SUMMARY

Working together cooperatively rather than in competition is the foundation for a new economy and peaceful world.

- New reports and studies continue to provide quantifiable data that capitalism is in trouble.
- The root cause of inequality is an economic system that fails to deliver the equal opportunity it promises due to its own inherent limitations.
- Capitalism fails sustainability testing under both growth and non-growth conditions.
- Capitalism is a limited bi-polar construct generating a loser for every winner.
- The availability of capital and social services is key to equality and opportunity.
- A trickle-up economy requires taking responsibility for being the face of change in the world, capitalizing from within beginning at the grassroots level.
- Open-sourcing, non-profit cooperatives, crowd funding, and a universal basic income are examples of trickle-up business models already in existence.
CREATING A TRICKLE-UP ECONOMY

The economy moving forward will be extremely challenging for those still mired in old world economics, but for the rest of us, new opportunities abound. Just like we are the ones we’ve been waiting for, so too, are we the ones who will self-fund the new economy with our own capital, volunteerism, and gifting. This is incredibly good news as we step into our power as sovereign beings, acting under our own authority in service of all humanity.

How you write your future is up to you. But, as you will see, the power of a new economy has been quietly at work behind the scenes for a while, waiting for momentum to bring it into the spotlight.

THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM

New reports and studies continue to provide quantifiable data that capitalism is in trouble. Income inequality and the damage it inflicts is back in the news with the recent paper by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Trends in Income Inequality and its Impact on Economic Growth. OECD summarizes by stating, “Rising inequality is estimated to have knocked more than 10 percentage points off growth in Mexico and New Zealand over the past two decades up to the Great Recession. In Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, the cumulative growth rate would have been six to nine percentage points higher had income disparities not widened . . .”

Though OECD cites that, “. . . the main mechanism through which inequality affects growth is by undermining education opportunities for children from poor socio-economic backgrounds, lowering social mobility and hampering skills development,” the root cause of wealth inequality is an economic system that fails to deliver the equal opportunity it promises due to its own inherent limitations.

Outside of policy-induced bubbles, for most people, capitalism is only slightly better than other economic systems and less so when met with its kryptonite. But, before we get to that, let’s examine capitalism’s beginnings.

CAPITALISM’S ROOTS

Capitalism flourished in the beginning largely due to and literally off the backs of slaves. Later, the American South was reluctant to end slavery primarily due to economic reasons, but need not have worried as the economic forces of capitalism went to work with a national and global population explosion.

Currently, many countries are hitting peak population, in that fertility rates are below replacement level. Though this should be good news, it’s only good if
consumption continues to rise. Growth is the key ingredient to the continued viability of capitalism as a premier economic system.

Without growth, capitalism is rendered no more, and possibly less effective than socialism as the U.S. continues to slip down global quality of life indexes. Capitalism’s kryptonite, stagnation, means capital is taken out of circulation to service debt and becomes concentrated in the hands of the few.

Let’s qualify the following by stating that to build a better world; it must be recognized that there is no singular panacea to handle all human needs except a gift economy, a concept too far-reaching for most of humanity. Regardless, a shift in how we do business is being called for. Are you up for the challenge?

Analysis of 2013 federal data by the Southern Education Foundation reports that over half of public school children are from low-income families suggesting capitalism does not benefit everyone to the extent it should. The reason capitalism is only a slightly better economic system, even when running at peak performance, is that profligate materialism comes at the expense of our planet.

We should not be poisoning our planet with material excess and the processes used to create it. Poverty levels should not be rising or even exist in this stage of human advancement. Infrastructure and standards of living should not be in a state of decline. The last thirty years have proven that trickle-down economics mostly trickles down to a very few. So, what’s wrong?

**CAPITALISM’S BIPOLAR NATURE**

One of the three core elements of capitalism is competition. Capitalism is a limited bipolar construct that generates a loser for every winner. This is the true trickle-down effect as 45.3% of households fail to earn enough income to pay federal income tax. Diluting the positive benefits of capitalism further, corporations outsource labor to non-capitalistic countries, becoming complicit in human rights violations by those willing to turn a blind eye.

Too many people, even in this country, are struggling for access to basic shelter, food, water, healthcare, and higher education. Competition has wrought enough damage to each other and the planet, creating parasitic-type conditions that have hindered true innovation that could easily end human-made poverty.

