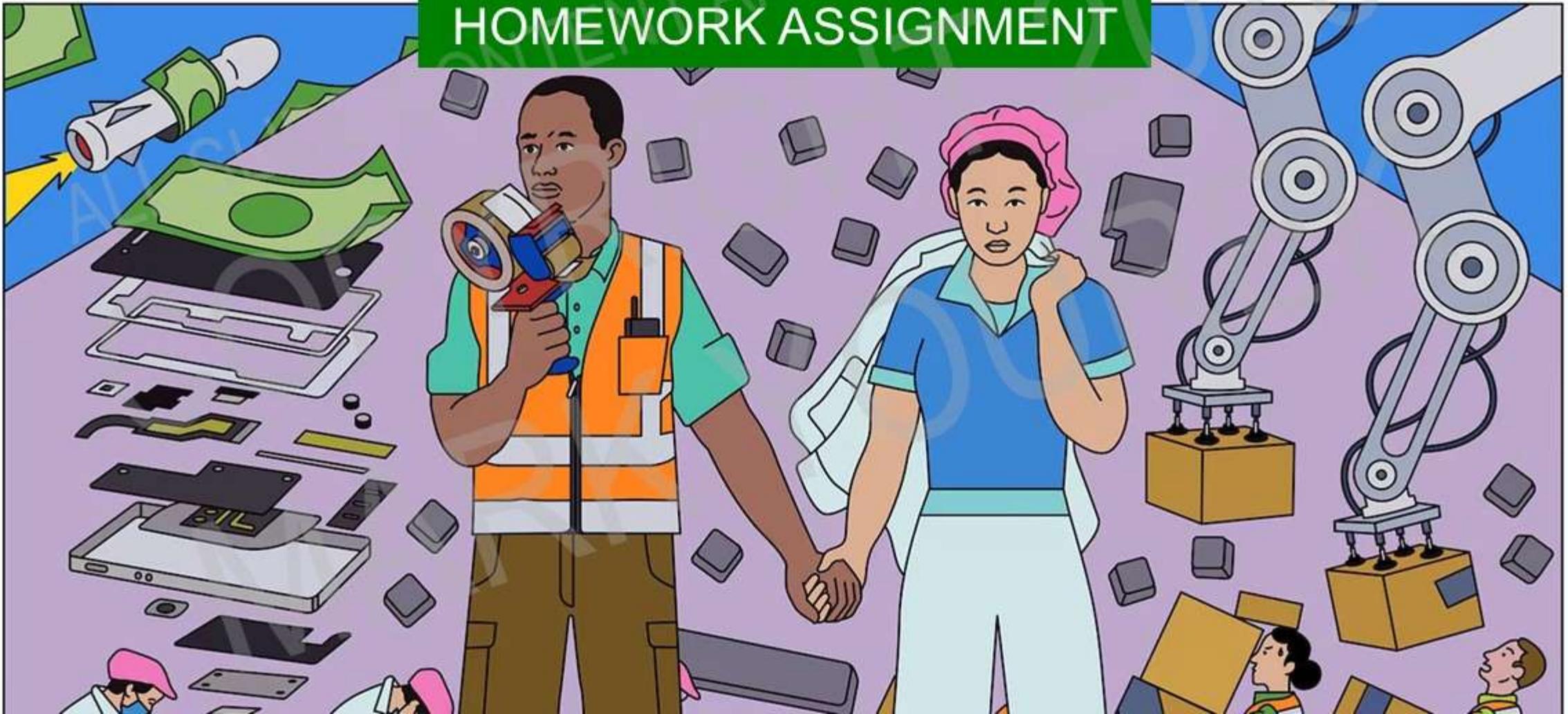


**Capitalism,  
Government,  
Money,  
and the  
Future of  
the World**

*Finding  
and Keeping  
the Right Balance  
in  
Market-Capitalist  
Democracies*

# Opinion | I've always loved tech. Now, I'm a Luddite. You should be one, too.

## DISCUSSION OF HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT



## Opinion | I've always loved tech. Now, I'm a Luddite. You should be one, too.

I test drove the first-generation Tesla Roadster. I once lived on Soylent powder shakes for a month. My Twitter account is almost old enough to drive. I wrote a book about the iPhone.

Also, I'm a Luddite.

That's not the contradiction that it might sound like. The original Luddites did not hate technology. Most were skilled machine operators. In the early days of the Industrial Revolution, what they objected to were the specific ways that tech was being used to undermine their status, upend their communities and destroy their livelihoods. So they took sledgehammers to the mechanized looms used to exploit them.

It is that spirit that I've come to appreciate in the age of tech monopolies and generative artificial intelligence. The kind of visionaries we need now are those who see precisely how certain technologies are causing harm and who resist them when necessary.

I didn't always feel this way. As a teenager in the '90s, I was captivated by the way the web connected me with friends, enabling us to build our own sites and chat into the night. Apple made gadgets cool. Google let me summon far-flung information. Amazon brought hard-to-find books to my doorstep. (Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, owns The Post; Patty Stonesifer, The Post's interim CEO, is a member of Amazon's board.)

The Luddites would have had fun if any problems with all of that. And neither did I.

**SKILLS OBSOLESCENCE**  
**through the advance of technology**

At the start of my career in the future, sharing Tech

**concerns about**  
**possible MONOPOLIES**

works and  
ciency.  
ng

**issues with / objections to**  
**WORKING CONDITIONS**

way to becoming the first trillion-dollar  
king in an unprecedented war chest of \$10

however, there were plenty of signs of the costs. As

Amazon grew, stories emerged about grueling conditions in its warehouses. Google used its monopoly power to strangle competitors' products. A suicide epidemic swept an iPhone factory. Predictions mounted that AI would soon replace tens of millions of human jobs — that the rise of the robots was at hand.

