

Why jobs injure and kill

Strategy Notes 301 and 302 asked *why* jobs injure and kill. We should ask that question and encourage everyone to think out loud about possible answers.

First answers often mention the "greed" of bosses or the owners they serve. But *why* does greed exist?

To that question, we often hear "human nature" or "God made us that way." I suspect a simpler explanation exists. I suspect our exchange-based economic system causes most of what we call "greed."

Consider this chain of causations:

- Exchange creates a need to accumulate wealth because everyone needs something to trade.
- The need to accumulate creates a need to profit.
- The need to profit pressures employers to cut costs.
- Cutting costs *can* benefit society. For example, an innovator may cut costs by inventing a way to use less energy.
- But businesses can cut costs more easily by shifting costs onto someone else.
- Skimping on health and safety shifts that cost onto employees.
- So jobs injure and kill.

Yes, greed exists, especially among bosses and owners. The current economic system based on exchange causes their greed and our job-related injuries and deaths.

Why jobs injure and kill

Strategy Notes 301 and 302 asked *why* jobs injure and kill. We should ask that question and encourage everyone to think out loud about possible answers.

First answers often mention the "greed" of bosses or the owners they serve. But *why* does greed exist?

To that question, we often hear "human nature" or "God made us that way." I suspect a simpler explanation exists. I suspect our exchange-based economic system causes most of what we call "greed."

Consider this chain of causations:

- Exchange creates a need to accumulate wealth because everyone needs something to trade.
- The need to accumulate creates a need to profit.
- The need to profit pressures employers to cut costs.
- Cutting costs *can* benefit society. For example, an innovator may cut costs by inventing a way to use less energy.
- But businesses can cut costs more easily by shifting costs onto someone else.
- Skimping on health and safety shifts that cost onto employees.
- So jobs injure and kill.

Yes, greed exists, especially among bosses and owners. The current economic system based on exchange causes their greed and our job-related injuries and deaths.

