



The Bush recovery has been good for Wall Street, but not Main Street. The economic recovery that began in 2001 has brought slow job growth, limited wage gains, and continued rising inequality. While families at the top of the income ladder have seen their incomes rise faster than inflation, those in the middle and bottom have seen theirs fall.

Millions now work in what we call "bad jobs." While higher-wage workers take for granted that their jobs come with employer-based benefits like health insurance, a retirement plan, and maybe some paid time off, just over one-in-five workers (22.1 percent) are in a bad job -- a job that pays low wages and provides no benefits.

That's where government work supports -- programs that ensure that families can access basics such as healthcare, childcare, food, and housing -- are supposed step in and fill in the gaps.

The reality, however, according to research we released this week, is that nearly 41 million people live in families that don't earn enough to make ends meet, and government benefits do not fill in the gap. These families work, but their earnings aren't enough. Most low-wage workers don't get the kinds of employer-sponsored benefits common for higher-waged workers, so without government help, these families are left out in the cold, often unable to afford health insurance, decent child care or other necessities.

We do have work supports to help people. Child-care assistance, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), food stamps, public housing and Section 8 housing programs, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families are all available across the United States.

When families get these work supports, they help bridge the gaps left by low wages and lack of employer-sponsored benefits. Across nine states (Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Washington) and the District of Columbia, for example, work supports close nearly half (44 percent) of the gap between a family's earnings and what it takes to make ends meet.

But these policies leave out just as many as they help. Most of these work supports were initially intended to serve poor, unemployed families. The eligibility criteria require families to be very poor, earning so little in most states that many of those who are in need still earn "too much" to be eligible. The EITC and SCHIP were both designed to help working families, but even these programs leave many families out in the cold.

After decades of little or no growth in earnings for millions of workers, and with employers simultaneously paring back benefits, too many working-class families are being left out in the cold, without access to employer-sponsored benefits or government work-supports.

For nearly a century, the goal of U.S. social policy has focused on aiding the poor, while leaving workers -- regardless of their

earnings -- to access benefits from their employer or the private sector. When a significant share of the labor force was in a union and economic growth was providing widespread income gains, this strategy might have made sense. But as employers pull back from their historic role as benefit providers, we need to refocus our attention on how to ensure that working families can make ends meet.

The U.S. work-support system was not set up to solve this problem and, as a result, does not reach most working families. Our research found that across ten states, just under half of people (46.9 percent) living in working families with income below that necessary to purchase a basic standard of living are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP. Similarly, just over half (55.4 percent) are eligible for the EITC.

Many of those eligible do not actually receive benefits. Across the ten states we studied, about a quarter of children meeting the eligibility requirements for childcare actually received any child-care subsidy. The programs that reached the most people -- the EITC -- was the one that is fully funded and has the easiest application process.

It's not just the very poor who need our attention. As members of the middle class have been squeezed, more and more of us are struggling to maintain our standard of living. The past 30 years have brought rising wage and income inequality and an increase in low-wage, no-benefit jobs. If we want to see an economy that works for everyone, then we -- and our representatives in Washington -- must work for labor standards that support all workers.

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Heather Boushey is a senior labor economist with the Center for Economic Policy and Research.

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Madness in the White House

Posted by: Constitutionalist75 on Oct 13, 2007 2:14 AM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Cheney's puppet Bush and their right-wing cohorts have no intention of allowing the Democrats to do anything like that. Before the next election they will arrange some sort of "incident" that gives Bush the authority to declare a national emergency, cancel the elections and rule by decree as a "President For Life" so he can perpetrate his Biblical Armageddon upon a sinful World.

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[» Yes, Bush mentioned this before the last "election"](#) Posted by: Beck

[» RE: Yes, Bush mentioned this before the last "election"](#) Posted by: grethart

It's obvious

Posted by: vox persona on Oct 13, 2007 2:45 AM

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Current rating: **3** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Bu\$hCo has but one constituency, and its name is mammon. Nothing else makes sense.

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[» RE: It's obvious](#) Posted by: Constitutionalist75

the situation didn't just happen, it's man-made and can be put right

Posted by: Suzon on Oct 13, 2007 4:55 AM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

We need a new contract between the government and the people. FDR's Four Freedoms can provide a foundation.

