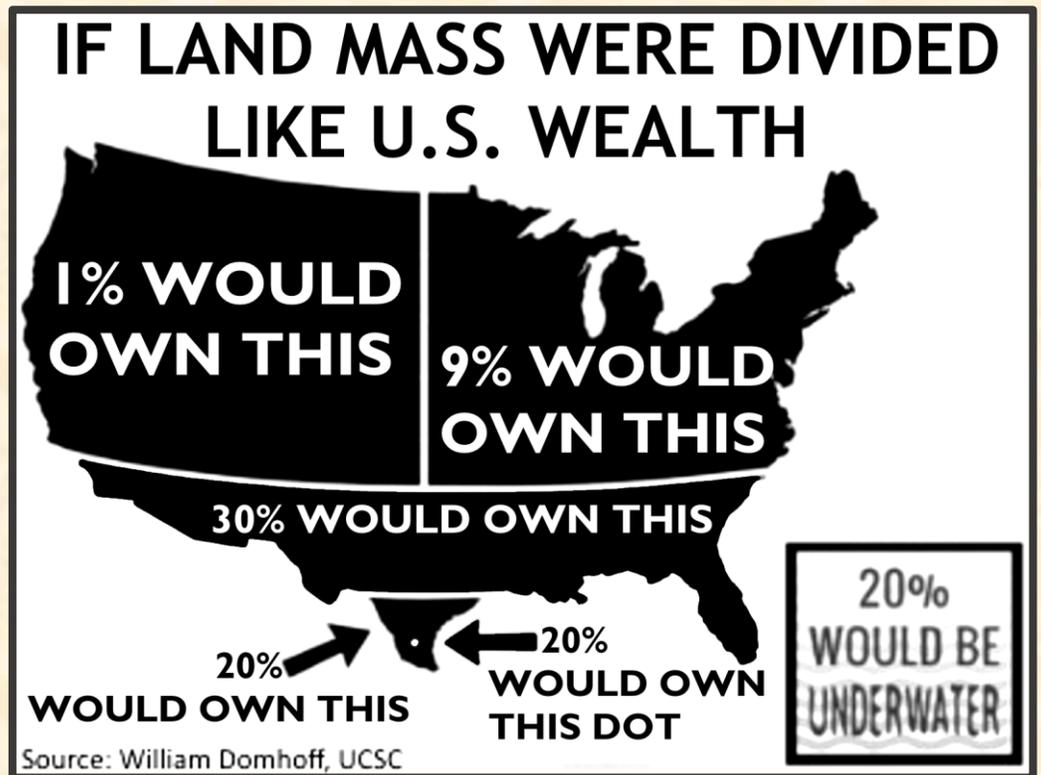


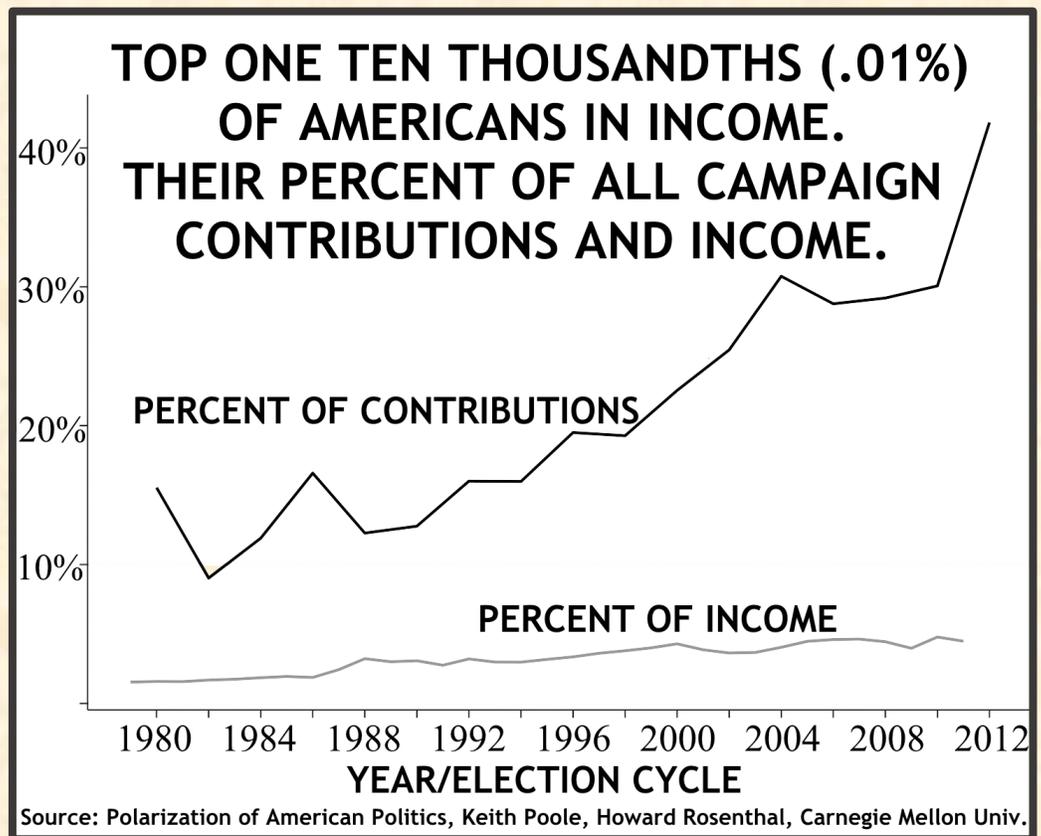
**HUGE  
ECONOMIC  
INEQUALITY  
RESULTS IN**



