divine Justice, or both? Whatever it is, the lesson is clear. Capitalism must grow or it will die, and if it continues to grow, it will kill us all, capitalist and worker alike. This we must learn, or we will die.

## **Capitalism will kill us all!**

Throughout the world and in the United States neo-liberalism and vampire capitalism have generated an overwhelming feeling of despair, a feeling that it is hopeless to resist the so called “New World Order” of global capitalism. Voting seems a waste of time in the one-dollar-one-vote pseudo-democracy. Labor unions seem to be ineffective against the power of the global Leviathans that dominate the world’s economy. We fear layoffs, downsizing, the relocation of our jobs abroad, and we see the homeless on the street and say to ourselves, “That could be me. I’m one paycheck away.”

We live in a parasitic economy that is a royal feast for some, a constant struggle for survival for most, and a living hell for many of us. Though we are capable of producing an abundance of wealth that will improve the quality of life for everyone, the vampire capitalists search the world for cheap slave and child labor to maximize their profit and to feed their blood lust, and now, they are spreading this disease throughout the world, endangering the survival of the human race and the life of the planet itself.

In principle, socialism should be able to take advantage of the increasing awareness that capitalism is failing us, and it is an evil that feeds off our very life blood. But, tragically, just at the moment when capitalism has revealed its fatal flaws and the horrors of its true nature, socialism, as it exists today, has revealed its own weaknesses as an alternative. For example, the Soviet Union in its collapse revealed the fatal flaws of a nondemocratic command economy.



Western Europe and the America of the New Deal have also failed to fully realize all their hopes and dreams of a new future, primarily because they have retained capitalism as the core to their economy, and, therefore, at their best have only been able to ameliorate capitalism's worse effects and provide a minimal safety net for its victims.

To save ourselves from the evil of vampire capitalism and the apocalypse of self-destruction that will come if we continue to allow the spread of this cancer, we need a new vision of our future, new political and economic paradigms to guide us back to a future of new hopes and dreams. This should be relatively easy for us to do because the answers have always been with us. They are rooted in our finest traditions and lie deep in the ethical and moral roots of the American dream.

Unfortunately, for so many years, we have spent most of our time creating a labyrinth of lies and self-delusion, and we have become madder and madder as we face one dead end after another. It seems to me that this is what the myth of the Minotaur and the Labyrinth is all about. The Minotaur is the truth that gores us because we do not have the courage to face the truth. The truth is that our future is dead in the womb if we continue on this path, and we don't find our way out of this labyrinth of illusions and lies.

Fortunately, the truth is far more straight-forward and liberating than the lies that we tell ourselves. For example, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Or "that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Simple words, straight forward and profound, and they rocked our universe and caused us to dream great dreams, but now they are like ghosts to us, ghosts of a dream that never came true because democracy is a revolution that has never been won. I repeat.

**Democracy is a revolution  
that has never been won.**