

Exchange fails. So what?

Strategy Note 318 said that dominance by the United States of the worldwide exchange system fails *and* exchange itself fails. Strategy Note 318 considered some implications of failing US dominance. Why do I write that exchange itself fails? If correct, what might that failure imply?

The failures of exchange largely result from its strong tendency to create increasing inequality in wealth. Under exchange, we have wealthy and poor. The rich get richer. Everybody else gets poorer.

Our solidarity relationships provide much of the work that raises children, maintains households, and cares for the infirm. Yet many people (especially those in "developed" countries and in urban areas) still get their food, fuel, and other necessities from the faltering exchange economy.

We need to develop replacements for those declining exchange relationships. Fortunately we have models we can expand.

Cooperative community gardens, land trusts, food cooperatives, childcare coops, free pantries, and many other efforts show how we can organize to provide what we need without seeking to profit off of each other and even --in growing numbers-- not using exchange against each other.

What can you do now to help reduce your dependence on the brittle exchange economy?

Exchange fails. So what?

Strategy Note 318 said that dominance by the United States of the worldwide exchange system fails *and* exchange itself fails. Strategy Note 318 considered some implications of failing US dominance. Why do I write that exchange itself fails? If correct, what might that failure imply?

The failures of exchange largely result from its strong tendency to create increasing inequality in wealth. Under exchange, we have wealthy and poor. The rich get richer. Everybody else gets poorer.

Our solidarity relationships provide much of the work that raises children, maintains households, and cares for the infirm. Yet many people (especially those in "developed" countries and in urban areas) still get their food, fuel, and other necessities from the faltering exchange economy.

We need to develop replacements for those declining exchange relationships. Fortunately we have models we can expand.

Cooperative community gardens, land trusts, food cooperatives, childcare coops, free pantries, and many other efforts show how we can organize to provide what we need without seeking to profit off of each other and even --in growing numbers-- not using exchange against each other.

What can you do now to help reduce your dependence on the brittle exchange economy?

