I. Work

A. Post WWII-Mid 1970s

1. economy

a. manufacturing

b. jobs: white and blue collar

2. American Dream

a. Leave It to Beaver

b. 60% middle class

c. 60% homeowners

3. Social contract: worker and corporation

a. decent wage

b. job security and promotion

c. benefits

d. retirement

B. Mid 1970s to present: Deindustrialization

1. Economy

a. service-based

b. jobs: service sector 75%

2. service sector jobs

a. top tier: investment banker, lawyer, stock broker

b. middle tier: school teacher, social worker, criminal justice

c. four out of five: McJobs

i. part-time

ii. low wage

iii. no benefits/too expensive

iv. no advancement

v. easily replaceable

3. other jobs

a. Temps

i. +400 per cent since 1980s

ii. “Permatemps”

b. high tech jobs: under 10%

c. manufacturing: under 10%

4. Example: San Diego

a. 61% since 2001 less than $25,000

b. mainly in service sector

c. food preparation 11% of all jobs decline in wages avg $18,000

d. overall wages up 9.6% inflation up 12.3%

5. U.S.: job gain/loss

a. net gain

b. 50 million lost 1980-2001

i. white and blue collar

ii. manufacturing jobs since 2000 -5.6 million

C. Causes

1. automation

2. job flight or off-shoring

a. eliminate manufacturing

b. hi-tec, financial services, health care

3. downsizing or “rightsizing”: social contract?!

4. outsourcing

a. contractors

b. temps

5. mergers and acquisitions

II. Poverty in America

A. Poverty

1. Def: standard of living below what is necessary for

maintenance of adequate diet, health, and shelter

a. Poverty line or threshold

b. Mary Orshanky 1963

c. 3x the $ minimal subsistence diet (Thrifty Food Plan)

d. SSA and the poverty line 2009

i. single $11, 000

ii. family of $18,300

iii. family of 4 $22,100

iv. before tax

2. Extent

a. 2004 36 million /12%, 2008 40 million/13.2

b. race African American, Latino, Native Americans

c. age

i. under 18, 19%/12.8 million/ +1.7 million

ii. over 65 under 10%

d. gender

e. cities: 10 largest 25%-33%

B. Measuring poverty? Comparison and trent

1. an accurate measure: x5

a. 1/5 on food

b. Thrifty Food Plan: temporary

c. after tax

d. 52 million or 17.2%

2. comparative

a. highest poverty rate

b. highest rate of childhood poverty

c. least

3. Trend

a. +4 million since 2004

a. near poor: within 125% of poverty line ^

b. working poor: 30%^

c. severely poor^

i. 12.7 million at one-half or under the

ii. 4.9 million are children

d. AA children 50% (up from 34%)

C. The poor in US really well off?

1. Welfare In America too good.

2. How good was too good?

a. cash:1/3 of poor

b. median payment: $370

c. non-cash benefits: 40%

d. all benefits; 3/4 poverty line

e. children 1.9

3. Welfare reform TANF (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Conciliation Act)

a. millions cut: 90% women and children

b. Clinton: “I solved the welfare problem.”

i. where are the children

ii. no mandate to follow up

4. Three studies: Wisconsin, NYTimes, and Nation

a. 70% below poverty

b. 36% no medical care

c. 50% can't afford enough food

5. Homelessness

III. Who benefits from poverty?

A. surplus of desperate workers that depress wages.

B. someone to do the dirty and dangerous work in

society

C. creates jobs to maintain the social order ( power arrangements): police, social workers, prison guards

D. profit: “poverty surcharge” on food: +8%-18%

E. profit: rip off loans

F. scapegoats for wealthy, someone to blame