

Divided We Fall: An Analysis into the Necessity of American Unions

Every year we see more and more about the so-called “pitfalls” of the American Union work forces. Every year the power of big government grows and the deficit widens about as inversely rapidly as your voice shrinks. As this gap between what used to be and what has become grows, the essence of what labor unions do has become lost in the shuffle and thrown to the back burner. The goal of a labor union is simple- give workers a stronger voice so that they can get a fair share of the economic growth they help create. This basis was a founding principle factor in making the economy grow, essentially enabling the economy to work for all Americans. Since the early 2000’s this novel concept has taken on more and more fire so it should be no surprise that these numbers provide a direct correlation to the American recession.

It has been well documented in history that America tends to be it’s own worst enemy. Whether it was bad legislation or an ill-advised war, Americans historically have dug their own graves. During many of these gloomy times it was actually Unions who helped paved the way to daylight. Unions helped create the middle class for millions of American workers and pioneered benefits such as paid health care and pensions along the way. Even today, union workers earn significantly more on average than their non-union counterparts, and union employers are more likely to provide benefits. In a time where we are resorting to “bailouts” and government spending to spur the economy, we could instead simply look to the historically proven concepts we are now foolishly arguing against. It does not take printing money and increasing inflation to put money into the consumer’s hands but rather, workers need to have the purchasing power necessary to drive our economy. A problem Unions fix.

If the economic investment alone isn’t worth your vote for a unionized America, we can further examine the benefits of unions and their profound effects for your pocketbook. Unions in America were strongest during the mid 20th Century, encouraging industrialization, and a exponential amount of economic growth that led America to be the world leading super power it once was. In these years, American wages directly reflected their productivity increase. According to Dr. David Madland, director of the American worker project, since this time period “If American workers were rewarded for 100 percent of their increases in labor productivity between 1980 and 2008—as they were during the middle part of the 20th century—average wages would be \$28.53 per hour—42.7 percent higher than the average real wage in 2008.”

In a world where power falls in the hands of the wealthy, those that argue against the necessarily of unions in America are becoming mere pawns for the wealthy elitists. By refusing to put the power back in the hands of the masses, Americans are slowly but surely arranging their own execution. By joining Unions Americans can not only gain a strong and powerful voice, but they also often gain superior wages and have greater business successes of those within equivalent industries. Before the American society is ready to embark in such change they must first alter their current mindset and be able to recognize the national power of labor unions, accepting them as a building block of this

country that created opportunity and security for underprivileged Americans every where.

Since the start of this current economic recession members of unions are dwindling. While we struggle to find our footing and climb back out of the ever-deepening pit, America must realize that unions are an embedded and necessary part of American society that does indeed need to be changed. Unions must no longer be scrutinized and chopped down, that must change. Unions must regain power and help stabilize the middle class, that must change. Unions need not be attacked nor fled from, but rather turned to as a part of the solution and not part of the problem, which must change. Lastly, Unions will no longer be questioned about their necessity for the American people nor will we the people allow a tyrannical government to gain power and squash the masses that shall change. United we stand, or divided we may fall.

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