

This is the summary from the website. The Ten Minute Read – a bigger summary – starts on the next page.

To cope with life and politics you need the basic framework of society clear in your head.

The System Explained provides it. It explains how politics, business, work and trade operate by showing how we relate in our roles as workers, employers and fellow-citizens.

And it shows how we can relate differently, to build a fair, secure, sustainable global society.

In all the opinions we, the media, and politicians express about the state of the world, few raise the system, the basic relationships, as the problem. And even those who do never explain it, say what's wrong with it, or say what we can do about it. These writings do.

People call the system 'capitalism'. But that just refers to some people accumulating money at the top and re-cycling it. It ignores capitalism's key process, the work process: The process where people produce capital in producing goods and services. It ignores how people relate in the workplace in the production processes, the social and economic relationships, the organisations that are the basis of the capitalist system.

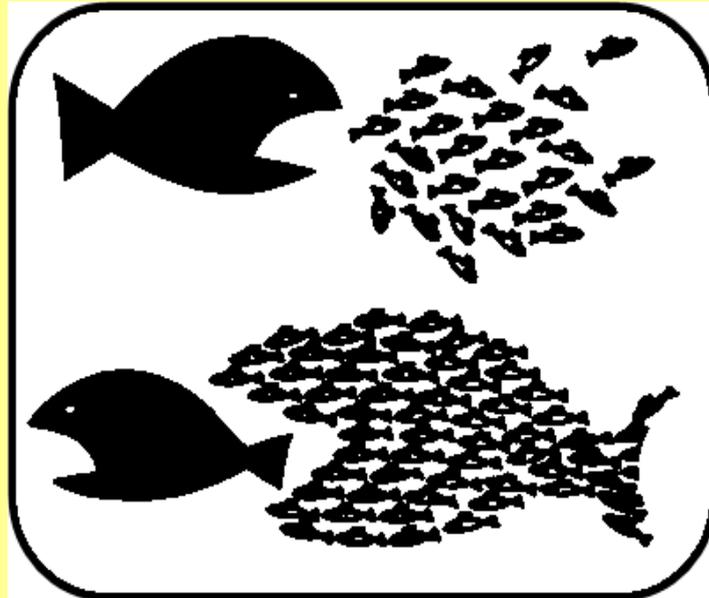
It ignores the key trading relationship. Not the markets in the trading of goods and services, but the labour market – the trade in people, in fellow-citizens – that is central to the manufacture of goods, the provision of services, and the generation of capital.

To solve humanity's problems, we need to:

- › Look beneath everyday politics and look at the system, at how we interact in everyday life.
- › We need to explain the system and the rights and wrongs of it, especially the wrong of how business people and public sector managers get excess power over the rest and how to correct that imbalance of power ...
... show the explanation is true by being drawn from people's own, observable, everyday life experiences ...
- › ... spread this view widely.
- › But people take how we relate and organise in the system of business, work, trade and politics as just the way things are. They take how it operates for granted.
- › In political debate few mention or criticise the basic relationships.
- › They don't see that most things in the economy, work, income and jobs don't start with or come from politics and politicians, that most happen through the basic, long-established, everyday relationships of the business system. (A better term for capitalism).
- › ... that politics is just how you might - or might not - get a say in this established everyday system.
- › We need to spread awareness that business people run the world more than politics and politicians do ...
... because they organise most of the key public activities - business - production - work - jobs - trade, the everyday buying and selling of goods, services and people.
- › This everyday activity in their roles in business, work and trade makes them (most of) 'the economy'.
- › That gives them political power even before they act directly in politics.
- › They earn this power because they organise and act socially as businesses.
- › To push their interests directly in politics, some of them run conservative media and conservative parties.
- › They are a class - the business class. They are a minority of citizens. They oppress the majority.
- › Conservative parties are the political arm of the business class.
- › The majority - most citizens - are workers. We too are a class - the worker class.
- › We represent ourselves weakly in the system.
- › We let business people dominate us every day, at work, in political debate in the media, and in politics itself.
- › We relate weakly to them because we don't recognise them as a class, nor ourselves and because we don't organise and act together like they do.
- › To stand up to them as employers (and to public sector employers) at work we need almost all citizens who are workers to organise together in unions.
- › Then in politics, the majority need to match up to business people's power by organising into a progressive social and political force. Unionized workers are central to it, making it soundly based on how the majority too relate and act together in their economic roles, and from being organised together in those meaningful, active, everyday, permanent relationships, represent themselves effectively in politics.
- › Progressives are not short of better policies than conservatives. They are short of organisation and its use in the effective communication and gathering of support for policy.
- › Because we don't look at the basics, many people find politics confusing and, disastrously for themselves and us all, allow the conservative, business class minority, who are out only for themselves, into government.
- › They group themselves and others by shallow, diversionary 'identities' when we should identify and group people, and base our politics on, how people genuinely relate in business, jobs, the economy and politics.
- › That means all who are workers should base their main 'identity' on being, with most other citizens, a worker.
- › When we share a clear understanding of these basics of 'the system' it'll be easier to make sense of political issues, discuss them, and organise to get society working fairly for all.

