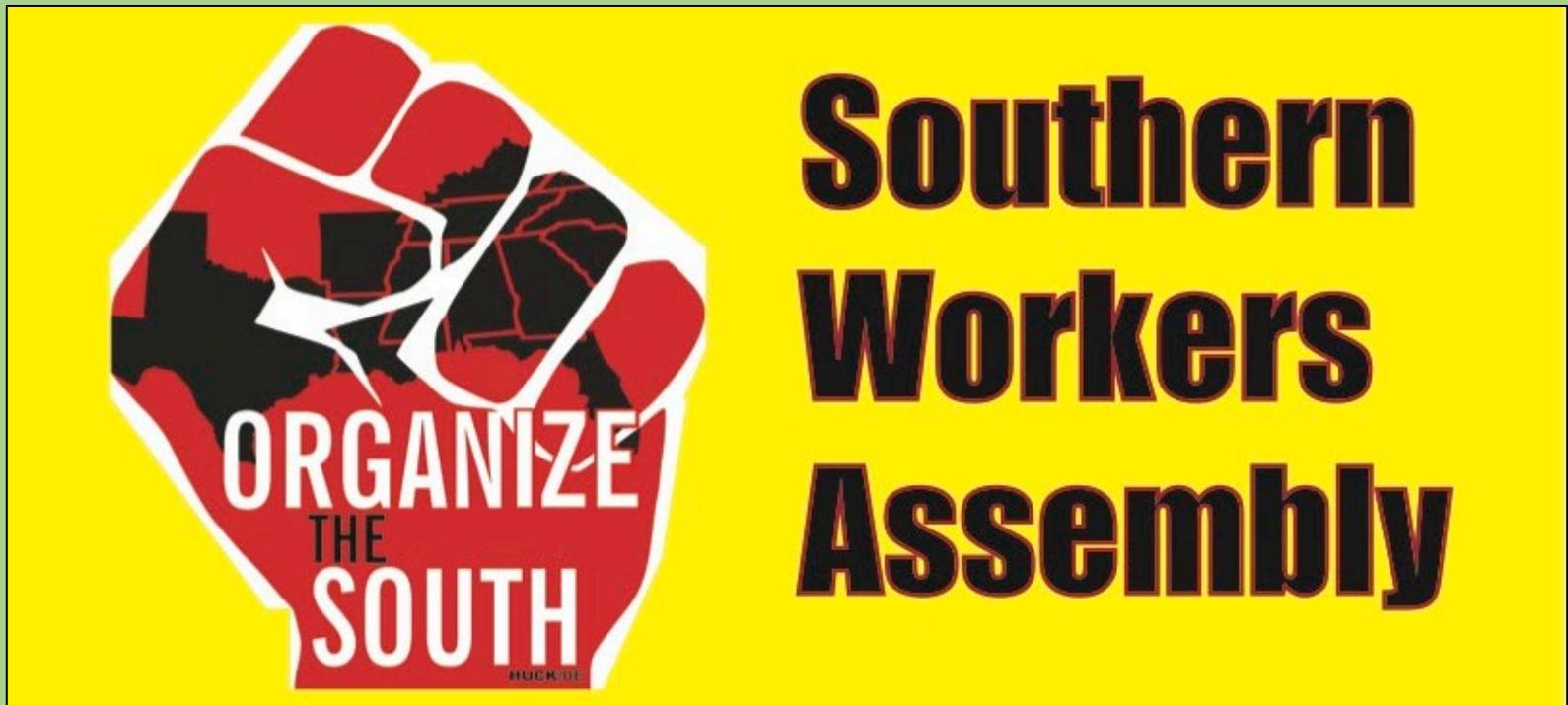


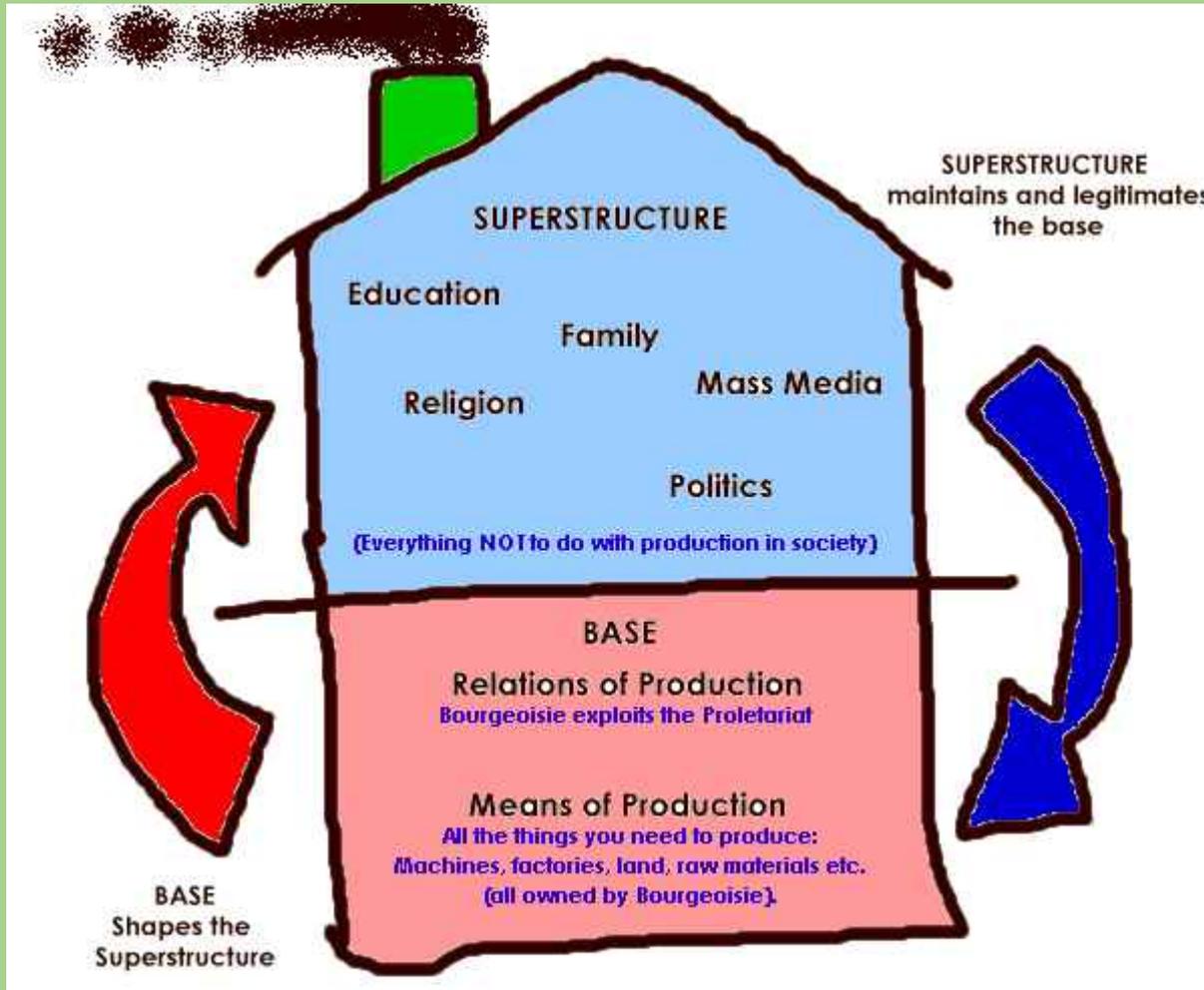
**Why do we have to fight both the
capitalist system and their state?
Southern Workers Assembly School**

May 16, 2021



**Southern
Workers
Assembly**

The big picture: the base and the superstructure



The entire society is built on the economy, and that means based on our labor.

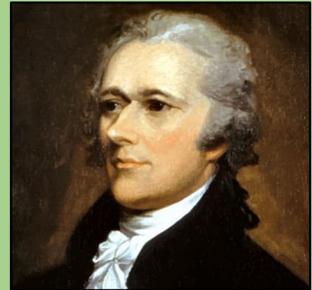
