

Can the Economy help us all get along?

HENRY LIEBERMAN AND CHRISTOPHER FRY
MIT COMPUTER SCIENCE & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LAB

Why does a first-world worker make so much more than a third-world worker?



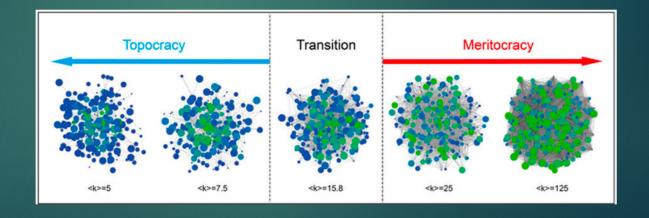




Why differences in income/wealth?



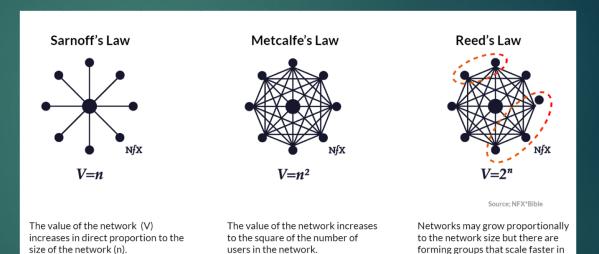
- ► Hard work?
- ► Education?
- ► Value of product?
- ► Topocracy!



WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG? Medicines Con Switch A Mode Conference Format Commitment Format Moder Conference Format Moder Conference Format Moder Conference Format

Cooperation increases productivity as square of number of nodes

As tech advances, more of the value comes from "the network"



value than others (because of influence or interconnectedness).

The world's best biz model



- ► Almost guaranteed to work!
 - ► Verified by major companies
- Not illegal
- ▶ But, some would consider it slightly unethical
- ► The world's first computer crime
- ► Can you trust business not to steal from you?
- ► Aggregation of microtheft

Well, what should happen to the surplus productivity?



- ► Reward producers (incentive)
 - ▶ Credit assignment
- ▶ Invest in future
- ▶ Distribute to partcipants
- Universal Basic Income (/ Wealth)



The Fundamental Theorem of Capitalism



- ► (= "Fundamental Theorem of Welfare Economics")
 - ▶ If everyone acts according to the economic incentives provided by Capitalism, the results will be, overall, the best for society
- ▶ (not every single time/person, but "overall" relative to Communism, feudalism)
- ▶ Does the Prisoner's Dilemma contradict the FToC?
 - ▶ Incentives lead to disaster

Lepper Children's Drawing Experiment







Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic Motivation



- ▶ Intrinsic Motivation
 - ▶ You do something for it's own sake like listening to music
- ► Extrinsic Motivation
 - ▶ You do something for a reward, incentive, grades, pay, status, points in a game, ...
 - ▶ Because there's something else you want, not because of the activity itself
- ▶ Intrinsic Motivation and Extrinsic Motivation inhibit each other

