

Labor Unions Their Formation and Decline

Watching the power of Labor decline over the past forty years has been enlightening to my interest in the strategies of long-term planning. It seems to me that the distinct advantage that Capitalism has over all other “isms” is the affect that profit has on the absolute inner core of our human psyche. Any businessman knows how patient and affable one can become with the most obnoxious client if there is the chance a profit can be earned from that individual. I, too, have been amazed at how flexible I become when working to make a deal with someone. That person can hold personal values that I personally abhor, yet all the while there I am, listening, showing interest, and providing the groundwork for making a deal. Sure, I fantasize about slamming the person once I have my check cashed, but then what if another deal might be made in the future? I certainly don't want to jeopardize a future profit for the short-term satisfaction of regaining my manhood and my values. Still, business is business. We all understand that. Don't we?

What does this have to do with the decline of the power of Labor over the past many decades? Well, say I was a Capitalist during the second decade of the 20th century. Wealth, power, and control in my fists. Labor was being paid the absolute minimum wage, but everything Labor earned they gave back to me in their need to buy my products: bread, housing, clothing, housing, transportation, etc. What I gave them for their labor they more than gave back as consumers. They were no threat. After all, I controlled the newspapers, the police, the National Guard, and the Military. Sure their leaders complained and postured; promising their followers the moon. They talked big, but they were easy to isolate, and if they had charisma, to eliminate. Then something happened in Russia to definitely threaten my captured market.

With the death of the Czar in Russia and the introduction of the political institution of Communism using the Socialist Economic Model thereby stripping capitalism from the playfield, I suddenly had this fear of it happening here in the U.S. of A. I believe that was when I began to see the value of allowing the Unionization of Labor. Give them what they want in the short run until I could come up with a plan to get things back the way I liked. You guessed it; with me on top and everyone else below under my fist. It was a good first strategy, to give the common person the hope of a better life through forming and joining unions. Yeah, join a union, not an arm of Communism or Socialism. Of course, the plan was to use the unions as a buffer between me and the deadly outcome of a revolution like in Russia by the common laborer who was susceptible to the idea of labor being in control rather than those like me.

With the unions in place, a hierarchy of labor was created, and thus the seeds of corruption germinated nicely. It wasn't long before human nature overcame lofty values resulting with the union leaders skimming membership fees and getting paid off by me in back-room deals. Yep, the old European guild by any other name and the apprentice system where nobody gets in without the Master's approval and a commitment of loyalty. Allowing the unions' power tied them to me, for instead of overthrowing my tyranny, they sought to present an illusion of change while all the time defending the status quo. Brilliant! I mean Brilliant. I allowed them some concessions to make them look good to their membership. What a relationship all the while giving me the time I needed to eventually take it all back. It was beautiful! As the unions gained power, I gained protection from those I feared; the common person who I was exploiting to death. The one's that have death facing them are always the ones that are most dangerous.

The long-term plan was to regain the degree of power that I had released without any further threat of the common person's interests. I got the idea from Labor itself with their motto,

“Workers of the World, Unite!” At first, this motto really shook me up, what with all labor organizing and commanding a greater share of my pie. But then it suddenly came to me; the other side of the coin. I would encourage a worldwide labor market. That’s right. The fools! This would allow me to produce my products in any country. Then when any labor force became too demanding I would just move the production to a country that was more amenable to my needs; that being cheaper labor! With the true internationalization of the labor market I could get countries to compete for my contracts. Great tax breaks and without having to report my profits at home. I mean, I would report my profits a bit reduced. Who would know? True Capitalism at its best! The cheapest labor, the cheapest taxes, the cheapest land, and the least regulation over the market. Not only could I get the most for the least by being able to move my production over-seas, I could walk away from the greatest strength of the unions; the strike. With my mobility the unions would lose their hold over me. But of course at the time when all this began I didn’t have the technology in place. Thus the long-term plan and with patience and diligence at some point I would promote and then obtain the necessary technological advancements that would allow me to pull this off. Nothing like the ingenuity and drive for profit that would direct me to my desired outcome. But how to kick this off?

The greatest boom to technological development has always been a good war, which creates the critical mass of fear that through me and my buddies’ political control of government gives us free rein to allocate resources at will and to charge any price. Between the pressures of World War I and World War II, and my later introduction of the Cold War, my politicians had all they needed. “My politicians.” I’ve always liked the sound of that. Nothing like having control of all the committees in Congress. By having the power to encourage the wars and the subsequent development of ever more advanced defense systems, which I might share were built by my companies, well it was all child’s play. As technology blossomed through the industrious work of the very people who had the least to gain in the long run, I began to see my plans unfold.