There are many ways to understand how our labor fits into the superstructure of the society. A key institution is the state (government) and politics.

What class did the founders serve?

75% of the signers of the Declaration of Independence owned slaves. Of the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention, about 25 owned slaves. Of the first 12 presidents, 8 owned slaves.



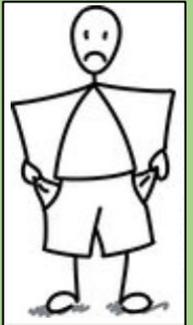
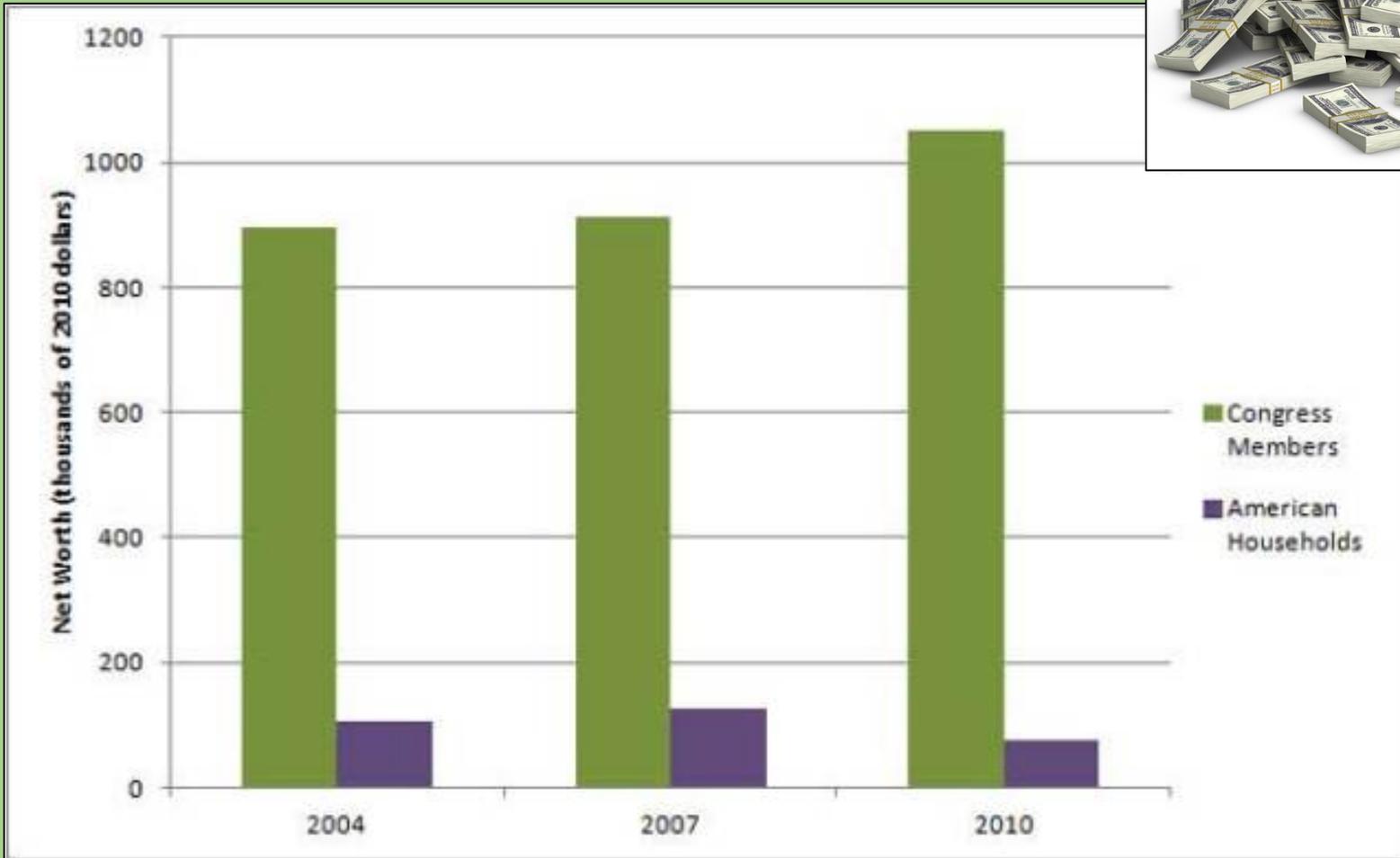
King?



