# **Economics for Everyone**

Introduction to the basic concepts/definitions of economics and

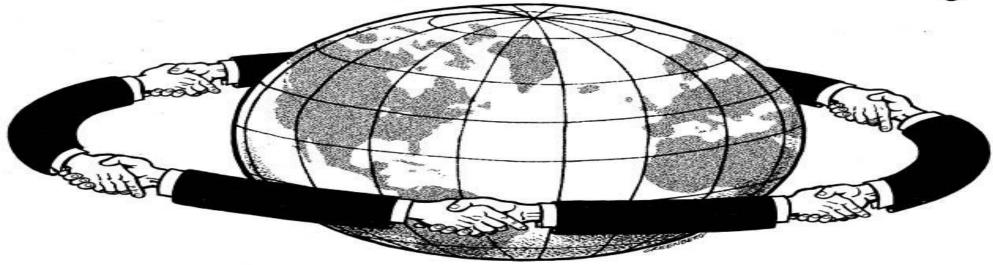
economic systems



#### Mercantilism leads to Capitalism

As Trade increased following the Age of Exploration...A transition from local economies to global economies occurred...that created an ever increasing desire for individual opportunity.

# The New Global Economy



A strong U.S. economy requires a commitment to global competition

Capitalism Expands during the Industrial Revolution As more individuals engaged in economic opportunities for profit...an economic system expanded that emphasized private ownership, profit motive and free enterprise...which resulted in an explosion of Middle Class values and traditions.



# Economics of Industrial Revolution strengthens "Nationalism"

**Nationalism** - a feeling that people have of being loyal to and proud of their country often with the belief that it is better and more important than other countries...one nation above all others and attempts the promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations

# Industrial Revolution created more competition between Nations and raised the reward for winning!

Nations identify their culture, economic systems and governmental systems as superior to others.

"I contend that <u>we are the first race in the world and that the more</u> of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. I contend that every acre added to our territory provides for the birth of more of the English race, who otherwise would not be brought into existence... Cecil Rhodes British Imperialist **Basic features of Free Market Capitalism** 

- 1. Private Ownership
- 2. Competition
- 3. Profit Motive
- 4. Free Enterprise/Open

Opportunity

5. Law of supply and

demand

Alaskan Economies Subsistence and Cash

#### Subsistence economy

- an economy which is not based on money, in which buying and selling are absent or rudimentary though barter may occur, and which commonly provides a minimal standard of living
- an economy in which people produce food, clothes, etc. for their own use, and where food, etc. is not bought or sold
- is a non-monetary system which relies on natural resources to provide for basic needs, through hunting, gathering, and subsistence agriculture. "Subsistence" means supporting oneself at a minimum level



Alaskan Economies Subsistence and Cash

#### Cash Economy

- an economy which is based on money, in which buying and selling are how people get their goods and services, dependent on people working jobs where they receive cash salaries and then purchase products
- an economy in which people purchase food, clothes, etc. for their own use, with cash earned working jobs







#### Alaskas Mixed Economy of subsistence and cash

Rural Alaska has predominantly been a subsistence economy.

Over the past 50 years Rural Alaskans have moved into a mixed economy (both subsistence and cash)...the transition has been difficult for many as jobs are not as available in rural areas yet standards of living (heating fuel, snowmachines, clothing, food) have required cash.



Alaskas Mixed Economy of subsistence and cash

Urban Alaska has predominantly been a <u>cash economy</u>.

As non-natives arrived in Alaska they brought the <u>cash</u> <u>economy</u> with them. While Alaska does allow for some subsistence opportunities for urban dwellers it is overwhelmingly a cash economy. People working jobs to purchase their goods and services.



# Alaskan Economic Condition

Alaska is a resource state...our economy is fueled by the development and selling of our resources.

