

The Essential Us, Politics and The System

***How we relate in politics and trade
and work with each other to produce
the wealth. What's wrong with it and
how to put it right, worldwide.***

From the website –

***All over the world, people feel they
aren't getting what they are entitled
to and look to politics to provide it. But
they also accept free markets, and the
whole point of free markets is that
politics doesn't control them.
Governments have a limited role in
people getting what they want.
Incomes and wealth are decided more
in the free-market business system
where we trade and work producing
goods and services.***

An example of people mistakenly thinking governments control everything - some Americans blamed Biden for the high cost of living and chose Trump instead. But he represents those who are responsible - business people, especially the big ones (who Biden and the Democrats are themselves soft on).

By limiting the role of politicians in the system or 'economy', free markets leave business people alone to use their power in them for their benefit and against everybody else's.

Everyone calls the system capitalism, but that obscures the central process, the work process, where we produce goods, services and wealth before capital. This work explains it.

And we need to see that politics doesn't make the system (except in state-run economies.) It's the other

way round - people build politics from their role and interests in it. And people don't get what they want from it, and progressives don't get the decent society they want, because the business class put more than they do into seeing where their interests lie and looking after them, and into political activity as conservatives.

Their political justification of the system is their claim that it is based on the individual, on freedom. And, for them, the key freedom is for anyone to be able to start and run a business. They use that to justify business people's wealth - 'they're entitled to what they get from their own efforts, ability and risk-taking.'

***That might be acceptable for 'the little guy.'* But it covers up the big basic wrong in the system - how business people take wealth from the system**

not as individuals but collectively, as companies, with volume production with large workforces. They get wealthy more from the work most other people do for them, collective work, than from their own.

We have to recognise that business people are a class. They run the economy, not governments, and contribute to the dominant political view that business people's rights are sacred and support their rights over worker's rights. So just talking of the billionaires, 'oligarchs' or 'the'1%' obscures how it's the whole business class that achieves the wide acceptance of business people's rights, and the political support for them, that allows them to run the world. As in the USA right now. They are the class base of conservative politics and parties.

We need a clear view of these basic political and trading relationships as a foundation for politics and for people getting what they are entitled to. This work provides one. (End of website text.)

But everybody, including commentators and politicians, takes how we relate in politics and how we trade with each other for granted. They ignore the basic facts of how we do it and flail about, arguing about the wrong issues, supporting the wrong people, and blaming innocent people and each other.

So we get some ordinary people making things worse for themselves by voting conservatives, hostile to their interests and those of their relatives, workmates, friends and neighbours, into government; deserting progressive parties that do try to look after them,

for not doing enough; or turning to malicious 'strongmen' who divert them from tackling those who are responsible, the business class, into attacking each other, often over personal things; turning off from politics; getting angry about politics and with each other over politics; and, in making their living, the business class bossing and mis-treating them and cornering huge wealth from their work. All because we don't base politics on the facts of how we relate to each other in politics and how we trade with each other in producing wealth and allocating it.

To do that, we need to put aside talk of left, right, capitalism, socialism, conservatism and communism and of Thatcher, Reagan, Hayek and Marx. And to put aside politics based simply on political views and even just feelings.

Before all that, we need to establish what **actually goes on** outside our heads. To establish the key facts of what we **do** every day. To get an observable, demonstrable, view of how we relate and trade with each other, a framework that people can agree on, and base political debate on it.

In politics, we need to go deeper than every little thing each of us wants and think about what everybody else wants too, and how to co-ordinate it all. And to go beyond leaders and what they 'are like' or do. Like Starmer being cautious or Trump being what he is. We do need to try to influence political leaders when in office but if they are so wrong, we need to work on how they get there.

That comes from how our fellow-citizens vote, and that comes from how they see the world and politics. Like, if unhappy with Starmer's centrism, recognise that

the evidence is, over many elections, that there's not enough fellow-citizens prepared to vote progressive parties like Labour into government with anything other than centrist programmes. Last time they offered a radical programme, people even voted in the conservative clown Johnson instead. And accept that the problem with Trump isn't him but the American business class and those who voted for him or didn't vote for the more civilised Democrats.

We need to get fellow-citizens to be more progressive but it isn't just the party leader's job. Conservatives don't just leave that to their leaders - they have independent activists owning and running most of the media, campaigning relentlessly. Progressives don't have media power but can counter that by communicating with fellow-voters directly themselves.

