



Listening Guide

Episode 12: Reimagined Economies

In our season finale, we visit with people on two continents who are turning core structures of capitalism on their heads – or, at least, sideways.

Features of Capitalism

Private Ownership

Accumulation and Investment of Capital

Profit Motive

Wage Labor

Before You Listen

- In Episode 1, the hosts share a quote from Frederic Jameson: “It’s easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism.” What do you think Jameson means? Do you agree? Why or why not?

While You Listen

This listening guide divides the podcast into sections. All sections of this episode are recommended for listening.

Section	Questions to Consider
Section 1 Reimagining Capitalism 0:00-4:17 Recommended	• John notes that the goal of this episode is “not to present a specific blueprint for a post-capitalist economy,” but to illustrate “some ways of organizing our economic and material lives that seek to avoid capitalism’s biggest failings and injustices.” Think back to earlier episodes. What concerns or criticisms of capitalism have emerged?
Section 2 What is Regenerative Economics? 4:18-11:32 Recommended	• According to John Fullerton, what is Regenerative Economics, and how does it differ from capitalism? • Fullerton cites a farmer’s market as an example of Regenerative Economics. ▪ According to Fullerton, how is shopping for bread at a farmer’s market different from “going to the Walmart and going down the aisle”? ▪ How does this comparison further your understanding of Regenerative Economics?
Section 3 The Mondragon Corporation 11:32-37:31 Recommended	• What is the Mondragon Corporation? ▪ What cooperative companies and organizations does it include, and what are some examples? ▪ How many people work there? • Why did José Maria Arizmendiarieta start Mondragon? To what extent was he motivated by profit, and to what extent was he motivated by other values?

SCENE **•ON** RADIO
Season 7: Capitalism

Episode by John Biewen, with co-host Ellen McGirt.

Interviews with John Fullerton, Ander Exteberria, Deseree Fontenot, Corrina Gould, Regan Pritzker, Dana Kawaoka-Chen, Mateo Nube, and Marjorie Kelly.

Visit sceneonradio.org/capitalism-educator-resources to access transcripts, the Features of Capitalism explainer, and other resources.

	- John notes that most of the Mondragon Corporation's workers "are not simply employees" – they are company owners. - How is worker-ownership different from typical wage labor? - What advantages do supporters argue it offers? - What problems do supporters argue it can address? - What challenges and criticisms does Mondragon face as it operates in a capitalist system?
Section 4 The Kataly Foundation, Movement Generation, and the Sogorea Te' Land Trust 37:32-52:39 Recommended	- What is the Kataly Foundation, and who is Reagan Pritzker? How did she arrive at her wealth? What does she intend to do with it, and why? - What problems do organizations like the Kataly Foundation, Movement Generation, and the Sogorea Te' Land Trust associate with capitalism? How does their work seek to address them? - What criticisms do these organizations face for their approaches to wealth, ownership, and economic change? - How do the organizations respond? - Which arguments do you find more convincing, and why?
Section 5 What's Next for Capitalism? 52:40-1:03:12 Recommended	- John and Ellen argue that Regenerative Economics doesn't have to remain abstract. - How do the organizations featured in this episode illustrate its principles? - What other examples can you think of? - Marjorie Kelly advocates for what she calls a "democratic economy." - What does she mean by this? - According to Kelly, what changes would be necessary to make the United States' economy more democratic?

After You Listen

- What is one moment or quote from the episode that stands out to you? It might be something that surprised you, challenged or confirmed your thinking, or prompted a new understanding.
- Near the end of the episode, John and Ellen have the following exchange:

John: If you think about it, nobody announced the birth of capitalism five hundred years ago, either. People just started doing it. That's probably how the next paradigm shift will happen, too – or is happening. Now, there is an important difference that we can't gloss over. The instigators of capitalism were the aristocracy – people with the power to create monopolistic corporations, launch voyages of colonial conquest, and order the enclosure of common lands. And still today, people who own things, especially financial capital, have wildly disproportionate power.

Ellen: And it's often people with the least power who are trying to create alternative economies.

What does this make you think about the future of capitalism?

- Based on the examples in this episode, what possibilities and challenges do you see in efforts to organize economic life differently?
- Return to the Frederic Jameson quote you considered before listening. Has your reaction to this quote changed? If so, how and why? If not, why not?