Pocket Political Education
Slides & Handouts
The Nation in Crisis

★ Growing Insecurity
Unstable employment
Stagnant wages
Insecure pensions
Roller-coaster stock market

★ Greater Burdens
Longer work hours
Loss of family time
Rising costs of housing, health care, education, utilities, and food

★ Stress, Isolation & Scapegoating
Anger at immigrants
Criminalization
Environmental crisis
Endless war
Median Adjusted Household Income by Race, 1967-2016

Racial income inequality persists

Median income (1996 dollars):
- White: $65,041 (2016)
- Asian: $81,431 (2016)
- Latino: $47,675 (2016)
- Black: $39,490 (2016)


*Data on Asian Americans can be misleading. Many data sets group together populations of Asian immigrants that have very different civic, economic and cultural characteristics.
The gender wage gap continues

Notes:
Annual earnings data include self-employed workers; weekly data are for wage and salary workers only. Annual earnings are for people 15 years old and older beginning in 1980 and people 14 years old and older as of the following year for previous years. Before 1989 annual earnings are for civilian workers only. Weekly earnings are for full-time civilian workers aged 16 and older in and are not restricted to full-year workers. Full-time is work for at least 35 hours per week, full-year for at least 50 weeks per year. Annual median earnings data are typically released in September by the U.S. Census Bureau. The annual average of weekly median earnings is usually released in February by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Both data series are derived from the Current Population Survey. Adjustments for data from earlier years to 2015 dollars are computed on the basis of the Consumer Price Index Research Series (CPI-U-RS); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpiursai1977-2015.pdf> (accessed September 2016).

Source:
Institute for Women’s Policy Research, IWPR Fact Sheet #C446, updated September 2016.
Median Annual Earnings by Race and Gender, 2014

Race and gender disparities intersect

*Data on Asian Americans can be misleading. Many data sets group together populations of Asian immigrants that have very different civic, economic and cultural characteristics.

Real Family Income Growth by Quintile & for Top 5% & Top 1%, 1979 - 2014

The income gap has expanded

Real Family Income Growth by Quintile & for Top 5%, 1947 - 1979

This gap wasn’t as large before

Think of a running stream that flows through a lake.

- **Income** is the money & assets that flow into the lake.
- **Expenses** are the money & assets that flow out.
- If there’s anything left over, that’s your **Net Wealth**.
Household Median Net Worth by Race, 2016

Net Worth is
ASSETS minus DEBTS
(What You OWN minus What You OWE)

- **Black**: $17,600
- **Latino**: $20,700
- **All Other**: $64,800
- **White**: $171,000

Gender- and race-based disparities limit women’s ability to build wealth.


Source: Center for Global Policy Solutions <http://globalpolicysolutions.org/resources/wealth-gap-women-color/>.
Ownership of Household Wealth in the U.S., 2016

Top 1%

Bottom 99%

The total net worth of the top 1% = $33.4 Trillion

Source: Billionaire Bonanza: The Forbes 400 and the Rest of Us by Chuck Collins and Josh Hoxie
Ownership of Global Wealth, est. 2014

Top 1%

Bottom 99%

The Power Shift Since the 1970s

On the Rise

Big Campaign Contributors
Corporate Lobbyists
Corporations
Big Asset Owners
CEOs
Wall Street

In Decline

Popular Political Movements
Voters
Labor Unions
Wage Earners
Employees
Main Street
# Rule Changes Since the 1970s

*Policy changes reflect and reinforce the power shift.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Wage:</th>
<th>Not raised to keep up with inflation &amp; increased cost of living.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unions:</td>
<td>Anti-union climate weakens the power &amp; voice of workers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade:</td>
<td>Global treaties benefit corporations, not workers or communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes:</td>
<td>Taxes decreased for the corporate elite and increased for workers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget:</td>
<td>Public services cut. Corporate subsidies expand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privatization:</td>
<td>Government outsourcing plus no-bid contracts hurts taxpayers, workers, and public safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminalization:</td>
<td>People of color targeted, keeping racial divide in place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The federal minimum wage does not keep pace with the rising cost of living.