See 'How To Talk Politics With Each Other', page 281 of the full work.

How Politics Comes From What We Do - Especially How We Create Wealth

But before politics, we need to persuade people of the importance of understanding how we trade with each other. Because who gets what is the big thing, isn't it? To understand that, we have to understand how we relate to each other in the work process, where most make a living and some get wealthy.

It means recognising this hugely important fact - we exist by volume-production of goods and services. It started hundreds of years ago with the industrial revolution, is the biggest change in our history, and now dominates human life worldwide. But we've never worked out the power relationships of how we trade with each

other in it, seen how they are unacceptable, and dealt with them. We need to. It's our most pressing task.

Producing The Wealth

Here's how it works. It's not an academic or difficult thing - you can easily observe and explain the relationships in it from how we take part in it in everyday life. Then see how the economy and politics are built on top of this core factual social process. Only then discuss political views about it all.

*We create wealth by producing goods and providing services but all that's talked about is how they are sold, in free markets, or provided, by public bodies. Nobody talks about how we work together in producing them. **The work process** is the central activity in society but everyone takes how we do it for granted.*

Conservatives push a fantasy that we do it trading as individuals, as if we are all

self-employed. Some are, but they talk absolute nonsense when they say it's the basic way we relate. How they get away with it shows how we haven't got to grips with the industrial revolution.

*High-volume production dominates how we live but we need the language to put the facts of how it works at the centre of politics. Industrialism, the usual term, to some people means just the manufacture of goods in factories. But high-volume, large-scale operations dominate services too. We do talk of 'service industries' and 'the chains.' Maybe say 'mass production, of goods and services'? 'High-volume production of goods and services'? Or 'large-scale.' Or just 'volume.' **But whatever we call it, we have to get to grips with the industrial revolution.***

Volume production and selling is more efficient than small-volume and relentlessly displaces most of it. And from

high-volume production we get large workforces. So it is collective. Volume production includes small businesses, because small businesses are crucially different from individual trading in having many staff, which determines how the key job relationship works. Individual 'sole traders' are a small minority compared to how most people work, in 'jobs', for 'bosses.' It means the conservative stress on 'the individual' is nonsense.

Call The Economy The Business System Not 'Capitalism'

We generate wages and wealth by our work in familiar everyday business. 'Capitalism' is just where business people re-invest the surplus money they accumulate from that. Important, but only a supplementary process to the main activity. It's not the core process - that's normal business production and selling. So call the economy 'the business system',

not 'capitalism',

Conservative parties claim the system is all about the individual and individual rights because they represent business people's interests in politics. Especially important is the right for anyone to start and run a business. That right should indeed exist. But their core imagery of the plucky self-reliant individual, and the 'self-made' wealthy, and of it being the essence of freedom, gives crucial political cover for business people. Because most of them are not the worthy individuals of conservative mythology. Because high-volume production inevitably takes the market from most small-business. And those who run it – even including those smaller ones - don't operate as individuals. They operate as companies and corporations. Very collectively. They are business organisations using large workforces for collective production.

And the inevitable result of volume production is that a small number of businesses - as a proportion of the population - dominate the markets. So a minority of people will necessarily own and manage most work. **That's the business class.** And most of the rest can only get work by working for them, or for public bodies. You can see it in how people always talk of themselves or others 'getting a job.' That's a vital fact that demolishes the conservative argument 'you can always start a business yourself.' You can, but the efficiency of volume production means most will inevitably be forced out.

From all that you can easily explain to others how there is a class who run most production of wealth through control of the work process. And that with volume production such a class develops inevitably.

What This Means For The Allocation Of Wealth

The business class allocate themselves huge wealth from it, justifying it with well-worn arguments about ability, risk and hard work. These are valid arguments but their wealth comes not so much from them but from the collectivism of companies with volume-production and large-workforces, and the key relationship in them, which comes next.

With volume production, of services as well as goods, collectively-organised employers, including public bodies and, compared to individual trading, small businesses – have large workforces. Where they trade with workers each trading with them really as an individual -- as is usual - they have so many they can easily do without any one and use that advantage to bargain hard. This is why workers are weaker than employers. This

is not 'Well that's your opinion' or 'point of view.' Even a Trumper said 'Right - it's just the arithmetic', accepting it as fact, not opinion. (It's the biggest bad trade deal affecting American workers and Trump is on the business class's side in it.)