Alexander Hamilton. In his words he wanted the Constitution "to give to the rich and well born a distinct and permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the mass of the people."

"The Constitution was ratified by a vote of probably not more than one-sixth of the adult males."—historian Charles Beard

Almost half of the house of representatives and 67% of the senate are millionaires



How about us?

Green, Congress members net worth. Purple, U.S. households net worth.

**Capitalism is for the rich,
not the rest of us, and they
pay their political staff well**

**NET WORTH BEFORE
HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICE:**



**TRUMPS
\$4.5B**



**OBAMAS
\$3M**



**CLINTONS
\$500K**

CURRENT NET WORTH:



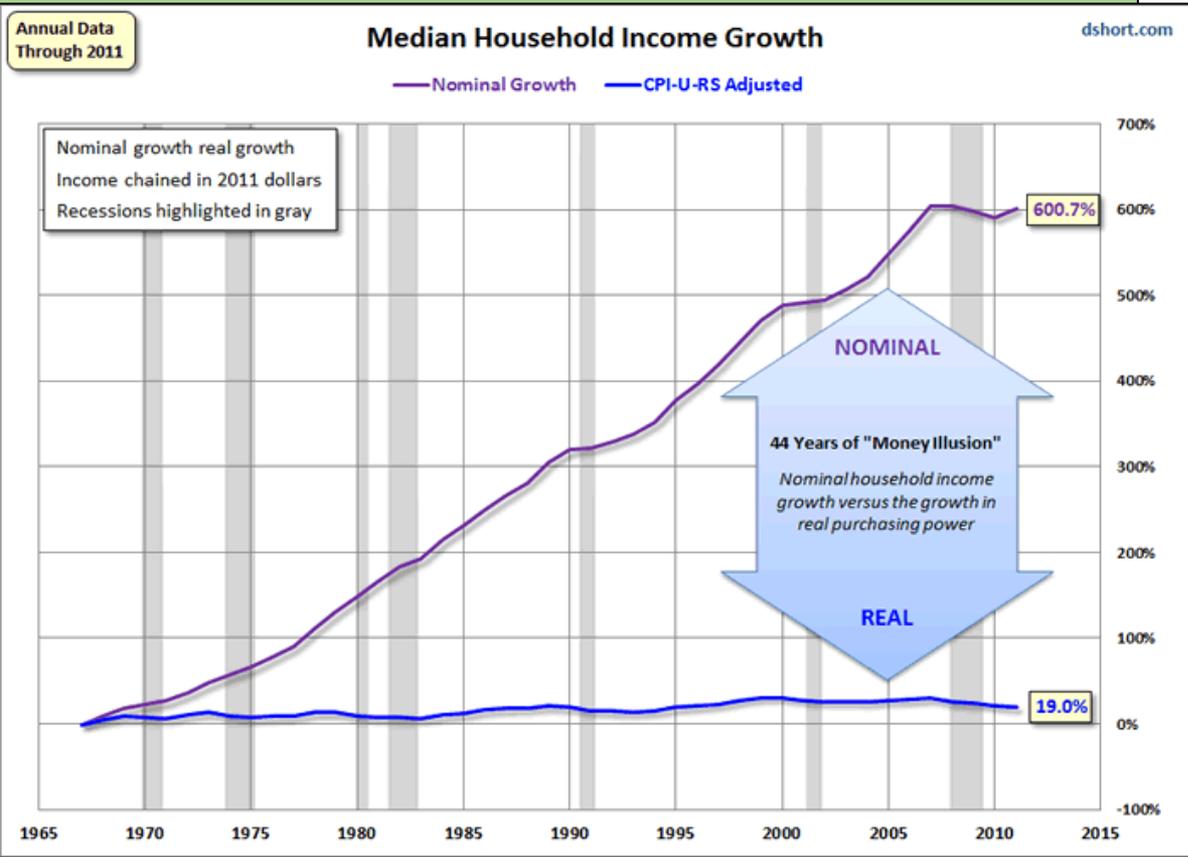
**TRUMPS
\$3.5B**



**OBAMAS
\$40M**



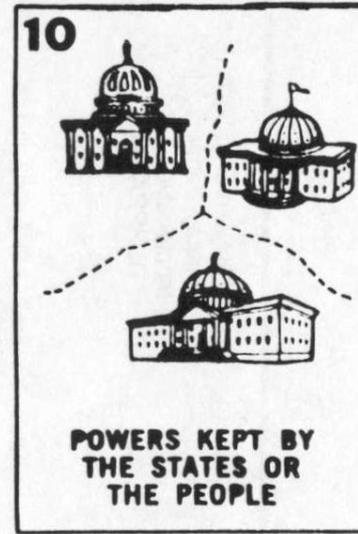
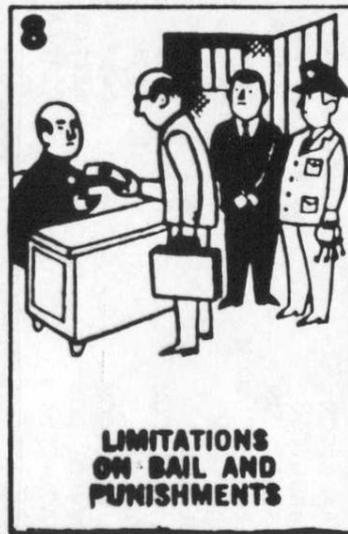
**CLINTONS
\$100M**



**Our incomes
have gone up
only if you
ignore inflation**

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The First Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution



The Wagner Act of 1935

Also known as the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). Guarantees workers right to organize. Outlines the legal framework for labor unions and management relations. Protects workers. Gives a framework for collective bargaining.

Problem

Labor Disputes



A Sit-down Strike

Guaranteed workers the right to bargain collectively and form unions w/out fear of punishment from management.

Solution

National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act)



Reform

**UNIONS
ARE
KEY
TO
WORKING
CLASS
POWER**

The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947

AKA the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947. A federal law that restricts the activities and power of labor unions. Enacted by the 80th United States Congress over the veto of President Harry S. Truman, becoming law on June 23, 1947



THE IMPACT OF THE TAFT-HARTLEY ACT

% OF AMERICAN
WORKERS IN
UNIONS IN

1948

31.2%

% OF AMERICAN
WORKERS IN
UNIONS

TODAY

10.5%

WHY?

Anti-union “right-to-work” states

More than half of the 50 states have enacted so-called “right to work” laws. They dictate that no one can be compelled to join a union or pay dues as a condition of employment. They prohibit contracts that require hiring only unionized workers.