The System Explained - A Ten Minute Read

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***Politics - Politicians - The Economy -
Business - Jobs - Workers - Class - Unions
Fairness - Dignity - Security - Support
Equality - Public Services - Climate Change
Media - Identities - Racism - Nationalism
Free Markets - Income - Wealth
Opportunity - Poverty -
and other such issues...***

***We flounder around in politics because
we don't look at the basics. We need to.
The System Explained by Ed McDonnell explains them,
from our - your -everyday experience. It will help you
and others to think and talk about them.***

Go By Facts or By Feelings?

Look At The System aims to help everybody understand 'the system' - how we relate to each other in politics, business, and work. It is factual, showing how the system is observable in the simple realities of everyday life experience.

But many say they don't understand politics and instead vote by feelings. Such as, they won't vote for a party leader because they don't 'like' them. Or will vote for a party just because they 'like' their leader. Or, instead of voting on policies, they'll vote because of simple slogans that promise 'hope' or 'change'.

Many see the political parties as alternative management teams who 'run things' and we just vote for one or another, as in saying - 'I thought we should give the other lot a chance'.

Or they'll base their politics on the insubstantial feelings of 'belonging' of 'identities'. Basing your politics on such feelings instead of real business and job relationships and political parties' policies is a poor way to use your rights. But it's what many people do. It will be addressed again at the end of this paper.

But first, a framework for political thinking... a **system analysis**

Business people run the world.

Because they organise together.

And because the rest mostly don't.

This explains most of politics.

Business people run the world because they organize (most of) the goods, services, and jobs. Because they run or they are 'the economy'.

But we don't talk about it. People 'take the world as they find it' and just accept that business people organise production, trade and jobs. They accept their way of running things and their power as if it's the natural order and you can't question it. They don't even speak of business people but of what 'they' are doing; or of what 'they' do as 'just what happens'.

If people talk of the system, usually as capitalism, it's like it's a self-existing thing. They don't talk about how it works, think they haven't got the power to change it, think you could only change it for other 'self-existing' systems like socialism or communism, that most people think won't work. So they take what business people do for granted and expect 'politicians' to just 'run the country', to manage the system.

But politicians don't control what goes on every day, normally. Most of the system runs independently of politics. And we have never publicly debated or democratically voted for it. The basic business and job relationships have been established over centuries, in practice and in piecemeal legal decisions. They persist from then, from before any democracy. Since winning some democracy, we've not developed our awareness of how this system works, or the organised strength to change it. In countries with less democracy, business people just seize political power.

We can challenge business people in politics but, being the economy, they have the power to seriously limit what our politicians can do.

We need to look at how we can regulate the most powerful group, business people. (Some think Jewish people or 'the Illuminati' secretly run the world. But it's no secret, it's business people. You can see it by what's in your home, in the high street, on the road, in jobs, in leisure activities. It's business people and they can be of all colours, races and nationalities.)

We, the rest, aren't mature and organized enough to organize production and jobs ourselves. So we depend on business people for that. But that causes our main problems.

