

MARKET VS. COMMUNITY VALUES

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One way of looking at U.S. history is as a contest between two competing cultures trying to establish and/or maintain their values.

Working people strive to maintain, express and transmit to younger generations their own "community" values, their own culture of solidarity through institutions such as organized labor.

Business, on the other hand, has a different set of values, "market" values, which it continually tries to enforce on working people through its cultural institutions, corporations and managers.

Whenever working people have been able to express and mobilize their own "community values", there has been an "expansion" of democracy in the United States.

Shays' Rebellion, the resistance of indigenous peoples, the revolts of enslaved Africans, the Knights of Labor, the Populist movement, the American Federation of Labor, the Non-Partisan League, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Civil Rights Movement, the Public Employee organizing and the Women's movement of the 1970's, and the organizing against "free trade agreements" and for an alternative model of social development are a few examples of this expression of community values.

MARKET VALUES	COMMUNITY VALUES
COMPETITION	SOLIDARITY
ACQUISITIVE	INQUISITIVE
ACCUMULATIVE	DISTRIBUTIVE
HIERARCHICAL	HORIZONTAL
AUTHORITARIAN	COLLABORATIVE
EXCLUSIVE	INCLUSIVE