

The Three Summary Charts

These one-page charts are the most condensed summaries of the 225,000 words of About The System. The third chart actually overflows onto a second page.

The charts are –

The Right To Unionise.

The key issue is that business people are organised and the majority, workers, are mostly not; or need to be more confident about their right to be organised and to take action, like business people are.

The Basics of Politics.

Shows how the majority need to base their politics on their class role as a worker, just like business people base their politics, and their dominating political strength, on theirs.

It's Your Money Not Theirs. (actually two pages)

Shows how the huge inequality in wealth comes from business people using their power over workers to pay them less than the value of what they do and to keep the difference, while presenting it as just reward for their own contribution.

The Right To Unionise

Business people, and public employers, are organised - as businesses and public bodies

Most people aren't organised as workers

One Starting

Un-unionised, each worker is weak because the employer has many others doing the work and doesn't much need any one more... or any one less...

One Sacked

The Right – the Entitlement - To Unionise

Most work is industrialised. Most employers have many staff. They can get by without any one leaving, any one new, or any one they sack, with the rest working. Each is weak in the job deal with their employer **not because the employer can replace them from the unemployed but because without them they still have all the others**. And, with most work industrialised and most workforces ununionized, there's the same unfair relationship in other jobs they might go to instead.

People shouldn't have to make their living on such unfair terms. It operates against anybody, whatever colour, gender, or nationality. They have the right to bargain with business people and public sector managers as equals, by unionising.

**Get Strength, Equality and Dignity
At Work By Being Unionised,
Negotiate As One, As Equals,
With Business Owners
And Public Service Managers**

Employers Are Organised - Workers Should Be

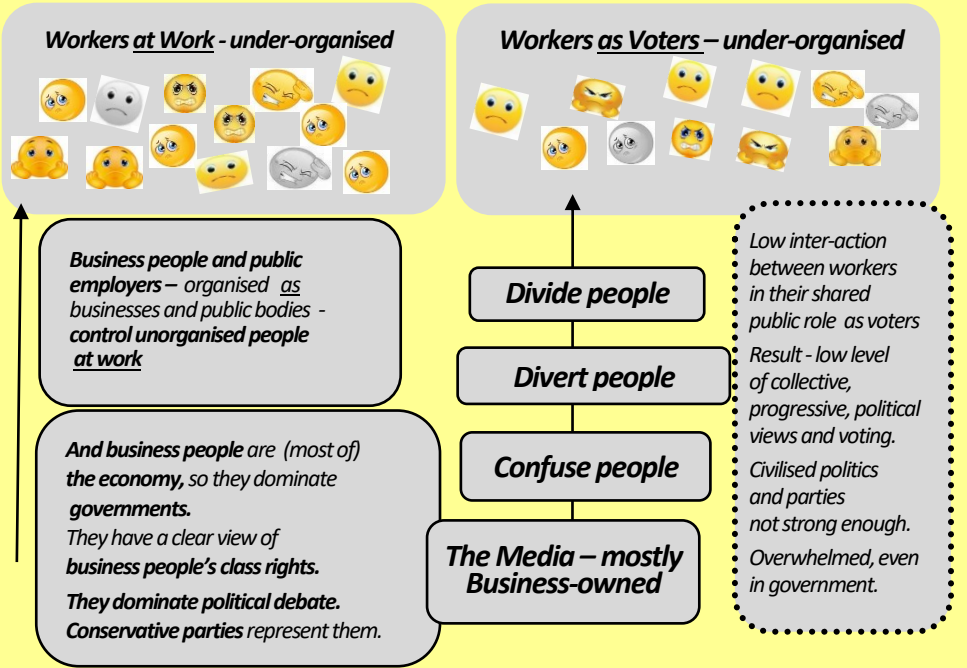
Such power for employers from 'having many others' is not on. It just grows out of industrialising, it was never decided. People are entitled to respond by unionising. It's about more than pay and conditions. By getting equal to managers you become adults at work, with dignity, not minions. Being in a trade union should be normal, accepted, expected and respectable in everyday life and politics.

Business people dominate the majority in politics as well as work. Their **work-based, trade-based** organisation makes them 'the economy'. Because of that they dictate to progressive governments. And by owning most of the media they dominate political debate. And they often get to **be** the government, through their conservative parties. Yet they say we should not be involved in politics through our unions, just work and working conditions! No—we, the great majority, workers, are entitled to use **our** trade organisation too, to become 'players' in the economy, alongside business people and the state, and to **build our** political parties and power.

People need to convince each other of their right to unionise – and do it.