• Fishing



- Minerals
- Tourism







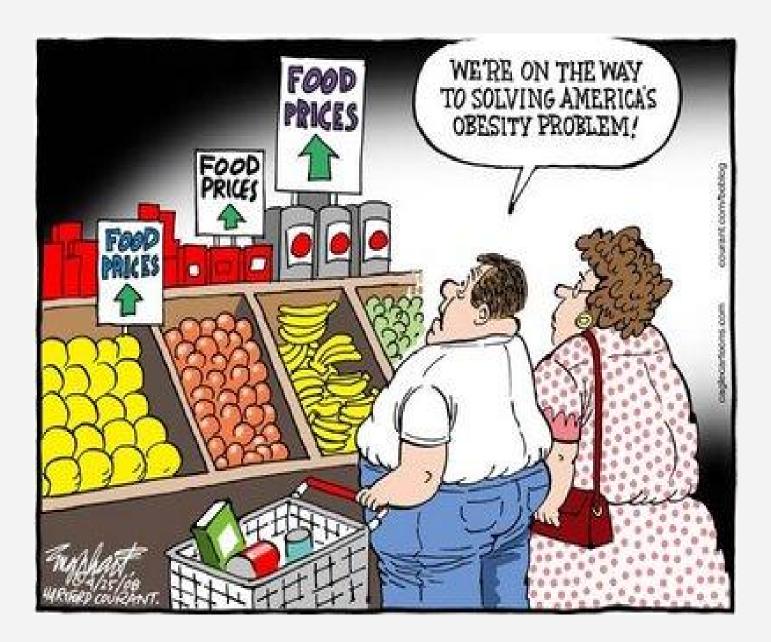
As resources and resource development decline our dependence on those revenues creates shortages (jobs, money, population)

# Have you ever wondered why we don't just print more money to solve financial problems?



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# Ever wonder why things cost what they do?



# Ever wonder what gives a "dollar" or "money" its value?



# Ever wonder why we "bailed" out the banks?



# Ever wonder why we have insurance and how insurance works?



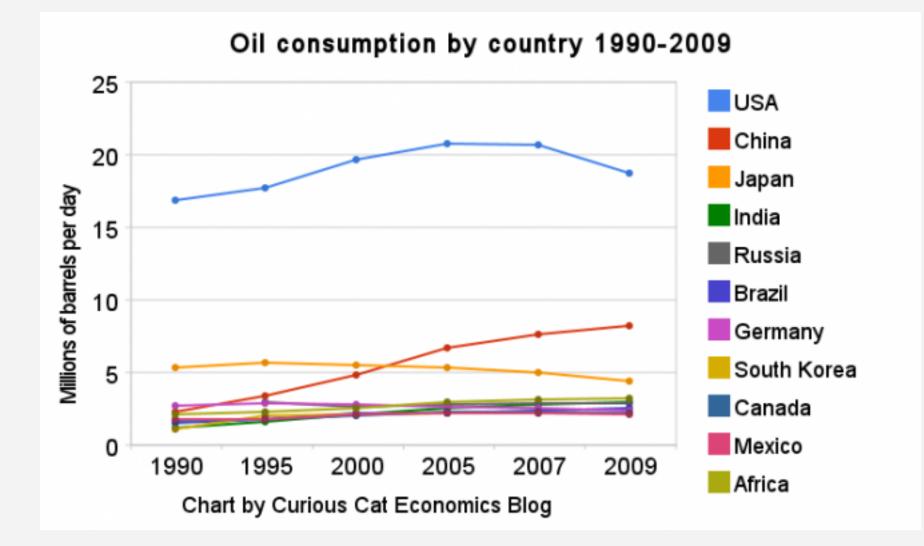




any measure taken a



# Why does oil control our economy?

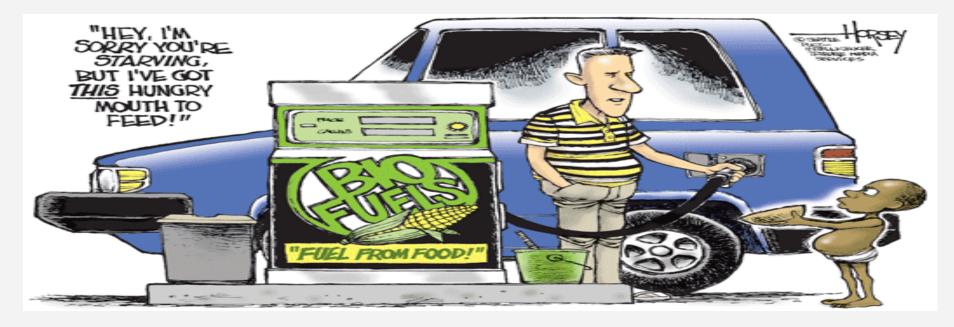


- Have you ever wondered why we don't just print more money to solve financial problems?
- Ever wonder why things cost what they do?
- Ever wonder what gives a "dollar" or "euro" its value?
- Ever wonder why we "bailed" out the banks?
- Ever wonder why we have insurance and how it works?
- Why does oil control our economy?