These are **three different issues**  
– **completely different subjects,**  
**not really related to each other at all** –  
but the author is throwing them all together...  
This approach is designed to *stir up attitude*  
in the reader, not to impart understanding

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future. The author had  
share. Tech  
power. Apple was on earning becoming the first profits lar  
company. Uber began ~~making in~~ an unprecedented ~~war chest~~ of \$10  
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Were the companies that started using the new mechanized looms using them to **exploit** people who had previously made their living weaving cloth by hand?



Now, I'm  
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The people who were employed to operate manual elevators did not hate technology. They were skilled machine operators. What they objected to were the specific ways that tech was used to undermine their status and destroy their livelihoods. So they took sledgehammers to the new automated elevators used to exploit them.

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## SKILLS OBSOLESCENCE

through innovation and the advance of technology  
does ***not*** constitute '**exploitation**' !

Capitalism often **forces change** into the lives of workers – change that they frequently experience as **hardship** and **economic setback**:

**Acute convulsions** thrust into the lives that people have already constructed for themselves, based on existing technologies, practices and institutions

**Fundamental changes** to the nature of production and work, **massive disruption** of people's existing livelihoods, and, frequently, the **obliteration of the ability of millions of people to make a living with their existing, obsolescent skill sets**

The changing nature of work and production, with the rise of capitalism

## pre-industrial

low levels of technology

*(in retrospect)*

low productivity

*(in retrospect)*

unchanging ways

of doing work

stable skill sets

stable livelihoods

most work is performed

individually or in small shops

*(major exception is plantation agriculture)*



The changing nature of work and production, with the rise of capitalism

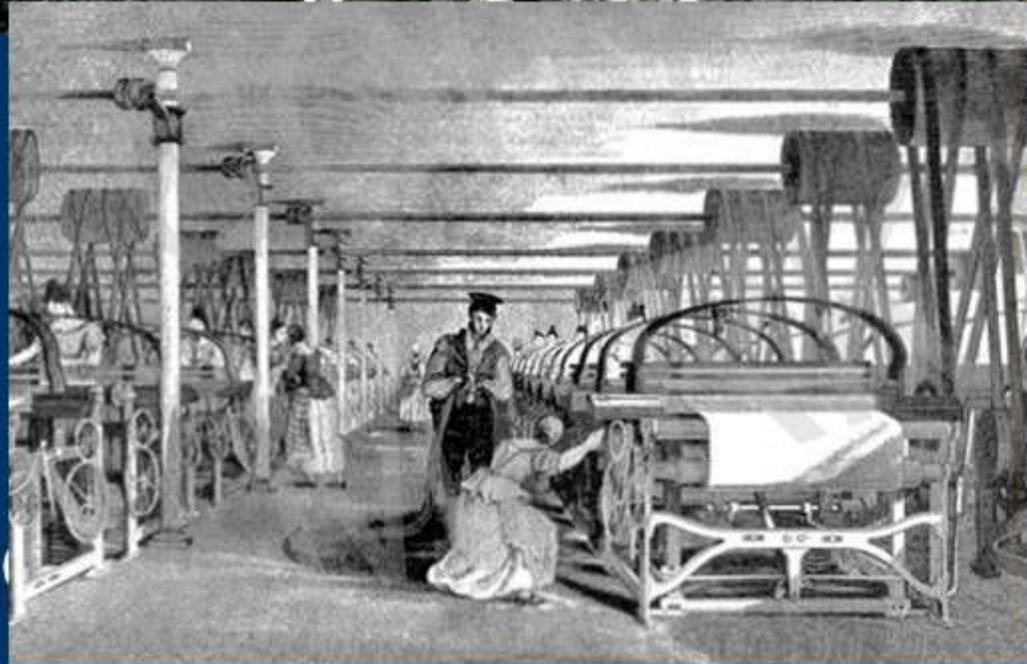
**with industrialization**

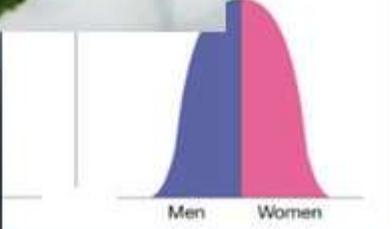
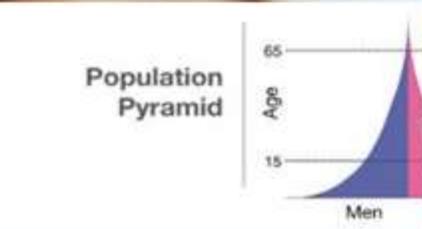
steadily advancing technology  
steadily increasing productivity  
evolving ways of doing work,  
and changing skill sets

disruption of livelihoods,  
and the large-scale elimination  
of specific jobs and livelihoods

more and more work is performed  
in large-scale workplaces, away from home

many kinds of work are seen  
as becoming much more regimented  
and de-personalized





Massive  
transformative  
improvement,  
*across time*

Significant  
disruption,  
suffering,  
and distress,  
*in real time*

Of course, this process continues in our own times, in countless ways – and at a faster pace than in the 1800s

*one example, from 20 years ago:*

## The Rise and Sudden Decline of North Carolina Furniture Making

The industry was hit hard by offshore competition

Article by: John Mullin

[Download article](#)

It happened so quickly. In just 10 years, between 1999 and 2009, North Carolina's furniture manufacturing industry lost more than half of its jobs. The chief culprit was increased competition from lower-cost furniture imported from Asia — mostly China. The U.S.-China Bilateral WTO Agreement, signed in November 1999,



had opened the door to Chinese in U.S. tariff barriers and easing the v the World Trade Organization (WTO) proponents of the agreement predicted have a relatively modest effect on imports and jobs. Studies of the subject, however, strongly suggest that the incorrect. Increased imports from China have a major effect on U.S. manufacturing, particularly devastating effect on furniture manufacturing in North Carolina.