It means we leave our essential **public** needs – the economy, jobs, incomes – to be organised and provided **privately**, by business people, who do it for themselves, not for their fellow-countryfolk. We allow them to run the world economy, with the unregulated free markets they demand, greedily and recklessly. They cause crashes like that in 2008. In Britain, the Conservatives used that as an excuse to attack public services and support. That attack caused many affected workers to support Brexit – 'we can't challenge them, blame foreigners'. The US business class caused the forty-year standstill in American workers' living standards and the job losses in the rust-belt that led many to turn, confusedly, to Trump.

They get insanely wealthy, from our work, while causing billions to live in insecure jobs and poverty. Insisting on a right to 'make a return on capital', they generate the needless growth that is wrecking our planet.

Since we depend on them, we do have to do deals with them, at work and in politics. But we need fairer deals. For that, we, the worker majority, first need to see why business people dominate us.

We need an everyday term for 'the system'. 'Capitalism' evokes only remote financial operations. It omits the core process of business and work where capital is generated and reinvested. 'Free markets' omits it too, covering only trade.

Business is how we experience and refer to the system every day. Let's call it the business and free market system or just 'the business system'.

We need too a collective name for business people. If politicians and commentators admit they are an identifiable group, they refer to them as 'the business community'. Community?? They are a class and we should talk of them as one - the business class. Especially the 1%, the corporate and financial operators. They are the ruling class, not vague 'elites' or 'the establishment.'

Conservative politicians and parties represent them and are of them. Their key policy is to let business people do what they want. That's what 'laissez-faire' economics and 'free markets' mean. The power the business system gives business people is what conservatives aim to conserve.

They conceal this by:

- hiding behind the claim that the business system is fair and effective for all.
- presenting themselves as just politicians who are looking after everyone's interests, who just really think giving business people great license, protection and low taxes, and the rest of us having no right to organize and little state support, is a fair way to do it!
- having us see the system as something above us, self-existing, just 'there'. But it is only the customary human relationships of everyday business, work, jobs and trade.
- talking of 'the markets' and 'corporations', the multi-nationals, 'businesses' and 'companies' as if they too are self-existing, extra-human entities. But they are just people, fellow-citizens who we can hold to account.
- justifying business people's power and wealth as fair outcomes of a fair system. They aren't, it isn't. It is shockingly loaded against the worker majority.

The business system has its points and the rest of us have no alternative to hand. But however good they claim it to be everyone knows it's not good enough.

It's their system, not ours. It doesn't exist by itself. It's a set of relationships that they actively maintain and extend. Capitalism isn't the problem - it's capitalists.

We have policies that can make it fair, civilized, stable, sustainable. But progressive parties concede to the conservative case for their free-market business system, which limits their ability to do what's needed. They don't see what it is that enables business people to dominate, and what's wrong with it.

And they can't do much on their own. We too, as, voters don't understand the system and we limit progressive parties by not voting in enough numbers, with enough conviction, for progressive parties that will regulate business people.

For civilised politics we need a mass political organised force, functioning every day, permanent, to match theirs as the business class.

We need to organise ourselves into such a force. Key to this is for non-business people, mostly workers, blue collar and white, to organise as workers, just as business people organise as businesses.

But we need to spread knowledge of more key features of the system:

- the economies of scale of industrialism mean production, trade and services inevitably come to be dominated by fewer, larger operations; run by a business class minority; and to an inevitable majority having no option in making their living but to work for one or another of them.
- business people are organized. A business is a number of people organized together at work; with shareholders, supplier, customers, managers and staff, and privileges such as limited company status.
- their collective organisation and activity at work makes them the economy (most of it).
- so they dictate to governments

- when conservative parties win elections, they are themselves the government.
- independent conservatives run mass media to set a pro-business political agenda and pro-business political thinking. But also to divert attention from them by directing it at other people, like celebrities and minorities.

They take the trouble to organize and be active every day, in businesses, so business people do deserve more than the rest of us. And we should credit them for the public utility of their enterprise and their risk-taking. But not as much as they credit themselves.

