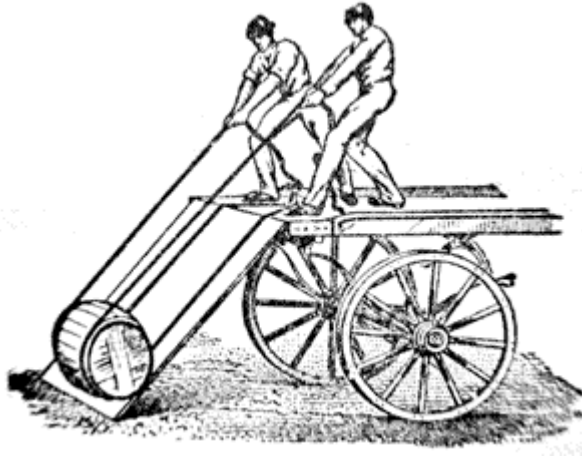


CAPITALLISM MANIFESTO

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edited with Haruko Tanaka
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The manifesto maps the swirling ungathered influences, defining them in such a way as to emerge structures that have always existed but could not stand for their nascent voices were drowned inside the current clamor.



∞ <http://www.capitallism.org> ∞

∞ THE AIM ∞

Freedom is an essence held in the highest esteem, desired with increased frequency as one recognizes the presence of a particular control. As with all essences lacking clear definition, its properties shapeshift.



Our idea of freedom may derive from negating our idea of slavery. Free means “not-slave” or “not-forced-labor.” If those in power did not literally enslave other races and groups, how then would we understand freedom? What does freedom mean today as the old memories fade from the time when antebellum laws sanctioning slavery ended with emancipation?

Dictionary-wise, freedom is liberation from the control of another person or some arbitrary power. A prisoner in jail is said to be less free than a citizen. A prisoner in an abusive relationship is dominated by another’s aggressive behavior. A prisoner to various fears is caught in the chains of personal psychic epidemia. There are prisoners to disease, fantasy, hunger, debt. There are black market concubines, human rights violations, and legally sanctioned discriminations in place; as well as institutions that may have begun with good intentions but evolved unchecked to morph along corrupting and controlling lines.

Left uninhibited, the arbitrary-powers-that-be manipulate ideas of freedom to fit a special agenda. When said powers promote a typology that disregards the existence of an injustice, those under the spell find a comfortable happiness living with invisible restraints.

However, a choice must be made when a type of imprisonment is given name. The prisoner can attempt to break from jail, quit the job, leave the relationship, reject the rules of a given system, or create or escape into a station of the underground railroad. There are aftereffects for making a choice. For some the potential repercussions are too burdensome to handle, preferring Things As They Are as opposed to failure or death.



This is a personal message to those who are choosing, who refuse to be told a meaning of encounters but instead investigate the experience of encounters, who examine internal and external processes to find an equitable distribution of burdens and benefits that comes with societal living. The aim is to maximize the possibility of freedom for all (not select groups), and minimize the controls without creating outcomes more deadly and controlling than the very situation we intended to heal.



∞ GLASS CEILING ∞

It requires a stretch of the imagination to find in humanitarian teachings the belief that greed and power are virtues leading to the betterment of oneself, and so much better that these virtues should form the basis of a societal system. Yet somehow this is the condition in which we have found ourselves. It is argued that this kind of system is “nature,” “the human condition,” or “the real world.”



Despite endless wishing and wanting, the concept of “ceiling” emerges as one climbs the ladder to carve out a life. For the hopefuls living under the ceiling, different priorities manifest: Food, social commitments, working out of debt towards a goal, aging health, trying to keep dependencies afloat and happy. Every now and then arrives a special paycheck. A chance to be elsewhere. The spark returns and, wanting more, anxiety returns. Everyday reporters surround with tales of those who sparkle on top, having entered the Pallas Athena, drinking nectar in its pure form.

The fact that extreme incomes are tantalizingly unavailable except for the highest class echelons is not fully discussed in the media blitz. Many find it absurdly schizophrenic that advertised still is the hope—that carrot on a stick—whispering to all in the land of opportunity that everyone—no matter their race, gender, or creed—has the upward mobility chance to become Bill Gates... thoughts smuggled in rosy, Prozac metaphors to help scrape through the day.

