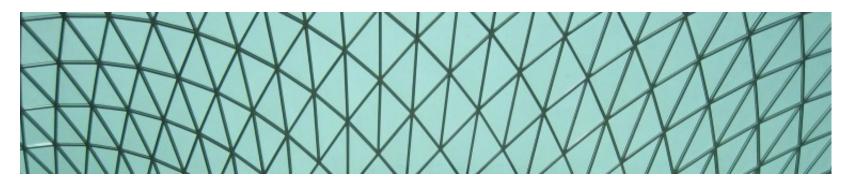


# Zeitgeist is a mind heist – venus project is a scam ?

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# **Capitalist Concepts: Division of labour**

#### hello everyone

i said yesterday that i was going to be writing about some of the social structures within the zeitgeist movement. but then i figured, you've probably heard it all before. the whole movement is hypocritical, moderators and admins who are beyond reproach rule over free speech with an iron fist, conforming members induct new minds into the collective with imposing propoganda which influences people with emotional appeals and subtle group conditioning is used to break down a members previous conceptions of reality in order to replace it with a new perspective on their existence thus far. you know the drill, its proper group think mentality with no room for alternative ideas. so i was thinking, i will come back to these issues in more detail next time. however, for this post i have decided to write what will be the first in a number of posts on the economic concepts and theories which make up our societies as they exist today. The reason why i feel that this is important is because according the way the venus project and the zeitgeist movement operates, it is not acceptable to discuss these concepts without first displaying a strong bias toward the concepts of the movement. i believe this is wrong because it stifles ones view to learn about these concepts in an objective way. it creates a narrow passage of thought whereby one cannot simply learn and comprehend a theory, but must instead be *educated* about a theory from the perspective of the movement. so i thought, everyone reading this should have the right to have access to this information without a conclusion imposed upon them first. so this post will as briefly as possible, try and outline the concept of division of labour. this isnt going to be easy though, because its quite a complicated theory to outline in only a few short paragraphs. but here goes.

Division of labour is one of the most important and underlying factors of a capitalist and possibly even any economy.

"The idea is simply this: We can produce far more, far better, by dividing up the work and specialising in what each of us is good at. division of labour has been practiced for millenia." (Edmund Conway)

It was already well established in greek times. And Plato cited specialism in his *Republic*. It was around in Adam Smiths day being used in factories, but arguably it wasnt until Henry Ford started manufacturing his model T ford that the concept came into full fruition.

Today division of labour can be said to be behind the manufacturing of almost every product you can think of. for example if you consider a regular lead pencil. there are many steps involved in its manufacture. chopping the wood, mining and shaping the graphite, adding the labelling, the laquer and the eraser. it takes countless hands to manufacture one simple pencil.

This is what Leanord Read, founder of the foundation for economic foundation wrote in his book *I*, *PENCIL* (1958) "Simple? Yet, not a single person on the face of this earth knows how to make me. this sounds fantastic, doesnt it? especially when it is realised that there are about 1.5 million of my kind produced in the USA each year."

In the time of Adam smith this was finally summed up in a simple theory. the example that he gave in his book web.archive.org/web/20120308145503/http://anticultist.wordpress.com/2010/01/09/capitalist-concepts-division-of-labour/ 2/14 *The Wealth of nations* was that of a pin factory in 18th century Britain. in this factory small pins were manufactured by hand. the average man on the street could scarcely make a pin a day, he said. but in a pin factory the work was divided among a number of specialists.

According to Smith, one factory of 10 men could produce 48,000 pins a day by dividing up the labour into several specialist steps. this is a stupendous 400,000% increase in productivity. working in this way, the team produces considerably more than the sum of their parts.

This is of course the prototype for the kind of factory created by Henry Ford. He devised a moving production line whereby the car being constructed would pass on the conveyor belt in front of different teams of workers, each of which would add a new, standardised part to it. the result was that he could produce a car in at a fraction of the cost and in a fraction of the time that it took his competitors.

Its important to understand at this stage that this is just division of labour and specialisation in its most basic form. i am aware that this is getting a little bit long now so i'll try and just briefly explain a little further using a very excellent book i've been reading. ok so...

Imagine a company where the managing director is far better than his employees at administration, management, accounting, marketing and cleaning the building. He would be best served by delegating all but one of these tasks to his employees and taking for himself the task which he is most specialised in. even though he could do it all, he could not achieve as much no matter how much of a *generalist* he is.

In the same way, it would make no sense for a car manufacturer to make every single part of its vehicles from the leather on the seats, to the engine, to the sound system. it is in fact more productive to leave some, if not all, of these specialist processes to other companies, then buying the products off of them and assembling them. and this is indeed the way that modern car companies operate.

Some people have taken this idea a step further by suggesting that not only should labour be divided amongst specialist individuals, but also amongst different cities and different countries.

For example, take a region that is paticularly suited to growing wheat, having the right soil density and rainfall

levels, but that frequently has to let parts of its land lie fallow since its inhabitants cannot cut enough of the wheat at harvest time. residents of the neighbouring region are experts and making blades for swords and tools, but its land is pretty barren and the inhabitants often go hungry. the logic of division of labour would suggest that the two regions specialise in what they are good at and import what they struggle to produce. the inhabitants of each would then have sufficient food and as many blades as they need to either harvest the wheat or to defend themselves.