You will know the answer to these questions and more... when we finish... or maybe you won't... it is your <u>choice</u>!!!



Economics: the study of the human attempt (making choices) to satisfy unlimited wants and needs (demands) with limited resources (supplies).



Everything we want or need is either a good or service. Scarcity means that we cannot have all the goods and services we would like to have. Therefore we have to make choices. When we make our <u>choices</u> we trade off other opportunities.

THIS IS ECONOMICS!!!!

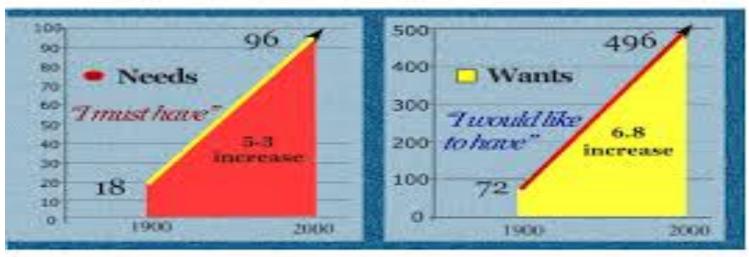
# Choices... the economic way of thinking!

- **Opportunity Cost/Trade Off:** something that is given up in order to have something else.
- Every choice involves an opportunity cost and trade offs.



▼ ECONOMIZING PROBLEM (must make choices)

#### Needs vs. Wants



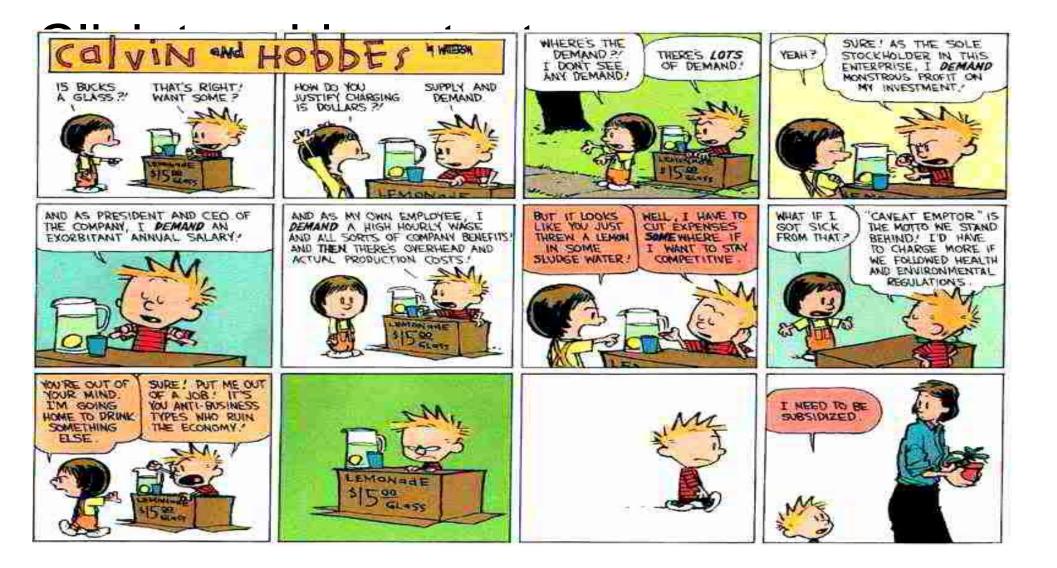
"At the beginning of this century, the average American had 72 wants and considered 18 of them important. By the end of the century, the average American had 496 wants and considered 96 of them as genuine necessities for happiness." (MIR)

- Scarcity: limited quantity of resources to meet unlimited wants and needs...
- Want: something we desire but do not need for survival...
- **Need:** something we need for survival...

