

## Economic Justice Movies

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1448 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> St., Box 144, Chicago, IL 60615*

### Economic Justice Dramas

#### Domestic

**Grapes of Wrath** (1940) (129 min.) The Joad family migrates from Dust-bowl Oklahoma to the work in the orchards of California.

**Salt of the Earth** (1954) (94 min.) Suppressed for 30 years in the U.S., this is the story of a strike in a zinc mine in New Mexico and the anti-Hispanic racial tensions that accompany it.

**Harlan County, U.S.A.** (1976) (103 min.) Coal-miners try to win a United Mine Workers contract in Kentucky.

**Norma Rae** (1979) (114 min.) A poor, uneducated textile worker joins forces with a New York labor organizer to unionize the reluctant workers at a Southern mill.

**El Norte** (1983) (141 min.) Story of a Guatemalan brother and sister, refugees, who make the difficult trip north to the U.S. and try to succeed there.

**The Big Short** (2015) (130 min.)

Four denizens in the world of high-finance predict the credit and housing bubble collapse of the mid-2000s, and decide to take on the big banks for their greed and lack of foresight.

**The Overnighters** (2014) (102 min.) This film is an intimate portrait of job-seekers desperately chasing the broken American Dream in the tiny oil town of Williston, North Dakota during the fracking boom of this decade. When a local pastor starts to offer down-and-out workers a

place to sleep at the church, he quickly meets resistance from community, which lacks the infrastructure to house the overflow of migrants.

**Where to Invade Next** (2015) (120)

To learn what the USA can learn from other nations, Michael Moore playfully "invades" them to see what they have to offer.

#### International

**Pride** (2014) (120 min.) U.K. gay activists work to help Welsh miners during the lengthy strike of the National Union of Mineworkers in the summer of 1984.

### Economic Justice Documentaries

#### Domestic

**The Corporation** (2003) (145 min.) Documentary that looks at the concept of the corporation throughout recent history up to its present-day dominance.

**Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room** (2005) (110 min.) A documentary about the Enron corporation, its faulty and corrupt business practices, and how they led to its fall.

**Maxed Out** 2006 (90 min.) Maxed Out takes us on a journey deep inside the American debt-style, where everything seems okay as long as the minimum monthly payment arrives on time. Sure, most of us may have that sinking feeling that something isn't quite right, but we're told not to worry. After all, there's always more credit! Maxed Out shows how the modern financial industry really works, explains the true definition of "preferred customer" and tells us why the poor are getting poorer and the rich getting richer. By turns hilarious and profoundly disturbing, Maxed Out paints a picture of a national nightmare which is all too real for most of us.

**Capitalism: A Love Story** (2009) (127 min.)

Filmmaker Michael Moore takes on capitalism's roots, the floundering U.S. economy, and 2008's global financial meltdown and subsequent bank bailout in this rousing documentary. Combining stories about those who suffer most from Corporate America's greed and insatiable thirst for profits and the people most responsible for myriad crises, Moore embarks on another shocking fact-finding rampage.

**Heist: Who Stole the American Dream** (2011) (75 min.)

This film reveals how American corporations orchestrated the dismantling of middle-class prosperity through rampant deregulation, the outsourcing of jobs, and tax policies favoring businesses and the wealthy.

**American Winter** (2013) (90 min.) Documentary feature film that follows the personal stories of families struggling in the aftermath of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Filmed over the course of one winter in one American city, the film presents an intimate snapshot of the state of the nation's economy as it is playing out in millions of American families, and highlights the human consequences of the decline of the middle class and the fracturing of the American Dream.

**Inequality for All** (2013) (89 min.) This film examines the widening economic gap in the U.S. The documentary follows former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich, who reveals how rapidly income inequality is increasing in America.

**Pay 2 Play: Democracy's High Stakes** (2014) (87 min.)

Driven to make the world better for his baby girl, John Ennis pieces together the cycle of pay-to-play politics that rules America. When insiders control the game, how can an outsider have a voice? Through first-time candidates in

Ohio, following the money in our elections, and uncovering the secret history of Monopoly, Ennis finds solutions along his surprising journey.

**The Divide** (2015) (78 min.) The Divide tells the story of 7 individuals striving for a better life in modern day US and UK - where the top 0.1% owns as much wealth as the bottom 90%. By plotting these tales together, we uncover how virtually every aspect of our lives is controlled by one factor: the size of the gap between rich and poor.

International

**Global Village or Global Pillage?: How People Around the World are Challenging Corporate Globalization** (1999) (27 min.) This documentary explores the impacts of globalization and uses video clips, interviews, music and comics of local grassroots organizing and transnational solidarity efforts to shape the global economy.

**Life or Debt** (2002) (80 min.) Documentary about the impact that U.S. foreign and economic policy have on the people of Jamaica contrasted with the impression that tourists receive of the country.

**China Blue** 2005 (88 min.)

China Blue takes us inside a blue-jeans factory, where Jasmine and her friends are trying to survive a harsh working environment. When the factory owner agrees to a deal with his Western client that forces his teenage workers to work around the clock, a confrontation becomes inevitable. Shot clandestinely in China, under difficult conditions, this is a deep-access account of what both China and the international retail companies don't want us to see - how the clothes we buy are actually made.