Roosevelt, in his message to Congress on January 6, 1941, declared:

Certainly this is no time for any of us to stop thinking about the social and economic problems which are the root cause of social revolution which is today a supreme factor in the world.

For there is nothing mysterious about the foundations of a healthy and strong democracy. The basic things expected by our people of their political and economic systems are simple. They are:

Quality of opportunity for youth and for others.

Jobs for those who can work.

Security for those who need it.

The ending of special privilege for the few.

The preservation of civil liberties for all.

The enjoyment of the fruits of scientific progress in a wider and constantly rising standard of living.

These are the simple basic things that must never be lost sight of in the turmoil and unbelievable complexity of our modern world.

He stressed the four essential human freedoms on which the world should be based: freedom of speech and expression; freedom of religion; freedom from want and freedom from fear (which included a reduction in armaments).

Measure your candidates by this: Will they bring back our freedoms and, if so, by what means?

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» [RE: the situation didn't just happen, it's man-made and can be put right](#) Posted by: VZEQICVA

» [RE: the situation didn't just happen, it's man-made and can be put right](#) Posted by: dennidus1680

» [RE: No wonder Prescott Bush attempted a Coup on FDR!](#) Posted by: channing

» [thanks for the link, Channing](#) Posted by: Suzon

A Great Nation?

Posted by: BrianOfNairobi on Oct 13, 2007 4:56 AM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Due to globalization, which is the scam of international bankers and multinationals, the plight of America's poor will continue on a downward spiral as the concentration of capital (greed) squeezes the poor and the middle classes to the margins of society.

A nation's greatness is surely measured by how it treats its more unfortunate citizens as opposed to building empires, political or economic, which renders wealth into the hands of a few. The USA has lost its greatness as it crushes its people into poverty whilst invading other nations and bombing them into submission, and more often than not it is the children of the poor and dispossessed who make up the numbers (and occupy the body bags) of the invading occupation forces.

I believe Constitutional75 is correct about the strong possibility of an "incident" taking place before the next presidential elections. If a second 911 occurs then Directive 51 would be initiated thereby ensuring a third term for Bush. I'm no student of US history but is there not a precedent for this with regard to the war-time president, Roosevelt?

The USA is the world's most powerful nation ever, militarily, but economically it is heading into decline due to its corrupt leadership asset stripping America's industrial base and shipping it to the third world in hot pursuit of a very quick profit. There is nothing for America to fall back upon in order to launch itself into economic recovery... it is in debt to the international bankers, and it is they who call all the shots regardless of the democratic will of the people during elections. It is the bankers and their puppets in government who are the strongest advocates of war in the middle east, as this is their plan for economic recovery... there are immeasurable profits to be had (for the elites) by going to war.

The warmongers are the profiteers of war and the children of the poor are the foot soldiers, the expendable cannon-fodder, of war.

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» [Exactly.](#) Posted by: oldamerican

» [Words of Widsom, BrianOfNairobi](#) Posted by: CatDad

» [RE: A Great Nation?](#) Posted by: wungout

At least they have a job...

Posted by: chomsky on Oct 13, 2007 6:36 AM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

At least they have a job...

What do you do when there are 10 jobs and 20 workers?

All they say is "Find a job you lazyy ..."

But what if there are NO MORE JOBS!

With automatisisation and robotisation, there will be less and less jobs for humans.

And all our leaders just happily ignore it...

In the not so distant future, most of the jobs will be done by robots.

What's the plan?

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» [RE: At least they have a job...](#) Posted by: richholland

» [RE: At least they have a job...](#) Posted by: VZEQICVA

» [RE: At least they have a job...](#) Posted by: chomsky

» [TO chomsky-'REALISTICALLY?'](#) Posted by: WitchyNy

» [RE: 100% correct witchyny](#) Posted by: channing

» [RE: At least they have a job...](#) Posted by: Joe

» [OR...](#) Posted by: Coleman

» [RE: At least they have a job...](#) Posted by: TheLimit

» [RE: At least they have a job...](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [Since you asked: Marry one of them Robots! But \(VERY\) Seriously Folks...1 of 2](#) Posted by: Overburdened Planet

» [Since you asked: Marry one of them Robots! But \(VERY\) Seriously Folks...2 of 2](#) Posted by: Overburdened Planet

Fixing a poverty based economy

Posted by: KeepsonTickn on Oct 13, 2007 7:54 AM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

A tremendous transfer of earnings potential from the poor to the wealthy is occurring, and the policies promoted by the Bush Administration, most Republican lawmakers, and too many Democratic politicians are exacerbating the trend, without ameliorating its effects. Candidates like John Edwards and Dennis Kucinich advocate measures that would stem the tide to a degree, but global trade and global scarcity will ensure its continuation.