**Supply and demand:** the demand for a good or service will be met by a supplier of that good or service



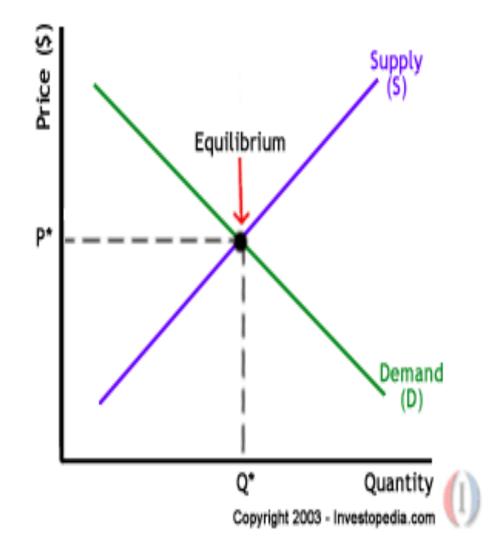
- **Goods:** physical objects made or processed by people...
- Services: actions or activities that one person performs for another...



Everything we want or need is either a good or service. Scarcity means that we cannot have all the goods and services we would like to have. Therefore we have to make choices. When we make our choices we trade off other opportunities. Our <u>choices</u> create a supply/demand situation.

# Supply/Demand Curve...Helps Set the Price

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-yWKgZv9JY



# Supply/Demand Examples...

Have you ever wondered why we don't just print more money to solve problems? (scarcity/supply/demand)

If you have 10 \$1.00 bills and 50 people wanted them...how valuable is each one?

If you have 5000 \$1.00 bill and 50 people wanted them...how valuable is each one?

#### Ever wonder what gives a "dollar" or "euro" its value? (choices/supply-demand/scarcity)

1. Remember the last example? That is part of the answer....

Another part of the answer...
you determine the value by how you decide to spend it!!!

3. A third factor is <u>Human Emotions</u>...what and how people **feel** about the dollar/euro.

### Ever wonder why things cost what they do? (choices/supply-demand/wants & needs)

# Consumer choices (you help determine the cost by the choices you make (if you are willing to pay the price the supplier will charge you what you are willing to pay!!! (profit motive)...combined with supply and demand concepts... determines the price of goods and services

# Ever wonder why we "bailed" out the banks? (multiplier effect)

Banks create wealth in our economy by "multiplying" the money we put into them...without them our entire economy would go into downward spiral...and collapse!!!

I pay 1,000 to Fred Meyer for dog food = I have 1,000 in goods and Fred Meyer has 1,000 in cash

FM Deposits it in Bank= 1,000(FM) and 1,000(bank)=2,000

Bank loans 1,000 to Mr.Zorbas =FM(1,000)...Bank (1,000)... Mr. Zorbas (1,000)=3,000 Why and how does oil control our economy?

The US is the most mechanized, energized nation in the world...we use approximately 40% of the worlds energy resources. (supply and demand, scarcity, consumer choices)

Oil affects <u>every aspect</u> of the production of goods in the US from resource production/extraction (planting and harvesting the resource ...corn) to product creation (turning resource into refined product...high fructose corn syrup...coca-cola)to transportation (from field to factory to warehouse to supermarket) to consumer consumption (consumer driving to store and back)!!! Insurance...reducing risk and minimizing financial troubles!

**Insurance** is an agreement in which a person makes regular payments to a company and the company promises to pay money if the person is injured or dies, or to pay money equal to the value of something (such as a house or car) if it is damaged, lost, or stolen.

(supply/demand, choices, risk, scarcity)

Insurance only works if only a few people need to use!

An <u>Economic System</u> is the method used by a society to produce and distribute goods and services. A nations choice of an economic system is how they answer the three basic economic questions.

#### **Three Basic Economic Questions**

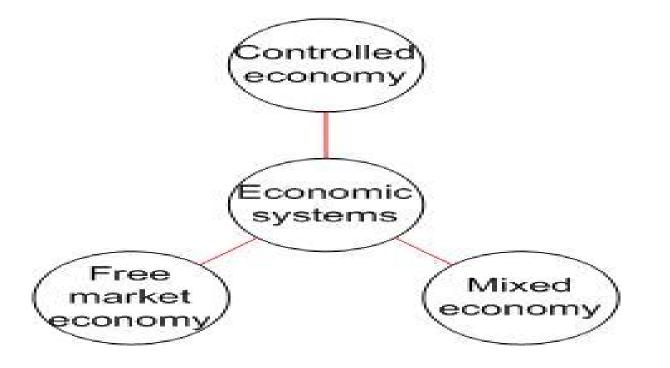
- 1. What goods and services should be produced?
- 2. How should these goods and services be produced?
- 3. Who should get theses goods and services?