**HUGE  
POLITICAL  
INEQUALITY**



**The combined wealth of the bottom 20% and the next 20% would put 40% underwater so not even on the U.S. map**



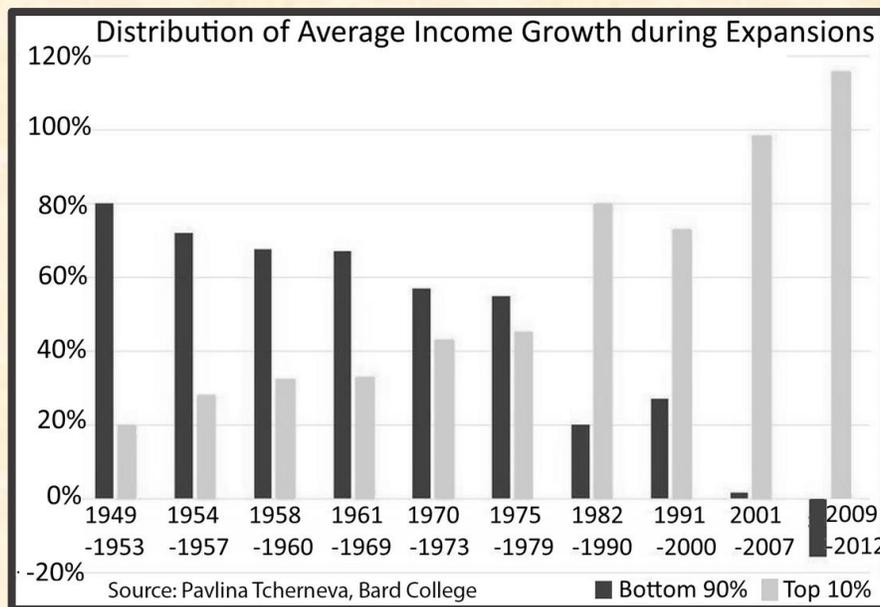
**More  
Information**



**400 Americans have over \$2.3 trillion, more than the total wealth for the bottom 60% or 190 million Americans - a level of inequality far worse than most people imagine could exist. This level of disparity is almost incomprehensible.**

[Click here to see how truly vast it is.](#)

**The chart below shows that who benefits from the "good times" of economic expansions has changed drastically over the decades, with progressively less benefit, and in the most recent expansion a loss to the bottom 90%. Trickle-down economics is more appropriately called trickle-down economics for the bottom 90%.**