‘Right to Work’ is

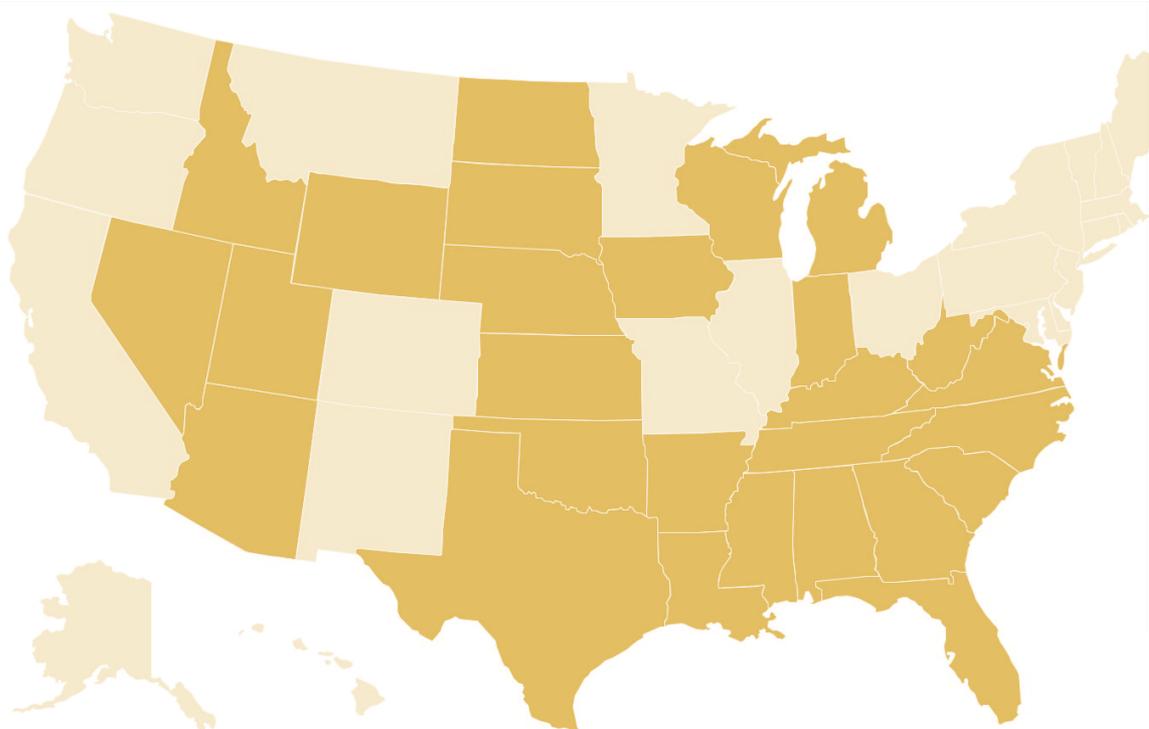
WRONG

WAGES ↓
Average worker in a RTW state makes
\$5,971
less per year than a worker in a free bargaining state.

POVERTY RATE ↑
14.8%
in RTW states, compared to 13.1% in free bargaining states.

HEALTH BENEFITS ↓
16.3%
of people below age 64 in RTW states are uninsured, compared to 12.4% in free bargaining states.

WORKPLACE FATALITIES ↑
54.4%
higher in RTW states where unions can't speak up on behalf of workers.

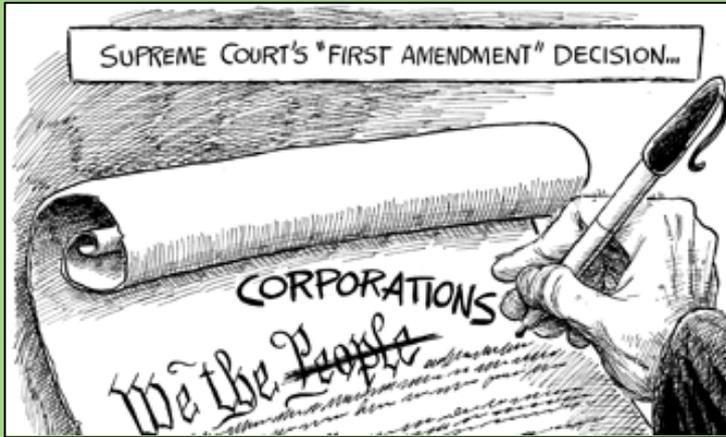


Anti-union so-called “right to work” states shown in gold

No unions only benefits the capitalists

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