In the 1980’s I began to have the long sought after technology in place--the computers, the modems, the fax, and the satellite telecommunications links--to internationalize the world’s labor market. By being able to move my production off-shores, labor lost their power to not only negotiate, but to strike and thus they lost their ability to hold onto their gains. Sure, I encouraged them to strike. This just allowed me to justify closing down the plant, for now I had the communication systems in place to hangout in my pool at home and to run my businesses all over the world with a tap on this or that key on my computer. Ha, ha...so, so deeply satisfying. Don’t you think? OK, not quite that way, but getting there.

In addition to the internationalization of the labor market, my strategy included the need to shatter the trust the American Public had in American Labor. In fact, this was one of the main stays of my plan. How to do this? I had to move public opinion into a hostile position with American production. American labor did a great job against all competition from international markets. Just look at the ability of American Labor to respond to the demands of the Second World War. American Labor was highly tuned, completely cooperative, and turned out the very best products at all levels. What would wipe out this impression? Some how I had to have the quality and pricing of foreign products outstrip American products to such a degree that the American public would want to buy foreign goods over American. Absurd? Hardly!

The first step was to leak our technology to certain foreign industrialists that were under my control. The appearance had to be that there was no collusion/conspiracy. The Japanese were the perfect choice. No American trusted the Japanese, and most people thought of their products

as inferior copies of the American model. The public would never have any idea of the degree of collusion.

Between the 70's and the 80's Japanese industry went under an amazing transformation, modernizing with new technologies. They began to put out products that put the American product to shame. Shame. The American consumer was gradually, but increasingly ashamed of American products from cameras, TVs, stereo systems, to automobiles. How did this come about? I editorialized through my newspapers the illusion of the Union worker as a fat cat, living a plush and easy life off of bloated salaries. I fostered the illusion that the Union workers were lazy and arrogant and that quality control was not a priority all because they all had secure positions. My proof? The American consumer knew the proof intimately. I focused most deeply on the automobile industry. The American made products were high in defects, the paint peeled, the headboards fell on people's heads, the seams between parts were not aligned, and they just weren't dependable. Meanwhile, I pointed out through my editorials that in comparison, the Japanese were turning out cars that were far superior in quality and dependability. I carefully explained to the American public that the Japanese labor truly appreciated the values of hard work and diligence. The American consumer, so easy to convince were like hypnotized and as they complained to each other of the too frequent repairs that they had to pay for, well they ate up the "propaganda."

The American cars in truth were shoddy. American Labor came under attack, and succumbed. The products were not competitive and even the average union worker came to believe that there was something wrong with him and that the Japanese workers were in fact superior. The self-esteem of the American worker was broken, and Organized American Labor became increasingly disenchanted with itself.

Myth or reality? Apparently reality, yet the wise person knows that reality is something like 90% perception. Perception of inadequacy, disregard of the work ethic, arrogance and utter disregard for the hard earned dollar spent by the consumer. Did the worker really fail, or was their failure orchestrated?

What does any labor do exactly? Some form of assembly work. What does labor assemble in the factory? What they are given to assemble. Who makes the parts and pieces that labor assembles? Other labor. OK, lets see what we have. Labor making and assembling pieces into things that we recognize as products, like cars, TVs cameras, etc. When the product fails who is to blame? Well, of course labor. But let's take a closer look at this product failure. Sure the labor manufactured the parts and assembled the parts into products, but the astute observer would likely wonder who engineered/designed the parts that when combined, failed? Could it be that the failure was in the engineering and the design work and that the failure was programmed into manufacturing? It sounds ridiculous that the engineering and design departments could have done this, sabotaging its own production without the direction of their supervisors and the CEO who ultimately had to sign off on all production plans. Of course I orchestrated this.

Remember the long-term plan. To destroy the threat to maximizing profits. Cheap labor is the key. Keeping the common person subservient is the way. As the paint peeled off the car, as American products went into the repair shop endlessly and the Japanese cars kept on the road American Organized Labor was destroyed.

Now it is the 21st Century and East European and Russian Communism has been knocked out. The internationalization of the labor market, the prime goal of Communism, has been co-opted into the Capitalistic plan, except at the disservice of all who work for their living. What protects the common worker, whether in the upcoming service industries, or in the bureaucracies

of government, or the health care field, if there is no check and balance between labor and the owners of production? NOTHING! Perfect.

