

## Get A Job

Throughout history, there have been many times when advances in industrial technology have put large groups of people out of work. In the past, there was generally no public safety net so there was much suffering and strife, but the next generation learned new skills and life went on. The efforts of the Luddites were of no use.

Now we come to a time when machines are doing almost all of the work that sustains the community. This leaves an immense amount of leftover people. In the long evolution of capitalism that spans several thousand generations, this is an event that, with a few small exceptions, is only three or four generations old. Capitalism's answer to this has been to invent evermore toys for evermore factories to produce, make products less and less durable, and add on layer after layer of support staff, profiteers, and thieves. Finally, we've reached a point where there's no capitalist way to get everyone a paycheck and most of the ongoing paychecks are for the irrelevant work and frivolous toys that are rapidly consuming the planet's energy and resources, and polluting us to a poisonous end. This is not a sustainable system, and the endgame will likely be grim.

As long as the established way to get a license to consume [money] is a job, the way to survive is to get a job or beg or steal. But we don't need more jobs. We need different kinds of work. The machines are pumping out plenty of stuff to throw in the landfill or waste energy recycling, but the important work of maintaining and recreating the infrastructure of civilization isn't keeping up with entropy.

Capitalism is based on consumption, and the cash flow necessary for the operation of the world's governments is based on the cash flow of capitalism. This presents a basic conundrum, as the problems we need government for are becoming increasingly caused by excess consumption.

We have a desperate need to move beyond unbridled capitalism as our form of government. Democracy has been bought by Capitalism and has been rendered incompetent and impotent by an electoral system that lets money buy the votes of fools. The kind of political advertising and propaganda that money buys influences the kinds of people least qualified to make intelligent choices, and the choices they've made have given us a government of fools who spend a lot of time arguing over incompetence, and getting almost nothing done, followed by a government of fools, grifters, megalomaniacs, and ignorant suck-ups who haven't got a clue what needs to get done, nor do they give a shit. .

FDR got it right and pulled us out of the Great Depression. He didn't do it with high tech. He accomplished some of it with unemployment insurance and welfare, but he did most of it with shovels and a paycheck. Paying people to not work is a good thing if it reduces consumption and pollution, but there's a lot of work that needs to get done and it's not happening. Our infrastructure is in desperate disrepair and instead of fixing the problem, we're paying people to be unemployed, we're subsidizing Wal Mart to ship our resource base to the landfill as fast as possible, and the world's military industrial complex is destroying huge amounts of infrastructure that's not being rebuilt.

Agrabiz is rapidly bankrupting our soil of the trace minerals that we need for optimum health. The cost of health care for people eating nutritionally bankrupt food and getting not nearly enough exercise is more than it would cost to rebuild our nation's infrastructure. If you take a look at the kinds of foods that are currently being purchased

with food stamps, the price per calorie isn't all that great, and the nutritional values are pathetic. We waste more food than it would take to feed everyone. Our food distribution network is rather inefficient. As conventional Agrabiz bankrupts our soil and drains our aquifers dry, and a warming climate turns evermore of the planet to desert, we need to focus a lot more time and energy on food and shelter instead of the newest high tech toys. Famine and homelessness are stalking the world, and we ain't ready to deal with it.

When you strip away all the complicated economics, politics, and cultural mechanisms we use to organize humanity's efforts to stay alive, healthy, and happy, it all comes down to how much food, shelter, transportation, health care, and entertainment are produced, how durable they are, what they cost in energy, resources, and poisonous byproducts, and how evenly they are distributed. Our current system of capitalism has become extremely inefficient, incompetent, unhealthy, and wasteful in supplying the community's wants and needs. Capitalism, in its current form, has been subverted by unfettered greed to the point where it's become a deadly danger.

Democracy is only successful when the level of wisdom within the general community develops to the point where the electorate is qualified to elect competent leadership. The need for democracy is based on the need to control the power of kings [the rich guys]. Since Capitalism bought Democracy, the rich guys are once again the kings of the world. Here in the US, we've handed the federal government over to the oligarchs, and they're mostly a cabal of ignorant scurrilous grifters and deranged megalomaniacs. They're so steeped in the process of capitalism and greed that they can't or won't see that unbridled capitalism is not qualified to lead and is taking us to a disastrous end.

We humans are ever so clever, but we're not very smart. Capitalism, in its current form, is eating us alive. It's change or die.