A rebalancing must occur, considering that the America, with 5% of the population, consumes 25% of the oil and produces 25% of the pollution, while China's and India's much greater populations are growing in the same measures of extravagance at an exponential rate. Greenhouse gases and other forms of pollution, the collapse of fisheries, the increasing scarcity of potable water, and depletion of world oil reserves are all danger signals that we cannot even maintain the status quo, much less welcome another two, four or six billion people to the American "lifestyle."

It takes very little to survive, and even to thrive in the right circumstances. Right wing pundits point out that "the poorest Americans' lifestyles are much better than most people's," and it is true, if you look only at the numbers. A typical poor American has a car and a TV set, and may own a home. But that same American likely is overwhelmed with debt, burdened with out-of-pocket costs for daycare and health care, drives thirty miles to a job with no benefits and no security, lives in an unsafe neighborhood, and daily is faced with the likelihood that the meager existence she is struggling for could collapse at any time.

It seems to me that the "elephant in the room" is the certainty that what we call poverty (in terms of numbers - square footage used, fuel consumed, etc.) in those things we associate with "lifestyle," will very soon become the norm, whether planned for or forced upon us by circumstances. A compassionate government would help us to manage the necessary changes while promoting a radically different view of lifestyle that favors health, security and quality of life over consumption.

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» [RE: Fixing a poverty based economy](#) Posted by: WitchyNy

» [RE: Fixing a poverty based economy](#) Posted by: YogiBear

» [RE: Fixing a poverty based economy](#) Posted by: MindyB

» [RE: Fixing a poverty based economy](#) Posted by: Trazom

» [Amen!](#) Posted by: CatDad

troubled economy?

Posted by: donl51 on Oct 13, 2007 8:57 AM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Sorry this study must be incorrect! I have it on good authority that our economy is doing great! Press. Bush and the crew over at Fox news say its doing great! and would they lie??

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» [RE: troubled economy?](#) Posted by: willymack

» [RE: troubled economy?](#) Posted by: MindyB

» [RE: troubled economy?](#) Posted by: Trazom

» [RE: troubled economy?](#) Posted by: Brooklynbrenda

» [RE: troubled economy?](#) Posted by: Trazom

» [RE: troubled economy?](#) Posted by: morningstar1972

Wall Street is NOT Mian Street

Posted by: JSquercia on Oct 13, 2007 9:40 AM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

As the article said the health of Wall Street has very little to do with the wealth of Main Street and is is about damn time that SOMEBODY said it other John Edwards .

There have been several articles lately showing that we DO INDEED have a CLASS system in Ameica and that in fact it is far easier to escape your class in Europe than here in the Good Old USA . I believe the one exception to that is the UK .

Most American's have seen the wages stagnate or even decline and have turned to using their Credit cards and Home Equity to keep up there life styles . That is WHY we have the lowest savings rate since the Depression AND it is WHY the Banks pushed through that horrendous Bankrupcy Bill . They have no problems with USURY and yes Interst rates of 30+ percent are USURY . The loansharks on the docks are almost cheaper (OK exageration for the point of emphasis) . I am amazed at the "deals" the banks provide loans at less than Prime and loans where you only pay Interest ONLY . The small print is that these loans provide negative amortization and when the time comes to PAY the PIPER , you CAN'T . There was an article recently drawing ominous parallels between the conditions prior to 1929 and today . Then we had the Pinkerton's today we have Blackwater both have NO problem firing on those who threaten the Rich in their gated Communities and enclaves . That's what happened in New Orleans where the wealthy hired blackwater to protect their property .

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Social Compact BROKEN

Posted by: JSquercia on Oct 13, 2007 10:06 AM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

There was a time when there was a Social Compact between Capital and Labor in which Productivity gains were SHARED

between them . That is no longer the case . American's are STILL more Productive than most others and yet have seen their share of the pie diminish .