## **The United States: Out of Balance & Precariously Positioned**



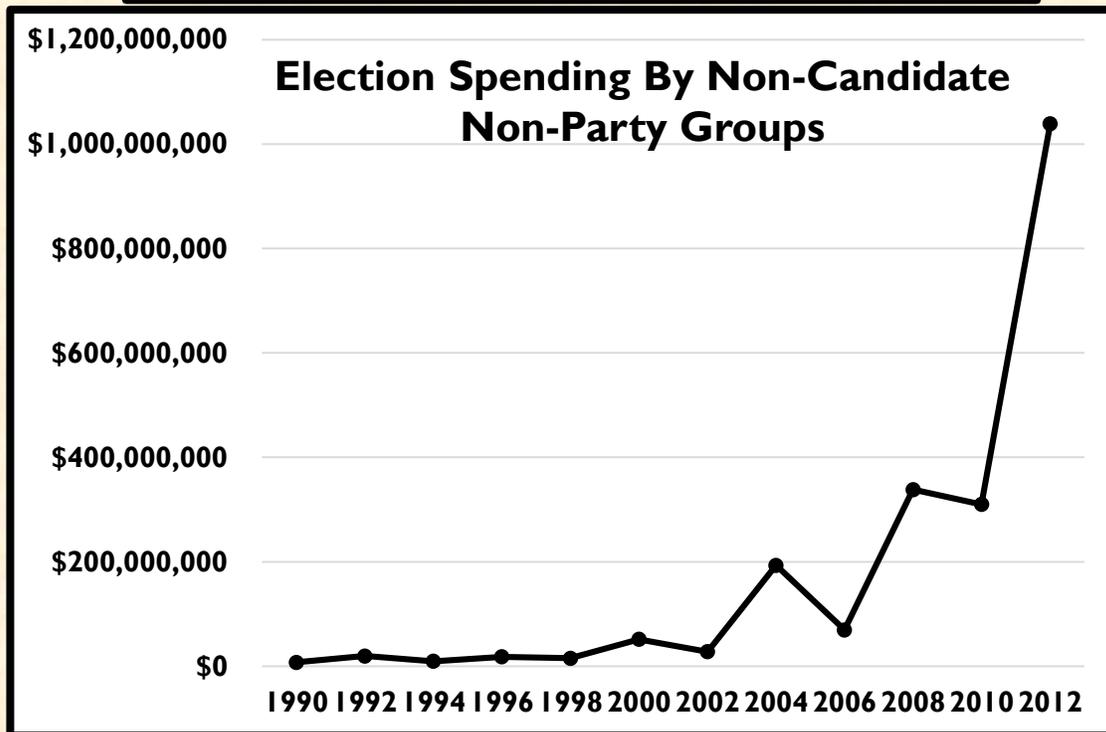
- From 2009 to 2011 GDP gains were \$1.3 trillion, but since the bottom 99% lost income, the top 1% received 121% of these gains or \$1.57 trillion in additional income.
- 105 million Americans are in poverty or low income (less than 2X poverty level).
- Despite almost a doubling of GDP per capita due to productivity gains since 1979 median wages are about the same and the wages of the bottom 20% have fallen.
- The top 1% has about 1/4 of US income. People who have contributed the most to society have not been among those most rewarded financially. Far from it, there has been a disconnection between private rewards and social returns.
- US income mobility is lower than all other advanced countries and much lower than 30 years ago. This means we are wasting some of our most important resources – our human resources.
- A recent Gallop poll found that 20.2% of Americans did not have enough money to buy the food they or their family needed at least once over the prior year.

**More  
Information**



- **6 Heirs of Wal-Mart** have wealth of \$145 billion, equal to the combined wealth of the bottom 42% of US population or 133 million Americans. It seems the ideal of all having an equal chance at the starting line is gone. **Gross concentrations of wealth, inherited or not, characterize aristocratic, not free and democratic societies.**
- **A Boston College Center on Wealth and Philanthropy study projects that \$36 trillion will be passed down to heirs from 2011 and 2061.** This will be the largest intergenerational wealth transfer in history. It will create a new aristocracy with unprecedented wealth, and therefore power.

**The vicious cycle between growing political power and economic power is making our society feudal-like, dominated by a few super-wealthy “lords.”**



- Before the 2010 “Citizen’s United” Supreme Court decision the huge financial resources of corporations and extremely wealthy individuals were a serious corrupting influence on our democracy. The trend shown in the above chart indicates one reason all remnants of a meaningful democracy are disappearing.
- The Koch Brothers network alone spent nearly a billion dollars on the 2016 presidential elections, about the amount each of the two major parties spent.
- The U.S. Congress has a 9% approval rating, now reaching an historic low, as it has several times over the past 5 years, yet in 2012 and 2014 over 90% were reelected. Clearly we live in a country with a failed political system.
- Many have lost hope that the political system will serve their interests, even to the point of not bothering to vote. Why bother to vote if your interests will not be served whoever wins? In 2014, 36% of all eligible voters voted. This is the lowest voter participation rate in the developed world by far.

**More**  
**Information** 

- **Ex-President Carter** whose **Carter Center** has monitored **96** election in **38** countries said *"We have one of the worst election processes in the world right in the United States, and its almost entirely because of the excessive influx of money."*
- In a **Gallup** poll on **Oct. 11, 2013**, **60** percent of **Americans**, the highest **Gallup** has measured in the **10-year** history of this question, said the **Republican** and **Democratic** parties *"do such a poor job that a major third party is needed"*  
Despite the urgent need to address this issue our political system and media make it almost impossible for a third party candidate to be elected to national office.
- **In 2016, 0.53% of Americans supplied 67.8% of the campaign contributions.**
- **In 2016, corporations spent \$3.15 billion using 11,167 people to lobby Congress and federal agencies.**

---

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT,  
PART 1, "NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT"

FOR SOLUTIONS: PART 2, "THE WAY TO PROSPERITY FOR ALL" &  
PART 3, "THE WAY TO A GOVERNMENT OF, FOR, AND BY THE PEOPLE"

PART 4, ADDITIONAL "SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND  
COMPELLING ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING POLICIES"

## THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT

A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Peaceful American Revolution

The Way to A Government Of, For, and By The People

The Way To Prosperity For All