

How exchange competes with solidarity

Strategy Note 310 said the exchange economy tries to take over providing goods and services previously provided by our free economy. If you wanted to encourage exchange to take over more and more of society's production and distribution, how would you?

You'd have a hard time finding more effective methods than those currently in use:

- Completely ignore the solidarity economy. Pretend it doesn't exist.
- Constantly celebrate, discuss, argue about details of the exchange economy.
- Constantly advertise products and services offered in the exchange economy.
- Teach obedience to exchange as moral, just, right, and necessary.
- Use coercion (including violence) to enforce exchange and the property "rights" it requires.

This constant propaganda can make exchange look "natural," necessary, or a result of "human nature." It can cause us to have false assumptions.

Does actual human nature need propaganda or enforcement? We don't see ads saying "Blink your eyelids to keep your eyeballs moist!", "Language works better than grunting!", "Use your opposable thumb to hold things!"

But no matter how artificial or inhumane, exchange now provides the foundation for much of our production and distribution. We can't just wish exchange away. We must expand our solidarity relationships to replace it.



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