What most people forget is that this compact was NOT GIVEN by the Capitalists It was gained through the struggles and indeed deaths of working men and women . Unions were the common mans answer and while there were some abuses they PALE in comparison to those of Capital . These were the peple who loved sweatshops and Child Labor fought against Meat Inspection , indeed against any and all attempts at regulation that would benefit the public . They are NOT only back : they are in the WHITE HOUSE and the BLAIR HOUSE and running the very agencies set up to protect the worker . Look at the Mining Indusrty as a perfect example . Look at how under Deregulation Enron was able to figuartively rape "Ol Grandma ' and was even caught BRAGING about IT .

Sadly most Americans today feel THEY are not as well off as their parents were and that THEIR children will not be as well of as THEY are . WE used to have a country in which each succeeding generation did better than the one before . That is no longer the case .It will remain so as long as we continue to elect those who place their camapign contribuors AHEAD of their Constituents . Corporation's are NOT people and restricting camapign Contributions is NOT a violation of the FIRST ammendment .

Limiting Money in camapigns is akin to preventing someone with Bull Horn from Drowning out all other voices in the Marketplace of ideas .

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» [Hold on to the right to bare arms](#) Posted by: Melvin

» [RE: Social Compact BROKEN](#) Posted by: morningstar1972

voodoo economics

Posted by: Grandma Crabby on Oct 13, 2007 10:26 AM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Ever since the 80s when Reagan began implementing supply side economics, the tide has shifted away from the middle class to the greedy rich folks.

The conservatives in the country have been trying to dismantle everything FDR did to help grow the middle class.

I wish the rich would realize that a more equalized society is actually to their benefit. But they really do not care.

when the obscenely rich people, like the wal mart family, make BILLIONS and they insist they "can't afford" to pay their workers more or they'd have to raise prices, I always wanna stand up and shout, "oh yeah, well if you greedy pigs would settle for slightly less than a zillion billion dollars, you just MIGHT be able to pay your workers a livable wage and NOT raise prices.

Greed is ruining this country.

I think many modern conservatives WANT to go back to the system of surfs and aristocrats.

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» [RE: voodoo economics](#) Posted by: dean

» [RE: voodoo economics](#) Posted by: lively56

» [RE: voodoo economics](#) Posted by: Fat Man at the Buffet Line

» [RE: voodoo economics](#) Posted by: JSquercia

» [RE: voodoo economics with a cheerleader named "dean"](#) Posted by: channing

» [RE: voodoo economics](#) Posted by: cami0

» [Working Class Chumps Fooled by the Wealthy Elite](#) Posted by: sofla100

Just a paycheck away.....

Posted by: picket on Oct 13, 2007 11:33 AM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

from being homeless.....

In any given year 400,000 American VETS experience homelessness. More than 67% served our country for at least three years and 33% were stationed in a war zone.

From National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

<http://www.nchv.org/background.cfm>

Yes, it appears that by all statistics the USA is a Christian Nation !!!!!

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As I though. The REAL US poverty rate is closer to 20% than the official 12%.

Posted by: yellow on Oct 13, 2007 1:04 PM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

The poverty rate will also rise as the distribution of income worsens with every new business cycle expansion and contraction. The recessions will deepen and the upturns will be weaker. Financialization will continue to try to prop up an inherently stagnant economy with yet more and more consumer debt and thus become more unstable in so doing. Capitalism will go deeper in crisis.

But ask the Ron Paul people. They say a return to the gold standard will help the poor more than a much deserved wage hike. **Morons!!**

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» [RE: As I though. The REAL US poverty rate is closer to 20% than the official 12%.](#) Posted by: Trazom

» [The Fed. Gov. is far more likely to fudge unemployment and poverty stats than inflation ones.](#) Posted by: yellow

» [Ahh Yes - Another Lesson In "Yellow" Economics](#) Posted by: MAD

» [MAD you are an insult to those of us who actually work for a living!! Get a job.](#) Posted by: yellow

» [RE: As I though. The REAL US poverty rate is closer to 20% than the official 12%.](#) Posted by: morningstar1972

Libertarians are fools

Posted by: Glennk1949 on Oct 13, 2007 2:22 PM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

I was a Libertarian once. But, I realized that Libertarian economics leads to Corp. Feudalism. Libertarians have this crazy notion that a free market will solve every problem. One problem their never has been a so called free market ever. Never will be either. The truth is that markets are manipulated always by the wealthy and the political powerful. Today in Amerika after 40 yrs. of GOP policies and their Demo. enablers we have a Plutocracy that has created a form of whats called Crony Capitalism. BV\$HCO has perfected this system and today most Gov. revenue from taxes flows to BV\$H's cronies.