One of the story's wrinkles is that the imports had not been initiated by China but rather by the North Carolina industry who had sought cost advantages that remains to this day, a highly competitive

Carolina's furniture manufacturing base with Chinese imports, they were replicating a pattern that had played out during the 20th century, when the North Carolina industry successfully competed with the furniture manufacturing industries of New England and Michigan.

**100 years earlier, the villainous North Carolina businessmen stole the entire furniture industry from New England, running a large number of companies out of business, and throwing hundreds and hundreds of Americans out of work**

Copyrighted Material  
How One Furniture Maker Battled Offshoring, Stayed Local—and Helped Save an American Town

# FACTORY MAN

**The villainous Chinese stole nearly the entire furniture industry from North Carolina, running a large number of companies out of business, and throwing hundreds and hundreds of Americans out of work**

The Luddites were not, contrary to popular belief, idiots who broke machines because they didn't understand them. They were cloth workers who once led comfortable lives, working at home or in small shops, on their own terms and schedules, with freedom and dignity.

moved the cloth-making function

When entrepreneurs ~~tried to move their jobs~~ into factories by using power looms and wide frames that did similar work faster, more cheaply and much more shoddily, the Luddites protested. These workers first sought compromise, dialogue and a democratic way to integrate new tech into their communities — to share in the gains. They were ignored. So they rebelled.

*It is the customer's prerogative to assess overall value – to judge the quality delivered, for the price charged – and then to buy from whomever they choose*

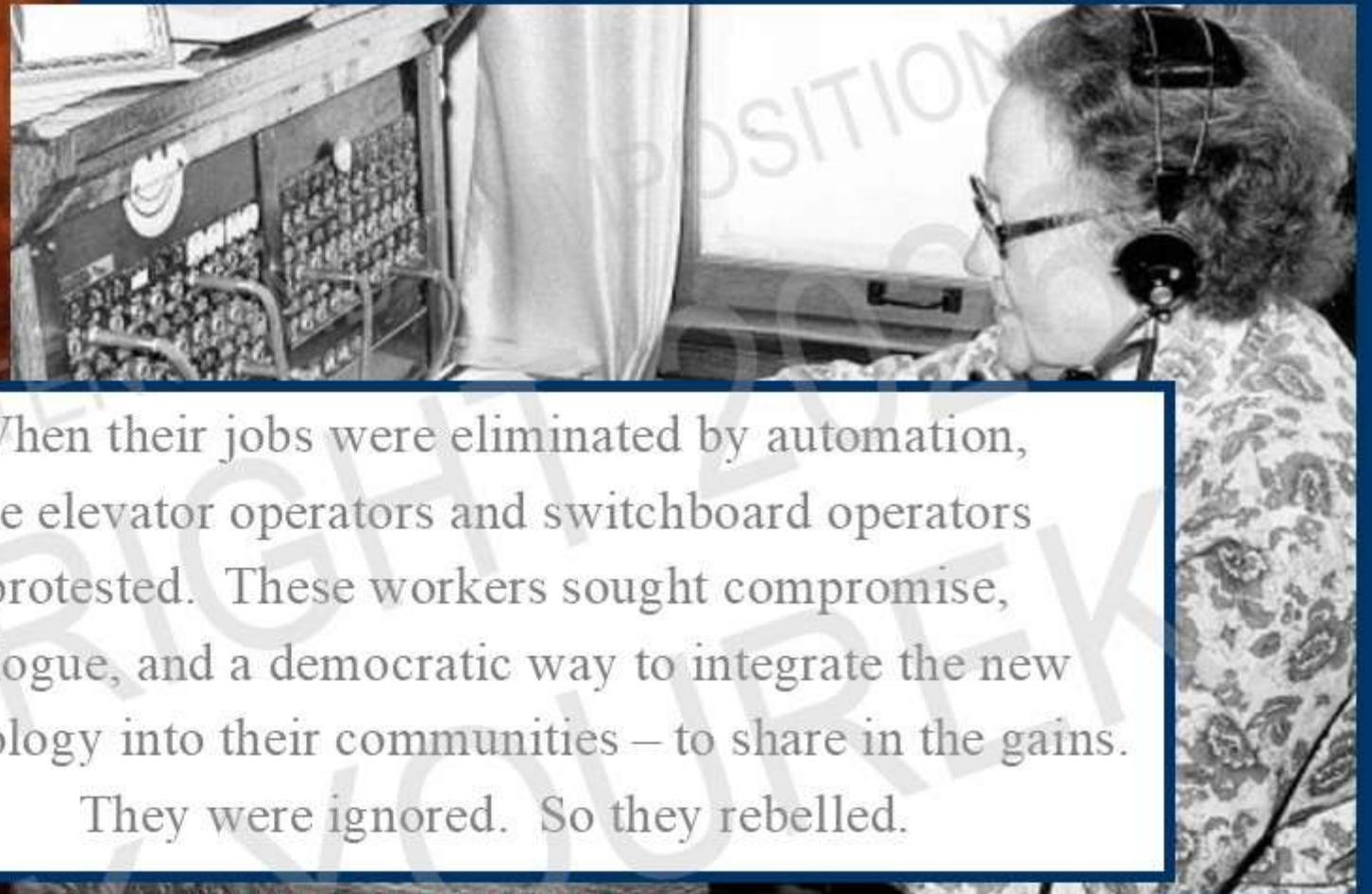
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The North Carolina furniture industry also griped, that competing furniture from Asia was 'lower quality'

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When their jobs were eliminated by automation, the elevator operators and switchboard operators protested. These workers sought compromise, dialogue, and a democratic way to integrate the new technology into their communities – to share in the gains. They were ignored. So they rebelled.