However there are a few issues with division of labour and specialisation. the first is that if you are made redundant, it can be very difficult to find a job when the task that you specialise in is no longer in demand. this has happened to hundreds of thousands of car factory workers, coal miners, and steel workers of the last few decades.

The second problem is that a factory can become entirely dependant on one person, or a very small group of people, in order to function properly. this can allow them to wield dissproportianate power over the entire process which they can use to go on strike for example if they have a paticular grievance.

The third problem is that it can be dangerously morale sapping to an individual to specialise in only one paticular trade or area of expertise. having to carry out a single repetitive job each day can lead to what Adam Smith reffered to as 'mental mutilation' in workers. this degrades their minds and makes them feel alienated from others. It was an analysis which Karl Marx thouroughly agreed with. In fact it forms part of the basis for the *communist manifesto*, which forcast that workers would become so disenchanted that they would eventually rise up against employers who imposed these conditions upon them.

However, despite these potential drawbacks division of labour has remained one of the most substancial factors in the growth and development of economies around the world today.

Finally, its all over. im sorry to have kept you reading for this long but i didnt want to be cutting out all of the good parts and leave a confused impression of the whole concept. much of this post has been influenced by a book i've been reading by Edmund Conway called quite simply *50 economics ideas you really need to know*. It should be noted that this book is really quite pro capitalism in its approach. but in order to remain impartial i

have removed most of the propoganda from anything i've used and just left the cold facts. i have also used several other sources, most of which are just my own learning from doing a degree in business and finance, and a little bit from my knowledge as a student of motorsport engineering.

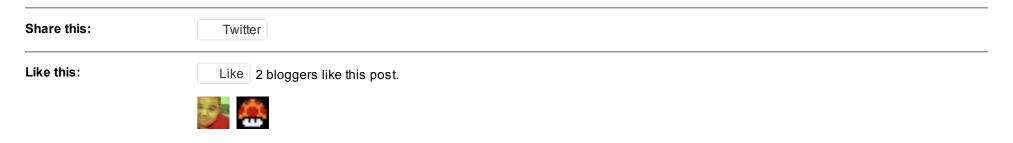
The important thing here is that you read this information and make up your own mind of what it means. it is undoubtedly a fact that todays world economies rely heavily on division of labour. is this a good thing, or is it bad. the venus project would say that it is a bad thing, mostly due to reason 3 in the problems i have listed. their plan for this problem is interesting and deserves some serious thought. the venus project would imply that we can keep this division of labour without suffering any of the potential drawbacks by simply automating all production. this would free up the people to become generalists instead of specialists.

what do you the reader make of this important economic theory. what do you see the problems being with continuing down this path, and what do you see the problems being with the venus projects concept of generalisation. I hope that you all realise that this information is not meant to *educate* you in any way. the purpose is not to influence you with propoganda but simply to provide you with some knowledge.

whenever a subject like this one is brought up within the zeitgeist movement the response is usually 'you need to do more research.' or perhaps 'you need to be more educated.' i for one resent this kind of treatment of individuals who are simply looking for some good information. not everyone reads books all day every day. people have things to do. and even the so called 'educated' people in the movement usually dont know the first thing about the very subjects that they are judging people for not knowing about. these responses are simply a convinient method of implying that the venus project is correct by default without actually having to provide any evidence or facts.

because the person asking has to concede that they have not read about these theories, they are subtley made to feel intellectually inferior and their position is weakened. this means that they can not question anything further without losing even more credibility in the eyes of other members. because if they do question it they are in essence submitting to the notion that they are less intelligent that the snappy zeitgeister who is implying that they themselves *do* know about all these theories and have indeed read many books. this is often not the case and the members who belittle their peers with comments about learning are just trying to retain an aire of intellectual superiority whist avoiding further scrutiny of the movement in an all too convinient way. Im sure there are members of the movement who would surely see the truth in this statement.

So this information on division of labour is free of charge. free of judgement. please feel free to comment on your economical views. you will not be told to simply believe the venus projects assumptions on economics. and likewise you will not be told to blindly believe that all capitalist economical constructs are superior either. i hope you have enjoyed this post.



 $\sim$  by logan86 on January 9, 2010.

Posted in Economy, Business, Politics, Zeitgeist venus project conspiracies Tags: capitalism, Jacque Fresco, monetary system, resource based economy, the venus project, the zeitgeist movement, zeitgeist

# 4 Responses to "Capitalist Concepts: Division of labour"

1. I guess the venus project will be utilising this capitalist method of build, by using division of labour for machines.

So even though they claim to be a seperate system of function, and abhor the current methodology, it is quite ironic that the core process of manufacture and delivery to their society will be based upon this idea.

Unless they have invented another method of build and design out of thin air?

oh no wait "take the best and get rid of the useless !, then trademark it as your own evolutionary concept"

anticultist said this on January 9, 2010 at 5:03 pm | Reply

2. Division of labor is one of the reasons I do not believe a full RBE will be possible. If we could change the way we think to be a monetary system with RBE tendencies it would give us the leeway to eliminate jobs and share true information.



