

# **Free Yourself from the Fraud of Capitalism: A Message for the Workers**

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Supposedly, anyone can become wealthy and successful in America, but in practice, most people fall far short, leaving the American Dream as just another utopian idea. There is only so much wealth to go around, wealth brings power, and the people who already have the wealth use it to maintain their dominance. Despite all the propaganda to the contrary, a person is unlikely to find freedom under this system but instead must find a way to escape it to become free.

Most people have to work a job to earn the money needed to survive. Many hate their jobs, and almost no one would keep going back given an actual choice. Anyone who makes a living by submitting to an employer is not free as such a person simply lives at the employer's whim. Workers can switch jobs, if they can find a new one, but then they are just living under a new master. Freedom is reduced to a quaint idea as long as one group has power over another, and not to be truly in command of one's own life is to be debased and humiliated.

Stripped of our dignity, we live, breathe, and die for the sake of money. We waste our youth in school, grinding through an "education" of trivia and lies, to get a "good job." We waste our adulthood in the service of the wealthy to be able to buy things we don't really need or that shouldn't cost so much. We slog through countless days of wage slavery just to reach fleeting periods of enjoyment—a day off, a vacation—that inevitably revert back to the grind we long to escape. When we're finally used up and worn out, we sometimes get to have a retirement, and then we get to die, perhaps unable to afford the healthcare that could have kept us alive. Rather than claiming to be a religious nation, it would be much more honest to take "In God We Trust" off the money, putting instead "We Trust in This."

The whole system not only is a cruel farce but also is based on a swindle. Money has no real value but was just made up to manage—and in practice to manipulate—the distribution of wealth. The true source of wealth is natural resources and the labor that turns them into useful goods and provides useful services. Employers pay workers less than the value their labor actually produces and then pocket the difference, the real source of profit, and the fruits of everyone's efforts are thus redistributed upward. Regardless of what the rich claim to be entitled to, the workers are the ones who provide the actual labor that lets the system carry on. To have billions of people in poverty and misery while a tiny minority hoards millions and billions of dollars is unbelievably cruel and absurd under any circumstances, and the contrast between those two groups is one of the greatest obscenities in human history.

The world we have feels like a bad dream. Many of us can sense instinctively that things are not the way they're supposed to be. So much horror is just routine. So many people suffer and die for no reason. The system tries to prevent us from seeing its inherent brutality and insanity through what it calls "news" and "entertainment," and the growing state and corporate surveillance system is making the manipulation ever more sophisticated, subtle, precise, and effective. Capitalism is presented as a colossal success, and yet if we look at the poverty, struggle, conflict, homelessness, outsourcing of jobs, sweatshops, decimation of families and communities, degradation of the environment, toxic products, preventable illness, inefficiency, waste, drug use, crime, and injustice that are so obvious all around us, its failure is too much to bear. There is no reason for any of this to exist except that in one

way or another it allows a small segment of the population to become pointlessly wealthy. At the same time, consumerism gets people to value gadgets and trinkets and trends and fashions instead of anything that actually matters in life like freedom or love or happiness or transcendence. People are made to accept the ridiculous idea that land, natural resources, or any part of nature can be owned when in fact they formed eons before anyone had the audacity to claim them for himself. They in fact belong to all of humanity, while labor belongs to the people who perform it, leaving no justification for the capitalist.

Unfortunately, THERE IS NO HOPE OF TRUE REFORM. The rot was allowed to spread too far. The system is rigged at every level; otherwise, how could the wealthy and powerful minority always, inevitably, in the end manage to get what it wants? Our masters have overwhelming capabilities of force and manipulation at the ready. By and large, they own the politicians, the legislatures, the courts, and the police. They own the media, which spew partial truths, propaganda, and plain lies, distracting everyone from the real situation, and offer us the fallacy that because the system does not always treat us as bad as it possibly could, it actually treats us well.

THERE IS NO HOPE OF REVOLUTION either, at least in the sense of forcibly overthrowing the system. Any attempt in this direction will be crushed, and even if it did succeed, it would just be hijacked and corrupted by some new elite. The American Revolution began with “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” and ended with a takeover by the grotesque plutocracy we see today. The French Revolution began with “Liberty, Equality, and Brotherhood” and ended with thousands of heads being chopped off. The Russian Revolution began with “Peace, Land, and Bread” and ended by replacing the tyranny of the czar with that of the communist party. The true and lasting revolution will have occurred when the oppressed make the decision to leave the system and deny all authority beyond themselves.

THE ONLY REALISTIC HOPE IS TO LIBERATE YOURSELF. Drop out of this sick system. Don’t in any way give it support or legitimacy. Simplify your life to reduce the burdens the system can place on you. Sit down with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Pool knowledge, efforts, and resources to start businesses where each of you has an equal say and equally shares both the work and the profits. Elevate no one to leadership, which can only become corrupt. Share infrequently used and large purchases to reduce the burden on each of you. Buy a home instead of renting and do business among like-minded groups to keep your wealth among yourselves instead of enriching the capitalists. Or, even better, form entirely new communities where you can live and work in freedom and equality to support and elevate one another, thus casting off all vestiges of the system.

AVOID THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA, especially advertising. It fills your time with nonsense, fills your head with disinformation, and takes your attention from the tyranny you suffer. It consists of little except messages intricately designed to tweak your thinking to generate profits for some company or to get you to accept the system. Being exposed to this thousands and thousands of times is undoubtedly affecting you on some level. It is pure mental poison.

MAINTAIN AUTONOMY BY AVOIDING SURVEILLANCE. Resist attempts to collect your information, and employ measures to preserve anonymity. Don’t let the state and corporations take your individuality by prying into the things that make you an individual and using them to change how you think and behave. Don’t give them the chance to scare you into modifying your actions through your awareness of being watched. Provide them as few opportunities as possible to find an excuse to hurt you.

HAVE COMPASSION ON FELLOW WORKERS. So many divisions are fostered among us, of class, race, religion, sexuality, employment status, and immigrant status. We are all played against each other, made to compete with each other, which only makes us inflict on ourselves even more pain. In reality, we all have the same oppressors. Most of us want the same basic things, such as freedom, to be able to live without anxiety, a high standard of living, and the opportunity to make progress. If we all help each other to attain these goals, maybe, finally, we actually will attain them.

DON'T EXPECT THE SYSTEM EVER TO PROVIDE A CHANCE TO FULFILL YOUR DREAMS,  
BUT CARVE OUT YOUR OWN UTOPIA BEYOND IT.