

Government and Capitalism in the U.S. System

“The War System” that also functions as “Socialism for the Rich”

Corporations, Big Business, and the Rich (in the U.S.)

Top 1% owns 43% of the wealth.

Top 15% owns 93% of the wealth.

The entire system is designed to extract wealth from the many and funnel it to the few.

- Exploitation of their labor by their employers: low wages, contingent employment, no benefits

- Extraction of their wealth through high cost of goods, services (health care, education), debt, and interest payments

The People (the Middle Class and the Poor): 85%

Bottom 85% owns 7% of the wealth.

The wealth that they produce through their labor is systematically transferred to the wealthy classes in three primary ways (marked above in blue boxes).

• U.S. gov't functions to transfer the wealth from people to the rich:

PENTAGON (futuristic expensive weapons systems, revolving doors with fat corporate jobs, pork-barreling)

- (1) Financing the industrial-military complex (by taxpayers).
- (2) Foreign wars and imperialism (by taxpayers)
(The Iraq war alone cost 3 trillion dollars)
- (3) Private “security” and “defense” contractors (paid for by taxpayers).
- (4) Lower taxes on income and capital gains for the rich and for corporations.
- (5) Privatizing public assets (post-office, social security, utilities, education, health care, prisons)
- (6) Bailouts for bankrupt corporations and banking (by taxpayers).

Sources: Boswell and Chase-Dunn, *The Spiral of Capitalism and Socialism*, 2000.
Parenti, *The Face of Imperialism*, 2011
Johnson, *Dismantling the Empire*, 2010