(In big business, risk is spread across projects and investment funds; successes cover losses; limited company and bankruptcy laws protect them).

Some can be decent, maybe more the smaller ones and small traders. Competition pressures even the decent ones to be bad. We need to regulate competition. It has benefits, but not as many as co-operation.

The Rest Of Us - The Worker Class

All those who need a job to make a living are workers. Blue-collar, white-collar; shop floor, office; manual, technical, engineer; teacher, lecturer. Even managers. The working class, the great majority of the population. But its meaning is muddled by 'middle class', mistakenly 'classing' people by spending power and lifestyle instead of how people make their money. The worker class?

The Worst Bad Deal Of All - The Job Deal

Every worker knows the power an employer has over them. In the deal you make when you start a job; how they, and you, behave while in a job; how they can sack you.

Unique to the book 'Look At The System' is that it shows just how business people, and public authorities, overpower people in their jobs. People as workers, and progressive parties too, need to understand this clearly, and how it entitles them to organize in unions.

This is how

- **in modern industrial life economies of scale mean most jobs are in workplaces with many workers.**
- **having many, employers can easily manage without any one worker.**

'Free' Labour Markets and 'The 'Market Ratio'

In the deal each of us makes with employers we can be ten, hundreds or thousands of times weaker than the employer. There is a big difference in the market ratio - the ratio of need - how much they need one more worker and how much one worker needs the job.

To employers each worker is of only marginal use. That's why they can say 'There's the door if you don't like it' and why people get a bad deal and bad treatment in jobs - because the employer has all the others to rely on for output.

Go to another job and you suffer the same disadvantage. It operates against better-qualified, so-called middle class workers just as it does the less-qualified.

These unequal deals in the labour market demolish conservatives' claim that free markets mean individual freedom and opportunity. That 'you can make it by your own efforts' and, in the USA, achieve 'the American Dream'. This claim evaporates in the job market before the plain fact that in modern, industrial society, most work isn't individual, it's collective. Having many staff gives employers power over workers that outweighs opportunity. People shouldn't have to sell themselves in such bad deals to make their living.

They enable business people to pay workers less than the value of their work. This is why we have such huge inequality in wealth. This is where profits and most wealth comes from. Owning property is now less important than control of the work process, where wealth is produced. The rich claim it is because of their superiority, their ability and effort. Yes, some is from that. But it's mostly from the unrecognised and unfair power they have in the labour process that produces wealth.

Employers having many staff establishes the majority's right to organize in unions. Organizing together so employers can only have all of us, negotiating together, with strength, for union conditions, is the, mature, adult, legitimate response to the injustice of trading with them one at a time.

The Biggest Inequality

The unequal job relationship is an inequality, an inequality of power. The biggest inequality of all. We have, so far, failed to identify and expose it and use it to spread the case for the right to organize.

Most workers resent bosses' power but accept it, seeing it as part of the natural order. They let them alone and instead, many blame other people for problems.

Our failure to identify and challenge this biggest of all equality issues is why some of 'the white working class' in the USA see action on race and gender equality as favours for minorities that they don't get. Their fellow-white business class bosses treat them badly but they don't see the case for their right to organise to stand up to them. So they turn on minorities and liberals and progressive parties and, in the USA, vote for business-class Trump's minority-bashing.

Liberals are just fair-minded people who act against the obvious inequalities. But they depend on business people to run the economy and don't question the privileges and biased rights the business system allows them.

So they don't see this biggest, global inequality, that between employers and **all** workers. They need to challenge this inequality too and support **all** workers, white and of colour, whatever gender or personal tastes, being able to get equal to employers by having the right to organize.

'The white working class' too should see the non-union job deal as an unacceptable inequality, one that hurts them and minorities alike. And that they should organise with the minorities and liberals to tackle this one as well as the more usual inequalities.

This is more likely to better their condition than voting for outsider-bashing businessmen like Trump; or, in the UK, for outsider-blaming policies like Brexit.

