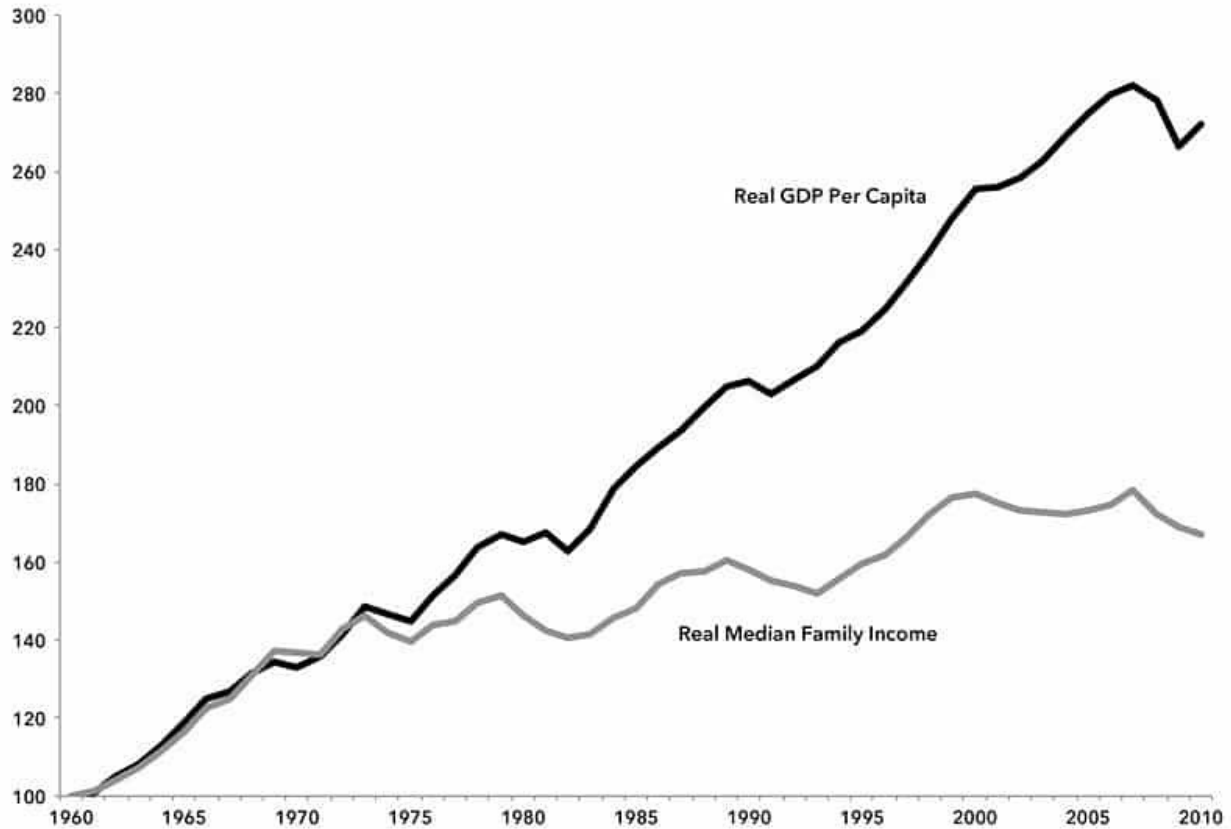


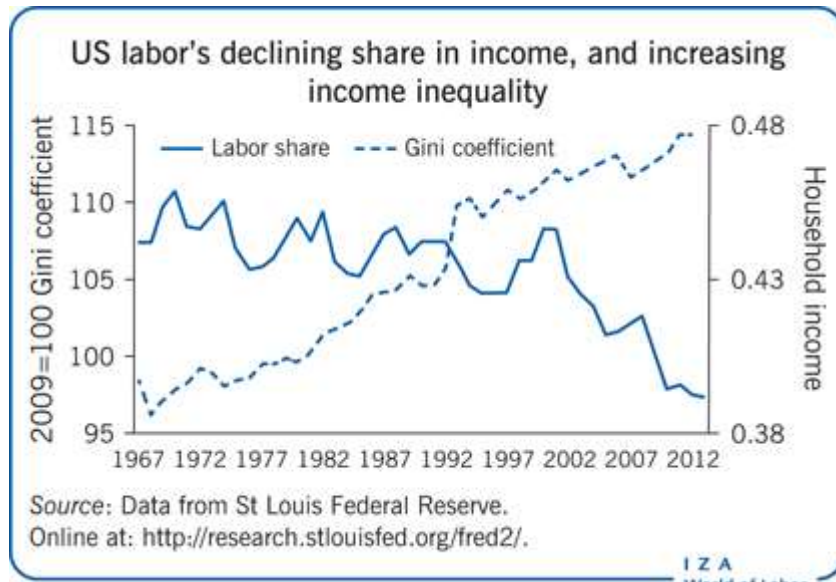
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Labor's share of national income has declined since 1980 as supply-side tax cuts, proclaimed as trickling down the economic ladder, have been enacted and extended.