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» [RE: Libertarians are fools](#) Posted by: Joe

» [RE: you're the fool](#) Posted by: rancespergl

» [RE: Libertarians are fools](#) Posted by: lively56

» [RE: Libertarians are fools](#) Posted by: grethart

» [RE: Libertarians are fools](#) Posted by: YogiBear

» [RE: Libertarians are fools](#) Posted by: JSquercia

» [Libertarians are fools!! Down with Ron Paul. Let's draft Sherrod Brown. Viva Social Democracy!!](#) Posted by: yellow

» [RE: Libertarians are fools](#) Posted by: anonymous black writer

Edwards for President!

Posted by: Landbaron on Oct 13, 2007 3:31 PM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

To the rescue!!!!

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What is a job anyway?

Posted by: WitchyNy on Oct 13, 2007 7:37 PM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Bushandco want to bring back slavery. They think they are 'special people'- smarter and better than everyone else. King George the First indeed.

The master class. They want people to work hard to create all this cheap plastic junk-for what purpose?

A 'job' ---what does that really mean?

The only 'jobs' should be meaningful necessary important work that makes the world a better place- Otherwise people should stay home and tend the garden and the children, read books and sing songs and pursue just being happy.

We need to remake our entire society. We need an alternative and progressive society-based on protecting the environment and our people.

I hope bush is just a dinosaur. But I fear he and his kind are going to destroy the entire world.

Americans have become helpless babies. Most can't ride a horse, milk a goat or build a simple log cabin. They don't know how to sew, grow their own food, or bake bread.

This was the plan-a return to helpless slavery, divorced from our own basic independence and no way to survive in the real world. Soon we may have a state imposed religion as well.

We could not win an American Revolution today. "I invision a nation of small family farms"-said Thomas Jefferson. Our family farms are gone.

REVOLUTION is our job now. Taking back our country is our job now. Liberty and Justice for all--- that is our job. But we don't know how anymore.

Sorry Tom. The Dream is over.

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» [RE: What is a job anyway?](#) Posted by: morningstar1972

Buck Fush

Posted by: YogiBear on Oct 13, 2007 10:27 PM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

I hate him.

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» [RE: I hate him...](#) Posted by: makeadifference

» [RE: I hate him...](#) Posted by: anonymous black writer

Level the Social "Safety Net" for all and the ECONOMY ~*IMPROVES*~

Posted by: Prairie Waif on Oct 13, 2007 10:50 PM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

When will you BEGIN to understand that the state of the ECONOMY is linked to the state of the BENEFITS PACKAGES that impact the NUMBER of jobs, the QUALITY of the job, If a LIVING WAGE is associated with the JOB, and if the job PROVIDES "extras" such as "family sick leave" (for when you get a call that your child is ill and must leave school), or "leave for medical appointments," and if your employer considers 29 hours/week (just below the qualification as "full-time worker and eligible for benefits) full-time in THEIR classification system versus that of the Government's Unemployment Classification.

If, John Edwards plan to provide HEALTH CARE to ALL USA Citizens was implemented, no companies would be working employees, earning \$36.00/hour at a Ford Plant 70 hours per week. Why are they not HIRING People when they have SO MUCH OVER TIME that their employees work CONSISTENTLY?

Benefits packages; Ford and any other big manufacturing plant or corporation does not want to hire extra full-time employees as that means MORE BENEFITS PACKAGES at THEIR expense and that lowers their PROFIT MARGIN.

THE PROFIT MARGIN that drives the investors to cry to the Corporate CEO's to make that gap between employee and shareholder/Corporate Executives ever larger. These are the people who don't CARE ABOUT THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE, as they have enough money to buy what ever "toys" they want, and for some, Health Care *is* a toy (plastic surgery), they can afford whatever and therefore, the minions"

"Who?"