Sources: Living wage is calculated by dividing that year’s poverty threshold for a family of four by 2080 hours (52 weeks x 40 hours). Poverty thresholds for 1968 and 1979 from U.S. Census Bureau, Historical Poverty Tables, Table 1. Poverty thresholds for 2015 from the U.S. Census Bureau, Poverty thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children.
Percentage of the Workforce in a Union, 1930-2017

Anti-union policies weaken the power & voice of workers.

1936: Sit-Down Strike in Flint, MI
1937: Wagner Act
1947: Taft-Hartley Act
1981: Reagan Breaks PATCO
1997: Manufacturing Declines in U.S.
2017: 10.7% Unionized

“Right-to-work” rules Expand to 25 states

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
“Free” Trade Treaties Help Corporations, Not Workers or Communities

The aim of treaties such as NAFTA is to reduce “barriers” to trade. The worldwide result:

- Jobs shifted to low-wage countries
- Lower wages and living standards
- Weakened worker rights
- Environmental damage
- Weakened economies in developing nations
- Cuts in social safety nets
- Rise in poverty

New trade & investment agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) . . .

- permit foreign corporations operating in the U.S. to ignore U.S. laws that protect the environment and workers’ rights;
- threaten laws that protect community lending, health and safety, pay equity, pro-human rights government purchasing rules, public control of water & education, etc.
Structural Adjustment

- **Restricts credit**
  - no loans to small farmers

- **Lowers tariffs & opens markets**
  - cheap imports flood the marketplace

- **Reduces government spending to pay back foreign debt**
  - cuts welfare, education, health care, etc.
  - but continues support for the military

- **Lowers wages & cuts price subsidies**

- **Privatizes state industries**

- **Deregulates financial markets**
Top Marginal Income Tax Rates for the Top 1% and the Median Family, 1947-2018

Big tax breaks for the wealthy - No tax relief for working families

Percent of Federal Tax Collections from Individuals & Corporations

Taxes have shifted from corporations to individuals.

Source: Congressional Budget Office, “Revenues by Major Source, 1962 to 2018. (Note: 2018 projected April, 2018)
Privatizing Public Services Helps Investors, Hurts Consumers and Workers

BAD IDEAS

PRIVATIZED FIRE DEPTS

PRIVATIZED POLICE

PRIVATIZED FOOD SAFETY

PRIVATIZED HEALTH CARE

JANIK

Incarceration has increased substantially...

**U.S. Incarceration Rates by Race, 2016**

Number of people incarcerated per 100,000

**Sources:** U.S. Department of Justice

**Note:** In 2010 American Indian and Alaskan Native were at 895 per 100,000 people.

People of Color are 26% of the U.S. population yet are roughly 60% of those in prison!
Deportations from the U.S., 1900-2013

Thousands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>50.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>188.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>246.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>387.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>419.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>368.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Homeland Security
Boosts on the Escalator to the Middle Class

- Home Mortgage Interest Deduction
- G.I. Bill: Free College
- FHA Loans
- Social Security
- Homesteading Laws
Blocks on the Escalator to the Middle Class

- Predatory Lending
- Redlining
- Interest Deduction
- G.I. Bill: Free College
- Immigration Quotas
- Racist Images
- FHA Loans
- Bracero Program
- Social Security
- Jim Crow Laws
- Homesteading Laws
- Slavery
- Loss of Land

26
When women are employed doing work performed largely by men they **earn less** than their male counterparts.

The work of child-rearing, care for the elderly and work in the home is often **unpaid work** and is performed largely by women.

Women are concentrated in the **low-wage workforce**.

**Source:** Race, Gender and Work by Julie Matthaei & Teresa Amott, 1999
Median Earnings by Race and Gender, 2014

Race and gender disparities intersect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race and Gender</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina/o</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerindian or Alaskan Native</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American / Black</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American*</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data on Asian Americans can be misleading. Many data sets group together populations of Asian immigrants that have very different civic, economic and cultural characteristics.

Women are only 46% of the total workforce but make up THREE-QUARTERS of LOW-WAGE workers.

Women of color are only 16% of the total workforce but make up 37% of LOW-WAGE workers.

