

Business people run rings round us. They organize most of the goods, services and jobs we need. They organize and control our work; their business activity is the economy; they dominate politics and political debate. We leave it to them to perform these vital public roles even though most do it selfishly and, as a class, recklessly.

They cause most of our problems in politics, economics and public services. They engineered the forty year standstill in American workers living standards. They caused the 2008 crash because we allowed them to run the world economy in under-regulated free markets. They give us austerity and public service cuts in Britain, climate change, and many more problems.

Although business people dominate us and society, conservative politicians and pro-business commentators hide this with talk of ‘free markets’ or ‘capitalism’, as if they exist outside of or above humanity, as if they are a supra-human system. And as if they are fair, effective and benefit everybody. They don’t and they aren’t. They are just human relationships, they strongly favour business people, and its them who keep them in place.

We – ‘ordinary people’ - need to expose this system to each other. For that, we need an everyday term for it. Here it is: it’s **the free market business system**. ‘Business’ because that is the everyday form of it that we encounter, physically, practically. In it, the efficiency of mass production inevitably results in large-scale operations that dominate the economy. And those few who control them inevitably dominate the rest through the ‘many others’ mechanism (see next column). It is unfair and unacceptable. We can organize, change the relationships, and regulate business people.

And we need an everyday term for the people the free-market business system favours, those it gives power to over the rest to. It is, as above, **business people**. They are a class, **the business class**. Its especially the bigger ones, the 1% .or maybe the 5%. But its business people as a whole. To promote their interests and their system politically they organize **conservative parties**.

Some of them can be Ok, maybe some of the smaller ones, and small traders. But competition forces even the best to be bad. And they are bad as a class. We need to look at how we relate to them, and to each other, at work and in politics.

They can dominate society as they do because they are organized, daily, as businesses, at work. And because the rest, people as workers, mostly aren’t. And business people’s work-based organization and activity gives them a powerful everyday economic, political base. It makes them **the economy** (or most of it). Because they are the economy, they dominate politicians. It enables them to **dictate to governments**, even those that try to govern for everybody. And they dominate political **debate** because some of them own most of the pro-business, anti-worker media. They not only dictate to governments. Through conservative parties, that represent them, they are often **in** government.

There’s them, business people, the business class. They are **the ruling class**. And there’s **the working class**. Or maybe **the worker class** – all who live by having or needing a job. Most people. **Most people’s everyday equivalent role to business people is in making their living working for them or for public services.** That makes each of them a **worker**. We need widespread understanding of how we as workers relate to business people and the political system and to each other.

Unique to ‘Look At The System’ is this next, crucial insight into the problem of business people dominating the system. It shows exactly how business people dominate most of us as workers.

Most jobs, manufacturing or service, are in mass production, are industrialized, large-scale. So businesses, even small ones, and public services, usually have many staff. They can do without any one worker because they have many others.

This is how ‘free’ markets of ‘free individuals’ ‘freely’ doing deals operate against people as workers. **Employer’s organizations** get power over workers as **unorganized individuals**. ‘Free markets in labour’ are **unfair** markets in us. This causes the biggest inequality of all, that of business and public service employers over workers, because it harms **everyone** as a worker. It is bigger than gender and ethnic inequality and the others. It gives business people and public employers more power over **all** of the rest than they should have. It is the key problem of modern society.

For individual and collective self-defence at work workers are entitled to match business people’s and public sector employers’ organization by organizing together in unions. And, like business people do, to use this, their own equivalent, everyday, meaningful economic organization, to build their own political base. It is key to improving our condition in work and politics.

Business people's class power is the central feature of society. Yet they go largely unmentioned in everyday political debate. That's because they present 'free markets' as independent entities, open and fair to everyone. That masks the business class's actual existence.

Business people as a class, and their business system, cause most of our problems. Take wealth and poverty. Most money is made by everybody's work, but they take far more than they are due. They don't need public services so they oppose the collective taxation and spending that's needed. So business people can control oil, other resources and markets in other people's countries, political parties slaughter millions of them and destroy societies, like Iraq. That causes terrorism.

But it's our fault too. We don't take the trouble to understand 'the system' - the business, work, economic and political relationships that enable the business class to dominate. The civic, public relationships that determine jobs, wages, wealth, poverty, public services.

We do need business people, as there's no sign of us being organized enough to run the economy ourselves any time soon. We do need to do deals with them, at work and in politics. But we need to see how our relationships with them are unfair to us; to see that **we are a class, the working class, white-collar and blue-collar**; to see it as our main identity group; and to take the trouble to organize together, to get equal to business people, and to regulate them.

They are a minority, and we should be an unbeatable majority. But seeing the free-market business system as if independent of humanity and their dominance as just a fair outcome of a fair system masks the business class's actual existence.

And they disarm us. Pro-business media and politicians mask the business class's identity, and our working class identity. They do it by getting workers to not identify by class but by a self-defeating unity with business people defined by national, nativist, white-ist or sometimes religious identities. In each country, they use the prestige of the state to draw us into feeling at one with them under the dubious notion of national identities.

National identity only means living under the same political system. But it enables business class political parties and media to promote **insider v. outsider** mentalities to political problems instead of challenging them. It enables them to divert many of us from challenging them into challenging instead groups of ordinary people cast as outsiders.

Insider v. outsider works like this: many mis-treated workers don't see that it's the business class and their system that mis-treats them. So they don't blame or tackle them. But, feeling, and being given, an insider, nationalist sense of entitlement, they do blame or attack 'outsider' groups who, if they cause problems, are small compared to those business people and conservatives cause. They punch down instead of up. They turn to outsider-blaming, fake-nationalist, fake-patriotic maverick business people like Trump. Fake because what they mean by the nation doesn't include caring about the actual people, not even about their health. And insider v. outsider leads to some in Britain blaming the EU instead of taking on the British business class and their party, the Conservatives.

Outsider groups are shallowly defined, like by colour, culture, religion, sex or sexuality. Or, like foreigners, refugees and migrants, defined, and de-humanised simply by not living under the 'nativist' political system. Yet they too are mostly workers. Business people mis-treat workers of their own nation and colour just as they do those of other nations, colours and culture. Most share roles and problems with us as workers and neighbours, fellow-victims of the business class.

Real groups and identities come from our active social roles, mainly in the key relationships of business and work. Real groups and identities are **business people** of any colour; and **workers** of any colour. We need people to identify by their real role. Business people do, and take the trouble to be organized and active, every day.

The worker majority don't. They need to, need to be **organized and active, every day**. First of all at work, where, because of the unfair power employers get from 'Many Others', they are **entitled to organize together in unions** to become equal to business people and public service managers. People need to convince each other of this individual and collective entitlement, join together and represent themselves together at work. **We need union membership to be normal, everyday, expected amongst people who are workers.**

We need to understand, too, how we relate to each other as citizens and voters. And how we relate, together, to politicians and governments. And, organized, become equal to the business class in **politics** too, as a self-aware, self-informed, mature working class.

It needs **you** to play a part. These writings will help. **Read them, recommend them to other people.**

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