In 2010 the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the First Amendment (freedom of speech) prohibits limits on corporate funding of independent broadcasts in candidate elections. The justices said that the government's rationale for the limits on corporate spending—to prevent corruption—was not persuasive enough to restrict political speech.



MONEY HAS CORRUPTED OUR POLITICS.

Right now, the vast majority of Americans **AREN'T BEING HEARD**

by candidates in our political process

Most of the money in our politics comes from a small group of **MOSTLY WEALTHY, MOSTLY WHITE, MOSTLY MALE INDIVIDUALS**

Less than **10%** of contributions of \$200 or more in the 2012 presidential campaign came from communities of color

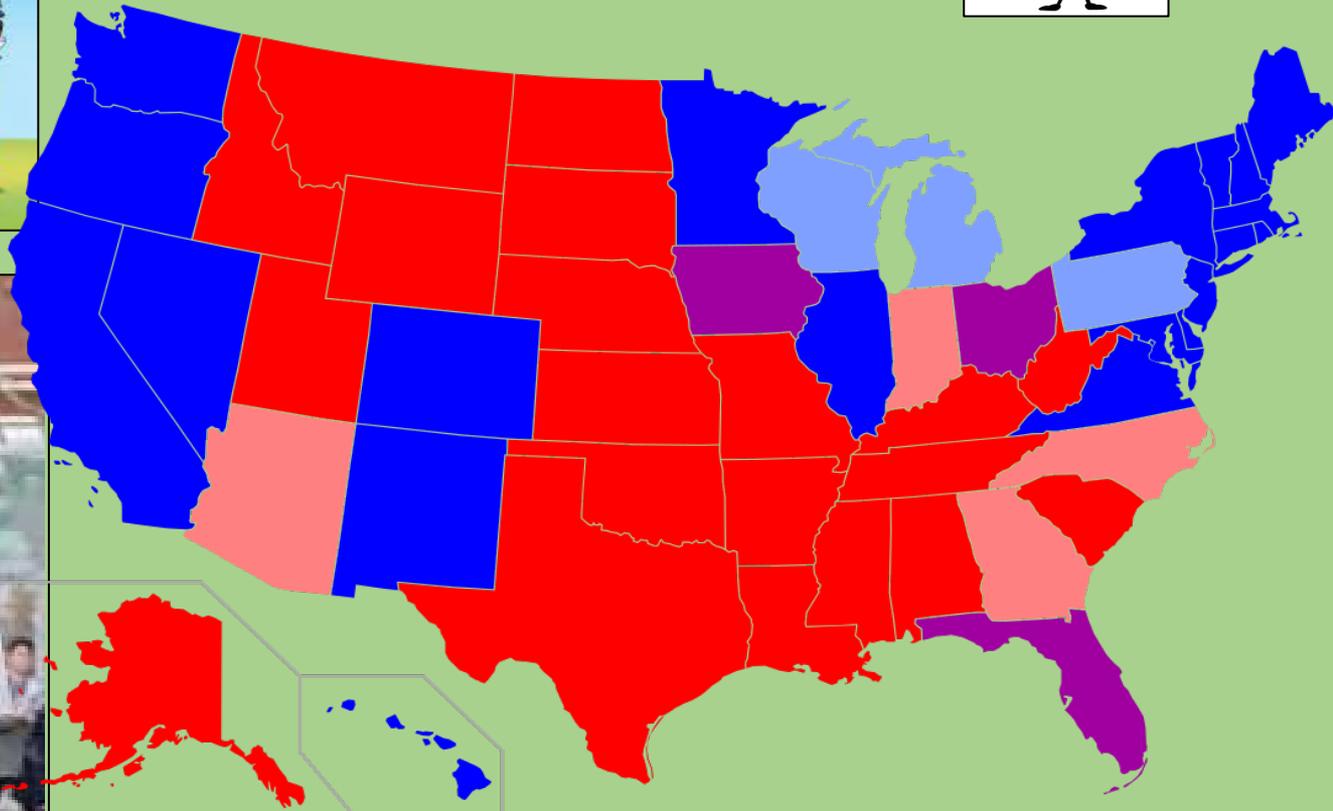
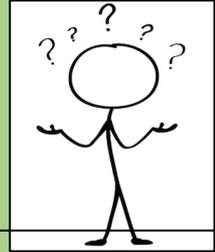
MORE THAN A THIRD of 2016 super PAC money came from just **50 DONORS**