**Low-Wage Workforce**

Source: National Women’s Law Center calculations based on IPUMS-CPS (2013). The “low-wage workforce” is defined as the 10 largest low-wage occupations with median wages of less than $10.10 per hour per BLS, Occupational Employment Statistics.
Unpaid Work by Gender in the U.S.

Average number of hours per week

21

13

Women

Men

Unpaid work includes:

- Household management
- Caring for and helping household members
- Buying goods and services
- Cooking
- Cleaning
- Laundry & sewing
- Lawn and garden care
- Maintenance and repair
- Travel related to other unpaid work activities...

Notes: Ages 16 and older
Paid-work related activities include time on the job, commute time, and any other time spent on job-related activities.
The number of foreign-born people in the U.S. reflects **push** and **pull** factors such as job loss and immigration quotas.

**Total Number of Foreign-Born in the U.S. 1870 - 2010**

The graph shows the total number of foreign-born people in the U.S. from 1870 to 2010, with the highest numbers occurring in 2010 at 36.7 million.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau.
The percentage of foreign-born people in the U.S. reflects push and pull factors such as job loss and immigration quotas.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
Our Theory of Change: Social Movements
Principles of a Fair Economy

★ Equity in all dimensions (race, class, ethnicity, gender, etc.)
★ Solidarity and Cooperation
★ Political & Economic Democracy
★ Sustainability
★ Pluralism and Diversity
★ Accountability
★ Respect & Dignity for People and Planet
Strategies for Building a Fair Economy

★ Educate & Change the Conversation

★ Campaign to Build Power & Change the Rules

★ Connect the Dots and Build a Movement
We Need New Rules to Reduce Wealth & Income Inequality

Lift the Floor for Lower Income People
★ Establish Living Wage standards
★ Raise the minimum wage
★ Invest in job creation & training
★ Increase the supply of affordable housing

Level the Playing Field for Everyone
★ Fair taxes that treat income from investments and work the same
★ Postal banking services
★ Medicare for All
★ Trade policies that benefit wage-earners, consumers, & the environment
★ Quality education as a Constitutional right

Address the Concentration of Wealth and Power
★ Progressive taxation of wealth and income
★ Reduced subsidies for excessive CEO pay
★ Campaign finance reform to get big money out of politics
★ Accountability for corporations receiving public subsidies
What You Can Do Today

Educate Yourself and Others
★ Host a UFE Popular Economics Education workshop.
★ Learn to lead UFE workshops.
★ Educate yourself — look at the resources on our list.

Influence the Media
★ Write articles or letters to the editor.
★ Organize a writers’ group.
★ Stage a flash mob creative action.

Build Power
★ Use your religious congregation as an organizing base.
★ Join or support a labor union.
★ Get involved in coalitions or civic groups.

Support United for a Fair Economy
★ Make a donation and become a UFE member.
★ Encourage friends and colleagues to join.
★ Organize a fundraising house party.
★ Help us with outreach.

Join Campaigns to Change the Rules
★ Support progressive tax proposals, such as the Robin Hood Tax.
★ Support local Living Wage campaigns and the Fight for $15.
1. How much larger is the total compensation for the McDonald's CEO than the average McDonald's worker?
   a) 408 times larger
   b) 100 times larger
   c) 347 times larger

2. How does the current income gap between White and Black families compare to the gap in 1967?
   a) The same
   b) It's slightly smaller today
   c) It's larger today

3. In 1990, the minimum wage was $3.80 an hour. In 2009, it increased to $7.25 an hour. If the minimum wage had gone up with productivity, what would it be now?
   a) $8.15 an hour
   b) $11.35 an hour
   c) $18.85 an hour

4. The successful candidates for U.S. Senate in 2016 spent an average of how much money on his or her Senate campaign?
   a) $1 million
   b) $5.2 million
   c) $10.4 million

5. Net worth is one's assets (what you own) minus debts (what you owe). In 2013, the median net worth for White households was $141,900. What was the median net worth for African American households?
   a) $11,030
   b) $35,800
   c) $102,300

6. On average White women earn 81 cents to every dollar earned by White men. How much do Latina women earn compared to White men?
   a) 76 cents
   b) 65 cents
   c) 59 cents