The Case For Organising Summed Up

Look at all the institutions allowed to operate in society. There's businesses, people with the right to operate together as companies, with protections like limited company status and bankruptcy laws. They have trade and employer associations. There's government, government departments, national, state and regional government, city and town councils, courts, schools, hospitals, fire authorities, the police and military, churches, sports clubs, printed, televised and digital media and more. These are all people, organised, collectively.

For us, the worker class majority, not to be organised in making our living together as workers, is ridiculous. And, by their hostility to workers organizing, vicious, from the conservative, business class side.

Base the case for the right to organize on that simple arithmetic, that employers with many workers have an unfair advantage over them one at a time.

With that you can be confident in making the argument for union organisation to fellow-workers and even to conservatives.

It is about full citizenship, about having the sense and the right to participate in the economy as mature, dignified adults with equal power to employers.

For equality for workers of all colours, genders and personal tastes, they have the civil right to organize and the right to union recognition from employers.

Class In Politics

So the case for people's right to organise at work is made.

And, they should base their activity in politics too on being organised as workers.

This is a leap for most people. Conservatives claim that union organization should be limited to pay and conditions at work. And that political rights are only exercised by individual voting in locality-based constituencies.

And this is the accepted view of politics: you vote in the constituency you reside in; some of your fellow-constituents associate to form the political parties; these constituency parties, joined together, form the national parties.

In local, place-based constituencies people have very little organic connection with each other. They get information and debate about the parties' national leaders and policies from the media. Much

of the media is run by business people for this purpose. In the long years between occasional elections, the daily blast on politics from the media shapes most people's political opinions and voting intentions.

The parties themselves contact you only during the elections. Even then, you receive most of your election information and debate from the mostly business-run media.

In the years between elections and in election campaigns, **voters don't talk to each other much about politics or how they vote.** And you vote individually, secretly.

But acting in politics based simply on co-residing in place-based constituencies without very much associating with each other, makes little sense. Far less than basing it on associating in the fundamental business of making your living. Everyday business, the economy and work are the central, vital activities in society. And so are your relationships there with fellow-citizen workers.

This is what business people do. Conservatives and business people don't build their political strength from being individual voters in the constituencies. They do it from being organised, collectively, in their economic roles, in businesses, at work.

There, they are organized by class without even being in political parties. As said, this gives them great political power because governments, and the rest of us, rely upon them to organize most of the goods, services and jobs we need. Because they are 'the economy'. Look at how national governments and city and town councils entice them with grants, tax breaks, planning permission, low regulation, 'flexible labour markets'. (That's me, you and the boss!)

Then, as companies and through trade associations, they fund think-tanks and lobby politicians. Then, many of them are individually wealthy and fund conservative parties, candidates and campaigns.

But what they claim to be individual donations is almost all money they make from us, from our work, at work! They take money from us at work and use it against us in politics; then tell us politics is nothing to do with us in our unions at work but only acting as atomised individuals in the constituencies, once every few years!

And business people formally independent of conservative parties campaign frenziedly for conservative politics in their media businesses, in print, radio and digital media.

Individual and Collective

Conservatives always cite the individual. Yes, we are individuals, but we are intensely social individuals. We work collectively and cooperatively in all the businesses, companies, corporations and banks, in the public authorities, in production, trade, and at work. It's them who do the collectivizing, by constantly industrializing work.

So, as explained, the business class get their political strength from work as well as their economic and financial strength.

And so it needs to be for the worker class. But their organization in politics is pitiful compared to business people's. Politics is about running the country together, a collective activity. Yet aside from a few party activists at election times, we don't do anything together. We accept the limits of solely constituency-based politics, that atomises us, where we don't talk to each other about our shared class position, where we can't develop class politics. While all the time, between elections and during them, we ingest business class political thinking from their media.

Like business people, workers are entitled to, and should, base their political thinking, their debate and their activity on their shared, work-based, economic role, their work-based collective organisation. They should use the meaningful relationships they have with each other as union-organised fellow-workers to communicate with each other, daily, on political issues and voting choices. Political views developed there go into the constituency voting system, but from these independent, everyday, work-based discussions.

