

SOC 105-001
Essay Brief 7

Capitalism is a societal framework that all Americans are involved in. Weber and Marx discuss the development of this societal framework, and how individuals are included. More specifically, Marx discusses how this labor framework can negatively affect individuals' lives. Weber discusses the historical context of how this came about, and provides examples from several countries. While both of these writings were written over a century ago, at present, we seem to be slowly moving toward a different economic societal framework.

Marx examines the way individuals are pushed to turn themselves into a commodity through their labor. Today, certain groups and individuals are pushing to change the way economics and politics are intertwined and practiced in the United States. As a result of the pandemic, many people are also advocating for the disposal of the traditional eight hour workday. With current technology, this seems plausible due to the ability to communicate remotely.

For example, Bernie Sanders has continuously advocated for working class Americans, and pushes lawmakers to crack down on billionaires and corporations. He also advocates for the federal government to provide everyone with better access to healthcare and education. These changes would allow for a more equitable distribution of wealth in the United States. This would also allow people to place their focus on more meaningful areas of their lives, rather than solely focusing on getting what they need to survive. In psychology, Maslow's hierarchy of needs states that in order to achieve your best self, basic physiological needs such as safety and health must be achieved first. With a better distribution of resources and a shift in focus from constantly working, people would become better versions of themselves. In addition, living in a van/bus and traveling seems to be an increasingly popular lifestyle that is being spread through social media outlets such as TikTok. This displays the American public's slow shift in focus from working all their lives, to wanting to enjoy life and create meaning.

In conclusion, capitalism seems to be a societal development that has placed many people in danger. The forces of capitalism drive people to work all their lives just to survive. The most dangerous part of this is that most people do not realize what is occurring due to the intangibility of capitalism as a whole. This is also due to the spread of these ideals through the collective consciousness using outlets such as the media. However, it appears that America may be slowly moving away from this damaging system.