World peace will forever remain elusive as long as we battle to secure our own survival, blind to the realization that our neighbor’s well-being is vital to our own. As a species, we are interconnected and inseparable from one another and our ecosystem. The greater truth that no mainstream economist has dared state publicly is that capitalism is not sustainable.

Instead of debating outdated economics, let us come together to forge a new path—one that is practical and truly provides equal opportunity for all, even those...
desiring to live a simple life. Capitalism served us well, but it’s become evident that working together cooperatively rather than in competition is the foundation for a new economy and peaceful world.

The OECD report concludes that “Cash transfers and increasing access to public services, such as high-quality education, training and healthcare, are an essential social investment to create greater equality of opportunities in the long run.” Why? Because capital is put back into circulation. Notice how cutting social services and austerity measures have failed to alleviate capital shortages or generate growth.

If you wonder who is going to pay for a cash infusion and services, you are already paying for it, but so inefficiently that politicians and citizens alike are balking at the idea even maintaining what we currently have in place—and rightly so.

Most present human activity, including capitalism, is entrenched in short-term gains rather than playing for the long-run. War is inefficient; debt-based economies are inefficient; even charitable organizations are not running at peak efficacy as we continue to band-aid the side effects of unsustainable economic activity, rather than addressing root causes.

TRICKLE-UP & SUSTAINABILITY

Whatever economic system we embrace, it must include social agreements, social responsibility, and allow for conservation in equal if not greater measure as we plant the seeds of tomorrow. We are presently living the ongoing results of our failure to adequately address these essential elements.

A trickle-up economy is one that capitalizes from within. Trickle-up mirrors nature in that it supports the genius that exists all around us, rather than acting out predatorily. Genius or not, even a child can offer two ideas toward improving conditions in his or her hometown in a matter of minutes. So why don’t we all? Who starts the trickle? You do.

Trickle-up includes accepting responsibility for being the face of change in the world by supporting paradigms that serve all of humanity, starting locally. When we come together cooperatively, the cost to the individual is small while the rewards are exponential. i.e. Imagine if each of us volunteered just a few hours each month.

Trickle-up business models do exist, and not as a new form of socialism. Non-profit cooperatives (NPCs) such as food and banking NPCs, employee-owned businesses, some private foundations and charities are just a few examples. When you back a non-profit, your investment is returned to you in the form of reduced
costs on products or services, and sometimes even in cash. That capital is then pumped directly back into the economy, improving everyone’s quality of life.

Other examples include crowd funding and open-sourcing. Both encourage transparency, accountability, and collaboration in a non-threatening and even exciting environment. Dynamic and responsive, everyone’s genius is recognized, no matter how small the contribution. Effectiveness is more quickly assessed in an uninhibited environment.

GRASSROOTS COOPERATION

When an idea truly serves the good of all, growth springs forth at the grassroots level, as interdependent, connective, and sustainable. As the individual supports NPCs or charity, NPCs support and receive support from other NPCs or charities—on up the food chain. If an organization is doing noble work and is managed properly, it thrives despite market conditions.

The myth is that great wealth can’t be created without market dominance and manipulation. How many good ideas have gone on to generate huge wealth for those who carried them to the finish line despite a competitive system? And if we worked together instead?

Herein lies unlimited human potential, as wealth is returned full circle to provide a higher standard of living and greater opportunity for all. We really are only as strong as our weakest link. The perpetual playing field now level, true national and international security are realized.

Open-sourcing, non-profit cooperatives, crowd funding, and a universal basic income are suitable to ensure every man, woman, and child has equal access to basic shelter, food, water, healthcare, and education—as a human right. As long as capital, and human capital (service) are kept in circulation, and non-profits are not used solely as tax shelters, our new trickle-up economy becomes a floor, not a ceiling.

It is recognized that as long as humans are involved, there will be challenges to overcome. It takes a mature individual to evolve into becoming the sovereign being who takes full responsibility for his or her actions.

You are your own economy. What will your genius create? What and who will you support with just a few hours of your time and a few dollars? It’s no longer about competing with your neighbor for materialism; it’s about joining together, allowing great ideas to flow unhindered, and enjoying the river of wealth that follows.