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**People whose skills become obsolete due to technological advances and innovation deserve our empathy, and they deserve our support in developing new skill sets, in their transition to new livelihoods**

***But – they should not be supported if they attempt to block progress, by trying to force the marketplace to keep paying them to do work in outmoded ways, using their existing, obsolete skill sets***

***And – they should not be fed falsehoods that encourage them to look backwards with grievance and animosity towards their former employers, by being told that they are being ‘exploited’ through having lost their former livelihood, due to their skills becoming obsolete***

*This is simply wrong: it is a pernicious and counterproductive lie*

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## Five key observations about capitalism and government, being made in this course

Capitalism has radically transformed human life for the **better**, over the last 300 years

*(despite the left's bad attitude)*

The ongoing changes driven by capitalism can be very **painful** and **detrimental** to those who get hurt, but are nonetheless absolutely **necessary**

*(a fact the left is often in denial about)*

Capitalism is inherently **unstable**, and prone to recurrent, inevitable **crisis** and **collapse**

*(a fact the right is mostly in denial about)*

## A few observed characteristics of capitalism

- Capitalism encompasses processes of economic interaction, but does not define systems to govern other forms of human interaction
- Capitalism has no inherent mechanisms for enforcing property rights and contract rights – without which it cannot develop or function
- Capitalism has no inherent protections for the working conditions of employees, other than the functioning of the labor market itself
- Capitalism has no inherent protections against the emergence of monopolies – entities that achieve coercive control over a vital product or service
- ▶ • Capitalism has no inherent mechanisms to ensure the quality or safety of vital products and services, other than the workings of the market itself
- Capitalism provides no inherent guarantee that, in any given time or place, its economic outcomes will necessarily be humane, or will necessarily advance a healthy overall society, or democracy



Search CPSC



Home » Business & Manufacturing » Business Education » Children's Sleepwear Regulations

## Children's Sleepwear Regulations

简体中文



### What requirements apply to my product?



Find out here



### What is the purpose of the children's sleepwear flammability standards?

To protect children from burns, these rules require that children's sleepwear must be flame resistant and self-extinguish if a flame from a candle, match, lighter or a similar item causes it to catch fire. The rules cover all children's sleepwear above size 9 months and up to size 14 and require that:

- (1) the fabric and garments must pass certain flammability tests; or
- (2) be "tight fitting" as defined by specified dimensions

### Where can I find the requirements for children's sleepwear?

The regulations are published in the Code of Federal Regulations at 16 CFR Part 1615 for children's sleepwear sized above 9 months and up to 6X, and at 16 CFR Part 1616 for children's sleepwear sized 7 through 14. The two rules contain basically the same requirements, with the main difference being the sizes of the garments covered by each.

### What is children's sleepwear?

Children's sleepwear is any article of clothing, such as a nightgown, pajama, robe or loungewear, that is sized above 9 months and up to size 14 and that is intended to be worn primarily for sleeping or activities related to sleeping.

To determine whether a garment is sleepwear, the Commission considers:

1. The nature of the garment and its suitability for sleeping or activities related to sleeping;
2. How the garment is promoted and distributed; and



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In a free-market capitalist society, wouldn't flammable children's pajamas be eliminated automatically, just through the operation of the marketplace? The answer is NO



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# Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 40°43′48″N 73°59′43″W﻿ / ﻿40.73000°N 73.99528°W﻿ / 40.73000; -73.99528

The **Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire** in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan, New York City, on March 25, 1911, was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of the city, and one of the deadliest in U.S. history.<sup>[1]</sup> The fire caused the deaths of 146 garment workers – 123 women and girls and 23 men<sup>[2]</sup> – who died from the fire, smoke inhalation, or falling or jumping to their deaths. Most of the victims were recent Italian and Jewish immigrant women and girls aged 14 to 23;<sup>[3][4]</sup> of the victims whose ages are known, the oldest victim was 43-year-old Providenza Panno, and the youngest were 14-year-olds Kate Leone and Rosaria "Sara" Maltese.<sup>[5]</sup>

The factory was located on the 8th, 9th, and 10th floors of the Asch Building, at 23–29 Washington Place, near Washington Square Park. The 1901 building still stands today and is now known as the Brown Building. It is part of and owned by New York University.<sup>[6]</sup>

Because the doors to the stairwells and exits were locked<sup>[1][7]</sup> (a then-common practice to prevent workers from taking unauthorized breaks and to reduce theft),<sup>[8]</sup> many of the workers who could not escape from the burning building jumped from the high windows. The fire led to legislation requiring improved factory safety standards and helped spur the growth of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), which fought for better working conditions for sweatshop workers.

## Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire



<b>Date</b>	March 25, 1911
<b>Time</b>	4:40 p.m. (Eastern Time)
<b>Location</b>	Asch Building, Manhattan, New York City, New York, U.S.
<b>Coordinates</b>	<span><span><span><span><span>40°43′48″N</span> <span>73°59′43″W</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span>40.73000°N 73.99528°W</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>40.73000; -73.99528</span></span></span></span></span>
<b>Deaths</b>	146
<b>Non-fatal injuries</b>	78



**NOTICE**  
THIS DOOR TO  
REMAIN UNLOCKED  
WHEN BUILDING  
IS OCCUPIED



62 people jumped or fell from windows

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## On the operations of meat processing facilities Upton Sinclair

*(written 6 years earlier)*

Of the butchers and floormen, the beef-boners and trimmers, and all those who used knives, you could scarcely find a person who had the use of his thumb; time and time again the base of it had been slashed, till it was a mere lump of flesh against which the man pressed the knife to hold it.

They would have no fingernails – they had worn them off pulling hides; their knuckles were swollen so that their fingers spread out like a fan.

Then there were the woolpluckers, whose hands went to pieces even sooner than the hands of the pickle-men; for the pelts of the sheep had to be painted with acid to loosen the wool, and then the pluckers had to pull out this wool with their bare hands, till the acid had eaten their fingers off.

Then there were those who worked at the stamping-machines, and it was very seldom that one could work long there at the pace that was set, and not give out and forget himself, and have a part of his hand chopped off.