The Bankruptcy of Incentive

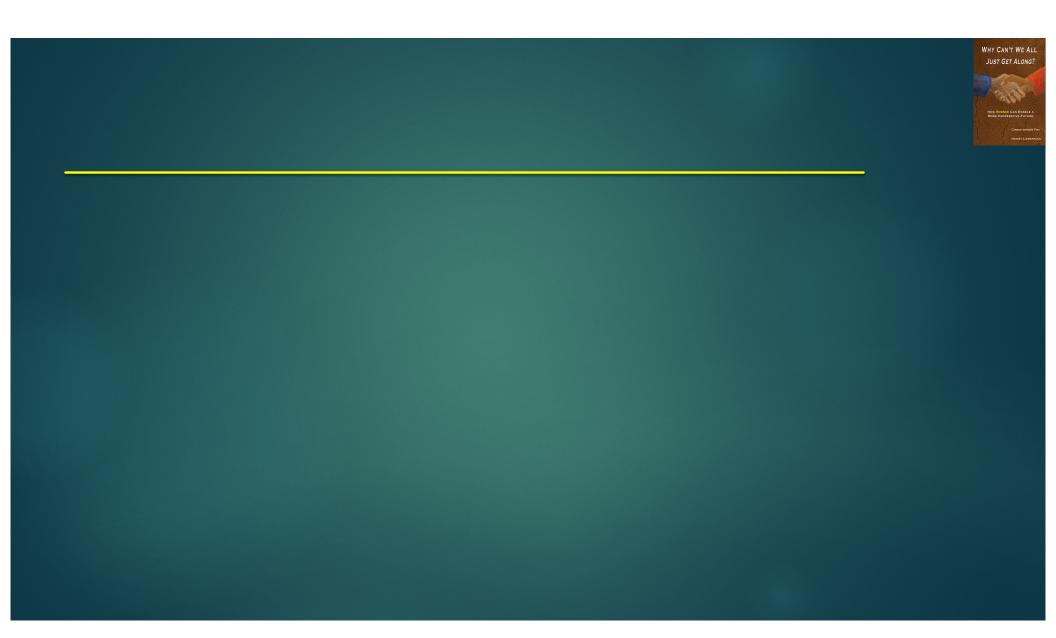


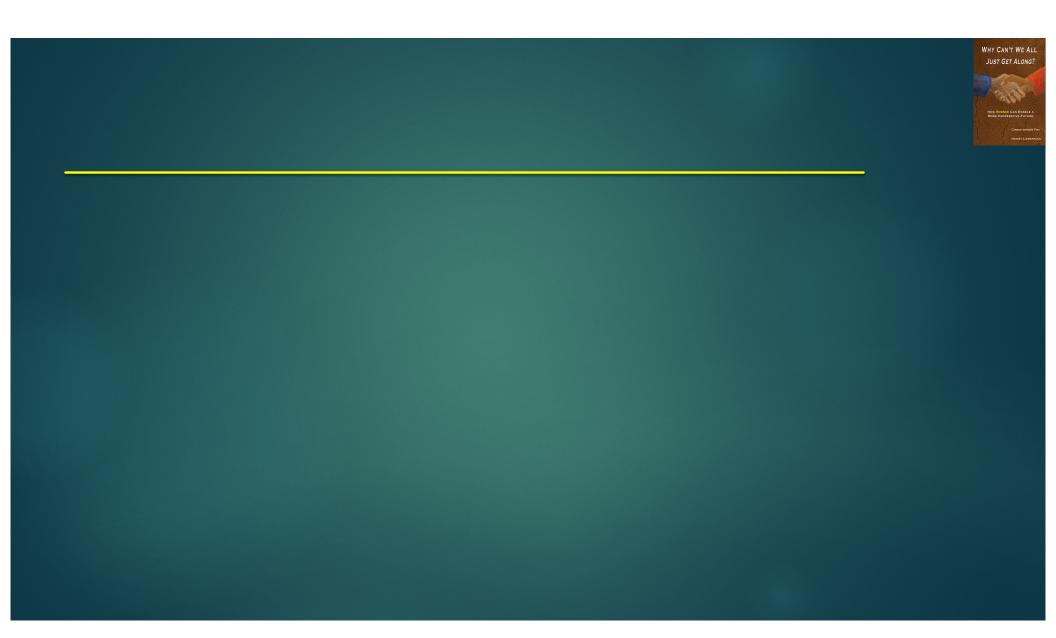
- Capitalism works by providing incentive to increase profit
 - ▶ Oppressive, because it is constantly bribing you to do things you don't want to do
- ▶ "What would people do all day if they didn't have to work?"