Wherever workers organize, the activists do act together politically. But it is marginalized, not getting through to the minds of inactive members and those who are not organised. Just as the case for organizing together on pay and conditions at work needs to be more clearly made to workers, so does the case for using that as their main political base.

The central argument of 'Look At The System is this: we need to establish, as a civil right, the right to organise as workers, and be recognized by employers; we need to actually organise, across the

world; and if we are not to forever flounder around in the vague constituency-based relationships of the electoral system, being overwhelmed and divided by conservatives, the business class and their media, we need to use our workplace organisation as our main forum for developing our politics as the worker class.

Taxes and Public Spending

Business people 'take care of business'. They make big decisions about spending money, managing productive activity and marketing in the activities we depend on to make our living. They deserve a fair amount for that. But they use their unfair power in jobs to take so much from these collective activities that they don't need public services and public support (welfare).

Then conservatives claim the rich got that money by individual effort. So they say everyone is individually responsible for their needs. They block public services and income security for the worst-off, and the taxes for collective spending on them.

They call public services and welfare 'socialism'. Nonsense. Socialism would be running the economy collectively, as we do now; but with democratic control not private. Public services and welfare are just fellow-citizens backing each other up on basic needs. And spreading the risks and costs with the established practice of insurance.

Conservatives support social spending to protect the system that privileges them, such as the police and the military. And they set individualism aside and make collectivism compulsory, with patriotism and war.

But we can't just blame them. All this is our fault too, for not taking the trouble to understand 'the system'. We need to see how we relate to business people, public service managers and each other; to see that we are the worker class; to see it as our main identity; and to talk to each other about it as fellow-workers and mature citizens.

And to organize. Business people are so thoroughly organized, with company boards, many work sites in many countries, with departments, managers, supervisors. Compared to them, we are very poorly organised as workers. In fact we are mostly atomised.

Some of us are organised. But not with enough conviction, and nowhere near as many of us as needed. We need to take the trouble to organize at work, to trade with employers on equal terms; and to identify and organize distinctly as the worker class in politics to regulate the whole business class.

But at present, instead, we let them distract and disarm us with various shallow identities. Some unite us falsely with them. Others divide us against each other.

Conservative parties use the prestige of the nation state to draw people into national identities.

Independently active conservatives overwhelm people with them in print, radio and digital media.

National identity gives people feelings of significance, belonging and security from being in so strong an institution and being one of so many 'British', 'Americans', Russians, French, and the rest. And you don't have to do anything. You don't have to organize at work or in politics. You get to be in a big national 'we' just by living in a country.

But conservatives totally contradict their claim to believe in 'the nation' with their other, most basic belief - **that the well-off earn it with hard work and ability; that less well-off people are so because they don't work so hard, are less able or are idlers; that people should manage on their own (dressed up as individual freedom); that those in trouble should not get state support; people should be left to sink or swim.**

In our intensely collective economic systems, with the unfair job deal that enables employers to treat fellow-countrymen and women terribly, and with the instability of their business system, this recourse to individualism is nonsense, visibly demolished by the everyday reality of how collectively our societies function.

But most people adopt the false national 'we'. Workers drop their class identity in favour of it. Progressive parties lose their independence from the business class in it. They let them get away with using the 'we' to mask class identities.

To conservatives 'the nation' only really means the laws and institutions that enable business people to use, misuse, discard and abandon fellow-countrymen and women. Their opposition to public services and welfare means they don't believe 'the country' should support its citizens!

To soften the brutality of their 'survival of the fittest' claimed individualism, conservative parties promise citizens their needs will be met, but by the business system. It doesn't do that of course - 'trickle down' is nonsense - and they have to promise the state will support. But they do no more to support fellow-countrymen and women than the minimum they can get away with.

With how brutally conservatives and business people treat the worker class, how little they care for compatriots, nationality just means people co-reside in a system of politics and law. There are practical things to it and rights and obligations you are entitled to or had better abide by. But anything more depends on what fellow-citizens do with and for each other.