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Would improvements to work safety have happened on their own, if we had *not* used law and government to bring about changes?



Of the butchers and floormen, the beef-boners and trimmers, and all

In a free-market capitalist society, won't job safety practices be adopted and get better over time automatically, just through the operation of the labor markets?

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Would improvements to work on their own, if we had *not* use to bring about c



Of the butcher

In a free-market cap won't job safety be adopted and get b automatically, ju the operation of the l

The passage of the first work-safety laws, in the 1910s, made specific changes and improvements, but they also set the foundation for a much broader principle:

**Employers** are responsible for the safety of their employees while on the job, and should be held accountable accordingly

to pull out this fingers off.

Then there we very seldom th

not give out and forget himself, and have a part of his hand chopped off.



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## Five key arguments about capitalism and government, being made in this course

Capitalism has radically transformed human life for the **better**, over the last 300 years

*(despite the left's bad attitude)*

The ongoing changes driven by capitalism can be very **painful** and **detrimental** to those who get hurt, but are nonetheless absolutely **necessary**

*(a fact the left is often in denial about)*

Capitalism is inherently **unstable**, and prone to recurrent, inevitable **crisis** and **collapse**

*(a fact the right is mostly in denial about)*

You do have to be careful about the rules you make, but capitalism requires **many** different kinds of **regulation** – ***laissez-faire*** doesn't work at all

*(despite the right's bad attitude)*

'The Jungle' prompted passage of the  
**Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906**

and the

**Meat Inspection Act of 1906**

both signed into law by  
President Theodore Roosevelt  
within months of publication of the book

On the operations of meat processing facilities  
Upton Sinclair

Of the butchers and floorsmen, the beef-boners and trimmers, and all those who used knives, you could scarcely find a person who had the use of his thumb; time and time again the base of it had been slashed, till it was a mere lump of flesh against which the man pressed the knife to hold it.

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Then there were those who worked at the stamping-machines, and it was very seldom that one could work long there at the pace that was set, and not give out and forget himself, and have a part of his hand chopped off.





'The Jungle' prompted passage of the  
**Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906**

and the

**Meat Inspection Act of 1906**

both signed into law by  
President Theodore Roosevelt  
within months of publication of the book

*Question:*

Why did government regulation of  
food and drug safety begin in 1906,  
rather than at some other time?

TWO RELATED FACTORS:

~ **1900: Science of food assay  
was perfected**

On the operations of meat processing facilities  
Upton Sinclair

Of the butchers and floorsmen, the beef-boners and trimmers, and all those who used knives, you could scarcely find a person who had the use of his thumb; time and time again the base of it had been slashed, till it was a mere lump of flesh against which the man pressed the knife to hold it.

They would have no fingernails—they had worn them off pulling hides; their knuckles were swollen so that their fingers spread out like a fan.

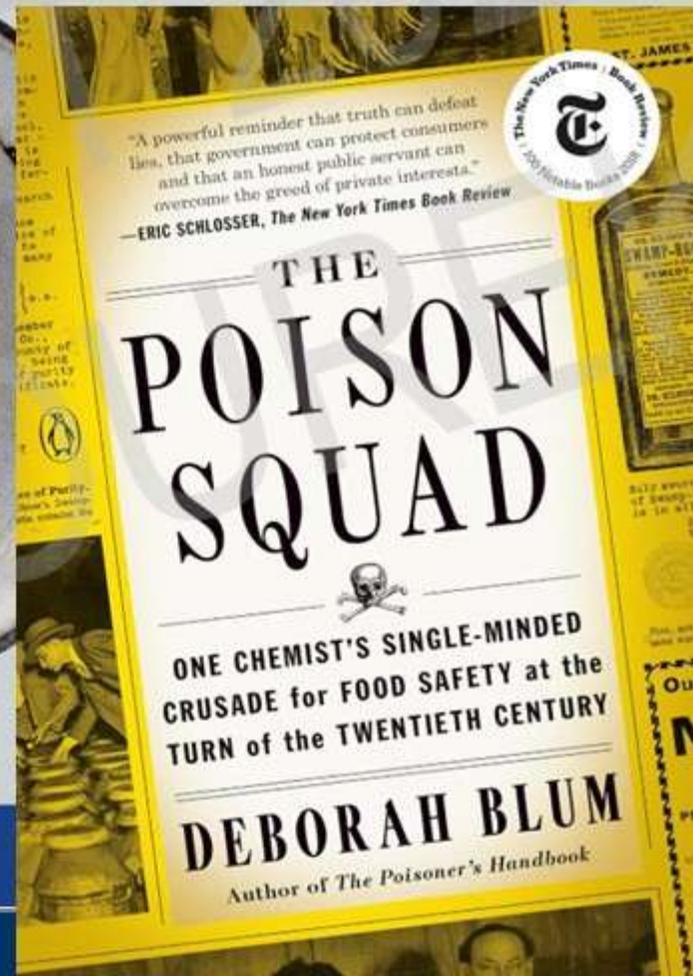
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Then there were those who worked at the stamping-machines, and it was very seldom that one could work long there at the pace that was set, and not give out and forget himself, and have a part of his hand chopped off.



THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAD NO IDEA WHAT THEY WERE EATING

# THE POISON SQUAD



[THE POISON SQUAD](#)

[CREDITS](#)

[TRANSCRIPT](#)

[BIOS](#)

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THE OTHER RELATED FACTOR:

ALL SLIDE CONTENT AND COMPOSITION

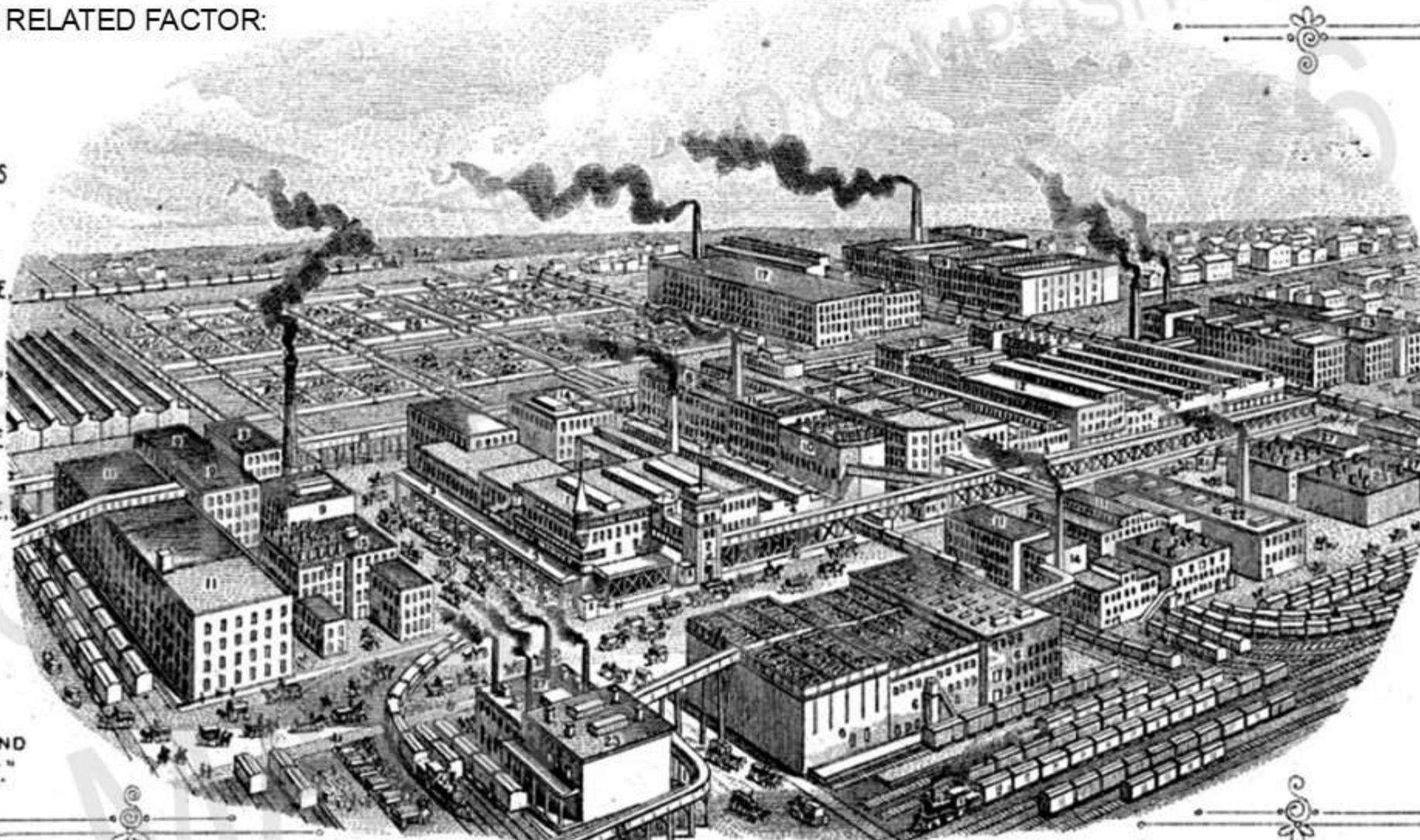
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MARK YOUREK

# VIEW OF SWIFT AND COMPANY'S PACKING HOUSES

THE OTHER RELATED FACTOR:

1. GENERAL OFFICES.
2. PASSENGER ELEVATORS TO GENL OFFICES.
3. WHOLESALE MARKET.
4. EAST SLAUGHTER HOUSE, CATTLE AND SHEEP.
5. A & B SLAUGHTER HOUSE, CATTLE AND SHEEP.
6. NORTH SLAUGHTER HOUSE, CATTLE AND SHEEP.
7. WEST SLAUGHTER HOUSE, CATTLE AND SHEEP.
8. NO. 1 HOG HOUSE.
9. NO. 2 HOG HOUSE.
10. SMOKE HOUSES.
11. WAREHOUSES.
12. LARD REFINERY AND "COTOSUET FACTORY."



13. BUTTERINE FACTORY.
14. OLEO OIL FACTORIES.
15. PEPSIN LABORATORY.
16. BEEF EXTRACT LABORATORY.
17. GLUE WORKS.
18. BONE HOUSE.
19. FERTILIZER WORKS.
20. WOOL PULLERY.
21. OIL STORAGE TANKS.
22. ICE MACHINE HOUSES.
23. ICE HOUSES.
24. STABLES.
25. VIADUCTS FOR LIVE STOCK.
26. PENS FOR LIVE STOCK.
27. CAR AND REPAIR SHOPS.

AT UNION STOCK YARDS, CHICAGO, ILL.

# VIEW OF SWIFT AND COMPANY'S PACKING HOUSES

Capitalism drives continuous improvement in methods of production, to **increase productivity, drive down costs, reduce prices to the consumer, and increase profit potential for the producer**

In so doing, capitalism often replaces small-scale cottage industry with much larger-scale, more efficient production methods

As a side effect of this, capitalism often replaces many producer-consumer interactions that in the past happened on a personal, face-to-face basis, with industrial-scale production that takes place at a significant remove from the end-consumer

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# VIEW OF SWIFT AND COMPANY'S PACKING HOUSES

And large-scale industrialization greatly magnifies the incentives for producers to find ways to cut costs, and to ignore hidden quality irregularities — **scale production creates opportunities to get rich** — while weakening or eliminating personal face-to-face responsibility for product quality and safety

