



Listening Guide

Episode 8: The People's Pushback

Over several decades, a growing number of people in the United States and elsewhere – especially younger people – have turned against capitalism. The reasons are not hard to find.

Features of Capitalism

Free Market Economy

Wage Labor

Legal Framework

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

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produced by John
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Interviews with
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Features of Capitalism
explainer, and other
resources.

Before You Listen

- In 2008, a financial crisis that began in the United States spread around the world. What do you already know about what happened and how the crisis affected people's lives? What questions do you have?
- The description of this episode suggests that a growing number of people in the United States are pushing back against capitalism today – especially younger people.

What experiences might lead some people to conclude that our economy and economic system are not working well? Think about what you may have learned from other episodes in this series and observed in your own life, your community, or the wider world.

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 The Economic Crash of 2008 0:00-6:49 Recommended	• The episode begins with a series of person-on-the-street interviews. ▪ What experiences seem to shape respondents' perspectives of their economic futures? ▪ Which perspectives are similar to and different from your own? • What were some of the effects of the 2008 economic crisis? How did it influence some young people's views of capitalism?
Section 2 The WTO Protests of 1999 6:50-17:26 Recommended	• Lewis's reporting shows that Americans like Esteban Kelly were frustrated with capitalism long before the economic crisis of 2008. ▪ How did manufacturing and trade become more globalized during the Reagan and Clinton presidencies (1980-1988 and 1992-2000, respectively)? ▪ What effects do Lewis and Esteban describe? • What brought labor organizers, environmentalists, students, and other activists together to protest the World Trade Organization in 1999? What were they pushing back against? • According to Lewis, what did the 1999 WTO protests accomplish? How and why did they come to an end?

Section 3 The Occupy Wall Street Protests of 2011 17:27-24:51 Recommended	• In the aftermath of the 2008 economic crisis, another protest movement called Occupy Wall Street began. ▪ Who were the protestors? ▪ What were they pushing back against? ▪ What did they want to achieve? • According to Lewis, what did the Occupy Wall Street protests accomplish? How and why did they come to an end?
Section 4 The 2016 Presidential Campaign of Bernie Sanders 24:52-31:57 Recommended	• In the lead-up to the 2016 presidential election, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders challenged New York senator Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party nomination. ▪ What were Sanders' supporters pushing back against? ▪ What did they want to achieve? • According to Lewis, what did Sanders' presidential run accomplish? How and why did it come to an end?
Section 5 The Pushback Continues Today 31:58-39:59 Recommended	• Who is Evan Caldwell, and how did the 2008 economic crisis shape his childhood? • What experiences and concerns led Caldwell and other young people toward democratic socialism? What changes do they hope to achieve? • What evidence do Caldwell and Kelly point to that today's pushback against capitalism is having an impact?
Section 6 Unpacking the Episode 40:00-45:09 Recommended	• According to Lewis, what do – and don't – young people seem to mean when they say, in surveys, that they would choose socialism over capitalism? • According to Lewis, what do young people seem to want from their economy and from their government leaders? Why?

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.
- Consider the goals of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) as Lewis describes them within the episode; then, revisit the **Features of Capitalism**.
 - To what extent could these goals be achieved within capitalism as you understand it?
 - What features of capitalism would most need to change, and why?
- What does the history of pushback explored in this episode suggest about capitalism's capacity to change? About its resistance to change?
- Use the **Interview Toolkit** to investigate how people in your own community think about some of the questions and concerns raised in this episode. You might conduct:
 - **Person-on-the-street interviews:** Gather a range of responses to one or two brief questions, such as the question that opens this episode.

- **An extended interview:** Talk with someone in your life about their own economic experiences – about work, housing, affording higher education, the economic crisis of 2008, their feelings about their economic future. How do those experiences shape the way they think about the economy?
- **An expert interview:** Talk with someone whose work or advocacy gives them a particular view of these issues – a labor or political organizer, economist, journalist, business owner, etc. What economic dissatisfaction do they see? What do they think is driving it, and what kinds of change are people seeking?

Then, reflect on what your interview(s) help you learn.

- How do the perspectives you encountered reinforce, complicate, or differ from those in the episode?
- What do they make you wonder?