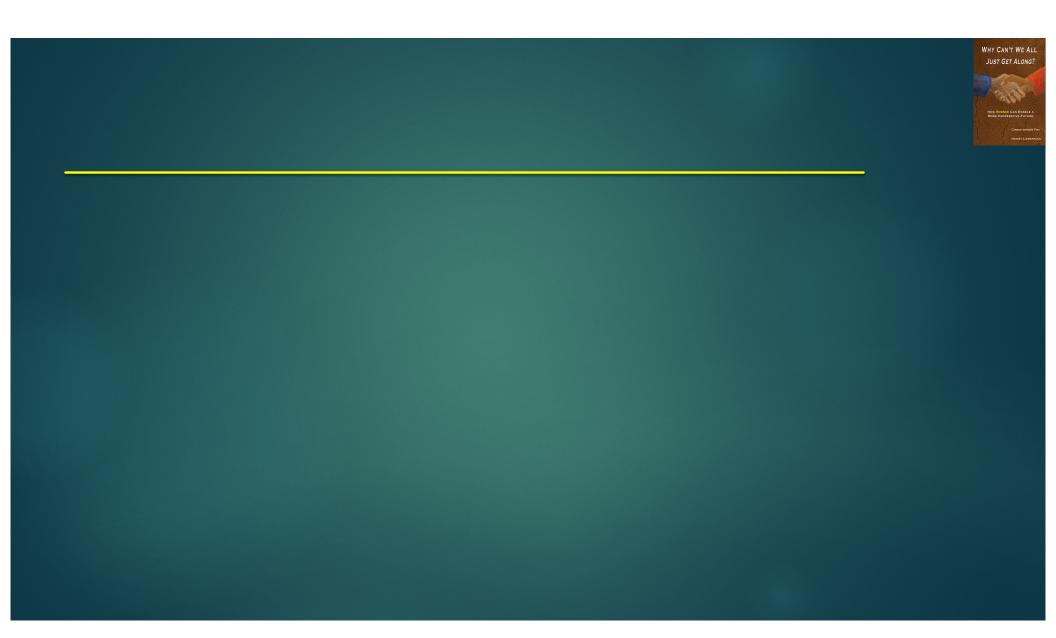


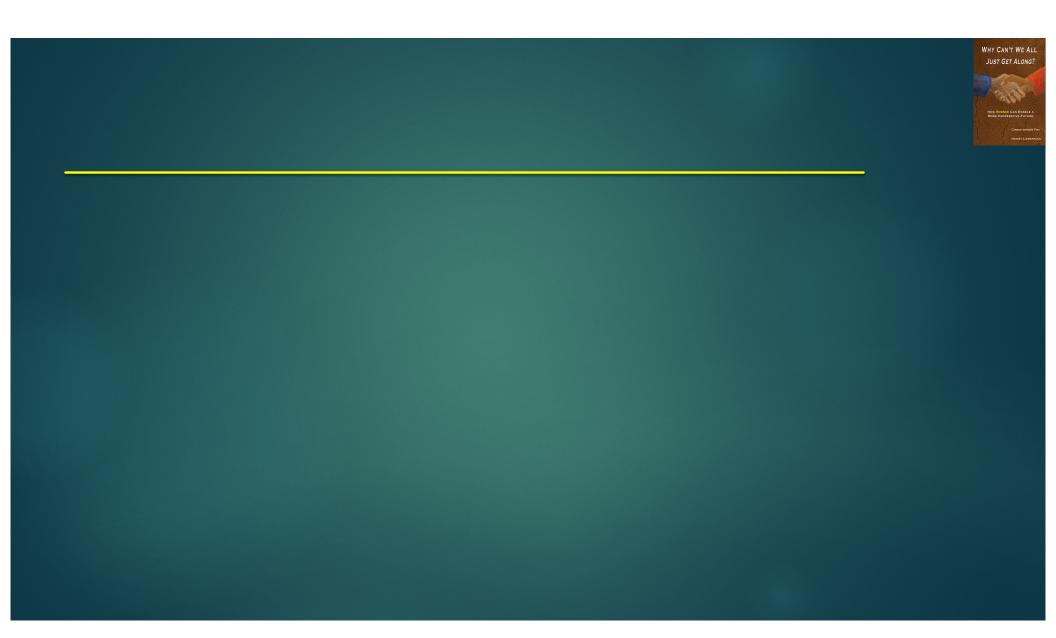
- ▶ Only 13% of workers say their work is "personally meaningful
- ▶ 40-60% of retirees satisfied with their life

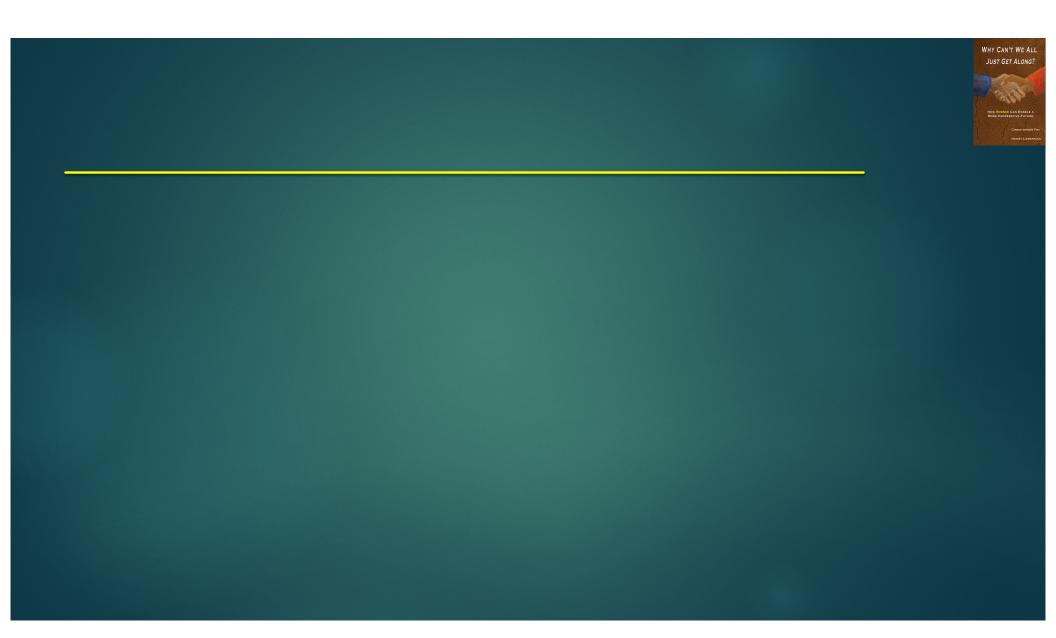
▶ What would it be like to design a society around intrinsic motivation?