Red states controlled by Republicans

Blue states controlled by Democrats

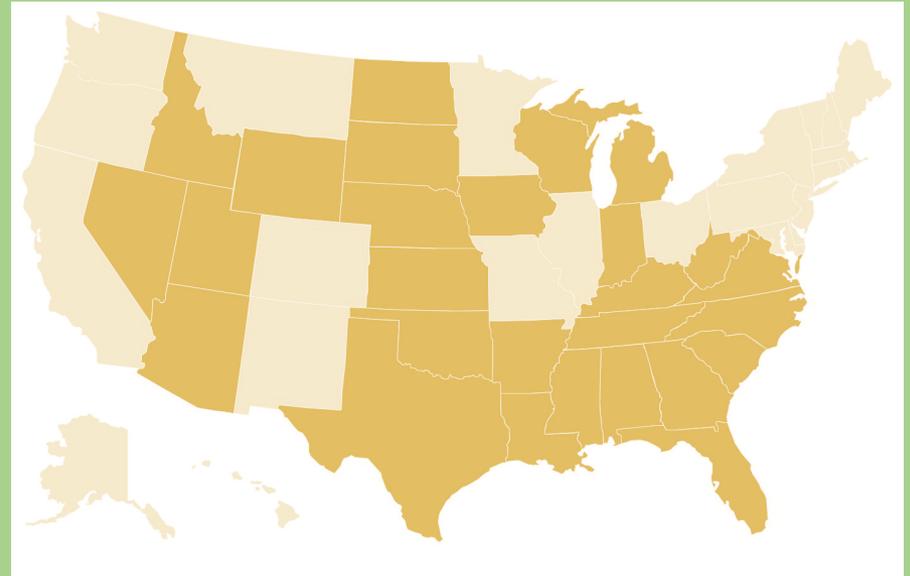
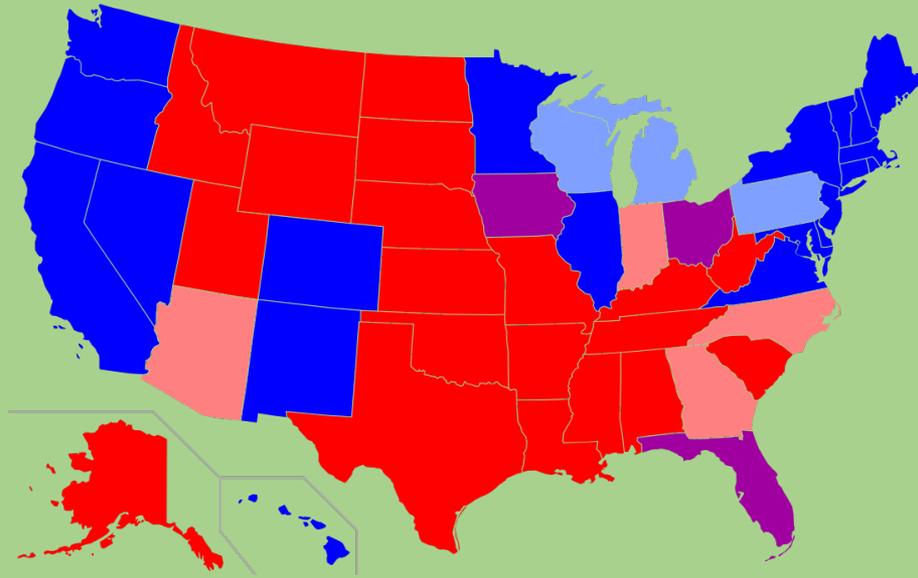
Which side are we on?