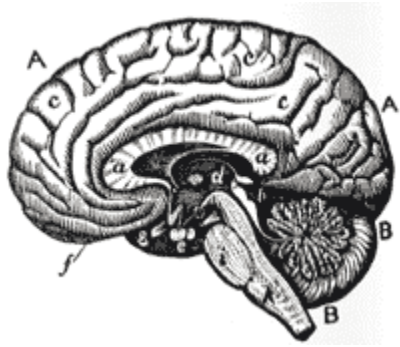
What is the glass ceiling? It is the cap which can be seen through, appearing as if a ceiling does not exist at all.



∞ MARKET RACES ∞

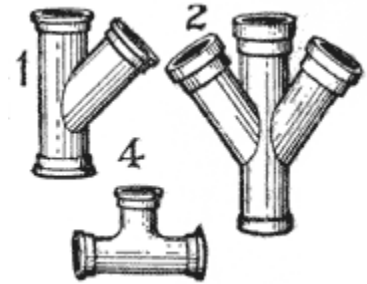
Free market capitalism utilizes the positive connotations of freedom and its unhindered power of becoming anything, creating the world in its own “free” image. It does not let the interests of government or society challenge it, but instead transforms these groups to agree along the lines of its code. Thou government shall not protect little fish from big fish; thy shall be *laissez faire*. Thou societal celebrations and functions shall not exist without market presence, for that creates barriers to trade.

Years pass. Voices are lost in the media haze, especially voices challenging those who fund the media haze. Embarrassing news is suppressed. A complacent acceptance of Things As They Are emerges, and a good portion of our lives is given over to values that keep the machinery moving, losing desire and opportunity to freely explore our own potentiality.



Personalities transform into the collective identity of the current machinery. The predominant machinery of today is characterized with an emphasis upon fiscal opportunity. After all, it makes practical sense to follow responsible business practices. It slowly enters the heart's priority, and practical sense practically dominates. Talk is of investing from birth, avoiding habits that do not increase one's financial capability, socially engaging with mannerisms denying disagreeable ramifications, and cultivating a mind that could not even think outside of status quo political correctness. Lower income brackets may find in this an unrealistic correspondence. Whether or not one lives up to the consumer identity does not change the fact that the identity exists and enjoys a kind of privilege.

Capitalism is not the only means for economic markets to function, but it is the one that is winning. It stops at nothing to keep from spreading, for the goal of capitalism is self-defined: The accumulation of capital. Capitalism both satisfies needs and creates artificial needs for consumption. The worker is the means to the end; depleted in a world where the day is spent winding up and down from work, and the evening consuming in spaces created by markets. Time is lost. Time is the root of human development. Those without time become beasts of burden, streamlined into market races who ideally exist entirely in ways propagating the growth of capital, which is precisely the goal of capitalism.



✂ POWER SOLUTIONS ✂



If one accepts the basic idea that using power against the powerlessness is wrong, and that those who commit wrong join the cycle of criminality, then it should be noted that the lawyer will automatically respond, "Yes, but this use of power is for the better. Sometimes one must sweep away the minor annoyances as one would stomp an itty bitsy spider. You understand—there must be some cleansing so my client can freely get on with his business of living."

Power corrupts, and what emerges are cycles of violence and emperor shifting. Those exposing freedom fight those "freedom-haters" who lack their own particular qualities. Feeling pushed against, their enemies push back. Both are terrorists in the other's eyes. Both feel that if the other gains power then they will lose control, and their freedom of lifestyle will be stripped away.

The utopian concept of “global village” where all nations embrace in socioeconomic equilibrium is a myth. What exists are the alliances and realliances of key players fearful of losing rank.

Under the umbrella of special-interest rule, today’s extreme inequalities of wealth and health are discussed in the margins, explained away as if such states of suffering are *relatively* good considering the whole of that particular geographic area. Or eugenically suggesting that inequality is not the product of a long history of compounded privilege and the prioritization of capital over other values, but what *naturally* happens when bell-curve superiors live alongside genetic inferiors.

Those in power create ideals favoring power. Because they are powerful their ideal is portrayed as The Ideal. Competing groups want The Ideal, or want to create a new ideal which will become The Ideal, finding opportunity to do so via the colonization and proselytization of new and existing markets.