The money that has been spread out, the money shared with Unions in order to subvert the encroachment of American socialism through the labor movement, all in reality was a privilege and not a right. Now those extended privileges have been swept out of their hands right back into our hands, the creators of the game of Economics. We are The House that rises up on shoulders of labor, from the labor of the people. We are America's Earls, Dukes, Barons, Kings and Queens. We had it all anyway until democracy was forced upon us. Did we out of the kindness of our hearts just give up our power? Hell no! It was usurped, for usurpation was how we viewed it. No, the hardy ones, the lean ones, the fittest of us entered commerce and became mighty and powerful industrialists and with our money we control the Financial Markets. It is our motto, "We Make and Break while we Shake and Bake." And now, we reach out through time with the election of Donald Trump and effect checkmate on the common person who works hard for their livelihood, with honor and integrity, but with seemingly endless naiveté and innocence.

But let's back up a bit and fill in the spaces. With the weakening of American labor we still needed to control the movement of goods and services on a worldwide level and to do this we poured money into internet start-ups with our seed money. Through our financial arms we were the ones to offer the Initial Public Offering, (IPO's) and gained stock at the initial offering, which often doubled and tripled in value during the first weeks. Yes, quicker and quicker avenues of communication, opening up factories outside the country where labor was the cheapest, supporting the outsourcing of services...making billionaires out of the a few to draw in all of the most capable in mathematics/computer sciences to develop those wonderful algorithms that powered our ability to delude and manipulate, fostering bubbles and the glee of popping them the day after we sold our interests compounding in mounds of profit...and being in control of government during the years of the Great Recession, why we were given trillions of dollars to keep the financial system of Capitalism alive and well...more money honey! Then the bliss of taking all of that money and buying up all the means of production not yet in our hands in the collapsed markets, way below cost, and thereby taking control of more and more companies. Amazing! Incredible! And as our boy Donald toots, "All legal. All Legal."

OK. Enough! Back to me, the one writing this. Enough role-playing. Makes me sick. Democracy is the reason why I share these ideas, perceptions, and concepts for democracy is our lifeblood. This lifeblood, democracy, must be protected from those who would keep us as food. Democracy is what gives us, the common person, hope and the reason to be. Democracy ideally provides for all of its people, not just a privileged group. This is not communism but cooperation and collaboration. People have forgotten what it used to be like. Our young people have been deluded into viewing those with life experiences as "Old School." To be ignored, marginalized, and forgotten. Our oldest people are dying off and with their death, so too does the avenue to truth die, for these elderly people know what it used to be like before the complete Take Over. The middle-aged person and young person today has no direct experience with a life when the common person had no rights, but only privileges dealt out, unevenly and sparsely.

The American public has been tricked with short-terms profits. The middle-class is shrinking because of their greed and now their small bits of wealth are being retrieved by those who shared it for their own self-serving reasons. We've been hustled, tricked, and hung out to dry. The long-term plan, the long-term profit is actually happening as they take back all that was given out. Those of us that believed that a billionaire would actually promote the welfare of the

workers... gad! Well? Now with the destruction of American Organized Labor, we common people have no protection. Through technology: The smart bombs, Satellites that can see to the ground so accurately that a photo of a penny can be taken, with more and more people hooking up to the Internet so that any thought transmitted can be tracked and recorded, with an increasing budget for police and prisons, it doesn't take a brilliant person to track the trend. All for more and more profit and less and less for us working people.

Is it too late? Does one still have the right to vote? Yes, but only if you're White and not living in poverty. Choice? Of course, yet is there really a difference between the Democratic and the Republican parties? The wealthy donate to both parties so which ever wins doesn't matter. They win. Is it too late to legislate protection of human rights, as appointees turn back the progress of civil rights? I don't know. Can we, the developers and workers of this technology be awoken from our dream of becoming one of them before we create the technology such that we too won't be needed? Right now, Right here! Awake! How about an algorithm that slams the breaks in order to reestablish a check and balance between those who have and would have it all and those with families who have worked hard to provide for their loved ones?

I do believe that there is still time and that there are some young people who have the will, the courage, and the skills to prevent a complete reversion of history from taking its terrible toll. They just have to exercise their Free Will and choose to do it. Take responsibility, get your heads out of the social media, streaming music and games and just do it! You can do it; you don't need to be told what to do. After all, all you have to do is to Google what life was like without democracy and then for the first time in your lives decide is that how you want to live?

We're talking of being courageous and sensible enough to be willing to see what is happening and being adult enough to take the risks by putting out the effort to bring life back into balance for everyone. We're speaking of the adult behavior in the taking up of the responsibility not just to the self, but also to our family, our community, and our country.

Some suggestions? In Outfar10.com open the page on Politics for some suggestions. Back Ground? Continue to look through Economy. Afterwards, get in touch with me if you want. I can be reached at Jonathan@outfar10.com.