Red states controlled by Republicans

Blue states controlled by Democrats

Gold states anti-union "RTW"



One third of the 74 million who voted for Trump in 2020 earned less than \$50,000

Step one = the right to organize

How they steal elections: Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering = drawing weird districts to ensure political power. What state legislatures do after each census of the population. Dominated by rural Republicans who implement minority rule.

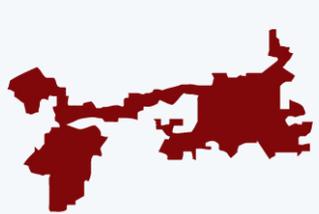
America's Most Gerrymandered Districts

Most gerrymandered Congressional districts in the U.S. according to compactness index*

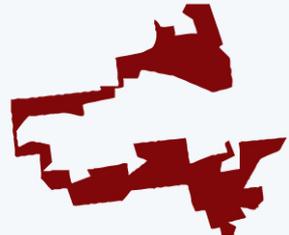
1. Maryland's 3rd district



2. Texas's 33rd district



3. Illinois's 4th district



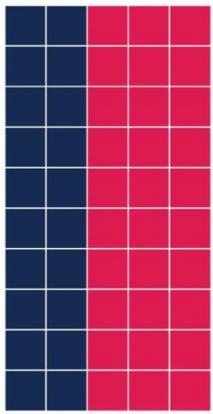
4. Texas's 35th district



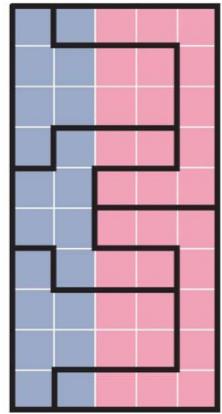
5. Louisiana's 2nd district



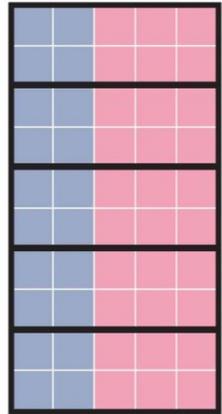
HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION:



50 PRECINCTS
60% RED
40% BLUE



5 DISTRICTS
2 RED
3 BLUE
BLUE WINS



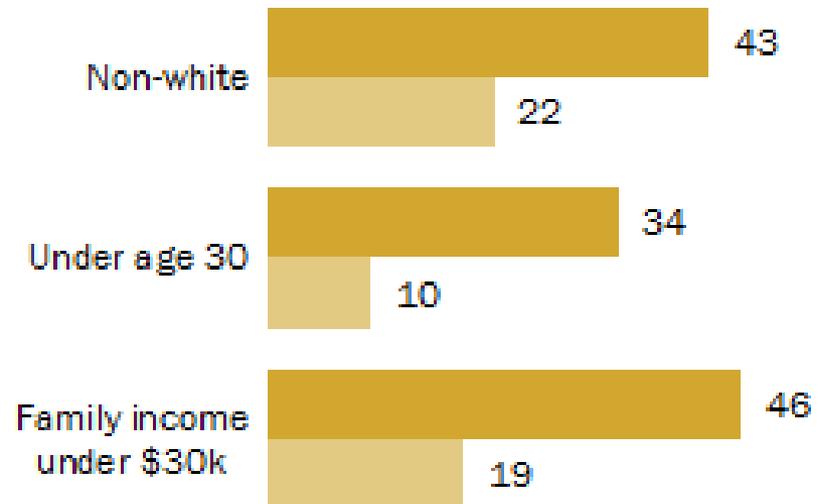
5 DISTRICTS
5 RED
0 BLUE
RED WINS

They win when we don't vote



Wide Demographic Divides Between Nonvoters and Likely Voters

■ % among nonvoters ■ % among likely voters



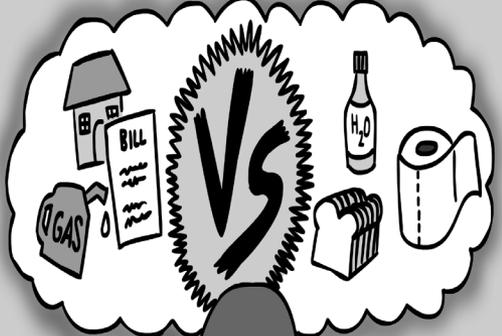
Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In politics we can fight as a class