7. Historically, what was the highest marginal tax rate on the top 1% in the United States? (The top marginal income tax rate is paid on just the amount of income above the cut-off for the top bracket.)
   a) 35%
   b) 92%
   c) 70%

8. According to the Social Security Administration how much money do undocumented immigrants pay into social security? (A benefit they are ineligible to receive.)
   a) $700 million
   b) $13 billion
   c) $2 billion

9. The richest eight people own as much wealth as how much of the global population?
   a) The poorest 20%
   b) The bottom third
   c) The bottom half

10. How powerful are we if we work together for a fair economy?
    a) Kinda powerful, I guess.
    b) Not very, if you think about it.
    c) Incredibly powerful, let's do this!
Bottom Quintile

$0 - 29,100
Second Quintile

$29,101 - 52,697
Middle Quintile

$52,698 - 82,032
Fourth Quintile

$82,033 - 129,006
Top Quintile
$129,007 and up
Top 5%
$230,030 and up
Top 1%

$423,090 and up
**PUSH & PULL FACTORS OF IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.**

**PUSH Factors**
- Trends & Events Outside the U.S.
- Industrial Revolution in Europe
- Monroe Doctrine (1823)
- Irish Potato Famine
- Pogroms in Russia and Ukraine
- Mexican-American War
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)
- British hawkish passenger acts (1827)

**PULL Factors**
- Trends, Events, Policies & Laws Inside the U.S.
- Displaced Persons Act (1948)
- Immigration Act of 1965
- Immigration Act of 1924
- Emergency Quota Act of 1921
- Homestead Act (1862)

**Other Laws & Policies Affecting Migration to the U.S.**
- Naturalization Act of 1790
- Immigration Act of 1819
- Chinese Exclusion Acts (1882-1888)
- Immigration Act of 1991
- Immigration Act of 1907
- 14th Amendment (1868)

**Number of Immigrants**

- 1820s: 151,824
- 1830s: 599,125
- 1840s: 1,713,251
- 1850s: 2,546,613
- 1860s: 5,246,613
- 1870s: 6,875,564
- 1880s: 4,078,209
- 1890s: 1,313,251
- 1900s: 2,811,99
- 1910s: 2,281,422
- 1920s: 1,281,422
- 1930s: 1,776,613
- 1940s: 2,376,613
- 1950s: 2,876,613
- 1960s: 3,376,613
- 1970s: 4,076,613
- 1980s: 5,076,613
- 1990s: 6,076,613
- 2000s: 7,076,613

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“[Immigrants of this group] … threaten nothing less than the possibility of a great and perilous change in the very fabric of our [Anglo-Saxon] race..… If a lower race mixes with a higher in sufficient numbers, history teaches us that the lower race will prevail.”
“With respect to [these immigrants] we are committing cultural suicide. The barbarians at the gate will only need to give us a slight push, and the emancipated body of Western Civilization will collapse in a heap.”
“When the hordes of other lands are permitted to come here, as is the case daily; when ignorance, poverty, crime is allowed to land upon our shores . . . it is time that good men lifted their arms and sounded their voices against the abomination . . . Because it is every day weakening the strength, and destroying the character of the country. America can only be America by keeping it American. Americans must fill our offices, great and small . . . This is OUR land. We own it.”
“[Immigrants of this nationality] are a riffraff of desperate scoundrels, ex-convicts, and jailbirds.”
“[The immigrants of this nationality] are nothing but ‘imported beggars’ and ‘animals’, a mongrel mass of ignorance and crime and superstition, as utterly unfit for society’s duties as they are for the common courtesies and decencies of civilized life.”
Attitudes Toward Immigrants

1. **Italian immigrants in New York City**
   — Senator Henry Cabor Lodge (1909)

2. **Mexicans**

3. **German and Catholic immigrants**
   — *The American Crusader* (1854)

4. **Russians, Hungarians, Poles, Italians, Greeks, and Asians**
   — NYC Police Commissioner Theodore Bingham (1908)

5. **Irish**
   — *The American Standard*, a New Jersey newspaper (1859)