Politics - The Basics

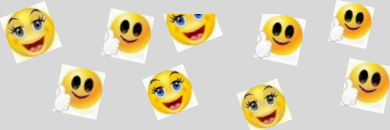
**Workers – The Majority of People - Are Mostly Atomised, Unorganised.
Business People, Their Parties, Their Media – Are Organised.**



How To Fix It

At Work, Workers Unionised

**Confident In Their Right To Be Organised
Dealing with Employers as one**



**Now equal at work to business owners
& public service managers
And now equal 'players'
with them in the economy**

**Business people – the business class –
their conservative parties
and their Media**

Voting As Workers, The Majority



**The worker majority, organised together
as workers, in unions, developing their
own independent, collective, civilised politics.**

**Resistant to
the business
class media**

**Civilised, easily
electable progressive
parties, able to
govern confidently
with mass voter
support, and
regulate the
business class.**

The 'Its Your Money Not Theirs' Chart

(Not really a chart any more after re-working Sept 2023)

How wealth comes from work that adds value

Business people spend money on premises, materials and equipment.

And spend some more on staff to work on the materials.

They might do some of the work themselves but the bigger the business, the more it's the staff who do most of the work.

The work produces goods or services of greater value than what was spent.

That is the point of most business and work activity.

This greater value is defined by what they are sold for.

What that is above the original spending is added value.

The equipment and materials can't increase their value themselves.

It's the work done on them that does that.

Business owners pay staff less than the value their work adds and, less interest and repayment of loans, keep the rest.

They charge more for the value the staff add than they pay them.

That's how they make profits. That's what profits are.

*They can do it because of the inequality in the job relationship – see *The Right To Unionise*, later.*

The standard business economics view is different. They say they buy in the 'factors of production' - premises, equipment, materials and labour – that's their 'costs' - and add an amount on top to the higher, sale price, as a separate thing. They say profit is from this, from what they add on top. This is absurd, fatuous, ridiculous. Although there is some trading where sharp operators play the market and make money by just buying and selling things, the non-human 'factors of production' are (mostly) bought in at the going market price and don't increase their own value. The work done on them is what does that.

***Is their contribution worth all of the added value?** Business people and the rich claim they are entitled to the added value as profit because of their enterprise, their taking of responsibility, their managerial talents, the risk of losing money, and their hard work. **They do deserve more but they overdo it.** Again, the bigger the business, in our industrialised economies, the more the staff do most of the work. What they take for their role – which is central, yes – isn't from some reasonable assessment. They use the crude, unfair trading relationship they have with the staff in the job deal – see *'The Right To Unionise* on the next page – to take an unjustifiable share of the added value for their own role.*

(The risk can be high for small businesses but big businesses generally cover losses with successes. And they use bankruptcy to evade their debts, meaning suppliers and banks bear much of the risk. And most of the capital they 'risk' was skimmed off workers' earlier work, as shown. And if they do go bust, they just join the rest of us as workers. They claim to be 'self-made' but that's usually not so, the staff create most of the value. Jeff Bezos doesn't shift many parcels.)

And when they sell at this 'added-on' price, or value, what are they selling? It's still the workforce's original work. Even the 'adding-on' is done by workers, in the Accounts or Sales departments! Likewise, if they buy equipment and materials for less than the usual market price, and claim that is where some of the profit comes from, that's the work of the workers in Buying. No - the money is made by the work done on the materials, by adding value to them – turning metal and other materials into cars, for instance - and selling them. The staff do that. They buy the staff's work at one price and sell it at another. If they don't make money out of the staff's work, why do they take them on? To get extra sales while selling at cost? Or to create jobs, as they often claim? Again, sell their work at cost and it might be believable.

Higher taxes on them is just workers reclaiming what's theirs originally.

Note - income tax is only part of general taxation. The rich pay less national insurance, the same VAT as everyone else, and capital gains at only standard rate. In the UK.

Note - some of them make money from buying and selling property or other not-easily-manufactured resources, or even currencies. This is just gaming the system. The work process is still the root source of wealth.

But their wealth can also be regulated at source, by staff being able to bargain effectively for their fair share. The next panel shows why and how.

The Right – the Entitlement - To Unionise – To Get Even

Most work is industrialised. Most employers have many staff. With **the rest** working, they can get by without any **one** leaving, any **one** new, or any **one** they sack. Each is weak in the job deal they make with their employer **not because the employer can replace them from the unemployed but because without them they still have all the others.** And, with most work industrialised and most workforces not unionized, there's the same unfair relationship in other jobs they might go to. **People shouldn't have to make their living on such unfair terms.** They operate against anybody, whatever colour, gender, or nationality. They all have the right to bargain with business people and public sector managers as equals, **by unionising.**

The issue explained here is the allocation of money earned by the business between the owners and all of the staff. That's the big issue and is explained by the process 'they've got many of you', explained above and in the chart 'The Right To Unionise'. Within a workforce, there's the secondary question of how much each worker contributes. That's not for here. See, in the work 'The System Explained', page 72 and the section 'The Rich – Are They Worth The Expense?'