We fight for a worker's program: **A LIVABLE WAGE!**

UTILITIES VS. GROCERIES



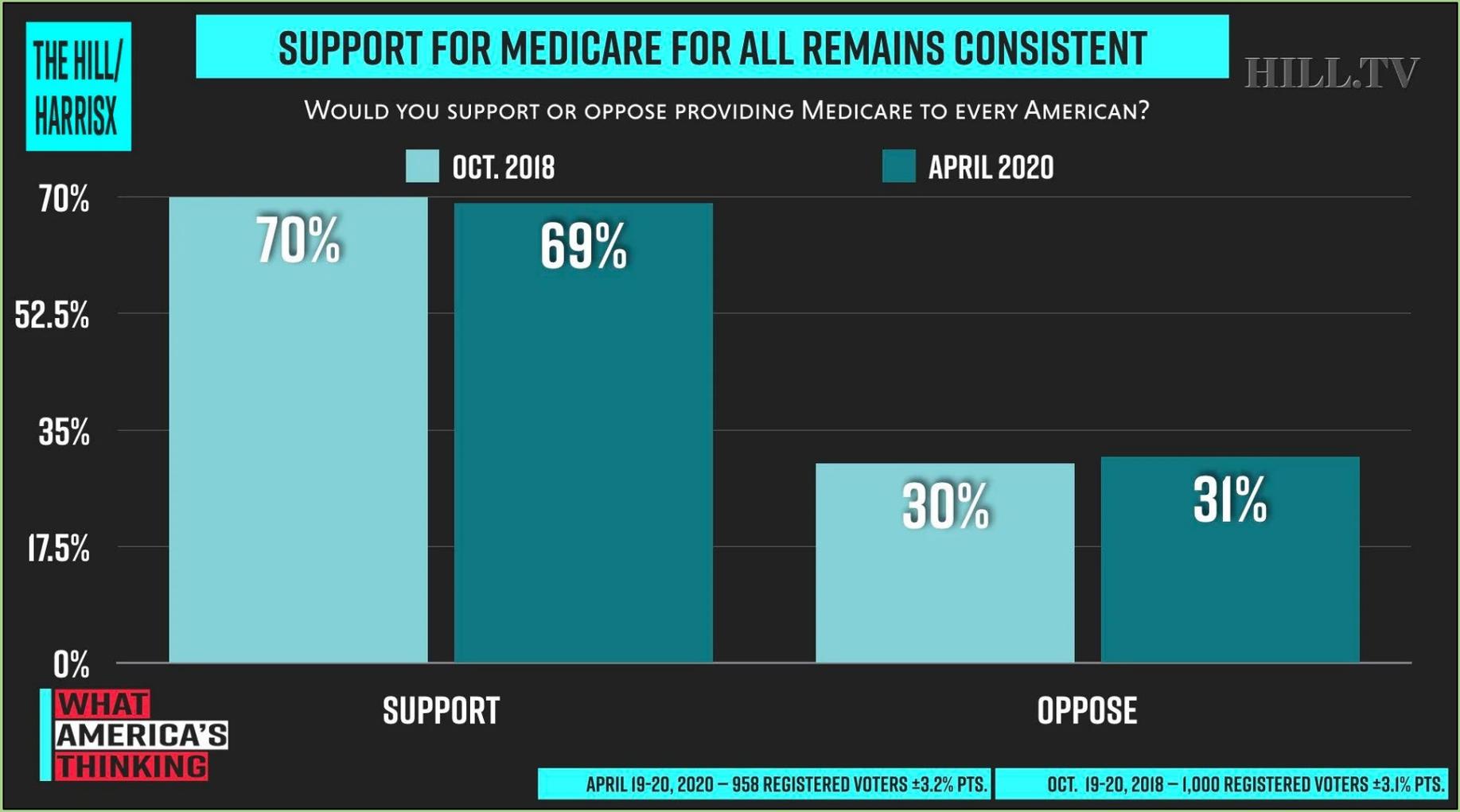
"Why do I ALWAYS have to choose?"

WHO'S HELPED BY RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE?

WHAT PEOPLE THINK	THE REALITY
Teenager	Average age: 35 years old
Works part time after school	88% are not teens. They're 20 or older
Lives with parents	36% are 40 or older
Earning extra spending money	56% are women
	28% have children
	55% work full time
	On average, they earn half of their family's total income

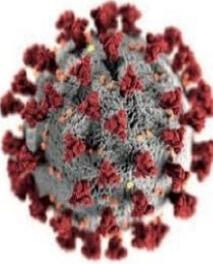


We fight for a worker's program: **MEDICARE FOR ALL!**



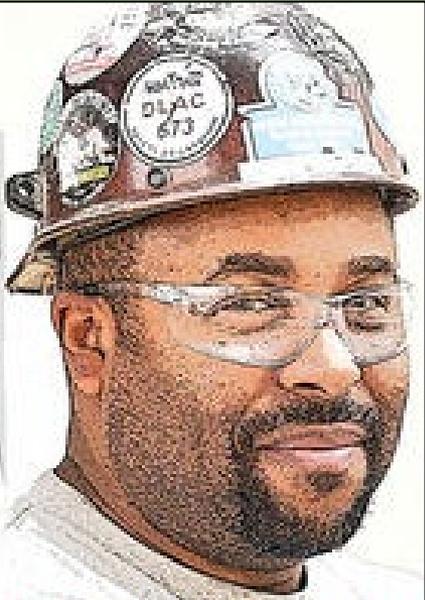
We fight for a worker's program: **A SAFE WORKPLACE!**

**SAFE JOBS
SAVE LIVES**



#OrganizetheSouth
#COVID19

**SAFE
JOBS
SAVE
LIVES**



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

AFL-CIO.WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY.APRIL 28

Time for OSHA to get real

We fight for a worker's program: **A SAFE ENVIRONMENT!**



We fight for a worker's program: **WHAT DEMANDS DO YOU HAVE?**



Has anyone ever asked workers in the South?
That's why we have the Southern Workers Assembly

The future is possible

Questions? Comments?

