

Distributor pondered over his dilemma—how was he going to fix the economy so that the people would not suffer at the hands of wealth? He had observed for too long now the effect the creation of wealth had on economic growth. Although wealth had its' benefits, including the ability to boost demand and trade, create jobs and increase wages, it was being taken advantage of by the terrible Dr. Greedy who was unequally sprinkling cash onto the lawns of the chosen. Since wealth was being trickled down unevenly, although the standard of living had improved, wealth inequality was increasing. "What should I do?" he exclaimed as he rubbed his hands over the magic wisdom ball and prayed to the economy gods to send him a solution. The magic ball immediately displayed a message: "Distributor—it is up to you to overcome the evil powers of Dr. Greedy. Several factors, such as technological change, trade, foreign investment, the rise in immigration, and the falling real value of the minimum wage are changing the structure of the U.S. economy for the worse. Because of this, earnings inequality is increasing at a dramatic rate ("Globalization")! Your first mission is to travel to the disadvantaged communities in Africa, where outsourcing of jobs are gobbling up the wealth of the nation. Save the economy before Dr. Greedy comes to plunder all the capital!"

Distributor read the message once again before gathering his equipment for the mission—his magic ball, money map, wealth zapper, and thinking cap. He snapped on his flowing green cape with the giant money logo imprinted on it, slipped his goggles over his eyes, hopped onto his flying tricycle and turned on the GPS to navigate the way. Distributor was off to Africa to save the day.

When he arrived, Distributor scanned his money map to view the effects of poverty. His money map told him that many of the manufacturing jobs are being outsourced and leaving the country in poverty. He knew that wealth could be created through several means that could both benefit the economy and be environmentally friendly. He took out his handy magic ball and asked the economy gods for advice. A message appeared, "It is all about creating more labor." A lightbulb went on in Distributor's head—he would create "green-collar jobs" (Green-Collar Jobs Campaign Team).

These green-collar jobs would include constructing weathering buildings, putting up solar panels, and establishing wind farms that would put people to work in Africa rather than continuing to outsource workers. The green economy would have the power to deliver new sources of work, wealth and insurance benefits to low-income people while respecting the Earth. He felt these “green-collar jobs” could provide a pathway out of poverty for the many inhabitants who have not received a formal education in Africa, and these jobs are manual-labor jobs that can’t be outsourced, forcing the wealth to remain within the impoverished country (Green-Collar). Moreover, harvesting and selling natural resources and improving production methods to allow faster creation of wealth would stabilize the African economy for the short-run. However, he still needed a long-term solution. He knew that applying skill and labor would dramatically increase the value of the materials being manufactured and produced in Africa thus increasing the wealth of the country overall. “Think Distributor, think!... skilled labor—EDUCATION!” That was it! By ensuring that education was available and affordable for everyone an increase in the supply of skilled labor would follow. Before he was off on his next mission, Distributor ensured that a minimum wage legislation was passed in order to raise the income of the poorest working group.

Distributor was in a major predicament. He didn’t know whether countries should block or embrace trends toward globalization. Although globalization allows communication among different nations, at the same time, because of the differences in financial and economic power, the exchange between countries is increasing inequality both within and among countries. It was all becoming clear to Distributor; he now knew who his true enemy was—globalization! He felt as if a small group of leading industrialized states were taking advantage of globalization and controlling the vast majority of the remaining states that were turning into its objects of financial economic developments. As a result, the inequalities of social and economic development of the world are increasing. Distributor analyzed his money map, “Wow, in 1960 the incomes of the richest 20% of the world's population exceeded

those of the poorest 20% by 30 times, and by 2002 that gap had tripled. At present half of the Earth's population have an income of under two dollars a day. About a billion people have no work, and among those who work almost 89% are deprived of social guarantees (Ivanov).” Distributor was worried, was globalization becoming a major threat?

His next mission was to find a solution to the looming threat of globalization. Distributor put on his thinking cap and inspected his world economy map that showed him the stats of the economies of all the nations of the world. He noticed that the rapid shifts generated by globalization, including technical change, trade, investment and migration were generating disruptions in the lives of farmers, workers and firms (“Globalization”). These workers, suffering from the effects of globalization needed Distributor’s help. With the open network between countries, came competition. Although consumers were gaining, firms and specialized workers who were not able to keep up with the competition were suffering. Distributor was beginning to get a massive headache from thinking of all the potential threats of globalization. He needed a solution, and fast!

Distributor consulted the magic ball. He rubbed his hands over the ball and inquired to the economy gods—“What shall I do about globalization? Is it on my side, or the dark side?” A message appeared: “Consider a solution that will allow the benefits of globalization to prevail, while tackling the downside to this practice. Look deep into your heart, Distributor, and you will find the answer.”

Distributor ran the words through his mind again and again— *Let the benefits prevail...* He had many sleepless nights before he was finally able to come up with a solution. Rather than restricting the capital that flows into developing countries, he felt he ought to help these countries create a financial structure in the corporate, banking, and government sectors. In addition, he planned to help low-income countries expand their access to rich country markets so they can develop their own governing institutions. Thus, both the world’s poor and rich can benefit from a more integrated world (“Globalization”). “It is time for the forces to join together!” Distributor exclaimed.

Bibliography

Ivanov, Igor. "International Security in the Era of Globalization ." The Telegraph (Kathmandu,Russia) 1 (4 Mar. 2003). Global Policy Forum. Mar. 2003. Global Policy Forum . 13 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.nepalnews.com.np/telegraph.htm>>.

Lerman, Robert I. "Globalization and the Fight Against Poverty ." The Urban Institute (Nov. 2002). 14 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.urban.org/>>.

Lerman, Robert I. "Is Earnings Inequality Really Increasing?" The Urban Institute 1 ser. (Mar. 1997): 1-4.The Urban Institute. 1997. The Urban Institute. 13 Nov. 2007 <<http://www.urban.org/>>.

The Green-Collar Jobs Campaign Team. "Reclaim the Future is Now the 'Green-Collar Jobs Campaign.'" Green-Collar Jobs Campaign. 2006 . Ella Baker Center. 12 Nov. 2007 <<http://ellabakercenter.org/>>.