As industrialization intensifies profit incentives and reduces or eliminates direct personal interaction between producers and consumers, at some point government regulation is often deemed necessary, to supplement for the loss of immediate person-to-person accountability that had been omnipresent, throughout pre-industrial times

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The overwhelming riches brought within reach by industrial capitalism...  
the incredible fortunes at stake – either to be won or missed –  
provide **more than ample temptation** for business leaders  
to be ***overwhelmingly motivated*** not to recognize,  
or admit to themselves, the potential or actually-demonstrated  
dangers of the products that generate their profits  
and for business leaders to be ***overwhelmingly motivated,***  
if decisive evidence of harm or toxicity comes into their hands,  
to consider **concealing it, denying it, or lying about it**

This does not de-legitimize capitalism,  
nor does it make all business leaders into villains  
**(although some certainly are)**

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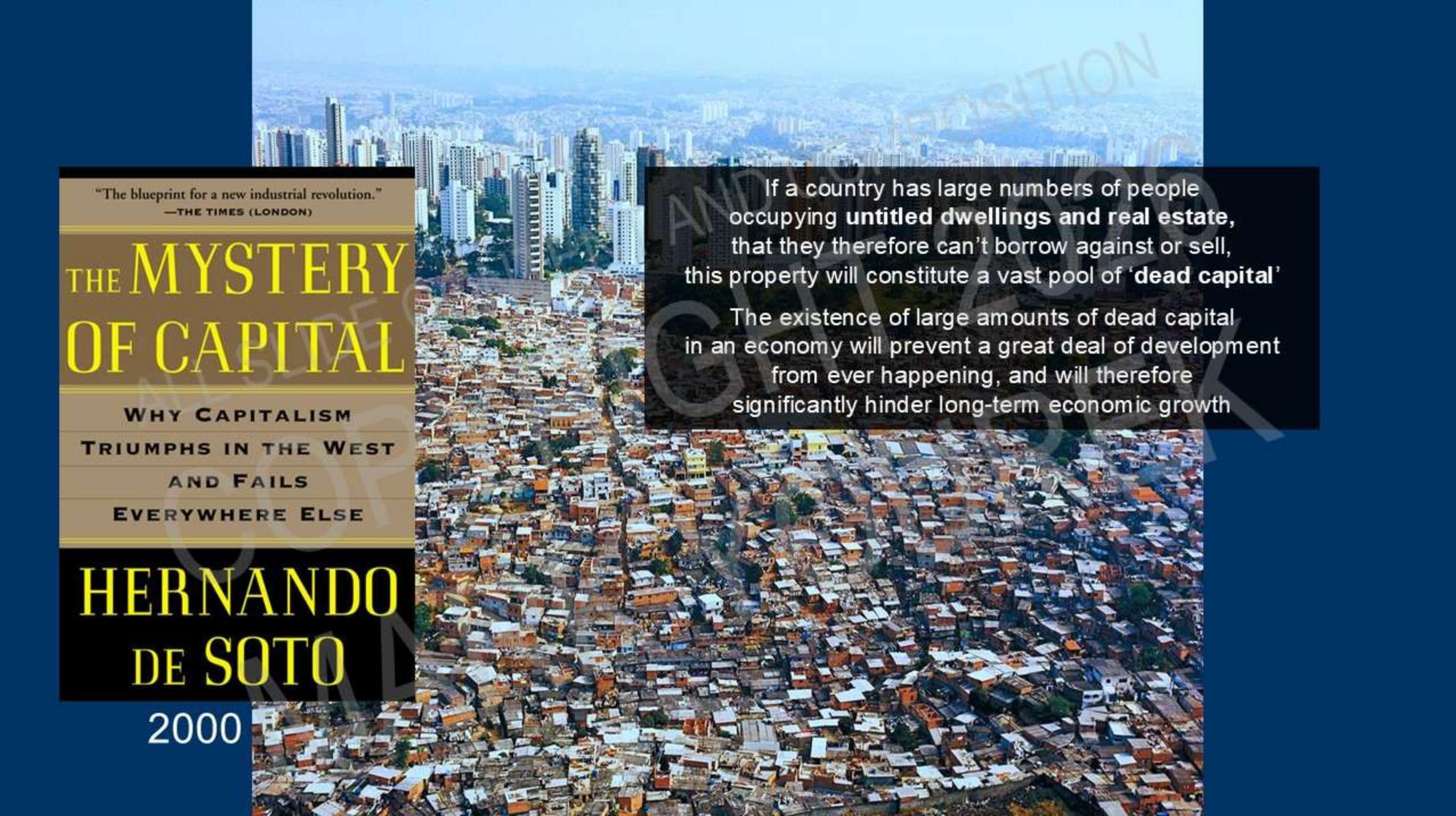
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## A few observed characteristics of capitalism

- Capitalism encompasses processes of economic interaction, but does not define systems to govern other forms of human interaction
- ▶ • Capitalism has no inherent mechanisms for enforcing property rights and contract rights – without which it cannot develop or function
- Capitalism has no inherent protections for the working conditions of employees, other than the functioning of the labor market itself
- Capitalism has no inherent protections against the emergence of monopolies – entities that achieve coercive control over a vital product or service
- Capitalism has no inherent mechanisms to ensure the quality or safety of vital products and services, other than the workings of the market itself
- Capitalism provides no inherent guarantee that, in any given time or place, its economic outcomes will necessarily be humane, or will necessarily advance a healthy overall society, or democracy



"The blueprint for a new industrial revolution."  
—THE TIMES (LONDON)