People who are workers - the great majority - shouldn't share with the business class and conservatives the national identity they laughably claim to believe in and should downplay the whole notion of 'the country' and a 'we' with them.

But most people, and progressive parties, look away from this clear conflict of interests between the business class and the worker class and go along with 'the nation' as the core framework for politics.

So when the business system fails, people can't even see the business class, never mind take them on about its failings. Their business system is accepted as part of the national framework, as the natural way of things. The business class blend into it and recede from view.

Conservatives glibly overlook that the key problem is the madness of letting business people run the economy and blame problems on it as an abstraction, 'the economy'.

Progressives accept the business system and voter don't back them enough to regulate it. So they too go along with conservative talk of problems being with 'the economy' and affecting all of 'us', and limit themselves to disputing which party has the greater competence to 'manage the economy'.

Having hidden themselves from responsibility, conservative media and politicians ferociously use the national mindset to tell 'Britons', 'Americans' etc. that their problems are caused by 'outsiders', not them.

Most workers don't yet walk about with the understanding of the system and business people's responsibility for its failings presented here. So blaming outsiders is the easy option. Conservative media and politicians blast it at them, and they only have to fall in behind their power. This is people unable to tackle the people above them turning on those below them. It's punching down instead of up.

For outsiders to blame there's people not from this system of politics and law, outside the national 'we', i.e. 'foreigners'. 'Foreign competition' is blamed for job losses. But native business competitors do the same. With Brexit in the UK, many workers, instead of blaming conservative free market madness for the 2008 crash, and the Conservative government for making them pay for it, blame the European Union.

And there's the foreigners 'here' who people are told and believe they have 'insider' entitlement over - migrant workers, refugees. Brexit voters are against Eastern European workers using EU free movement of labour to 'come here and take our jobs'. Yet they don't blame British business people for using their free movement for operations and investment to export their jobs. Anyway, migrant workers create jobs - they buy things here.

Conservatives and populists strengthen the 'we' that unites some workers with them by dividing citizens into majority 'insiders' and minority 'outsiders', by colour, gender or being different by personal things like sexuality.

National and white - or, as in India, religious 'Identities' - set workers against each other instead of them.

But nationalist solutions can never work for workers because they leave business people unchallenged. Conservatives will lead workers in being hostile to foreigners, and workers might vote in nationalist governments. But then what? The business class will still have great power over workers,

will still misuse and abandon them, obstruct them from organizing, and won't release their wealth for public services.

When we challenge 'outsider' diversions (often racist), don't debate about the 'outsiders'. The hostility is always based on an 'insider' 'we' and that's what you need to question. Ask how much 'the country' really means to conservatives? How much do they really care about fellow-nationals? How much does anyone 'white' care for other white people? What do the 'we's' of nation and colour mean in real mutual support in getting the basics you need in life?

The Business System And The Voter

Conservative parties talk big about 'the nation' but won't support the people who are the nation. In the US, not even with their health. Workers who vote for them self-harm.

Progressive parties rely on business people to run the economy. They demand such incentives, and their system is so unstable, progressive parties can't deliver all they promise, and voters blame them, thinking they have let them down. Voters see it as the progressive party's fault when business people mess up the economy. E.g. after the 2008 crash, Labour got blamed in the UK in the 2010 election; the Democrats in the US in 2016.

Because of rich business people's demands or failures, mainstream established parties in thrall to them often can't deliver. Then radical conservatives - the centre of the establishment - call them the establishment. Workers who don't believe enough in themselves resort even more to the 'insider' promise of national identity. They back populist, extreme outsider-blaming, nationalist, business people like Trump. It's ridiculous.

We need to call out conservatives and the business class on their nationalism and patriotism. Ask them: Is this one society? What will they do for their fellow-nationals? What will they give up for them? Will they be enterprising not just for their own greed but for fellow-nationals, for only fair rewards?

Will they agree their fellow-citizens shouldn't have to trade for their jobs in unfair deals? That they have the right to organise in unions and be recognized by employers?

