

# REVOLUTION LA

## Revolutionary Fact Sheet

It is no longer a conspiracy. Many are waking up to see that wealth and power are concentrated in the hands of a small handful of people. The driving force behind U.S. policymaking is money, rather than the freedom, security and well being of the people. The democratic system has been subverted. Our political system is not run by its citizens, but a network of economic elites and big business interests.

The fundamental divide of profit over people needs to change. The needs of the people must be placed over profit and corporations otherwise a future of equal opportunity will continue to diminish for generations to come.

The current social and economic state:

- 50 million Americans live below the poverty line.<sup>1</sup>
- Nearly 17 million of these are children.<sup>2</sup>
- Over 46 million citizens rely on foods stamps and government assistance.<sup>3</sup>
- 100 million working age Americas do not have jobs – that’s 41.5%.<sup>4</sup>
- Those who do work only make a small fraction of the labor they produce.
- 77% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck at least part of the time.<sup>5</sup>
- 1 in 4 workers bring home wages below the poverty line.
- US has higher percentage of low-wage workers than any other industrialized nation.<sup>6</sup>
- Boomerang Generation: 1 in 8 live with their parents.
- 65 of the wealthiest own \$1.76 trillion, same as amount collectively shared by 3.6 billion people in the world.<sup>7</sup>

In 2014, the federal taxes and expenditure allocated 57% of the budget on military, with only 6% going to education. Figures show that the US has more jails than we do colleges and universities. A civilization that spends more money on war and imprisonment than on education is anything but civilized.

- Demise of US civilian economy has led to the rise of the war economy and growth in military, private defense contractors and mercenary sectors. Shares of US arms manufacturers have risen 27,699% in the past 50 years.<sup>8</sup>
- War economy: poor US citizens are sent to fight the poor in other countries as the rich continue to get richer: they control the industries, oil and banking, that profit from war.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://rt.com/usa/us-poverty-rate-50-million-393/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nccp.org/topics/childpoverty.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/ali-meyer/food-stamp-beneficiaries-exceed-46000000-37-straight-months>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/guest-post-illusion-recovery-feelings-versus-facts>

<sup>5</sup> <http://thetruthwins.com/archives/77-percent-of-all-americans-live-paycheck-to-paycheck-at-least-part-of-the-time>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/04/24/1086098/-The-United-States-is-a-low-wage-nation>

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- Trillions of dollars spent on killing innocent people far away while the people at home suffer in poverty, class, gender and racial divides. (Iraq and Afghan war has cost US taxpayers \$4-6 Trillion.)
- It would cost about \$30 billion per year to lift every family out of poverty. The US military spent \$737 billion on 'military defense' in 2012. \$30 billion is about 8 days of our military expenditure.<sup>9</sup>

*"Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man made and can be removed by the actions of human beings." – Nelson Mandela*

To understand the economy, we need to look at the role of financial elites and concentration of economic decision-making. 20 years of global 'free market' economy has led to wide-scale poverty and social destitution. Domestically it has caused mass unemployment, a collapse of state social programs, millions impoverished and widespread social inequality.

- Interest rates are set by the Federal Reserve, privately owned monopolies. 'The market' is controlled by people who want to maximize profits.
- Market rigging, financial manipulation, fraud within the financial sector manipulate interest rates and price of commodities like oil and electricity.
- Oxfam study finds that richest 1% will control half of global wealth by 2016.<sup>10</sup>
- 805 million or 1 in 9 people in the world are starving or undernourished.<sup>11</sup>
- Globally: 1 in 7 live in slums/shantytowns. At least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10 a day.<sup>12</sup>

How the 1% stay in power: the 1% cannot achieve its goals without armies of workforce and technocrats sacrificing morals to secure corporate and political positions. The reality is not 1% vs. 99% but 15% vs. 85%, as 15% passively serve the destructive acts of the 1%.<sup>13</sup>

Inequality breeds injustice, which breeds instability. It will take a collective effort of shared resources and ideas to restructure our world into one that is founded on economic security, equal opportunity and universal human rights. The limits of tyranny and oppression cannot be challenged unless we unite and act to reclaim our power.

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/bp210-economy-one-percent-tax-havens-180116-en\\_0.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp210-economy-one-percent-tax-havens-180116-en_0.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/10/17/confronting-13-years-of-permanent-war/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.storyleak.com/one-week-us-military-spending-wipe-out-world-hunger/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/business/richest-1-percent-likely-to-control-half-of-global-wealth-by-2016-study-finds.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://thp.org/knowledge-center/know-your-world-facts-about-hunger-poverty/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-global-money-matrix-the-forces-behind-americas-economic-destruction/5360961>