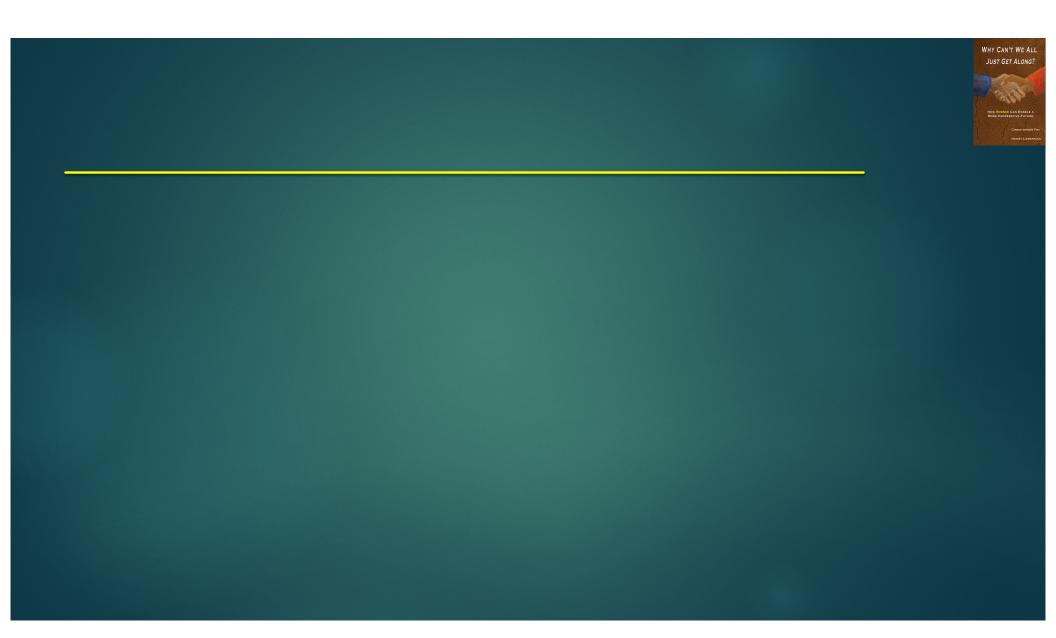


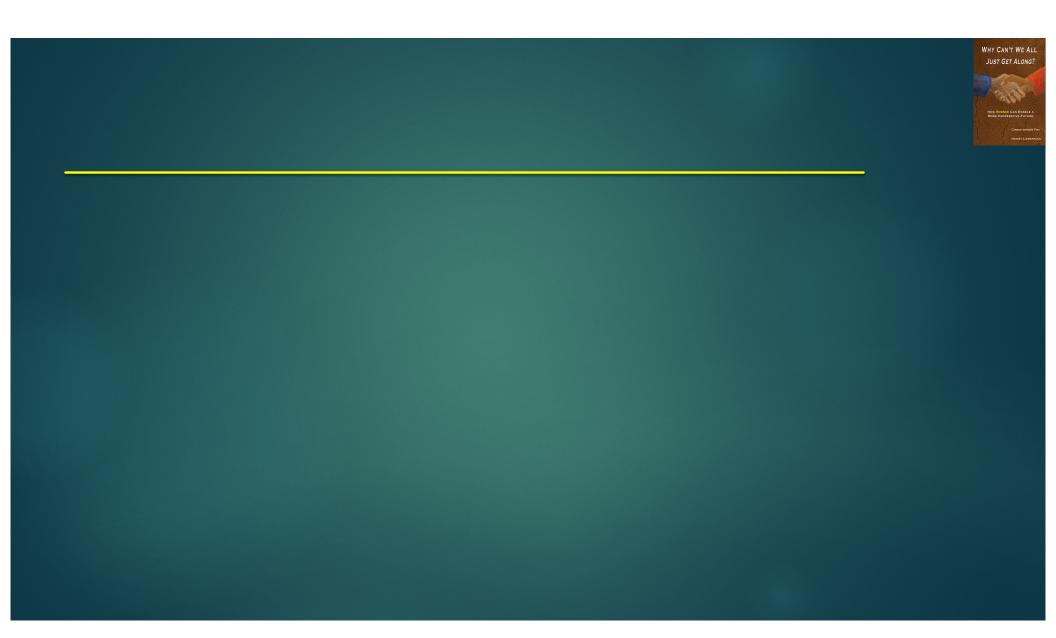












Cooperative Enterprise





THE GREYSTONE

HOME

ABOUT US

OUR AREA







Finance Industry Retail Knowledge



THE DEMOCRATIC FIRM

David P. Ellerman*

The World Bank Washington, DC