Stonegoal said this on February 13, 2010 at 8:22 pm | Reply

3. Organizations such as the WTO are currently trying to increase specialization through free trade and the elimination of protectionism.

In an ideal world there would be no trade barriers and no borders – allowing the free flow of capital, labour and exports to where they are most efficiently used. This is the most efficient form of specialization there can be and I think you will agree that it is in line with what TZM is aiming for (no nations no borders no restriction of resources – I agree though, I have not heard any concrete economic theory discussed on the forums or in the lectures – but I do see the potential to refine the proposed model into something more sound).

Nations that practise free trade are considerably more advanced than autarkies (self-sufficient economies). To see concrete proof of this look at David Ricardo's work on comparative advantages.

Developing nations are less inclined to liberalize trade because this causes them to have an economic dependency on other nations – countries like the US have strong bargaining power against them.

Free trade can also destabilize economies and inhibit the growth of domestic firms and so this makes free trade less feasible for developing nations.

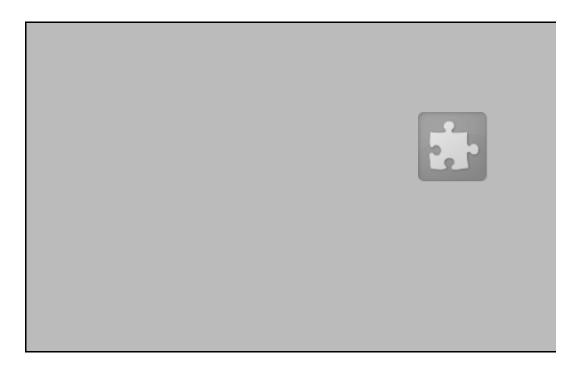
The main reason there is still protectionism is because nations compete – if country A is importing the majority of its goods from country B then B will become a wealthy and developed nation whilst A will be continually dependent on B. Therefore the only solution is to create trade barriers such as taxation to make domestic consumers buy from domestic rather than foreign firms. Regardless of how inefficient this is, it benefits country A more to do so (TZM ties in nicely here as it goes against competition).



4. Seeing how many people influenced Jacque Fresco to come up with the RBE model, it was inevitable that people were going to come up with an alternative system. Even people in the Zeitgeist Movement realized the inevitability – I'm referring to the older folks. There are many more alternatives out there that people are working on and if they (TZM/TVP) force to shove their statistics down people's throats and say work on the RBE idea, then there will be resistance from that alone. No doubt about it. There will always be an abstract competition going on because of

this very fact. So it's best to encourage sportsmanship if you will so that we can leave room for collaboration. Collaboration with the real activists left in the Zeitgeist Movement of course. They say they (Jacque Fresco & Roxanne Meadows) are against competition but try to portray themselves as the only alternative left which is misleading in itself. If there was no competition though, people would be passive and I find that more alarming personally if that happened.

Alternatives:



And yes, no single person can create a pencil:

Sorry, the Wayback Machine does not have this video archived.

Division of labor takes place to do this and no matter what race, religion, gender you are – people are today still working together to make products through division of labor. I know, it's a paradox but I think RBE would work similar too. If products were not being created at all, then you know right there something is very wrong. A question mark appears above people's heads when they say that the invisible hand will always take care of things or "magic" helps keep the pricing system in balance through how many products are needed to produce. But that's not really "magic", it's math. Math presented to people in an easy way. Generalizations, RBE throws some too for sure but I think they are thrown at people to make them want to read into a Resource Based Economy and Capitalism more. If it was a summary and people were forced to accept it, then I would see the problem.

As Peter Joseph says, we delegate our math to a computer – so why not the whole system? So RBE sounds plausible there, but if we delegate everything to a computer, the question becomes – will we still be smart or smarter in math as we are now? A big thing to worry about is, will people become lazy too? This is a common question. But since everything would be automated, I'm not hinting there will be no schools anymore.

But division in itself would seem natural at this point, as long as their was room for collaboration without intimidation – we would be fine. But I don't even see that happening. With so much ignorance and arrogance coming from the Zeitgeist Movement, people are going to feel repelled from them easily.

Jacque Fresco says if you spent time with yourself as a clone, then you wouldn't want to be with yourself that long which makes me worry

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about an RBE society. If everyone is alike in every way, then social life can be questionable. The whole conformity thing comes up.

But to me I can see the difference between a generalist and a specialist. If a generalist was told to find another job or task depending if this was a monetary system or a RBE system, then the generalist would not have such an emotional attachment and would probably be anxious to find out what to do next. But with the specialist, it would be the opposite. That specialist would have to find what's available and after that, learn about that occupation and then apply themselves but by then – there would be more availability in a different occupation most likely and less availability for the occupation he or she was learning about. Being a specialist can stink when everything is at a constant change when it comes to people retiring, being fired, people quitting and so on.



BranManFloMore said this on June 5, 2010 at 1:36 pm | Reply

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