

The concept of “work place democracy” and its place in the “social puzzle” we are attempting to assemble is the sane reaction to a massive behavior inculcated by those folks currently in control of our commercial system and its vast media empire. The holy image of “competition in a free market” has permeated our public policy and discussion by design. If you can control the discussion you can control the situation. The discussion starts and ends with “the law of the jungle (survival of the strongest over everyone else) cannot be opposed because it is the law of nature just like physics, chemistry, etc”.

Is that so? In spite of overwhelming force by the “strongest” why do we still have tribes, credit unions, rural cooperatives, fraternal orders, Ace Hardware, families, churches, and workplace cooperatives? Could it be the “law of nature”? Could it be because without avarice free cooperation none of us would have survived our birth?

The reason for our schizophrenia? Probably 400 years of nonstop capitalist “marketing”. Remember the ones that control the narrative control the end result.

So why, in spite of the massive accumulation of capitalist “marketing” for 400 years, do we have all the various cooperatives mentioned in the second paragraph? We cannot survive let alone thrive without cooperatives.

Our current billionaires welfare system seeks to box everyone else in a system that works solely for the billionaires.

If we have problems it’s natural to look to cooperation for the solution. If we have a chronic problem of poverty arising from unemployment then we should look at cooperatives to solve the problem.

What is an “economy”? The oldest definition is lost in the mists of the past. Practical observation really starts with a graphic created by Abraham Maslow in 1943 called the hierarchy of needs. It formed a pyramid with the foundation of our common needs: food, water, air and rest. It proceeded to build from there:
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=O-4ithG_07Q

Clearly this describes not only the foundation of basic economic behavior but also the relationship to science, music, art, spiritual and other considerations until we reach fulfillment of our genetic possibilities (thriving not just surviving).

The necessary remedial changes are to remove those governmental systems and institutions that force “uncooperative behavior upon us”. Then we put in place those systems and institutions that tap into our natural sense of cooperation. We can change

our corporate charter law to require a democracy of operations that requires access to management power by those folks impacted with the corporate behavior. "Investors" are not the only people with "rights". We need money to operate a market system. It must be democratized, not privatized. We standardize weights, measures and money to facilitate markets, but the process is to be democratically, not privately controlled. Hence the need for publicly owned banks. Credit unions have been "publicly owned" cooperatives since their inception and are far more stable than privately owned banks. In 2007-2009 we saw a massive collapse of casino banking followed by massive "welfare for billionaires" programs. Credit unions? Hardly a ripple and without "welfare for the non billionaires". A publicly owned bank would be the heart and circulatory system of the cooperatively owned economy

We need a legal structure nurturing development of worker and community owned cooperatives. We have a ridiculous swamp in which to establish any economic enterprise, thus structurally giving the billionaires the huge advantage of bottomless legal and financial resources, while thwarting the competition from cooperatives and small private businesses.

The possible scenario would be for each county to assess the resources at hand in each locale. Perhaps there is a copper mine, and cattle ranches, orchards, vegetables, cotton and hemp farming. Worker owned cooperatives could be assembled to "harvest" resources, to manufacture food products, clothing, shoes and wood products; to construct housing, clinics, roads, schools and other community buildings. And do so with respect to the environment the participants must live in.

The primary need is to supplement talents and skills already available with assistance to provide administrative services. Electricians, farmers and weavers should not be expected to be lawyers and accountants in order to make a living from their skills. Other services that would be provided might be purchasing, marketing, warehousing, shipping. By having a cooperative to provide these services to cooperatives needing the services, would spread the overhead costs over a larger business base and enhance an overall competitive cost position. The task for the state would be the source of investment to launch the new cooperatives and help to assemble and staff the organization to ensure success.

We've spent billions of dollars subsidizing "drive by" corporate investment from billionaires with no roots or loyalty to New Mexico. It usually is a very temporary "one night stand" that evaporates as soon as all the subsidies stop. Spending that money to develop a wide based, locally owned economy with roots and loyalty to New Mexico would be an investment with perpetual returns to New Mexico.

The following are sources that contributed to the overall understanding which produced the text above.

An excellent example of how a cooperative actually started in an impoverished environment and solved problems with poverty, education, medical care, transportation and other "needs in our hierarchy of needs:

[The Mondragon Experiment - Corporate Cooperativism 1980 on Vimeo](#)

An update of Mondragon in 2019:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjsvdDDt-bqAhWFKs0KHY0XB74QFjANegQIDRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uk.coop%2Fnewsroom%2Fnew-report-highlights-lessons-worlds-largest-worker-co-op&usq=AOvVaw0yithFraiJZL1wgTtxKKt>

A source of help and information for cooperatives:

<https://institute.coop/>

A virtual library on the history, development and current uses of cooperatives to help solve economic and sociological problems:

<http://democracyatwork.info/>

A comparison of our current dominating system and a cooperative system

http://www.democracyatwork.info/eu_worker_coops_vs_capitalism

A look at a large cooperative economy:

Emilia Romagna

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/economy/2016/07/05/the-italian-place-where-co-ops-drive-the-economy-and-most-people-are-members/>

A national group that helps cooperatives to form

<https://cooperationworks.coop>

A regional group that helps form cooperatives in agricultural areas in NM

<https://www.rmfu.org/what-we-do/cooperation/co-op-development-center/>

A "think tank" to develop ways to "cooperatize" our economy

<https://democracycollaborative.org/about>