Capital's share of national income has dramatically increased due to tax policies which allow wealthy people to avoid, evade, and minimize taxable income. For example, capital gains are taxed at a much lower rate and timing of taxation is optional. The underlying assumption that the invested funds were previously taxed as earned income is largely a fiction tax as capital appreciation is the main factor which drives further investment, not earned income. Compliance is substantially lower on non-salary income, as there is no universally required system for reporting this income. Wealth transfers to children without tax and with a generational reduction in tax liability (stepped-up basis) enable oligarchs to emerge and retain economic power. Their wealth surplus enables them to grab an increasing share of political power and, thereby, to manipulate the rule of law to their advantage over time, as has been clearly shown.

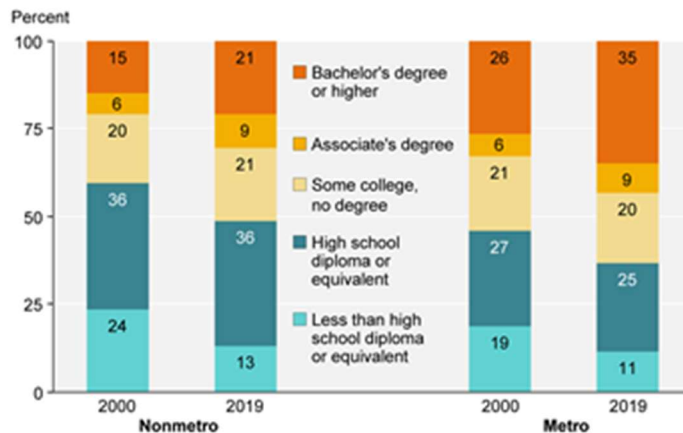
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Rural and manufacturing-based economies have fared worse than urban economies over the past 40 years. Relative incomes are lower overall as rural economies age out due to ag equipment productivity improvements which transfer rural wealth and land ownership into fewer hands, and manufacturing has moved offshore, accelerating the decline in working class income levels.

Education attainment has exacerbated the decline in purchasing power among those with less education as the national economy moves away from resource extraction and hands-on manufacturing toward knowledge-based industries

U.S. educational attainment for adults age 25 and older, 2000 and 2019



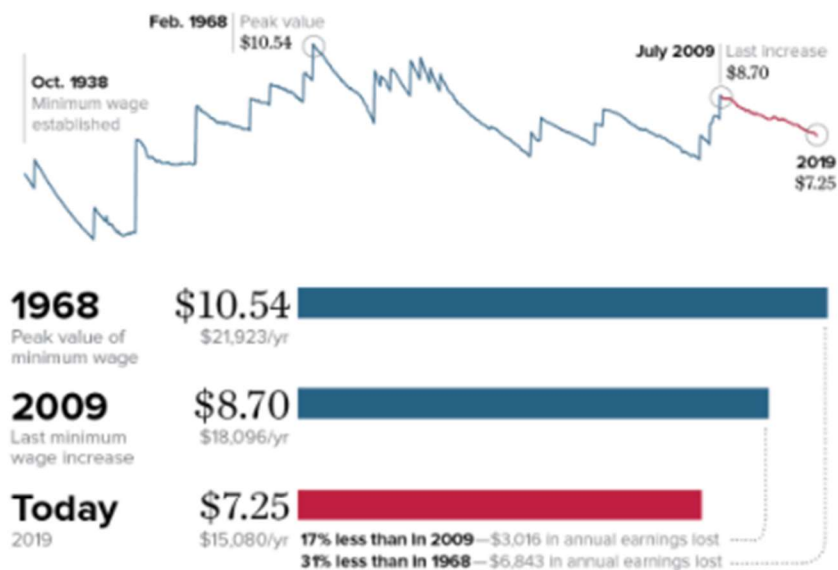
Note: Metro/nonmetro status determined by Office of Management and Budget's 2018 metropolitan area definitions.
 Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 and 2019 American Community Survey.

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Minimum wage suppression and artificially low federal poverty guidelines distort the lower end of the labor market, increasing required subsidies from state and federal governments, while effectively subsidizing upper income and wealthy people, who are the primary consumers of discretionary goods and services.

After the longest period in history without an increase, the federal minimum wage today is worth 17% less than 10 years ago—and 31% less than in 1968

Real value of the minimum wage (adjusted for inflation)



Note: All values are in June 2019 dollars, adjusted using the CPI-U-RS.