#### Types of Economic systems are:

1.Traditional (before commercial revolution- prehistory to Medieval Period)

2.Command: Socialsit, Communist (after Industrial Revolution: 1840's)3.Market: Capitalism (commercial revolution:result of age of exploration)

4.Mixed (all economies in modern day)



**Traditional** economies are based on custom and tradition. They are family based and communal in nature. They tend to be small and rural.

# Advantages

- very stable
- people know what to expect
- everyone has a place in the economy
- no one is left out
- children do what their parents do

- individuals do not have much choice in what work they do
- roles are based on custom
- change comes very slowly

**Command** economies are controlled by a king, dictator or powerful political party. Land and capital goods are

#### controlled by the central authority. Advantages Disadv

- Changes in what is produced, how it is produced and how much is produced are made quickly
- the needs of the entire country can be considered by the central authority

- Individuals are not encouraged to develop new ideas
- there are less incentives for individuals
- the needs and wants of individuals are not always met
- power is in the hands of a few individuals

Market/Capitalism/free enterprise systems are based on individuals making choices as to what they will buy and sell/system operates with less control or more freely.

#### **Advantages**

- Large numbers of people are involved in making economic decisions
- more individual freedom
- more self interest
- more innovation and new ideas are generated
- economy is flexible

- Individuals who are not successful have no way of meeting their needs
- failure can result in harsh consequences
- the needs of the country as a whole are overlooked
- the good of society may suffer
- subject to up and down cylces
- labor (workers) can be exploited.

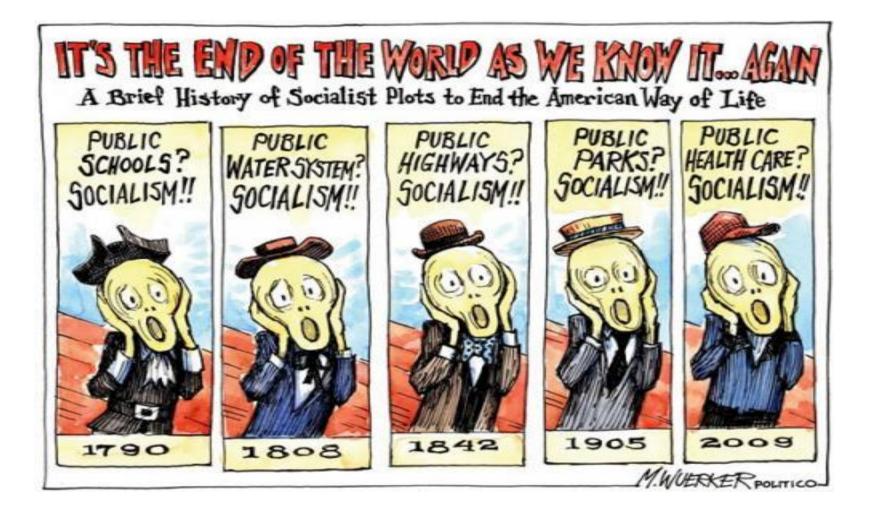
**Mixed** economies usually combine market and command economy principles. THE MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD USE MIXED ECONOMIES.

depends on which
economies are mixed and
the balance of the mixing.

**Advantages** 

 depends on which economies are mixed and the balance of the mixing.

**SOCIALISM**: a social, political, and economic philosophy based on the belief that democratic means should be used to evenly distribute wealth throughout a society. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION.



**COMMUNISM**: a social, political and economic system characterized by a centrally controlled economy with all economic and political power resting in the hands of the central government. GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION



Capitalism: an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of goods/decisions are made by private sources and not government/ all this takes place in a free market environment/profit is the motivation. Private ownership of the means of production.



# List examples of these systems in America

Socialism

Free Market/Capitalism