If we vote in governments to regulate them, to make them act decently towards fellow-nationals and the planet, will they accept it? Or will they disinvest, as conservatives threaten? What will they pay towards the taxes needed for their fellow-citizen's health and public services, and support when they suffer from their unstable business system?

What To Do

Spread understanding of the system. Urge each other to use the relationships between the business class and the worker class as the framework for political thinking and downplay the framework of 'the nation'. Urge each other to adopt authentic identities that come from our active roles, centrally in making our living together as workers. Blue-collar, white-collar, shop floor, office; manual, technical; teacher, lecturer; and even managers (as workers); of all nations, colours, genders, ages and personal tastes.

Business people inter-act intensely 24/7/365, in serious work-based relationships, between countries, worldwide. Convince each other of our right to do the same. **Base it on the simple arithmetic of the job deal – on how employers having many workers makes it an unequal, bad, unacceptable deal for each worker.**

Urge workmates and other workers to see being a union member as normal, natural, everyday, expected. And for this relationship with each other at work to be as serious and meaningful as the one people have with employers there.

Say to each other 'Organized, you are not alone against the boss; you get a feeling and a reality of support, security and fair treatment; you get real action to protect and improve your conditions'. You get the adult dignity of being on an equal footing them

Urge each other to organize ourselves in almost every job, section, department, workplace and trade; between almost every workplace and industry, trans-nationally, worldwide. Then do deals with business people and public service managers as near-equals.

And with **politics** based on class, convince each other as voters not to fall for conservative myths of individualism, opportunity, and seemingly low taxation; nor let them divert us into targeting fellow-worker 'outsiders' instead of them.

Conservatives should never get into government. With workers being such a large majority, we should always be able to vote into government strong progressive, pro-worker parties and back them to strike fair deals on worker's rights with the business class as a whole.

But placing hope in finding great leaders won't work. However able, they can't regulate the business class on their own. For that, we need an organised, everyday, permanent, social force that can match business people's everyday, permanent, recognized social force. **That is us, organised as workers**, in our unions, and in our progressive parties.

Very ambitious, all this? It would take many steps, taken by many millions, organizing and acting together. But it's what's needed if we are to get our world into a civilized state and to not wreck it.

We can start by getting each other to see that the system is the problem, and to talk about it. And to agree that we are entitled to and should be organizing so we can play mature, active, roles in the system.

So, Go By Facts Or By Feelings?

Returning to the issue of people not wanting to bother with all that and just go by feelings.... Look At The System deals with that by giving people, for the first time, a clear explanation of the system, that anyone can understand, so they shouldn't find politics too much to think about.

But on feelings and facts –

The great majority of decent humanitarian people - progressives, liberals, trade unionists and socialists - have the strongest hand in making people feel they belong, are fairly treated, supported, secure and looked after.

Conservative identities - nationalist, white, nativist - and anti-outsider politics don't offer real support. They say nothing about what they would do for people if the 'outsiders' weren't there to blame. Nothing about how relationships would be between fellow-nationals and 'whites'. Nothing about what to do about business people's power, about jobs and incomes. Nothing about support at work, supporting each other in health, housing, education, social insurance.

And we can show

- how the 'individual freedom' conservatives claim to offer is cover for business people's collective seizure of wealth in the work process.
- that real freedom is based on supporting each other, not abandonment.
- that shallow 'identities' can't deliver what proper organisation as workers and voters can.

At work, strong union organisation replaces feelings of powerlessness with feelings of real support and dignity. Progressive and socialist politics and governments give genuine support and security in income, health, education, equal treatment and equal opportunity and in regulating business people.

Most people want **fairness** in society. Conservatism aims for unfairness, abandonment, and isolation. The fairness that progressive politics is all about is a powerful appeal to people's feelings that conservatism can't offer. And with wide, everyday organisation, we can get all this over to people, and deliver it.

So though this work offers not an appeal to feelings but a thought-out factual analysis, we can do that too.

More, much more, at

www.thesystemexplained.com

and www.therighttoorganise.com

This Ten Minute Read is constantly improved.
Changes are usually just sequencing and clarity.
For the latest version check the website.