If the USA implemented a universal healthcare system as EVERY Country in the EU and WESTERN Societies has, the corporations could restructure benefits packages and the price on consumer goods would reflect that. Manufacturing workers could go home to families instead of working 70 hours a week to maintain seniority and their job position.

Rural American would have a chance to become a vital sector of the cultural fabric of the nation as business wouldn't NEEDED to be so LARGE to move into a smaller community to begin and grow to prosperity with friends that become "family."

Wake-up! Stop listening to the fear mongering of the Corporate Medical Systems (Hospitals, Laboratories, Pharmaceutical companies, and Doctors unfamiliar with the pleasant lifestyles and experiences in other countries. Live goes on in the rest of the world WITH HEALTH CARE AND THEIR ECONOMIES are NOT sinking as the one orchestrated by the original "Trickle down" economics of Ronald Reagan and the "I got my, get your own" economics of todays Republicans.

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» [RE: Level the Social "Safety Net" for all and the ECONOMY ~*IMPROVES*~](#) Posted by: richholland

this is why we're heading into another Depression.....

Posted by: eosrk on Oct 14, 2007 5:13 AM

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Current rating: **4** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

...it's just going to take longer to get there, and all Ben Bernake did was just delayed it a while!

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[» the housing market](#) Posted by: morningstar1972

It seems ironic...

Posted by: Nigelthebriton on Oct 14, 2007 6:31 AM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

...that a mere 18 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the supposed death of communism, Marx's criticisms of the classical capitalist system are being proved right. When the aggrieved middle class joins the impoverished workers and sees that both have nothing to lose but their chains, what then...?

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[» RE: It seems ironic...](#) Posted by: Constitutionalist75

[» RE: It seems ironic...](#) Posted by: Sum Won

[» RE: It seems ironic...](#) Posted by: Constitutionalist75

The Commonwealth

Posted by: Betsy L. Angert on Oct 14, 2007 10:42 AM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Dearest Heather Boushey . . .

Which might I express first, my gratitude for this assessment or all my heartfelt appreciation for the work of those at the *Center for Economic Policy and Research*. Each are invaluable.

The statement you pose in the introduction is more valid than I think many might realize. Americans are told the economy is strong, the recovery is solid; however, that is true if we look only to Wall Street. Main Street America crumbles under the weight of inattention.

[United Auto Workers Are Everyman; The American Experience](#)

We no longer function as the society Thomas Paine envisioned. The commonweal is but an antiquated notion. Currently, the fear of the founders is realized. Government is a separate entity; Administrators do not function as representatives. Citizens have no sense that laws are of, by, and for the people.

[Congress and Bush Clash; Children's Health and the Commonwealth.](#)

This truth, this failure is most apparent when we consider Health Care in this country; although privatization, and a too powerful authoritarian rule in other aspects of life help us understand what frequently occurs.

[Health Care in America; Uninsured, Underinsured, Universal Woes](#)

Sadly, our children suffer most. The progeny do not receive preventative care or quality medical attention. Our offspring learn habits that hinder a healthy existence. The cycle continues.

[The Sacrifice; Children's Health Insurance Program \[SCHIP\] Costs.](#)

I invite your thoughts on any of the tomes that address these concerns. I thank you for any comments.

Betsy L. Angert

[BeThink.org](#)

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Fooling the Poor/Working Class With the "Work Hard and Make It" Myth

Posted by: sofia100 on Oct 14, 2007 5:37 PM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

In America today, a prevalent myth is that "if you work hard, you will make it." But, here is the reality. In America, less than 1% own over 20% of America's wealth and the bottom 50% own less than 13% of the wealth. If you are born working class or poor, your odds are over 95% that you will never achieve higher monetary status than your social class and your parents. In fact, the odds now are that you will be lower in wealth than even your poor parents. Why is this? Because the tax laws, minimum wage laws, lack of universal health care, etc., are all stacked against you. Another prevalent myth is that so-called welfare mothers and never do well types are scamming the welfare system. But, the facts are unwed mothers on welfare have decreased dramatically the last 10 years, and welfare is simply not available to those of working age today in the USA. But, despite all this it is amazing how easily fooled the working class is by the Rush Limbaugh and Horatio Alger myths. The rich have tricked them into believing they can make it as a means of social control (of the poor and middle class). The problem is the dufuses in the working class who believe it. Work hard, play fair, pay your taxes, you are going nowhere chump no matter what you think.

