

Corporatization & Poverty Fact Sheet

In 1978 corporate CEOs in the United States earned, on average, 35 times more than the average worker. Today they earn **320 times** more than the average worker.

Despite popular belief, the majority of poor people in the U.S. live in **rural areas**, not urban areas.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 33% of the U.S. workforce was unionized in 1962. **Less than 12.5% of the workforce is unionized today.**

The variable which most closely predicts how well somebody will score on the SAT or GRE test is not their high school GPA or parents' educational achievement, but **family income.**

Approximately **16,000 people die worldwide each day** due to hunger-related causes.

The U.S. military budget is by far the highest of any country in the world. By 2003, the U.S. military budget was roughly equal to that of **the next 20 countries combined.**

Roughly 50% of the world's population lives on less than **the equivalent of 750 U.S. dollars per year.**

According to UNICEF, the wealth of the three richest people in the world is roughly equal to the **Gross Domestic Product of the 48 poorest countries** combined.

According to United for a Fair Economy, the U.S. government spent approximately **\$125,000,000,000 in 2005 on corporate welfare** (economic incentives, often provided to support corporations' expansions into overseas markets).

Since 1960 the share of federal **tax revenue paid by corporations has decreased by more than half**, from 23.2% to 11.4%.

According to the American Association of Publishers, printed materials related to standardized tests **increased from \$211 million to \$592 million** between 1992 and 2003.

According to the Tax Policy Center, since 1980, while capital gains taxes and estate taxes have decreased significantly (by 31% and 46% respectively), **payroll taxes have increased by 25%.**