

The Delray Democrat

Why Workers Are Angry¹

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As the election shows, people are angry. They voted to tear down the “establishment” because they’re angry. Part of their anger was motivated by racism, sexism, and transism, but part involved things about which they have a right to be angry.

They’re angry because they can’t get ahead, because they work hard and have trouble affording basic things like housing, food, and healthcare. As always, the ruling class uses divide and conquer techniques to drive people to be angry at the people below them economically rather than those above them. The problem is immigrants, or money going to trans medical care.

Ronald Reagan started the assault on workers with his union busting strategy. Democrats did not respond strongly enough and Global Capitalism, starting with NAFTA, decimated American workers. Ross Perot was right about the great sucking sound as jobs left the US. And NAFTA was Clinton mostly, with Republican votes to pass it.

Democrats own NAFTA and many workers haven’t forgotten that. The tradeoff, with NAFTA and subsequent international agreements, was that we’d lose good paying jobs but imported stuff would be cheaper. There was supposed to be retraining funds for workers losing their jobs, but if there are no jobs that pay as well, then there are no jobs that pay as well.

Capitalism is all about profit, and corporations don’t care about their workers, their city, their country, or their world, only profit. Of course some corporations are more socially responsible, but the big capitalists moved profitable factories offshore because they could make more money over there. It didn’t matter that American workers lost their jobs.

Profit is essentially the difference between what workers produce for the corporation and what they get paid. I can’t find statistics on the percentage of profit that a company pays shareholders compared to worker pay over the years, but we do know that CEOs used to get around 30 times the pay of the average worker and now it’s hundreds of times. The bottom line is that American workers are not getting paid enough to keep up with the costs of living, even with Chinese imports made cheap by slave labor.

We need a strong government and regulations to rein in the grossest behavior of corporations, which is why the right wing funds the mantra that big government and regulations are bad (for business). Even while our government is mostly controlled by business interests, it is all we have to regulate corporations. Of course, being global, without a world government they just have to move operations to a more “business” friendly country. Thus the need for the right wing to hate the UN.

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), March 2025, page 3.

Can we fight this when we need the money of big Capitalism to compete for votes? Can we fight this when I don't know if people will agree that the simplest solution to struggling workers is to mandate that corporations pay a certain percentage of their profit to their workers instead of shareholders? Can we fight to get back unions that give workers some leverage at the bargaining table? Would the right-wing Supreme Court even allow laws that mandate limits on shareholder profit?

Democrats once had the backs of workers and unions, and many workers now lament that Democrats are just Republican lite. The only way to get back the support of workers is to support the workers. We'll have a chance. If the Supreme Court doesn't just hand the kingship to Trump, Democrats can hardly lose in the 2026 midterms. But the Democrats better have a plan to make things better.