

# FAIR ENOUGH?

## Learn More

Visit United for a Fair Economy's website, [www.FairEconomy.org](http://www.FairEconomy.org), for more information and analysis, downloadable workshops, program updates and much more.

## Join UFE!

Together we can make an economy that works for all of us.

Join United for a Fair Economy today and help make progress on the single issue that underlies many others—the fairness of our economy.

Use this form and drop it in the mail, or make a secure donation online at [www.FairEconomy.org](http://www.FairEconomy.org).

Here's my membership contribution:

- \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  
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- Please send me UFE's monthly electronic newsletter.  
 Check if you do not wish to have your name traded with like-minded groups.

Please write checks payable to United for a Fair Economy. UFE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Contributions to UFE are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.



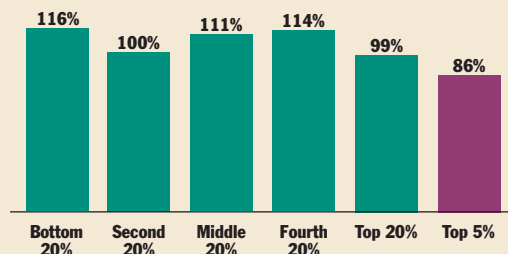
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## We can grow together...

Our nation was founded on the ideal of equal access to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Sometimes we have made progress towards that ideal, with universal education, Social Security, and civil rights laws.

During the 30 years after WWII, for example, social investments such as the GI Bill and tax policies such as the home mortgage interest deduction helped millions, particularly white men, to move up the economic ladder. All incomes grew at roughly the same rate.

### Rate of Growth in Family Income, 1947–1979

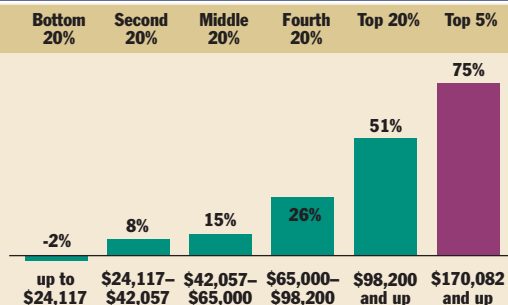


Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by Economic Policy Institute, 1994.

## ...or we can grow apart

Since the 1980s, economic growth has tilted heavily toward those at the upper levels of the economy, thanks to decreased social investment, failure to adjust the minimum wage to keep pace with inflation, and tax policies that benefit corporations and wealthy individuals. Now the wealthiest 1% of the population owns one-third of the wealth; the wealthiest 10% owns 70%.

### Rate of Growth in Family Income, 1979–2003

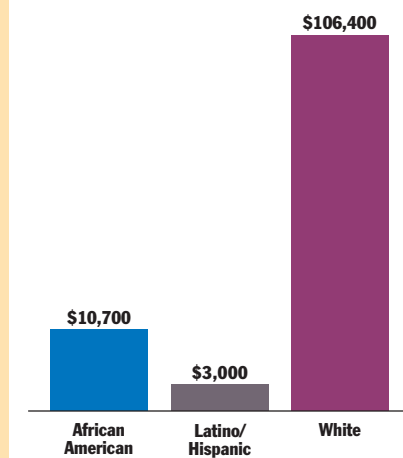


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Tables F-1 and F-3. Income ranges in 2003 dollars.

## People of color are left behind

Despite the many social gains achieved by the civil rights movement for African Americans and other people of color, white people continue to have far more economic security. In 2001, for example, the wealth of the typical white household was \$106,400; for the typical African American household it was \$10,700; and for the typical Latino/Hispanic household it was just \$3,000!

### Median Household Wealth by Race and Ethnicity, 2001



Source: Federal Reserve Bank.

In just six years (1995–2001), wealth for white families grew by 37%, while wealth for families of color fell 7%.

Homeownership is up for all races, but most people of color still rent while two-thirds of white families own their homes.



# FAIR ENOUGH?

**FAIR  
ENOUGH?**

# We are **UNITED FOR A FAIR ECONOMY** . . . supporting social movements for greater equality

## Is our country fair enough?

The American dream is out of reach for millions.

The share of wealth owned by the richest 1% is at its highest level since the 1920s.

Big business and the super-wealthy have more political clout than ever.

The United States is one of the richest nations in the world. So why aren't our schools thriving? Why are so many African Americans unemployed? Why are health care, housing and college education so hard to afford?

## We take the economy personally

Everyone's well-being is shaped by the economy.

Are we making enough to get ahead? Or are we falling behind? Is the economy working for us or against us? Will our children be better off than we are?

United for a Fair Economy helps people understand how the economy affects their lives. With knowledge comes power—the power to organize for progress toward an economy that's fair enough.



## Why is our economy so unfair?

It's not due to some natural cause like a hurricane. It's not because some individuals have made bad choices. Our economy operates on rules that have been set by people. Unfortunately, the rules of the economy have been tilted so that:

- Millions of jobs pay below-poverty wages.
- Advancement is harder for people of color than for white people.
- Upward mobility is the exception, not the rule, for today's youth.
- Big campaign contributors count more than voters.
- Corporations are taking US jobs to overseas sweatshops.

But we can reverse this trend towards greater inequality. Working together propelled by a common purpose, we can make the underlying economic rules of our society fair for everyone.



## We're making progress

To help bring about economic rule changes, UFE delivers:

- Workshops in English and Spanish to targeted audiences
- Reader-friendly research reports and books
- Media campaigns and creative communications
- Networking opportunities between grassroots and national groups
- Diverse voices and progressive perspectives

We address issues including fairer taxes, the racial wealth divide, corporate accountability, and the global economy.



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## Demystifying the economy

More than 100,000 people across the United States have attended UFE-designed workshops about

the economic rules that impact their lives. Union members, investors, farmers, religious congregations, racial justice activists, students and social service providers learn the facts about the growing economic divide. From a church congregation in Alabama to an Indian reservation in New Mexico to a teacher's union in Vermont, our workshops help communities organize for greater fairness.

## Promoting informed debate

We present hidden facts about why some people succeed and others don't. We debunk myths, draw on people's real economic experience and foster debate about the kind of country we want to be.

## Organizing across the divide

UFE invites people from all walks of life to work for a fairer economy. We bring people together across class, race, language and culture because it takes all of us to reclaim the American dream of a better life for everyone. We reach out to communities of color and newcomers to the United States since they suffer disproportionately in our current economy. Affluent members of our Responsible Wealth project speak out against unfair rules that benefit them, and stand with low-income people to tell the human story of growing economic inequality.

