

Our two economic systems compete

Humans have lived for generations with two competing economic systems:

- Our foundational solidarity economy in which we help each other as best as we can, raise children, enjoy the company of friends, etc. -- free of exchange.
- The exchange economy which requires everyone to trade for what they need or want. Last week's Strategy Note 309 said we must eliminate exchange.

The exchange economy depends parasitically on our solidarity economy to produce workers, consumers, and owners.

Actors within the exchange economy seek to accumulate wealth. Some of them seek an advantage from:

- a monopoly within the existing market for some good or service.
- a cheaper way to produce a good or service.
- a new market for goods or services not already dominated by competitors.

As an example of that third method, some exchange-economy actors seek to take over goods and services previously provided by our solidarity economy. In recent decades, large portions of agriculture, meal production, childcare, and care of the infirm have shifted from work households did for themselves to something they buy (or try to buy) in the exchange economy. Urban areas in the United States especially show this shift. Many factors drive such shifts.

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