# THE MYSTERY OF CAPITAL

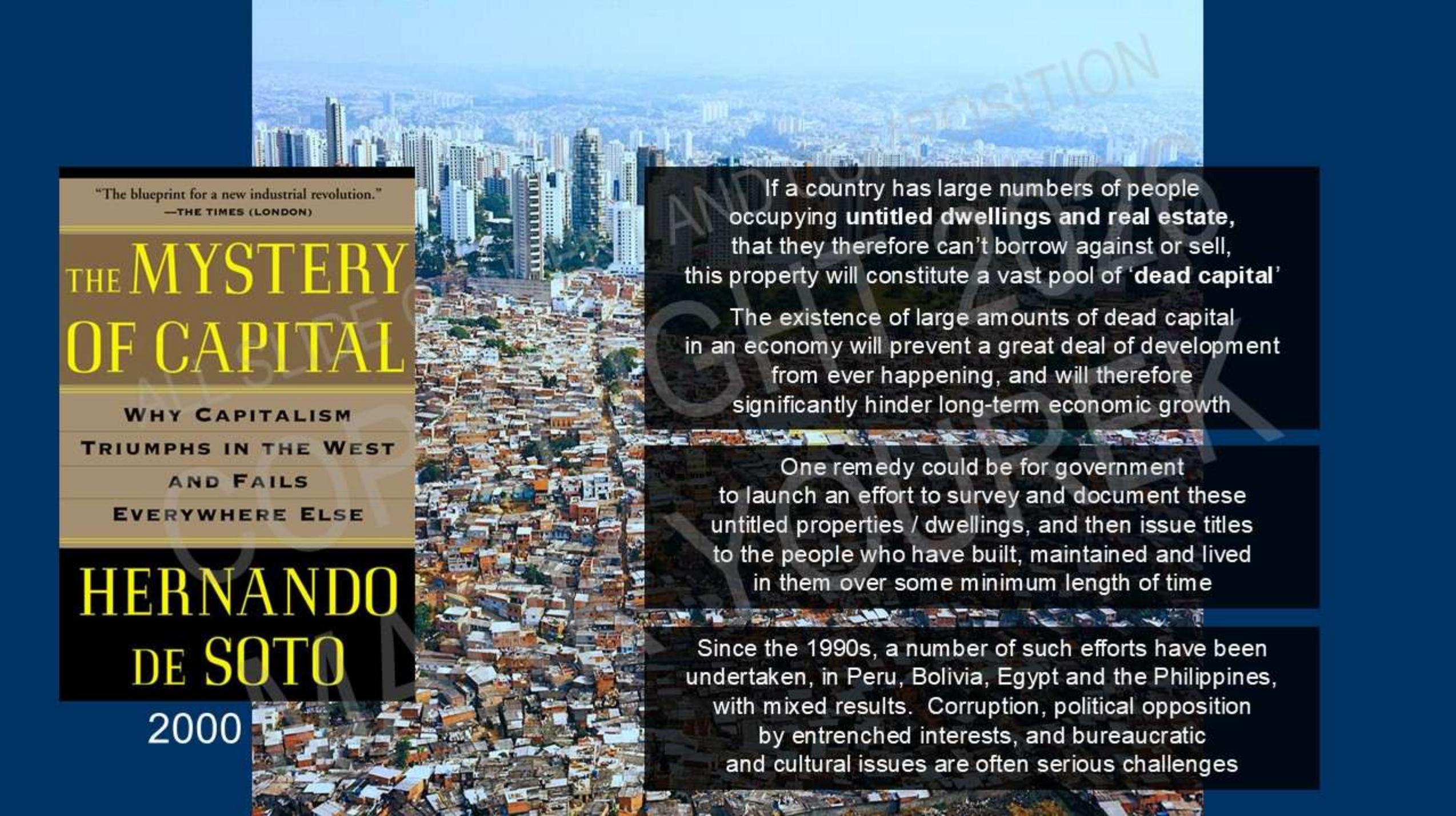
WHY CAPITALISM  
TRIUMPHS IN THE WEST  
AND FAILS  
EVERYWHERE ELSE

HERNANDO  
DE SOTO

2000

If a country has large numbers of people occupying **untitled dwellings and real estate**, that they therefore can't borrow against or sell, this property will constitute a vast pool of 'dead capital'

The existence of large amounts of dead capital in an economy will prevent a great deal of development from ever happening, and will therefore significantly hinder long-term economic growth



"The blueprint for a new industrial revolution."  
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One remedy could be for government to launch an effort to survey and document these untitled properties / dwellings, and then issue titles to the people who have built, maintained and lived in them over some minimum length of time

Since the 1990s, a number of such efforts have been undertaken, in Peru, Bolivia, Egypt and the Philippines, with mixed results. Corruption, political opposition by entrenched interests, and bureaucratic and cultural issues are often serious challenges

This issue illustrates one important example of **government's** indispensable role in **enabling and supporting capitalism**: in the documentation and enforcement of property rights

"The blueprint for a new industrial revolution."  
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Capitalism is all about constantly driving innovation in terms of

**Reducing Costs**

**Improving Perceived Quality and Value**

---

Capitalism seeks to minimize or eliminate costs wherever they occur

**It is NEVER a goal of capitalism to *create jobs***

Quite the opposite:

***Capitalism normally seeks to eliminate human effort wherever it can***

Capitalism often does create jobs,  
but whenever jobs are created,  
this, from the standpoint of business,  
is an **unavoidable byproduct** —  
**not a goal, not a desired outcome**

---

In any given place or time,  
the rate at which capitalism  
may be ***creating new jobs***  
is essentially **unrelated**  
to the rate at which it may be  
***destroying existing jobs***

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And, the skill sets required  
for new jobs being created  
are often **totally different**  
from the skill sets that were used  
in the jobs that are being eliminated

keypunch / data entry clerks

stenographers

photo lab technicians

video store clerks

payphone repairmen

travel agents



Continuously – since industrial capitalism got rolling in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century:

Next up for elimination (or significant modification):  
a vast number of jobs, to be replaced by artificial intelligence



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**Capitalism,  
Government,  
Money,  
and the  
Future of  
the World**

*Finding  
and Keeping  
the Right Balance  
in  
Market-Capitalist  
Democracies*