

The alternative—taking whatever the company offers to the individual—might well be called corporate servitude or wage slavery. As the power of unions has declined, the wages of resource-workers have not gone up in thirty years. Over the same time, the wealth of wealthy investors and corporations has skyrocketed without more being produced.

The decline of unions has meant a decline for most citizens in their share of their nation's wealth, and with it a decline in all the freedoms that wealth brings.

Unionization is a freedom issue, and needs to be understood as such. But the failure to say it out loud and repeat it as often as possible allows conservatives to form organizations like the Center for Worker Freedom, as if unions were taking away freedom, and to speak of “Right to Work” laws, as if unions were taking rights away instead of granting you freedom from corporate servitude and wage slavery.

Immigration

America is a country of immigrants. Many of them have been refugees, either refugees fleeing from brutal oppression or economic refugees fleeing from equally brutalizing poverty. They have come here for freedom.

My own grandparents were such refugees—and if you are not Native American, your ancestors most likely were too. Upon arriving in America, my grandparents became Americans in the best sense of the word: hard-working, raising their families, highly ethical, and loving and appreciating this country. I suspect that your ancestors were like that as well.

The issue of “immigration” is about a new generation of such refugees. President Obama, in a speech on June 22, 2012, at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference in Florida clearly and beautifully stated his moral understanding of the issue. His words showed that the current wave of refugees, referred to as “undocumented immigrants,” are in many ways already citizens—they contribute enormously to American society and the American economy through hard work, they love the country they live in, they are patriots, they share their lives with other Americans