Here is how the wealth extraction process works - with this power over staff, business people can pay them less than what they sell their work for, and keep the difference. That's how they get wealthy, not just from their own ability and effort.

That's how the business class dominate work. Here's how they dominate politics too. Simply because they run the economy, they can and do severely limit what governments can do. And they organise politically. They get wealthy enough to not need public services, so oppose them and the taxes to pay for them. Conservative parties represent business people's interests. They claim the

system is about individual freedom to justify government having a limited role, as that leaves the business class as the most powerful actors in society. And to justify opposing worker's own collectivism, unionisation.

But, as shown, the business class actually trade not as individuals but as collectives. As **companies**. The rest, the majority, mostly workers - people who need jobs - do mostly trade as individuals, un-unionised. And trading with employers as individuals in large workforces, and small government, doesn't mean freedom for them - it leaves them as atomised individuals, weak in trading with the organised business class at work, needing public services to make up for that, and governments that will regulate business people.

For actual freedom they need to match up to the business class's collectivism

and organisation at work by organising too, by unionising. In politics, by organising too and voting into government parties that will provide basic rights and good public services and regulate the minority business class for the good of the majority.

We can debate the rights and wrongs of all that but it's not opinion, is it?

It's fact? We should base all political debate on it. I do, and it works.

Do you think about how we relate and trade with each other in public life - politics, business, production, and work? About 'the system.' Do media commentators and leading political activists? And, most importantly, do ordinary citizens, as workers and voters? The answer is no, or not much. Isn't it?

We need to, because of people having a hard time making a living and getting basic needs; public services not being

good enough; hostility between fellow-citizens and to people cast as outsiders; distrust in politics; giving up even on thinking about it and basing it just on feelings; turning to daft conspiracy theories, misleading nationalism and nasty populists. And even wrecking our own habitat.

So base political debate and opinion on these facts about the volume-production business system – most people can only find work with business people or state employers; are weak if not unionised; low unionisation enables the business class to take great wealth out of the production process; enough to also spend on commanding political debate. Debate how to vote based on these facts of how trading relationships in the work process determine wealth and income. Refer

often simply to the existence of the business class. On all political issues, ask 'What's the role of the business class in this?' And build what level of unionisation and political organisation you can.

To deal with it all, worldwide, we need, as a shareable knowledge base, a factual framework, like this one, of how we relate, how we trade and work together in producing wealth and wages in business, jobs, in politics. A common understanding of these basics of society to found political opinion and action on. This work helps to develop this, to show what it is about how we relate that causes our problems, and what we can do about it.

How The Business Class Dominate The Rest And How To Stand Up To Them

Here, once the start of this work, an alternative run-through of these observations. Repetitious, yes, but it

balances how little this crucial stuff is discussed.

It's through business, work and politics that we get what we most need - money, housing, clothes, food, wi-fi; public support, health services. In business and work we work collectively to make things and provide services, they are bought and sold or funded by public spending. We make our living, some get wealthy. Politics and government are supposed to run it all for us and insure us against its shortcomings.

So how we relate in this is central. Our problems start with not having a clear view of how we do, especially how we trade together, where some make their living and some get power and wealth; and how to make it work for everyone.

We call it all the economy, free markets or capitalism. But they sound like self-existing 'things', outside and above us.

And they don't say anything about the core, everyday activities - business, work and trade.

*Property is important but can be only about storage and transfer of wealth. **More important than free markets or property are the relationships where wealth is created – relationships in production, the work process, the labour process.***

It's all not really a system laid down anywhere, just the established rules and customs of buying and selling, of contract law - including, importantly, employment contracts.

These trades we make every we make every day are the basis of society, not politics and the state. Governments, public services and law come from the system, they don't make it. People actually get diverted from this central process by expecting to be able to sort

everything through politics.

How we trade with each other enables business people, the business class, to dominate everyone else at work, annex obscene wealth, and dominate politics too. People accept the business system as if it's our natural habitat, like fish accept water. This explains how conservatives get themselves elected into government despite being hostile to most people's interests. They mistreat the majority as policy but because everyone accepts the trading relationships of the business system they claim to be working for everyone and pose as just managers of 'the economy', and, ridiculously, they get away with it.