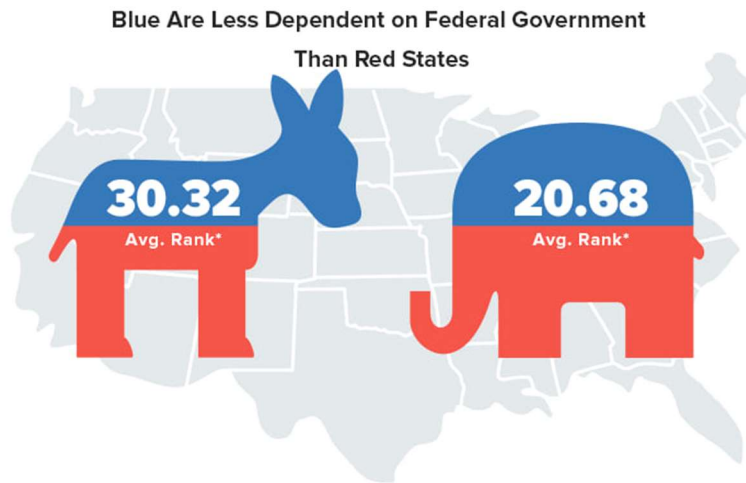
Source: EPI analysis of historical minimum wage data in the Fair Labor Standards Act and amendments

Economic Policy Institute

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Blue states' share of federal income taxes effectively subsidizes expenditures in Red states. Red state politicians proclaim the benefits of smaller government, despite the fact that lower expenditures in their Red states would further lower the standard of living of their constituents as compared to those who live in Blue states

Red vs. Blue States



* The smaller the number, the more dependent a state is.

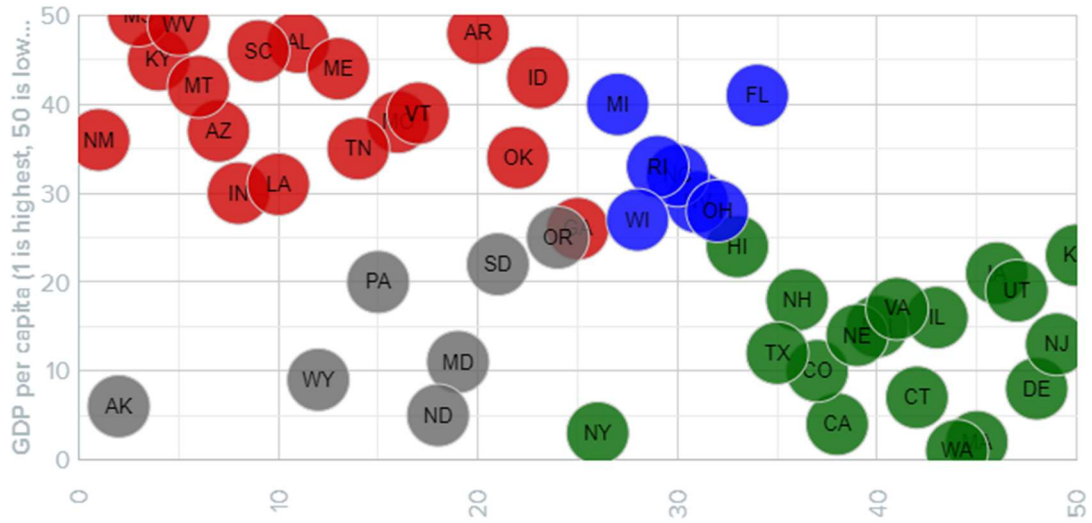


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Dependency on Federal Government (1 is highest, 50 is lowest)