Nations, KKKs, Mormons, Shiites, Gurus, Black Panthers, Nazis, corporations, communists, and other icons want their viewpoints to succeed. Which powers get to decide which powers are right? This business is noisy, and it becomes difficult to hear.



NEED FOR A SOLUTION OF SOLUTIONS



As evidenced by atoms, DNA, and computer binary language; the most dynamic of systems have a complexity of implications derived from the simplest of centers. A solution should not attempt to reproduce the highly intricate design, but create the equation from which design arises.

The solution should address what the essays of humanities have predicatedly questioned: How to live freely while letting others freely live? If one is too controlled, then by definition one does not live freely (evidenced in strict theocracies or dictatorships). Reiterating the same thing differently: If one is too unrestrained in certain areas, then there is danger as the unrestrained overflows and inhibits the ability of others to freely live. These unrestrained “certain areas” currently converge around axes of economic power and special-interest absolutism.



Capitalism does not seek to stick the “lowest” class on “top,” and thus reestablish the very situation it intended to correct. Capitalism prevents the top from becoming so out-of-control that its very out-of-controllness leads to the misrepresentation and control of others. It does not call for hierarchical laws and committees to develop point solutions to patch every instance of power abuse that arises. Sometimes point solutions are necessary—legislative reform and taxes on inequality and consumption may be useful, though still lurking is the need for a more permanent and fundamental solution, one that will not be reversed with the whims of current special interest fashion. The goal is to identify *patterns* of problem, not the problems themselves, and apply solutions to the *pattern*.

It is crucial for a dynamic *self-regulation* to be the center of the solution, not imposed from some power above. The constitutional system of checks and balances was originally designed with this concept of intrinsic regulation in mind. Legislative, congressional, and judicial branches were designed to minimize the power of each other such that one could not destroy all. A brilliant theory, except for the fact that it neglected situations where the elected officials spoil from within, or when a government itself asserts an imperial rule. It did not thwart one very specific *pattern* of problem: Wealth equals power—power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely.



CAPITALISM DEFINED

Capitalism realizes that any kind of special interest control is not virtuous, but a primary cause of societal and self-deprecation.

At its crux, capitalism calls for one action: The placement of a maximum wage upon income, both institutional and personal.

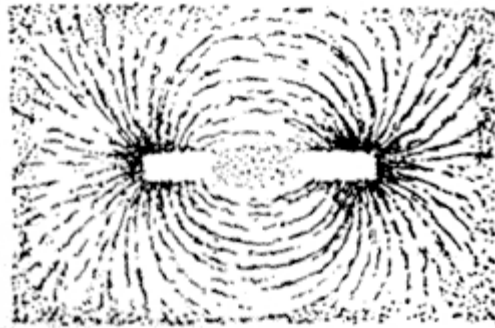
One may look at capitalism as a realistic form of capitalism, taking its name from the concept of placing a *cap* on wage. *Capitalism*, or to distinguish in spelling: Cap-it-all-ism.



✧ CAPITALISM IMPLICATIONS ✧

A few of the manifold implications are outlined below.

The maximum wage is set such that it is not a hindrance to the vast majority. If one chooses not to invest much time into work, then it is likely that earnings will fall below the maximum wage. This also implies that one can strive for material gain, should one choose to do so, though avarice is no longer as lucrative.



As opposed to a more communist structure, capitalism allows for personal freedom in how one spends money without requiring the empowering of the government to handle (or mishandle) the assignment of ration cards or quotas.

The fundamental law is the cap—a superstructure outside of regular law. Government resources regulate the cap while remaining under the cap. Institutional law is under the law not above the law.

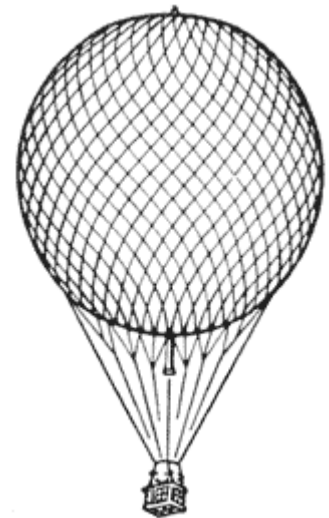
The basket price of items will in the course of things decrease. *All* sectors and industries—energy, financials, media, retailing, insurance, transportation, health care, etc.—will shift from large conglomerates and return toward medium and small business. Competition and innovation will continue to exist as long as life exists, and its commercial opportunities still viable to those who desire... but capitalism essentially removes money from the realm of competition. You cannot gain a practical monetary edge over competitors, but neither will competitors gain a monetary edge over you.