They resist government regulation of the business system as that enables the power and wealth of their class. But progressive parties accept the business system too. So while claiming to 'run the

country', all parties actually leave business people to do it and people are mis-treated whichever is in government. As policy by conservatives, reluctantly by progressives.

So people, not even recognising the business class's existence, blame 'politicians' as a group and even call them a class, which they aren't. And then they believe maverick conservatives who cast politicians as a ruling elite. But the business class is the elite. They run the economy and dominate government, the state and politics. They are the ruling class. All conservatives are of them, including Trump. They divert people from blaming the business class into blaming each other via shallow identities. And into blaming progressive parties, who, by failing to tackle the business system and the business class, enable the view 'They're all as bad as each other.' (They

aren't.)

The observations made in this work can seem remote from normal political discussion because conservatives convince people that the business system is the only way, they take its relationships for granted, fail to base politics on it, and let conservatives divert them onto lesser issues. But it is a grounded explanation of the essentials that we should base all politics on.

It shows how we work together in the system, worldwide, how we co-operate, collectively, intensely, but also antagonistically; how a minority dominate the majority; who they both are; and how the majority can stand up to and regulate the business class minority, in the workplaces and in politics.

Uniquely, it identifies the basic problem - that business people are organised, at work as businesses, and in politics; that

*the rest, mostly workers, are mostly not; that employers overpower each worker because they have many others; that this entitles workers to organise too, to unionise; that they desperately need to do, and to organise in politics as well - **to match up to the business class at work and in politics, do what they do, and organise.***

The argument to make to business people and conservatives about unionisation is this: you assert business people's right to organise, collectively, in their economic activity, as companies and corporations. The rest of the population, mostly workers, are entitled to organise likewise.

'Us, Politics and The System' helps you make more sense of politics and our everyday world by explaining the key public relationships, from the daily experience of ordinary working

people, and shows how to make them fairer. It will help you talk about them and work and politics - which we need to do.

Next, a small piece from later in it -

Work & Politics As Football

At work, in your trading relationship with employers over wages and conditions, it's like you're playing football on your own against a team.

They are companies or public bodies, organised to play together. They wear the same kit. They pass the ball to each other.

You and your workmates don't play as a team, you play them as individuals. You don't wear the same kit and don't pass the ball to each other.

So you usually lose to them.

You all resent it but accept it as the way of the world.

Most people like you outside work think the same and don't notice or speak about the significance of them being

organised and yourselves not being.

Or that that to match up to their organisation you need to organise with each other too.

And the employers playing you as a team have the rules of the game on their side from way back.

They know the rules and take an interest in them. Most people like you don't, thinking they are just the way the world is. One of the rules is that they can obstruct you from playing as a team.

If you want to change the rules, they concede to you a remote regulatory political forum - parliament, congress.

Being organised and very committed to their own interests, they campaign for it better than

you do.

You don't, much, so don't get much of what you want from it.

Their representatives in the forum argue that them beating you is actually in your interests - that they know best and wealth will trickle down to you from them, so you should vote for their people.

Some of you are taken in by that.

They tell you your problems are from your representatives in the forum letting you down.

Some of you are taken in by that.

Or they say your problem is that the remote forum is a self-serving elite.

So, many give up on the forum.

Or turn to alternative big-talking representatives put up by the other team.

**To play them at this game, you
and your workmates need to
play as a team like they do,
and unionise at work.**

**And in politics, to see each other
as people on the same side,
talk to each other about the
system, and organise too.**

**To continue in the whole work
from *The Essential Us, Politics
and The System* into the next-
size-up pieces.....**

**In *The Ten Minute Read* - loose on
the website - pick up at page 9 with
Why This Work Is Needed.**

**In *Us, Politics and The System*, the
main work, pick up at page with
Why This Work Is Needed.**

After that comes The Ten - Minute, Twenty- Minute and Thirty-Minute Reads as part of the main book. Read them and you get the basics and will be at page 53, where the main book starts with
‘What’s In This Book’ Contents).

The full book has all the papers loose on the website, including
Three Summary Charts, Basic Politics, The Right To Unionise & It's Your Money Not Theirs.

‘About The Author’
is at page 362.

For more, see
‘Why People Should Read Us, Politics and The System’
at
www.uspoliticsandthesystem.org