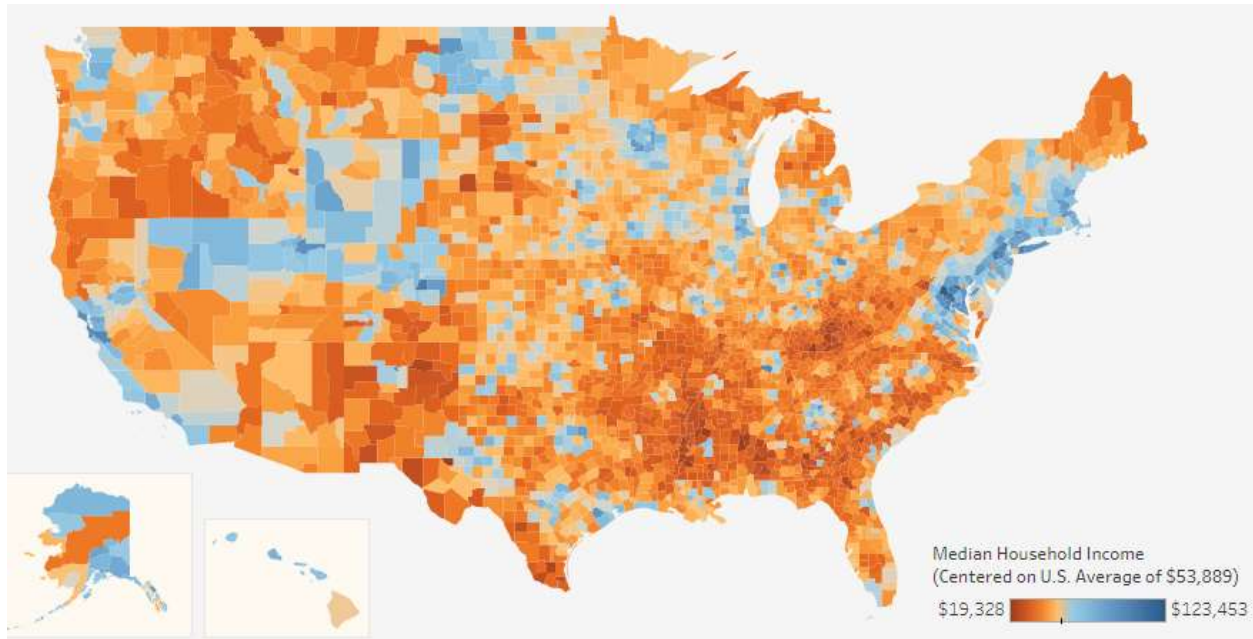
■ Low Dependen... ■ High Depend... ■ High Depend... ■ Low Dependen...

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Lower incomes are concentrated in historically red-lined urban areas and broadly spread across former manufacturing strongholds and rural areas largely in Red states, which comprise most of the land base in America.



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Minimum lot size and maximum density rules drive housing prices and rents up, effectively pricing lower income people from much of suburbia, whatever their melanin level. This creates concentrated pockets of poverty for lower income service workers who are unable to afford to live in the communities they serve.

Middle income families are also increasingly at risk of price-outs and ability to accumulate housing related wealth as the concentration of wealth increases and housing prices are bid up by those seeking better returns on tangible assets than are available from other asset classes.

Together, these trends, a misinformed citizenry, and the Big Lie are moving large swaths of American citizens toward autocracy – “I alone can fix it,” from the guy who could not even manage his daddy’s inherited money and lost it all in Atlantic City.

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Some practical, and therefore politically powerful solutions, to the present threat to self-government (esoterically known as democracy)

1. Reverse recent economic trends where feasible – the infrastructure packages, taken together, are the best short-term hope to save democracy by delivering real improvements quickly, but only if voting rights are preserved.
2. Develop a relentless clear communications strategy about the last 40 years of supply side/trickle-down policies – labor’s share of national income has been diminished by Republican tax policies, costing every American family income, about \$3,000 to \$4,000 per worker per year in current dollars. Republican tax policy has starved government revenues and increased the national debt to levels which cannot be sustained over time without dramatic increases in economic productivity. Republican’s consistent reduction in tax levels and capital gains tax rates have led to increasing wealth concentration which accelerates over time, further reducing labor’s share of national income, and dramatically reducing upward mobility as time goes by. America has a substantially lower level of public expenditures than other advanced economies. This further reduces upward mobility and overall economic growth over generations as world economies move increasingly toward innovation as the basis for human progress.
3. Disable the Big Lie – Tough in the short run but essential. Large geographic swaths of the US with low population density are right-leaning. So, this self-referential group naturally picks up on the Big Lie since virtually everyone they routinely come in contact with voted in a similar fashion. Political leaders opportunistically seeded this Big Lie, then simply amplified and repeated it – the same strategy the Josef Goebbels propagandized for Hitler; that Roy Cohn learned from Joe McCarthy and taught Donald Trump.

Eventually the Big Lie will be defeated - but if we lose small “d” democracy in the meantime, it may take centuries to regain People-based self-government. For example, Plessey v Ferguson (1896) reversed in a very practical way the 14th Amendment (1868) until the advent of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Ratification of the 15th Amendment on voting rights came in 1870, the Voting Rights Act enabling that Amendment not until 1965. As a practical matter, we lost 100 years of progress toward empowering ALL the People. We cannot permit this to happen yet again.

4. Voting, including the ability to effectively motivate and turn out People AND retaining the broadest possible swath of voters as the electorate, are the short term keys to defeating the Big Lie. Delivering and COMMUNICATING real improvements in People’s lives is key to motivating People to actually show up.

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Since we can buy virtually fraud free online using computers, tablets, and smartphones, why do we have to go anywhere or even use the US Mail to deliver and count ballots? Technology makes it possible to vote from anywhere, day or night, without standing in line, threat of intimidation, or inconvenience – no national holiday required.

Finally, Americans have a demonstrated desire for immediate gratification (2 hour express delivery of most anything these days), so why not use technology so Steve Kornacki and Tucker Carlson can call the election an hour after the polls close?