The distance between the haves and have-nots returns to lesser extremes, reducing hostility, reducing the overall cycle of violence.

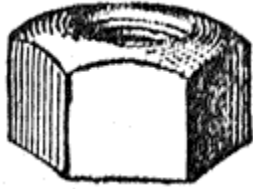
The current usage of the “third-world” countries for sweatshop manufacturing plantations is inhibited.

Lobbyists lose political persuasion. Things such as ecological causes for sustainable living rise in priority, being paid real service instead of lip service.

Realizing that extreme personal wealth beyond the cap is impossible no matter how hard one tries, the glass ceiling is seen for what it is. Futile energies formerly aimed at wealth accumulation is directed elsewhere, and people have more time to cultivate activities such as family, art, sport, existentiality, relaxation, and social service to name a few. These activities spread, influence other activities which spread, ad infinitum... creating a new flavor of society.



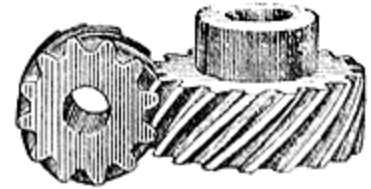
∞ IMPLEMENTING CAPITALISM ∞



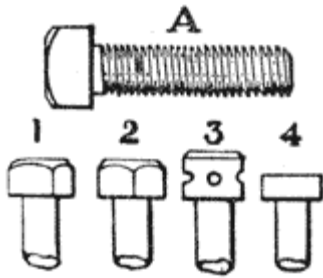
Government resources will help to address cap excesses on gross income, including interest and capital gains.

If one does not spend all income in the course of a year, extra money as usual can be placed in savings or investments. Owning amounts over the cap is not so problematic, but *earning* over the cap in the course of the year is.

Though ownership too has its limits. During the transitional phase of capitalism, existing superpowers will possess much wealth in savings and investments from pre-implementation days. Also, despite legally earning under the cap, individuals or institutions may through time and generations acquire excesses of wealth. And in a profitable year, there are cases where capital gains, investments, or profit may push aggregate earnings over the cap.



There are different possibilities for managing cap excesses. Excesses of ownership and earnings could be taken away and reallocated toward governmental upkeep (possibly eliminating most or all forms of taxation this way). Alternatively, earnings exceeding the cap could be rolled into a zero interest holding zone, there it may sit until next year when profitability slips under the cap, and then the balance is returned provided that it does not break the current year's cap. However, if for many consecutive years one continues to exceed the cap, or if one exceeds the cap by extraordinarily large percentages, then the business must restrain or disaggregate into pieces, or the person must restrain and have funds reallocated toward other causes such as societal or government upkeep. In addition, government itself shall disperse remaining wealth to different branches and programs so as not to become a mismanageable center.



Capitalism is implemented incrementally to minimize disruption. Initially the plan would be something to the extent of "no person may gross more than \$100 million per year, and no business may gross more than \$100 billion." A reasonable goal, allowing a brief period of time for personal income shifts and large companies restraining or breaking into smaller segments. The implementation incrementally progresses toward "no person may gross more than \$50 thousand per year, and no company may gross more than \$50 million." These caps are estimates. A personal cap of \$75 thousand may be a better approximation. Guidelines for the best cap are speculated in advance, though during the course of implementation a certain equilibrium may emerge as to what to most effective number is. Also, the caps are periodically adjusted for inflation, though arguably inflation would be minimized as the CPI becomes more stable.