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» [RE: Fooling the Poor/Working Class With the "Work Hard and Make It" Myth](#) Posted by: CatDad

» [RE: Fooling the Poor/Working Class With the "Work Hard and Make It" Myth](#) Posted by: morningstar1972

I feel the pain!

Posted by: morningstar1972 on Oct 14, 2007 11:01 PM

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Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

My husband and I drove out to a small town called Huntsville today. Half the towns homes are for sale, because the taxes became to burdensome, and they cannot afford to live there anymore. every other house a for sale sign!
My friends and my husband have been laid off from their jobs. I was fortunate, just found a decent job, but what about them? still, I am making 5 dollars less than I did 7 years ago! this is crazy!
regardless, I still have to pay the inflation.
my health insurance at my "new job" is crap.
but at least they say I have insurance right?
this article is right on. and, it isn't just effecting high school or college drop outs, it is effecting graduates as well.
Employers feel as if they have the right to let employees go with barely any notice. imagine showing up for work, only to be sent home laid off.
that is fantastic. (being ironic)
the electric bill will still be due in a week, and the rent by the end of the month.
the American dream of a house is completely out of reach, unless you dream of section 8.
fantastic. does it come with a gun? I only need one bullet to end my misery!
all kidding aside, I hate rich people. they are scumbags.
they eat lobster, while I am stuck eating a 59 cent can of tuna fish.
It is called reality.
If hard work had any connection to being rich, I would be rich!
If smarts had anything to do with being rich, I would be rich!
but no, neither of these factors have I seen in the rich. I have just seen a bunch of scumbags willing to rip off the next poor sucker he gets his hands on, because he has no morals.
he thinks he deserves his money, his women, his fleet of yachts, and I just get my crummy tuna fish sandwich.
I don't admire people with a lot of money, because they make my skin crawl.

and, just to prove It, are the types who will "take you under their wing" to show you the ropes, learning how to be as sleazy as

they are.

yuch.

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» [Change your life and change America](#) Posted by: **Constitutionalist75**

» [Amishomics!! Now there is a broad based, realistic universalizable model. Thanks!!](#) Posted by: **yellow**

» [RE: Amishomics!! Now there is a broad based, realistic universalizable model. Thanks!!](#) Posted by: **vetus schola**

» [RE: Amishomics!! Now there is a broad based, realistic universalizable model. Thanks!!](#) Posted by: **richholland**

You get what you pay for

Posted by: **dayahka** on Oct 15, 2007 7:09 PM

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Current rating: **Not yet rated** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Many sweeping generalizations here, but not a single example. No facts, just conclusions. I wonder how true any of this is. And how relevant. Americans support the Capitalist system, which is inherently unjust and favors the rich over the poor. Americans support this unequal system by living according to its principles---borrow, borrow, borrow (how else can the rich get richer?), spend, spend, spend to buy useless junk (made by the rich to get richer).

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» [RE: You get what you pay for](#) Posted by: **richholland**

Understating Inflation Provides Political Cover

Posted by: **Urgelt** on Oct 15, 2007 9:53 PM

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Current rating: **Not yet rated** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

Part of the problem - a part people rarely seem to talk or know about - is that government indicators of inflation are rigged to show far less than is actually happening.

Our economy has been rightly called an "oil economy," since oil is at the core of so much of our economic infrastructure. Yet oil and gasoline are excluded from inflation indices.

So, too, are most food prices. But the government is careful to include consumer electronics, because their constantly dropping prices do such a nice job of hiding what is happening in the rest of the economy.

Inflation is hurting low-income Americans more than other groups. Their real income isn't just stagnating, it's slipping backwards. We have a large and growing underclass of desperate people, and that feeds other undesirable trends: poor education performance, poor job performance, criminal activity, preventable sickness and death.

And yet we keep electing politicians who are tight with the corporate power elite. The Clintons are especially tight with them. I'm afraid we'll only see more of the same under Hillary.

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» [RE: Understating Inflation Provides Political Cover](#) Posted by: **richholland**

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