New Rules for the 21st Century

Corporate Power, Public Power, and the Future of the American Economy

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Neoliberal Economics Promised

• Better Economic Growth
• More Fair Economic Distribution
• That Racial Segregation Would “Compete Itself Away”
GDP Growth Has Slowed Since 1980

Gross domestic products (GDP) is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services.

Inequality Has Increased

Source: World Inequality Database
Racial Wealth Divide Has Worsened


Source: Urban Institute calculations
WHY?
WORKER PRODUCTIVITY KEEPS GROWING
But wages aren’t keeping pace.

Productivity has risen 77% since 1973
Hourly compensation is up just 12.4%
Companies pay more to shareholders, less to workers

Before 1970, companies reinvested 50% of profits and paid the other half to shareholders. After 1980, companies paid 90% to shareholders.
For decades, policymakers have acted on the belief that more powerful companies were good for the economy.

And that worker power – unions, organizing – was bad for the economy.
But now we know: the American economy rewards those who have power—a reality rarely mentioned in conversations about economic growth and opportunity.
THE SOLUTION?

Curb concentrated, extractive corporate power.

Reclaim public power.