How far off are these cap estimates? For consideration, following is a table of 2001 US income according to the US Census Bureau:

Type	Number (Thous.)	Number with income	Percent with income	Percent distribution								Median income		Mean income	
				\$1 to \$2,499	\$2,500 to \$4,999	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$15,000 to \$24,999	\$25,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 and over	Value (dollars)	Standard error (dollars)	Value (dollars)	Standard error (dollars)
				With income	With income	With income	With income	With income	With income	With income	With income	With income	With income	With income	With income
Males															
All Races	106,910	98,873	92.5%	4.9	3.1	8.5	9.4	17.3	31.2	13.8	11.8	\$29,101	\$151	\$40,859	\$213
White	89,291	83,750	93.8%	4.6	2.8	8.0	9.2	17.2	31.6	14.1	12.6	\$30,240	\$94	\$42,311	\$238
Black	11,721	9,944	84.8%	7.2	4.9	13.2	11.2	19.4	30.3	9.6	4.3	\$21,466	\$249	\$27,665	\$408
Asian and PI	4,761	4,165	87.5%	6.1	3.5	8.4	8.3	15.1	27.4	15.2	15.9	\$31,096	\$452	\$45,425	\$1,345
Hispanic	13,451	11,766	87.5%	4.5	3.4	12.5	14.3	27.3	26.6	7.4	3.9	\$20,189	\$161	\$26,674	\$418
Non-Hispanic White	76,602	72,649	94.8%	4.6	2.7	7.3	8.4	15.6	32.3	15.1	13.9	\$31,791	\$101	\$44,671	265
Females															
All Races	114,681	101,941	88.9%	10.0	6.1	16.6	13.4	19.7	24.0	6.7	3.5	\$16,614	\$73	\$23,602	\$122
White	93,795	84,207	89.8%	10.3	6.0	16.3	13.5	19.6	23.9	6.8	3.7	\$16,652	\$80	\$23,837	\$135
Black	14,450	12,414	85.9%	7.2	7.2	19.2	13.2	20.5	25.9	5.2	1.8	\$16,282	\$209	\$21,215	\$284
Asian & PI	5,051	4,164	82.0%	12.4	5.6	13.7	11.4	18.5	24.1	9.2	5.1	\$18,525	\$561	\$27,445	\$910
Hispanic	12,900	9,891	75.1%	10.7	5.3	20.4	16.8	21.2	17.9	3.3	1.4	\$12,583	\$206	\$17,846	\$356
Non-Hispanic White	81,656	75,117	92.0%	10.2	5.7	15.7	13.1	19.4	24.6	7.2	3.9	\$17,229	\$87	\$24,577	\$146

Keep in mind the figures of mean and median. Median income is a measure of centeredness, of middle income; whereas mean income is an average of all incomes. Abnormally high or low incomes will shift the mean away from the median. In the case of all females with income, the median is \$16,616 while the mean is \$23,602—a difference of about 40%. In the case of all males with income, the median is \$29,101 while the mean is \$40,858—that too a difference of about 40%. Due to abnormally high levels of income we have shifted off center. This is not even examining the arresting off-centeredness that one finds looking at disproportions of sex and race.

Thus, the majority of people will *not* expect to see their incomes reduced with the new maximum wage, but *will* expect to see inequality and exploitation reduced... and to a much greater effect than achieved with the minimum wage implementation.



∞ THE BEGINNING ∞

Capitalism does not seek to install yet another political ideology, but instead seeks to free ideologies from gaining power. In turn it can be embraced by socialists, democrats, compassionate conservatives, whoever recognizes its value toward reshaping the structure of general welfare. Life can take other routes besides mega-institutional ubiquity.

Strength in numbers and military might are other means for special interests to accumulate effective power over others (though even a cursory study will find wealth connected to the more influential instances). Capitalism does not pretend that anything can be The Answer For Everything; it is a needed and effective advancement whose pros highly outweigh the cons. It makes the obvious obvious. It is not a revolution: It is the next practical step, and one that we can start to enjoy *now*.

War and revolution are manifestations of psychic epidemics. Through cognitive dissonance, our consciousness constructs a world in which everything is explained into perfect, crystalline place. This construction is an illusion, for at any moment there may strike a new madness to sweep us all away. Close introspection and desire to eliminate this madness will mitigate its effects, but our current climate deemphasizes and distracts from such personal development. In the meantime, all that do follow the path for self-improvement watch as powerful movements gather to send us reeling down another insanity. Unless humanity reaches some utopic state of perfection where all personalities are actualized, then steps must be taken to stop this madness from taking control. Capitalism is that step. It is simple, and it veins through the heart.

